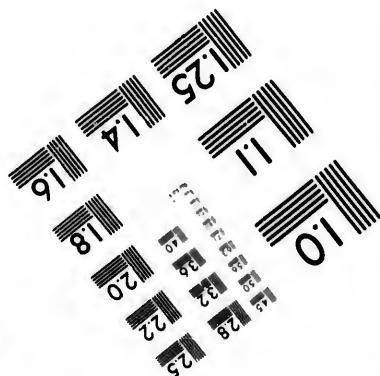
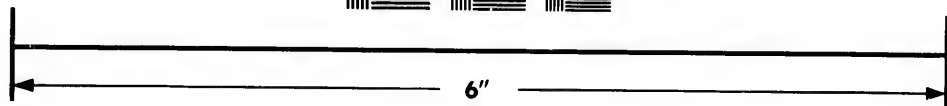
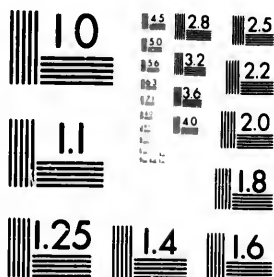


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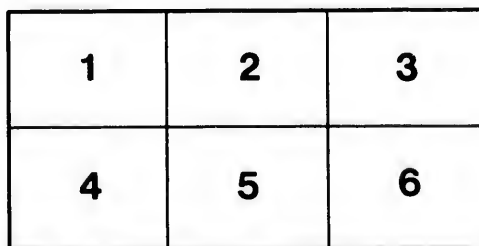
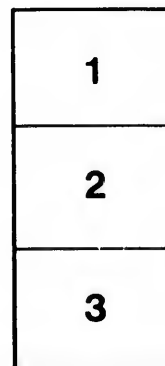
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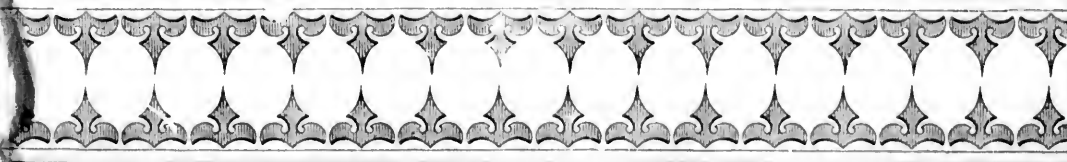
OF A TOUR

— *THROUGH * THE* —

WEST * INDIES.

BY C. COLVILLE MALTON.

1st EDITION



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REMINISCENCES

OF A TOUR

Thomas Howard

A. F. W.

C. C.

THROUGH * THE

WEST * INDIES.

BY

C. COLVILLE MALTON.

1st EDITION

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

PRINTED BY E. J. ARMSTRONG,

85 GERMAIN STREET.

INTRODUCTION.

In addition to the importance attaching to the West Indies from a commercial point of view; they possess a special interest for Canadians at present from the fact that the inhabitants of some of their number profess a desire to be annexed to Canada.

Confederation, by making Barbados and Jamaica integral parts of a powerful state would give them an opportunity of utilizing their vast resources, and free them from the several local disadvantages they now have to encounter, as small unrepresented communities.

By virtue of their Geographical position, as well as considerations which illustrate the law of economic gravitation, Barbados, Jamaica, and the other West India Islands are destined to be attracted and absorbed by one or other of the powerful States on the Continent of America. In the natural order of things the great Republic of the North possesses the largest amount of this centripetal force; but there are powers at work, such as loyalty and patriotism, which would incline the British West Indies towards the Canadian Confederation. The sentiment of loyalty however, or attachment to the British Sovereign and constitution is still far from inoperative in the hearts of British communities, and this sentiment, should the choice be given, would turn the scale in favor of connection with Canada. The trade between Barbados and Jamaica and the North American continent is making continuous development and expansion. The imports aggregate nearly ten per cent from Canada.

Canada and these Islands are already to a considerable extent united by the ties of mutual accommodation and common interest. Canada supplies many useful and necessary articles; these Islands do the same for Canada. Annexation would therefore cause a great increase in trade.

These few remarks may possibly be favorably received by Canadians, but more especially by the Statesmen, Sir Jno. A. McDonald and Sir Alex. Galt, through whose efforts in the furtherance of Confederation the Dominion of Canada exists.

THE AUTHOR.

Reminiscences of the West Indies.

Barbados is the most windward of the Carribean Islands, is situated in lat. $13^{\circ} 4'$ north, and long. $59^{\circ} 31'$ west, 70 miles west of St. Vincent, the island nearest to it in the Carribean chain. It lies in the track of vessels, and is well adapted to be an entrepot of commerce. Barbados is 21 miles in length and $11\frac{1}{2}$ in its broadest part, it has a superficial area of 10,600 acres, being about 160 square miles. 70,000 acres besides grass lands are under cultivation and nearly 30,000 acres of sugar canes are annually cut. The island is almost encircled by coral reefs, which in some parts extend nearly three miles. There are two lighthouses, one on the south point and another on the south-east coast. A harbour light has also been placed on Needham's Point. The harbour, Carlisle bay, is a large open roadstead. The inner harbour or carenage, for small vessels, is protected by a breakwater called the mole-head. Barbados presents every variety of scenery,—hills and valley, smooth table land, and rugged rocks. From one point of view the land rises in a succession of limestone and coral terraces, which indicate different periods of upheaval from the sea. From another there is nothing to be seen but a mass of abruptly rising rocks. The highest elevation, Mount Hillaby, 1104 feet above the level of the sea.

For eight months in the year, the sea-breezes keep it delightfully cool for a tropical country. Bridgetown is the capital and port of the island. It contains about 23,000 inhabitants.

