

from "stations" at a considerable distance; and very soon we felt that "though in a foreign land" we were surrounded by loving hearts, and for Christ's sake had already been adopted by our new-found friends as members of the family. That loving, smiling group has long since been dispersed. The senior member of it, a man of noble form, and nobler mind, has entered upon his everlasting rest; his widow is now awaiting in another home the summons to rejoin her noble husband; one only of the group still lives and labours on the island; the others are scattered, but in different parts of the world are still pursuing the Lord's work. Each one of us has seen many changes since then; one more change, and we shall meet again, and gratefully review "the way by which the Lord our God has led us"—the "right way" doubtless. The friendly greetings over, we were soon seated at the hospitable board of our kind hosts. I mention this only because it is connected with some of our earliest impressions of strangeness in this "strange land." It was about noon, and the meal of which we were invited to partake was termed "second breakfast." The "first breakfast" was more substantial—salt beef, salt pork, plantain, captain's biscuit, oranges, mangoes, bananas, pine apple, and tropical fruits. Dinner at which the only variation from the foregoing bill of fare was fresh fish, or fresh meat when it could be obtained, was usually served about three o'clock, after which nothing more would be taken except a cup of coffee. Tea and supper were unknown, except in the instance of a few imprudent people who will persist in living in every country and climate precisely as they have been accustomed to live in England.

The houses were of all dimensions, and most diverse in appearance, and constructed of a great variety of material. Some were framed with rough wood, boarded outside and plastered within. Some were posts and wattle, daubed with mud, and only one story high; and in many instances, had no foundation except posts about two feet from the ground, and in some cases even rested on old flour barrels. A few of the larger, two-storied houses were built of stone or brick, but the greater

number of them were entirely constructed of wood, and elevated three or four feet from the ground on brick pillars. The site of the town had been redeemed from a swamp: and underneath almost every house; the Mission House not excepted, was a quantity of slimy stagnant water.—This is one cause, without doubt, of the extreme unhealthiness of the place.—About many of the houses were large umbrageous trees, flowering shrubs, and luxuriant climbers, and in all directions clumps, or rows of cocoa-nut palms rising to the height of from thirty to sixty feet, crowned with the long, graceful feathery leaf bunch, and the clusters of delicious fruit. We were soon supplied with green cocoa-nuts, and found the cool liquid, of which each nut contains nearly a pint, a most grateful beverage, and the jelly a fine substitute for ice cream.

Our attention was speedily caught by a huge ugly bird which flapped his great mud-coloured wings as he descended on the housetops or into the streets, or sat with others in groups on the ridges of the various buildings spreading out his feathers and blinking his great filmy eyes in the sunshine. These we were told were the turkey buzzards or "John crows," the scavengers of the island. They are most useful in picking up the refuse and filth cast into the streets, which would otherwise become intolerably offensive. These useful birds are under the protection of the legislature, any person wantonly killing one of them being liable to a heavy fine. We were somewhat surprised, and annoyed to find the floors of the rooms, and even the tables, covered with ants, black, brown, and red, and occasionally were a little startled at the sharp pinches we received from the keen mandibles of these lively and voracious insects; but we soon learned that these were among the useful and industrious workers for human benefit, being house scavengers, as the John crows were the scavengers of the highway. We were not so satisfied to learn that we should find the mosquitoes very troublesome, and must have patience until we got used to them. On first making acquaintance with these troublesome gentry I was surprised to see a small-winged insect, who approached me through a series of concentric circles, sounding his minute shrill trumpet