

## CHAPTER II.

Island of St. Thomas—Description of the harbour—The town—Panama hats—Arrival of mail steamers—Martinique—Appearance of St. Pierre from the water—Negro washerwoman—Barbadoes—Extent—Population—Bridgetown—Uncomfortable bedfellows—Grenada—View from the fort—Spices, nutmegs, &c.

It was a beautiful moonlight night when we entered the harbour of St. Thomas, and the masts of the many steamers and vessels with which it was crowded stood out in bold relief against the star-lit sky; here a pleasant land breeze greeted us, and its coolness almost made us forget that we were in the tropics. Opposite the entrance to the harbour stood the town, denoted by the numerous twinkling lights which studded the rising ground on which it is built. Our ship having been moored in her berth, after some little delay she was boarded by numerous well bronzed individuals in broad-leaved Panama hats and white linen coats, anxious to welcome their friends and hear the latest news from England. By and by the captains belonging to the different boats of the Company then in harbour came