Over the creek, which received the waters from the heights, the Indians had built a rude bridge. This was known for a long time after the British settlement as the Indian bridge, but as the settlement grew, and after the old bridge had been replaced by a more solid structure, the place received the name of Bridgetown. The Government buildings are a handsome pile close to the sea. The town follows the curve of the bay. Behind it the hills begin to rise, forming the first stepping-stone to the higher lands of the interior. At the southern extremity are the extensive buildings for the garrison, Barbados being the headquarters of the troops in the West Indian command. The traces of Indians in this island are more numerous than any other of the Caribees. The first recorded visit of Englishmen was in the year 1605, when the crew of the "Olive Blossom" landed, and erected a cross as a memorial of the event, cutting at the same time upon the bark of a tree the words "James King of England and of this island." This party of adventurers did not settle, but from the time of their visit the history of Barbados begins. That history has some special features. It shows the process of peaceful colonization for the island, acquired without conquest or blood shed, has never since been out of the possession of the British. It was the first English colony where the sugar-cane was planted. Its colonist have almost from the beginning enjoyed representative institutions, and the full measure of English freedom. They have always defended

their rights with spirit, and shewn consistent loyalty to the crown. The prominence and accessibility of the island have made it important as a military station. In 1624 a ship, belonging to Sir William Courteen, a rich merchant of London, called at Barbados. The country was found to be thickly wooded, and uninhabited, except by a large number of wild hogs. Sir William Courteen, having received a description of the place, sent out two large ships under the authority of "Marlborough's patent." One of these the "John and William," commanded by John Powell, arrived in February 1625, which is therefore the date of the earliest English settlement of the Island. The first settlers cultivated maize, sweet potatoes, plantains, cocoas and yams for their own consumption, and indigo, cotton, wool, tobacco, ginger, and aloes for export. Quantities of logwood, fustic and lignumvitæ were also shipped. But the adaptability of the soil for cane becoming known, and the necessary knowledge for the manufacture of sugar being obtained, the article at once became the great staple product of the colony, and the value of property very largely increased thereby.

The extent of cultivation, the absence of swamps, (the porous character of the rock immediately underlying the soil, preventing accumulations of stagnant water,) account for the freedom from miasma. The destruction of the forests may have made the rainfall—upon which successful cultivation depends—somewhat uncertain, but does not seem to have effected it to such an extent as might have been anticipated. The rainfall is caused, apart from elevation, by the exposure of the land to these winds laden with moisture, which strikes the Island at different periods of

the year. The sugar production of the Island is calculated at 800 hogsheads of 16 cwt. each for every inch of rain.

The North East trade wind blows for three-fourths of the year, and most of the rain comes from the same quarter. March is the driest of the months, and October the wettest; the average rainfall for the former being $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and for the latter 9 inches.

Opinion differ as to the derivation of the name of the Island. It is probably the Spanish word for the hanging branches of a vine which strike root in the earth. In maps of the 16th century, the Island appears under various names, among which are "St. Bernardo, Bernados, Barbudosa, Baruodos and Baruodo." Its history has some special features. Barbados is gradually becoming the central mart for all the windward Islands, even Trinidad finding it more advantageous to derive her breadstuffs, &c., from this quarter, than to import them direct from the American continent. There was formerly an extensive whale fishery round the Island, and recently attempts have been made to revive its importance. Many other "fisheries" would afford an excellent return, but this source of wealth is in a great measure neglected. The anchovy is frequently driven up in shoals on the coast. The flying fish is one of the principal articles in the Bridgetown market; barracoutas, sharks and congor-eels are also exposed. Harrison's college in Bridgetown, established on an old foundation, has been liberally supported by the legislature, and promises useful results.

Barbados has ever borne the name of the West India Gem, doubtless from the fact, that figuratively speaking, every inch of ground is cultivated, attributable to the ferti-

lity of the soil, as well as to the excessive population in proportion to its size that exists. Here is to be found every specie of tropical vegetation, in some places to a greater or less varied extent, than is seen in its sister island Jamaica.

PRODUCTS FOR EXPORTATION.

The chief products are Coffee, Sugar, Pimento, Rum and Molasses; amongst Dye-Woods are to be found, Logwood, Fustic, Brazaletto, and Bitterwood, from which Magenta, Yellow and Brown Dyes are extracted. Bridgetown forms in many respects a central Depot for the produce from the South American coast; Coffee, Cocoa, &c., are brought to this port from Maracaibo, Chili, Calao, and Lima, for transhipment to Southampton, per Royal Mail Steamers, touching at Bridgetown fortnightly.

A VISIT TO A COFFEE PROPERTY AND MODE OF PREPARING THE BERRY.

Having received an invitation to visit a Coffee Property some 16 miles out of Bridgetown, a vehicle was procured at a Livery Stable, and a start was made for the trip; on first leaving the town, nothing of interest attracted our attention, passing through the Savanah on either side of the road for a distance of six miles, later on we emerged on an open flat, flourishing with sugar canes, and guinea grass, a sight quite refreshing to the eyes, after the dismal surroundings on passing the Savannah district. Shortly after our arrival at a village called the Accompong,

