

Although a vessel had been long advertised as about to sail, it was not till after the loan was on foot, and taking up, that one could actually be procured—after which the Honduras Packet, commanded by Capt. Thowas Hedgcock, an excellent officer and a master in the R. N. was *bona fide* chartered to take out emigrants to the Poyais country.

This vessel being only 150 tons burden was sufficient to accommodate but a small portion of those wishful to get passages out in her, but those who were for the time disappointed in this object consoled themselves in the hopes of being soon able to follow in subsequent vessels.

The Honduras packet being all prepared, sailed with about seventy passengers, in high hopes and spirits on the 21st of November 1822, but was prevented by contrary winds from reaching the Downs till the first of December. After encountering some very boisterous gales, and surmounting eminent danger of being all lost, they finally left the Downs with a favourable breeze on the 14th, in the hopes that their trials and difficulties were now at an end, and enjoying the cheering prospect of spending their remaining days in happiness and comfort.

It was the intention of the Captain to have touched at Madeira, but the wind veering towards the south, they stood to the westward, where falling in with the Trades, they had a pleasant run for St. Thomas. Having been at sea six weeks with a small and over crowded vessel—it was deemed prudent to stop at this place to refresh the crew and passengers, and for the purpose of procuring some supplies. After spending a few happy days at this island, we left it and bore away for Jamaica. The reason of taking this last island in our course was to procure some intelligence of three gentlemen who had left England before us with the machinery requisite for erecting saw and grist mills; and who were to proceed to Poyais by that route.

It was upon our arrival at Jamaica that we received the first intelligence, unfavourable to our prospects. One of the three gentlemen who preceded us, a Mr. Strangeways, and who had been represented as the writer of one of the pamphlets above alluded to, was dead. The other two not having got their supplies, sent after them according to promise, had been unable to proceed farther; and were from necessity compelled to embark in other pursuits. Our enquiries respecting the Poyais territory at Jamaica, were a source of mirth to those we addressed on the subject, for they concluded on hearing our intention that we were either all mad men, or had been made the dupes of rogues. While some of our party were inclined to believe what was told them of the impracticability of establishing a settlement in Poyais—others suspected the people in Jamaica were interested in preventing such a settlement from the fear it would eventually interfere with them in the sugar market. Neither side however were disposed to abandon their project when they had gone so far, upon the bare reports of others, who might be interested in misrepresenting it; and they left Jamaica for Poyais, with hopes not quite so sanguine, but far from being extinguished. We were now only two days sail distant from the spot where our expectations were to be disappointed or confirmed; and in the morning of the 30th of January 1823, the