

surrounding hills in the distance, must be a sight worth coming to see. And yet the whole picture is not very large.

Two days brought us to Nassau, where I landed and found my way to the great American hotel, the Victoria, with all its floors surrounded with wooden arcades. Here again is another example of one of the lesser islands of the group—in this case almost the least—being chosen as the seat of Government and the place of call, because of its offering the best port. In order to reach New Providence, of which Nassau is the capital, the course of the steamers is to pass up to the right of Cat and Eleuthera Islands, and then turn in south-west by the north point of the latter, and so run in to Nassau, which, so to speak, lies hid between Eleuthera and Andros Isle. Bahama Island itself, which gives the name to the group, lies to the north of all, the two Abacos included.

I was possessed of a curious desire to see the Bahamas independently of a disinclination to pass them by on my road without seeing them. Many years ago, again "when I was young," there lived in Gatton Park, at a spot called "Q in the Corner," Sir James Carmichael Smythe, with whom my father and mother were very intimate, and my chief recollection of whom is that Sir James drove a pair of horses with only one trace each, and that Lady Smythe, when they went away, left her piping bullfinch to my mother. They went away because Sir James was suddenly

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