or Maroon Settlement, we met our host, who after exchanging the civilities of the day, got us mounted on mules, and led the way up the precipitous mountain pass to his residence. The property is one of the finest of its class and is owned by the Duke of Buckingham. It was late when we arrived, and after a very hospitable reception, retired for the night. At daylight a tap at my room door announced "cup coffee da for Massa, Busha sa mule da do tep da wait fu yu sa." Jumping up I intended asking the slave to be a little more explicit, as to me it sounded like so much jargon, but if I anticipated obtaining more clearly the nature of the summons, I was sadly mistaken, as the door quickly closed, and on peeping out, there was no sight of my negro friend; on however, seeing our genial host, it was made clear enough of what Sambo tried to make me aware, for there was he at the foot of the steps grinning and showing his white teeth, whilst holding the mule I was to have possession of during my stay in this delightful spot. Breakfast over we all mounted, and away we cantered round the corkscrew path of the mountain side, until in a little while we were high up overhead looking down on the house, Barbaquies and works of the property; we dismounted here as it was dangerous to proceed on horseback any higher, the late rains having caused a land slip, we climbed up the steppes, and from the summit had a grand view of the surrounding country and coffee fields, the latter in blossom; their white appearance contrasting favorably with the olive green shrubbery of the trees, in forms of wreaths and small pyramids. The effect of the rising sun on the fields and in the glades is beyond my ability to describe as it merits. The works were next inspected where

the curing process was going on, picking having commenced in some of the higher fields.

The Coffee berry is the size of a cherry, and contains two seeds covered with a thick mucilaginous pulp, which is difficult to separate, and thus a machine called a pulper has to be used. In construction the pulper represents a mammoth nutmeg grater, having large rollers covered with sheets of brass, with a very rough surface; the berry passing through the rollers is crushed and the seeds fall through into a cistern of water, where after soaking for a few days, are removed and placed on terraced barbaquies to dry in the sun. In a week the berry is cured, and when passed through the "sizer" on the size and quality of the berry being kept apart. The produce is bagged and conveyed on mules backs to market, where is to be seen the coffee speculators, all doing their best to ensure a good sample and close for profitable prices. The market price varies, a very ordinary coffee being sold as high as one shilling to one shilling six pence per quart in its raw state. A cup of coffee if good, is undoubtedly a great luxury, highly appreciated in warm climates, quenching as it does the unbearable thirst that at times is so trying.

THE SUGAR CANE, ITS CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURE.

The Sugar Cane grows to an average height of 10 feet, is but 2 inches in diameter, but contains in the numerous cells forming its construction, a very large percentage of saccharine matter, which varies with the seasons as well as the class of soil where the cane is planted. On a sandy and hence thirsty soil, more rainfall and moisture is necessary

to give the average return which would be about 3 Hogsheads of sugar to 2 acres of canes. Cane Ratoon, that is new shoots take the place of the parent stem, as soon as cut, and on Estates where manure and phosphate of guano as liberally applied, will continue ratooning for 11 and 12 years; all Estates however have fields of plant canes to supply the needs of the boiling house, as the ratoon canes after 3 or 4 years cease to contain the same amount of juice they had at first cuttings. The Canes when carted to the mill are pressed and the juice runs into large Coppers in the boiling house, some containing 15 or 16 hundred gallons; white lime is much used in the boiling process, a pail being the proportion to every hundred gallons of juice, without this alkali addition, the result of boiling would be thick syrup, but the lime creates the fine grain so much sought after in selecting a fair class of sugar. The process of granulation is easily perceived by the experienced eye. The liquor when boiling is thrown up with ladles, causing the impurities to rise to the surface, which is skimmed off and is run into vats in the still house, and when mixed with molasses and water fermentation sets in and on the standard of carbonic acid gas being generated, the still is charged and the process of distillation commences. The vapour arising from this boiling compound passes through pewter piping to the distance of 60 feet, the pipes being surrounded by a constant stream of cold water. The vapour is condensed and the result is the production of the spirit "Rum." The proportion of rum manufactured is two-thirds of the sugar crop on well kept up estates.

The process of boiling sugar by use of the Vacuum Pan is

very much in vogue, but from its expensive mechanical construction has not entirely superseded the old style, a beautiful saffron colored grain is the result of the pan process, and whilst extracting all the superfluous molasses does not reduce to any appreciable extent the saccharine properties of the sugar. Centrifugals are also worked on nearly all estates curing the sugar as soon as cooled, without these machines four or five days would be lost in curing the sugar, as that time would be needed to allow the molasses to ooze out from its own gravity, (and then at its best) would not be completely dried.

Central Factories abound in Demerara where but few estates are cultivated on as high a standard as the other West India Islands, but have for their chief aim the encouragement of small holders of land to cultivate from ten acres of canes and upwards, a system found to work admirably, the nett proceeds after manufacture being divided between the grower and the factory. There is one Central Factory worthy of notice, that cures upwards of two thousand Hogsheads Sugar, and manufactures somewhat about 1500 Puncheons of Rum annually, being the produce of the small settlers. In 1880 machinery to the extent of \$80,000 was made by an Edinburgh firm of Engineers for one factory: it is at once seen that a great impetus is given to industry when such inducement is offered to the settlers.

The "*Pimento*" Properties and Pens are very extensive, raising annually as many as 1000 and 1200 head of stock to supply the estates with heavy working steers for agricultural purposes; on these pens or farms, the *Pimento* is grown, found in extensive walks and bears a small berry

about the size of a pea, the berry is plucked green and dried on barbaquies, when cured a small kernel is found to shake in its outer covering, the berry is then bagged and is ready for exportation; the Pimento (or Allspice) Properties bring into the proprietors should they reap a fair crop a considerable revenue as the yield in some cases is from 1000 to 1200 bags, and as the market prices range from 26s. to 30s. per cwt, the Pimento is looked to as a valuable adjunct to the Pens.

During the last ten years a very extensive Fruit Trade has sprung up with Baltimore and New York, a special line of Steamers running at regular periods during the season, taking away thousands of Oranges, Bananas and Pineapples. The fruit if ever so carefully packed is not to be compared with that you obtain fresh from the tree; in every case being plucked before it is ripe and allowed to get so on the voyage. Oranges and Bananas grow wild to some extent, found in open fields and glades, though never planted through human agency. The Pineapple is cultivated and requires considerable attention, care being required to keep the suckers free from weeds. It is most enjoyable to take a stroll on a warm afternoon in some of the orange groves knife in hand and cull the fresh yellow fruit, a companion one of the fair sex adding to the pleasure of the walk, and ever and anon indulging in day-dreaming, reverie and ease under the shady fruit trees.

