

One Monday last month I heard there was a riot among the coolies at Laurel Hill, but as I was just going to the Murray's I thought very little about it. After I was there a few minutes the Dr. came in from town and said there had been a bad riot at Laurel Hill. As Mrs. Murray's niece is married to Fita Zercher, Jun., and lives there, Mrs. Murray was anxious to go and see how she was, and they wished me to go too, so I went. We met the sub-manager and he told us all about it.

First I must tell you that on account of hard times they have made the Coolies tasks harder and pay smaller, so they are dissatisfied. It is hard on them but they should go quietly and tell their grievances to the Protector of Immigrants, and other officers who would see about it. Instead of this they plan a riot, and in the end it is worse for themselves. There have been several of this kind lately but this is the worst as yet.

In the morning when young Mr. Zercher was away by train to visit his other estates they began to show signs of being sulky. The Driver saw the manager, Mr. McLean coming to the field and told him as he rode up that the men appeared in a bad humor. He went to see them and the leader came out to talk to him, and soon he gave the watch-word—"The deer is coming," in Hindustani. The men did not seem willing at first but some came. The leader struck Mr. McLean on his leg and shoulder with his hoe, and Mr. McL. took his hunter and tried to drive them back but could not. They aimed for his head, he spurred his mule and dodged, and then the blow cut his mule very badly. He then saw he had better ride to Arouca for the police, and as he went off they were all in arms at once.

While Mr. McLean was absent they went to his house, attacked his father and mother, broke all the glass and crockery, found salt, pepper and coffee in the kitchen and mixed them all together. Smashed the buggy so that no wood was left but shafts, beat one of two who would not join them, and then made two attempts to go to Mrs. Zercher's place, but turned. They say they were afraid to go there for "Madame and little baby all alone." At Mrs. Zercher's the house was barricaded and what arms there were at hand were for defence if necessary. But the Coolies went off to town, laughing and saying they were going to burn and kill everyone there. However they went quietly and told their story, but warrants were issued and as they were in the station they were taken up.

Mr. McL. identified them. Eleven were arrested that day, and nine the next. They will likely all go a good term of imprisonment. If it keeps the other Estate coolies quiet it will be a good lesson for them and others who are rebellious.

Dec. 11. Dear Auntie:—We are very busy preparing for our school examination and treat on next Wednesday, 16th. We have been busy every day putting sleeves in girl's jackets, for boys, of clothing which was left from our last boxes. The clothing sent this year has not arrived, and will not be here in time, for which we are very sorry, but it will come in for next year. We are going to have all the schools together at the nice large new school house at Tacarigua, and have a treat and tree, with their rewards hung on it.

Dec. 13. Dear Auntie:—I did not get my sheet filled yesterday. I went to Branch Grove and I had a splendid class of 34 nice children, and after keeping them in order and in work for three hours I felt too tired to write. We altered a lot of the jutas yesterday. Mamma and Miss Semple went to town to buy some prizes, and I have been busy since six this morning doing house work, and sewing jutas, we have done 36 now. I got your nice long letter this morning and knew that Miss Hilton and Tassie must have arrived, so when they came home at 2 o'clock I found I was right.

I intended writing an account of Hecosee disturbance, but you will have heard as soon as this can reach you. We are all very sorry such strong measures had to be used to keep the Coolies in order, but of late they have been rather riotous and needed to be reminded that such a thing as keeping order was needful. There are so many thousands, that a rising in arms all over the island would be a serious affair. The procession of Tazias seen in San Fernando was really beautiful, but it was not safe to let such a crowd gather and come armed into the town.

We had a very sad and sudden death in town about a month ago. Mr. Daniel Todd, a merchant, died of Hydrophobia. He was bitten by his own dog about two months before. He was taken sick with fever on Tuesday. Wednesday he knew what was the matter with him, and arranged his business, and died Thursday.

We had a brown dog of medium size which bit our man one Sunday morning about two weeks since. It was so strange for him for he usually kept out of sight. That day he came in the house with the boys which he never did before, but we