

Sugar Loaf Mountain, the land mark by which they steer for the mouth of the Black River hove in sight. Without this mountain it would be next to impossible to make the mouth of this river. The coast is low, with such a continual surf rolling in upon it as to prevent any vessel approaching it. The sensation, which was communicated to all on board as we approached the land, cannot be described. Few had ever before an opportunity of witnessing such a scene. The land as far as the eye could reach was flat, and bore a dreary aspect. It was covered with the tall deep green cocoa-nut trees, and even at this season of the year, (very different from what we had left) was in full verdure.

According to the Captain's instructions, the Governor's dispatches were not to be opened before we had reached 84. west, an order which had been most strictly adhered to, and as we now approached this longitude, all were on the tiptoe of expectation to discover the grand secret. At last the time and place arrived, the great box containing the instructions was opened. Its contents were less interesting than was expected—as far as regarded the settlers there was little that was unknown before, but the chief part of it was occupied with commissions for different officers, sufficient in number to form a splendid court or a standing army. Proclamations in abundance, all ready made—in short nothing had been omitted to contribute to the dignity of those at the head of this project, if we except the means necessary for carrying it into effect.

Heretofore the weather had been uncommonly fine; but the moment the dispatches were opened the sky became overcast and a gloom portending a storm supervened, lowering as an awful prediction of the blighting of all our fair and flattering prospects. We had been engaged all the morning on the outlook for the mouth of the Black River, the only harbour where we could land, and now finding ourselves as we supposed opposite to it, we came to anchor about three miles from the coast, that being as near as we could prudently venture for the surf, notwithstanding it was a dead calm.

All eyes were now intently fixed upon the shore, some in their heated imagination could distinctly see, or fancy they did see the elegant church and houses in the town they were told of before leaving England. Others with better eyes, saw what was really the case, people moving about on the shore; the result of which was found to be correct, for in a short time a large canoe was seen putting off, and making for the vessel. This canoe was found to contain two Americans and four of the natives, who appeared quite friendly towards us, and still more so on being informed we were English.—But although it might have been expected that the singular appearance of the natives would have engaged all our attention, this was not the case; on the contrary but little attention was paid to them; all our anxious inquiries being addressed to the Americans, with the view of obtaining some information relative to the place. The world may judge of our surprise when they learn that by these people we were informed that these two Americans were the only white people in the country, and that the magnificent town which had been described to us was only a few scattered huts most conspicuous for displaying the poverty and