“THE CAVES.”

There are several caves along the coast, one in particular that along with a party I explored to the distance of three

miles; we procured guides with torches, and after a deal of up-hill and down dale progress we fortunately hit on a ledge of rock, which enabled us to proceed with greater comfort for some distance, when again the subteraneous channels became tedious for walking; all were struck with magical effect produced on the Stalactites and Stalagmites through the reflection of the torches, every thing seeming to belong to another world, and we felt ourselves to be in disproportion to all around us, and to pertain to quite another sphere. The unevenness of the ground is attributable to the excavations from time to time of the guano deposits, tons having been dug out and shipped. Myriads of Bats and Sea-Birds inhabit these caves, to the nervous creating feelings of intimidation, scared at the torches, the birds and bats wildly rush "*en masse*" past you; our torches were twice extinguished through this source, and a panic was the result, the most unearthly whoops and yells vibrated the entire cave, and echo waves lasting for seconds at a time, the emanations of the winged inhabitants whose domain had been so summarily encroached upon. The Stalactites are icicle-like incrustation of lime which fret the roofs and fissures of caverns, and which arise through the dropping of water, holding these rock-matters in solution.

The Stalagmite is of the same mineral matter as the stalactite, but is applied to the incrustation that covers the floor of caverns; the Stalactites and Stalagmites frequently meet each other and form pillar like masses of colossal proportions.

SCENERY.

The scenery in Barbados is quite in keeping with that to be found in Jamaica, with this exception, the lofty mountains in the last named Island adds greatly to its picturesqueness a want that is felt in other respects in Barbados, creating as it would a milder climate, and making a residence more endurable.

THE POPULATION

Consists chiefly of Black and colored races, the former being the decendants of the slaves who were brought (prior to the emancipation in 1837) from Upper and Lower Guinea, situated on the River "Niger" on the West Coast of Africa. Their History is not entirely devoid of painful episodes of cruelty. There is no denying the fact that the system of slavery was demoralising, opening as it did a wide channel for abuse of the powers ownership created, and forming a nucleus where on many vindictively inclined Proprietors vented the plenitude of their evil ends and whims on many of the unfortunate beasts of burden, (as some writers have styled the slaves.)

Taking all these indisputable facts into consideration there must have been exceptional cases, and many of them too, the slaves being kindly treated, and receiving every consideration from their owners, as was evinced by some expressing their willingness to remain after emancipation with their owners, rather than accept free grants of land, one of the conditions incumbent on all the Proprietors. Allowing for the considerable European Element that exists in this Colony, the percentage of the white population is very

small as far as my memory serves me, the statistics of the last census gave a return of something like 15 per cent. The mixture of the races are as follows: 1st.—The “Mulatto” the offspring of Black and White Parents; then the “Sambo” of Black and Mulatto Parents, and lastly the “Albinos” a distinct race, having red skins, negro wool, and pink eyes. The latter are seldom seen out during the day, as the sun’s rays seem to effect their sight, they are as a class miserable objects of humanity, most repulsive in their appearance, they are lazily and weakly constituted, and as a race are gradually dying out.

Native labour is very precarious, the result is that the Imperial Government through the Immigration Department, have to subsidize for the periodical transit of the East Indian labourers, who are indentured for a space of 7 or 10 years on the several plantations. The Coolie labour is a great tax on the Estates; but there is no alternative as regular native labour cannot be depended on. The Immigration laws are very stringent, and in every way is the “Indentured Coolie” protected. Hospitals on every Estate have to be erected, and the Immigration Agent has to make periodical visits. The Government Medical Officers are by virtue of their appointment compelled to visit the Estates on which “Coolies” are located, at least once a fortnight. The Capitation tax is not excessive, and there would be no reason for the Planters to complain if the expense rested here; but the general surroundings thereon incumbent, increases by at least 75 per cent what native labour should be procured for.

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REMINISCENCES OF A STAY OF TWO YEARS ON
THE HOSPITABLE SHORES OF JAMAICA,
BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The name Jamaica is derived from the Spanish "Xamaca" signifying Land of Wood and Water. The Island is situated amongst the Greater Antilles, but is of less magnitude than either Cuba or St. Domingo. It is the most important of those islands belonging to Great Britain, is about 90 miles to the south of Cuba. Area 6,400 square miles with a population of 510,000. It is traversed from east to west by a heavily-timbered ridge, called the Blue Mountains which rises to about 7,500 feet. From this range at least seventy streams descend to the north and south shores. The chief towns are Kingston, St. Jago de la Vega, Montego Bay and Port Royal.

SCENERY OF THE JAMAICA COAST.

It was during the month of June, 1878, on the arrival of the mail from Southampton, England, that I received letters instructing me to proceed from Barbadoes to Jamaica; a few orders having been given to my landlady, the unenviable task of packing was commenced; and on being completed, I proceeded with my traps to the Steam Depot where passage was procured on board the "Don," one of the fine

Ocean Steamers of the Royal Mail Line. In a few hours steam being up, the engine revolutions commenced, and gradually Barbadoes left behind. After 3 days of calm weather the Caribbean sea presenting the appearance of a Mill Pond, during which time a pleasant trip was spent; we first sighted the Blue Mountain Peaks, the landmarks of Jamaica some 30 miles distant; within two hours the coast line is seen, and on approach, the tropical vegetation intermingled with the groves of Cocoanut Trees, makes up a picture not wanting in embellishment; in a short while the lighthouse at Plumb Point is sighted, situated opposite the Harbour of Kingston, and in the centre of the Palisades, a peninsula forming the natural boundary of the Harbours of Kingston and Port Royal. The Palisades are planted out in Cocoanut Trees and Senna, the oil from the former being used for lighting the house.

