

It is a curious anomaly in humanity, that a man allows in himself many delinquencies which he severely punishes in his children, and the West Indians do well to send theirs to be educated in England.

When off the Caymans Islands, we hove to and were boarded by several small canoes, laden with turtles, of which several were purchased, varying in weight from 30 lb. to 130 lb. The sailors trafficked in large shells, of which the blacks had great abundance. Although there was no wind, we were carried along by the Gulf stream, which ran at the rate of four miles an hour.

There are numerous pirates about Cuba, generally Spaniards. A ship that passed about three weeks before us had been attacked by them, but she fortunately had some guns, and after firing two rounds, the pirate left her. Had we been assailed, we must necessarily have surrendered at discretion, as we had not so much as a single musket on board. It is very negligent of the owners of vessels to allow their ships to trade with the West Indies, without having one or two large guns on board, besides a round of small arms. An American schooner was taken about two months before the time of our voyage, and robbed of her entire cargo. The pirates find in all parts of Cuba a ready market for their plunder, and the facility thus afforded to their nefarious traffic is the principal cause of its existence.

Our captain was a very pleasant and gentlemanly person, as was his mate, Mr Tyler. The latter one day speared two Dolphins or Coryphenes,