THE TOWN OF PORT ROYAL.

At a distance of 3 miles or so from this, and at the end of the palisades is situated the Royal Naval Station. Port Royal formerly the wealthiest City in the West Indies and Spanish Main, it has been the scene of repeated earthquakes, and the old town with all its wealth was completely swallowed up by the severe earthquake of a century and a half ago; it is recorded in the historical annals of the Colony the miraculous escape of a clergyman. He was swallowed up by one of the convulsions, and ejected by a subsequent one, and lived for years after, at a place called Green Bay, on the opposite shore to Port Royal is a monument erected to the memory of this clergyman, where is to be found a

full description of his escape. The steamer anchored at Port Royal only sufficiently long to land the Commodore's mail, and then proceeded up the Kingston Harbour. At the Royal Mail Co's. wharf on arrival were to be seen crowds of darkies all anxiously looking out to assist you in getting your trunks ashore, so soon as the ship is moored the decks are alive with natives and others, many of whom having no business calls on board, but through curiosity bestriding the decks, making access in landing difficult. In other parts of the ship are to be seen the "Higglers," fruit women, with their "bancra," baskets of Oranges, Mangoes, and Pine Apples, they run a good trade selling as they do the fruit at three fold the price they are procurable for in the market; a stroll around the town of Kingston, or a run on the Street Cars is the next step generally taken on first landing. The streets are dirty, and pools of water are to be seen at every corner. The market an iron building is certainly one that would do credit to any city, where is to be obtained daily, Fresh Beef, Mutton, Turtle and abundance of Fish, Fruit and Vegetables. Kingston boasts of a Public Library and Museum a Theatre, Town Hall and Central Park, all very fair buildings, and sufficiently well adapted for their several requirements.

The West India Black Regiment is stationed at *Up Park* Camp, and plays on the green once a week, where is to be seen the *elite* of Kingston and suburbs in their fine carriages and spirited horses. There are some very fine stock bred in the Island; the descendants of the far-famed Elgin and Pammon blood originally imported from England, the military generally possess some of the best stock. The racing stock has considerably degenerated, all the fast

thoroughbreds being exported to Barbadoes and Demerara.

When the fleet arrives at Port Royal a Cricket Match is generally arranged with the Captain of the Kingston Team, through whose courtesy I witnessed a Match between the officers of the Northampton and Bacchante, and K. C. C. on their grounds in 1880, when the young Princes Albert and George of Wales visited these shores.

NEW CASTLE GARRISON.

The white Regiments are always stationed at New Castle, situate at a distance of 16 miles or so from Kingston, in the mountains in the back of Kingston, the climate being very cool, and almost approaching the European, the ravages of yellow fever are less frequent than would occur if the regiment were located in the lowlands.

FERN WALK.

St. Catharines peak lies at the back of New Castle Garrison, where the far-famed Fern Walk affords great attractions for visitors, and local botanists; every variety of Fern and Orchidaceae is to be here found, from the Gigantic Palm Fern to the very delicate Mat, Gold and Silver Ferns, Strawberries and Blackberries grow wild amongst the delicate wild flowers. A coppermine was formerly worked near this spot, but was abandoned as being unprofitable.

“*St. Jago de la Vega*” or Spanish Town is situated 12 miles to the westward of Kingston, and was formerly the Capital of the Island, when this Colony was under the Spanish yoke, it is the most dismal spot one need ever visit, and is alluded to as the City of the Dead. Being inland the

sea breeze but rarely passes over the low lying land, and the effect of a tropical sun is unendurable except to the inhabitants who are seemingly contented with their lot. The only railway on the Island runs as far as this town, but it is under contemplation of the Government to extend the line to the interior Parishes, where the chief agricultural districts are situated; a very pretty drive is some few miles out of Spanish Town along the banks of the Rio Cobre, the largest river in the Island, wandering through the Parishes of St. Thomas and St. Catherine, emptying itself in the Kingston Harbour; the spot along the river road, known to tourists as the Bog Walk, is a very charming resort, pic-nic parties being frequently held at this part, and forms a good resting place for travellers to the Interior Parishes. The post road extends throughout the entire Island, the mails are very regular considering the very bad state the roads get into during the rainy seasons, occurring in the months of May and October. Then the rivers overflow their banks and the surrounding country is inundated, the cane fields being submerged for a week or two at a time; in the towns the floods cause great damage to the streets, the best of them having afterwards the appearance of a dry river bed. There are 12 or 13 Parishes, a Custos or Chief Magistrate being appointed by the Governor, whose offices are comprised in the Parochial management thereof.

A visit to the Parish of St. Ann, (the garden of Jamaica) repays those who admire nature clad in her Emerald Garb. The pens or farms are beautifully kept, not a rock or weed to be seen in the oceans of guinea grass and common pasture land; the ascent up Mount Diablo or the Devil's Mount

is very tiresome and distressing to the stock, but at its summit a grand panorama opens before you embracing the sugar estates, in the lowland districts for at least a radius of 20 miles. The climate of the Parishes inland is salubrious, and the medical faculty recommend a trip in case of delicate health. Numerous Americans and Europeans visit these shores during the winter months. There is one drawback the want of suitable hotel accommodation; residences on the pens can however be procured, but unless strangers arriving had some one to interest themselves on their behalf, would be inconvenienced by not obtaining domestic comforts, that invalids particularly would necessarily require.

THE MINERAL BATHS

are two in number, the one situate on the Milk River at a distance of 40 miles from Kingston to the westward, and the other Bath Gardens in the East End of the Island, the former is a hot spring, its mineral properties are very beneficial in cases of Chronic Rheumatism, Gout and all nervous affections. The Government keep up the Institution with some regard of comfort to all that visit these waters; the services of a matron are retained who makes a stay there as agreeable as possible, every attention being shown to strangers. A good deal of sport is obtainable on the spot, shooting alligators, and fishing being indulged in by the convalescents.

The Bath Springs (cold) are more pleasantly situated, being settled in the township of that name, the residents chiefly Proprietors of Sugar Estates, are very hospitable

especially to strangers visiting the baths. The surrounding groves of Nutmeg Trees afford also pleasant walks under the cool shade. The climate is cooler than in the vicinity of the Milk River. Invalids who either from pecuniary inability or temporary prostration are unable to visit these waters, are often relieved by obtaining the water fresh, and keeping it in tightly corked bottles. A wineglass taken three times a day and continued for some time has been known to effect wonderful cures, the taste is not unpleasant, slightly brackish, and strongly charged with iron and potash forming the chief mineral properties of these springs. There are several caves along the coast extending for miles inland ; but with one or two exceptions have not been fully explored.

THE LEGEND OF ROSE HALL.

A visit to Rose Hall Sugar Estate in the northside of the Island is of interest, as to this place is connected a legend. The original house covered fully an acre of ground to judge from the old foundations, was built of solid Mahogany and Bitterwood, the most valuable and handsome native woods that could as far as colour and strength is concerned be blended together, some idea of the size of the house and the accommodation it provided will be formed when it is said to have contained a door for every day in the year, a room for every week in a year, and a window for every day in a century. The grand staircase is still in preservation, and is a magnificent work of art ; the balustrades are made of Mahogany, and the tread composed of Bitterwood fretwork cut in diversified patterns. One of the former

Governors of Jamaica offered £500 for the staircase so charmed was he with its construction. The last proprietor and occupier of this immense old mansion was a man of the name of Palmer who came out from Scotland as a cooper on the estate, he married the widow McDonald, Proprietress of the Hall, and by this means came in for the property and her wealth which is reputed to have been considerable. This Mrs. McDonald seems to have lived through an awful career of crime, as she is said to have murdered her husband prior to Palmer as well as her three former husbands, Palmer was her fifth husband. In her first wedding ring was engraved "If I survive I'll have five," and her wish was certainly gratified. Palmer whether he heard of the suspicions surrounding this woman's career, and thus was more guarded, is not laid down in the tradition, but in an encounter with this "Belledemonia" her death was caused at Palmer's hands. It is recorded that during the lifetime of this woman's third husband, some friends who had been staying at Rose Hall, on returning home invited the host and hostess of Rose Hall to accompany them to their Estate, which they did, and that their residence was forever after alluded to as the haunted Great House. It was at first told by one of the old housekeepers to the proprietor, that ghosts were in the house; that night after night, a figure in white would at midnight pass through her room, and glide through the drawing room and then open the door on the left wing and enter the stranger's room, and after some little time, would again glide to the other wing of the house, all this happened when this Mrs. Palmer was a guest of the proprietor; so a watch was set, amongst them this demon in woman's shape, and thus nothing occurred, but

on her declining one night to watch for the apparition, she retired as usual, but the watch was nevertheless kept, and sure enough at midnight, the apparition glided through the rooms, and with a candle and knife in her hands, entered the stranger's room, drove the blade into the quilt, wiped the knife, and returned to her apartments the same way she came; it was no one but Mrs. Palmer, and from this incident the secret of the mysterious death of her former husbands was somewhat brought home to her. A trial based on the circumstantial revelations of her sonambulism took place, but the evidence was not sufficiently strong to induce the jury to convict her, it was shortly after this occurrence that her death occurred. Palmer in order to throw off any suspicions of his foul deed, imported a most elaborate statue and cenotaph. It was discovered by him on its being opened, that a blue vein, (only a flaw in the marble) marked the throat of the statue, and his conscience must have smote him, for he did not erect the statue or cenotaph, but had them repacked and left them at one of the wharves. Years passed on, and whilst the wharves were being cleared out, this case was examined, but having no representative to interest themselves therewith, the Municipal authorities and the church wardens of Trinity Church, at Montego Bay, Jamaica, had it erected, where it is to be seen to this day. The sculpture is of the finest grade and the interesting associations connected therewith led myself and I have no doubt has attracted very many strangers to the Parish of St. James.

THE BLUE MOUNTAIN ASCENT.

The Blue Mountains are very high, the great peaks being over 7000 feet above sea-level. Forming as I did one of a party to try the ascent to the peak, we travelled some 15 miles on horseback, and were very kindly received by the proprietor of one of the finest coffee plantations, who insisted on our remaining with him for a day, when he would be enabled to accompany us. We were only too grateful to accept his offer, so on our plans being perfected, our host insisted that the commissariat department should be left in his hands, and he being by repute a caterer, we with one accord accepted, as we did not fear of any lack of supplies being furnished for the expedition; we had hardly settled down when orders were given to the head man to provide guides, put up the mules in the pens for the night, and the old black cook was summoned to give just cause, why the best fat turkeys should not be appropriated to the expedition. This summons quite took away the poor old slavie's breath; she recovered exclaiming "Hi Massa wha far sich ting to be sa? nuff, nuff, ynam, ynam na da sa? Buchra can neber ynam hole a fo tokey sa? "Why, master, why is this to be; is there not plenty of eatables in the house? and the white men cannot eat four turkeys." The old girl's plea would not do with our hospitable host; nothing would please him until his orders were executed, so after preparing four hampers of solid delicacies, including black land crabs, (one of the luxuries of Jamaica,) we retired for the night and were glad to get under a pair of blankets, as at this elevation the climate is cold and somewhat damp; at daylight we were all aroused and after a hasty breakfast,

mounted the mules provided for the mountain passes. These animals being very sure-footed are well adapted for the narrow and precipitous tracks. After six hours ride through some of the prettiest scenery in the Island, we halted at the base of the mountain, five miles below the peak, unpacked the hampers, and enjoyed a hearty lunch in picnic style, and our appetites being greatly sharpened by the cool air and exercise of the long ride, we did justice to the sumptuous repast. Feeling considerably refreshed, preparation was commenced for the climb. The mules were led back for a mile, where the highest cultivated property is to be found, to await our return.

All along the banks of the Yallahs River is to be found the Bamboo. It overtops high trees, resembling in appearance dark green lances, from 30 to 60 feet high, and bent like bundles of flexible spears, in lofty arches over the stream. Towards the lower end it is frequently as thick as a man's leg, and has regular internodial divisions, and is thus so useful to the natives for domestic purposes. Cut in joints 5 or 6 feet long they are used for carrying water, the short joints making cups, etc. The Bamboo is sometimes quite smooth, and bears small leaflets on its slender, and scarcely visible branches, and like the Palm generally occurs in large masses.

THE ASCENT OF JACOB'S LADDER.

The guides proceed, cutlass in hand, and the hampers on their backs, cutting a way as they go, the wist and thick undergrowth found so troublesome in travelling through a tropical forest.

The base of the Blue Mountain is surrounded by trunks of gigantic trees, covered with fine specimens of orchidaceæ, and all along the rising ground moss covered trunks abound. The forest trees had been cut down in some parts, preparation being made for *Cinchona* cultivation, but the stumps rose high above the short grass, plants and running vines and climbers, while here and there a tree which had escaped the axe and fire, stripped of its bark, and covered with moss and lichen, reared its head toward the black rain-clouds over-head. Our spirits were somewhat dampened at the prospect of a wetting; we were fortunate however, as the clouds gradually rolled seaward, leaving the canopy of heaven bright and clear. High up the acclivity, extended the Blue Peaks we were about to ascend; the deep shade of the trees set off strongly the slender white blossoms of the orchids clinging to the moss covered trees; our way led up the precipitous path, looking down on the Yallahs River, which swept far below, and along the Blue Mountain valley. We gazed down into the abyss below, with amazement, and on the lofty Cotton Trees on the opposite hills, admiring the varied tints of green, which are seldom seen so diversified in woods in other than tropical latitudes. The wild, but grand expanse extended as far as the eye could reach. We soon entered on a more level spot, and rested awhile under the refreshing shade; the surrounding country being for a spell quite lost to sight, and the vault of heaven seen as through a veil.

The chief ornament of these parts was the trees with magnificent lilac blossoms, and others with white ones contrasting beautifully with the surrounding varied tints of green. After enjoying the much needed siesta, (rest) with

restless glances we surveyed the splendid display of colors emanating from the gorges on either side, covered with the yellow blossoms of the Maypole, a species of Cactus. From the fertility of the soil, caused doubtless from the decayed vegetable matter, the accumulation of years, the creepers and climbers spring up so densely, that the young branches not having room to expand, freely strive to overtop one another, thus creating an almost impassable barrier. At first we climbed on for some time in silence, but at length exclamation followed exclamation as our amazement increased at every step, one new picture succeeding another. Everything here is wonderful and altogether different from what we in our cold, northern regions can picture to ourselves. In what other part of the world is to be seen such a union of the grand and sublime, with the beautiful, the lovely, nay even the fantastic, and all forming so harmonious a picture as is witnessed in travelling through the mountains in the West Indies. Perfect silence does not reign in these mountains, the notes of the Nightengale, and cooing of the Blue Pigeons, and Ringtails, and the chirp of the Crickets are incessantly heard.

ARRIVAL AT THE PEAK.

Before continuing the last half mile another halt becomes imperative, the surmounting of Jacob's Ladder having fatigued us dreadfully, the traces were nearly obliterated, so we lost our way several times, and after 5 hours climbing we at last arrived at the Peak. The grand expanse laid around us was charming, and with the aid of telescopes we could discern the townships inland 40 or 50 miles, as the crow flies. The sea is to be seen all around, and the whole

comprised such a panorama as I believe few can realise. The mountains of clouds rolling by and so forming a screen to the then setting sun, was the grandest sight I ever witnessed, and one never to be forgotten. On testing the spring of water by the thermometer, 36° was registered, and the mean temperature stood at 40° . The day closing in we lost no time in preparing fuel for firing up, it being our intention to camp out for the night. A general charge was made on the decayed trees lying around, and with a will we soon had a bonfire fit to roast any "Guy Fawkes" on. Shelter was the next thought, no habitation existing at the Peak; there are, however, the remains of a hut, composed of four sticks and two sheets of galvanized iron, a few branches and dried limbs forming the sides, with the absence of any kind of floor. By spreading tarpaulins on the ground we were kept tolerably free from damp, but during the night the cold was keenly felt, although we were well provided with blankets and rugs. After supper was got through, it being then about 10 o'clock, heavy rain-drops were heard on the iron sheeting of the hut, and a flash of lightning followed immediately by a deafening roar of thunder, intimated that a tropical thunder storm was approaching; in less time than it takes to relate, the vivid flashes of lighting followed each other in so rapid succession that it was decided it would be safer out in the rain than in our primitive camping quarters. So with overcoats on we for a time abandoned the hut and sat in groups some fifteen feet off; the rain fell heavier, the thunder increased in intensity, appearing to emanate from the depths below; all around and below us seemed a sea of electricity, dazzling in brightness superbly grand and illustrating the

magnitude of the power of the Almighty as compared with the attempts of man to achieve secondary imitations of the celestial bodies as reflecting and illuminating agents. We kept up until nearly daylight, singing songs and relating anecdotes, we being all too fatigued to sleep. In the morning we were up early enough to see the sunrise, a sight that completely eclipsed the scenes of the day before. The imagination may picture to itself the aspect of the surrounding scenery in the most glowing colors, but it will fall far short of the impression produced on the spectator, when witnessing a similar scene.

WILD BOAR HUNT IN JAMAICA.

On a cattle pen and pimento plantation in the Ocho Rios (eight rivers) district of the Parish of St. Ann, Island of Jamaica, resides a Mr. L., who possesses a fine breed of bull-terriers, much prized by their owner for their indomitable pluck. Being well trained they are invaluable while hunting the wild boars that are frequently met with in the woods, providing good sport for those who indulge in the pursuit of game, when this is attended with some risk, and at the same time flavored with excitement. While spending a fortnight with this gentleman, renowned for his hospitality, I met two young Englishmen who had lately arrived. Several points of a sporting nature were discussed one evening after dinner, and the prospect of a boar hunt was eagerly entered into by the party. The headman (a Maroon) was summoned by the proprietor, and instructions given for him to be in readiness on the following morning to take us to the spot in the woods where good sport was likely to be obtained.

Early next morning after a hasty breakfast, the three of us mounted and made a start, the Maroon and two other natives leading the way, cutlass in hand, and with a rope each coiled over their neck and shoulders. Having ridden for about four miles, a halt was made at the foot of a limestone mountain, and the guides set to work cutting half a dozen lancewood spars, and splitting them into rough spears ten

feet long by two and half inches wide; and with their cutlasses and clasp knives tapered the spears to a sharp point. The lancewood being light and flexible, but at the same time a hard and tough wood, is admirably adapted for the use they put it to in "pig sticking." The horses were hitched to a shady tree, and the party proceeded up the hilly gorge for a distance of a mile or more, on arrival at a level piece of tableland, final instructions were given to the two Maroons by their "boss" (Maroon No. 1). They separated, taking different points of the wood, while the dogs, led by a coolie boy, were swivelled in a loose manner by the collars on their necks. The three rifles were loaded, and all the party were anxiously awaiting the approach of a boar. The excitement shown by the four terriers convinced us that they were as anxious as we were for the boar.

The Maroon suddenly assumed a most ludicrous position, kneeling down and laying his wooly pate on the ground, with ear inclined to mother earth. Suddenly he sprang up and took shelter behind a limestone rock, bidding us do likewise with the boy and dogs. We had not long to wait. There was a rustling in the bush, and a monster came rushing on within twenty feet of our hiding place. Our rifles were all leveled at him, and although the balls hit they did not in any way affect the animal's progress. The Maroon, seeing this, rushed out and with good aim sent one of the lancewood spears into the boar's jowl. The dogs were let off from their tether, and the excitement of the chase commenced. The deafening whelping of the terriers, the ferocious grunting of the boar, and the shouts of the Maroons at the prospect of soon securing their prize, was enough to unstring one's nerves. Down the ravine the beast started,

one terrier securely fastened on the back of his neck, while the other three were making a good hold on the flanks. Another and yet another lancewood spear spins through the air and strikes the boar only a few inches from where one of the terriers had hold of the left flank. The boar, maddened with pain, frantically rushed on over rocks and tree roots, stumps and thick undergrowth, at times quite lost to view, and making it risky on the dogs account to fire.

In a short while the wood was cleared, and with the spear still sticking in his jowl, and the dogs holding fast, the boar passed a shallow brook and took across an open common. No time was lost in mounting the horses, and my two friends and self galloped as hard as the stock could go, and were just in time to prevent the animal from getting into a thrown up coffee piece, so dense with overgrowth of tropical vegetation, that we would in all probability have been unable to secure him. Thus surprised he retraced his steps, still dragging the dogs, which still maintained their hold. From the loss of blood the beast commenced to fag, and in a short while we came on him from the rear, and the Maroons having so far followed us, they attacked him from the fore. Two well-directed bullets hitting between the ear and the jowl caused the brute to fall, and in rolling over he nearly squashed two of the pups. Another spear through the throat settled the matter for the boar. Then out with our knives and with great difficulty the head was severed. It is surprising the thickness of the wild boar's hide. There were distinctly to be seen the spots on his body where bullets had hit, but no further impression. Round about the jowl and mouth hung masses of thick froth mixed with blood, which was

pretty well distributed on the dogs. One of the terriers was lost, having been ripped by the boar, and the other three were one mass of cuts, bruises, and blood. In spite of their condition, it was with the greatest difficulty we could separate them from the animal, and they were apparently thoroughly indifferent to their share of injury sustained during the encounter.

Preparation was at once made for conveying the booty home. After being dressed, the Maroons slung it on lance-wood spears, and supported on their shoulders it was carried down safely. The animal was considered as large as any got for years past. Some idea of its size may be entertained when on being prepared for the smoke stack it turned the standard at 350 pounds. The meat is of a very fine flavor, attrituable no doubt, to the fruit and wild berries these animals live on. The flesh is sometimes boiled or fried fresh, but is generally smoked with pimento leaves, juniper, cedar shavings, etc., before being cooked, thus imparting to it an aromatic flavor. Jerked or barbecued pig is not to be despised, and is easily procured by those residing in the neighborhood of the Moroon settlements.

Our host was grieved on hearing of the loss of the pup, but took the matter very good-naturedly; the pluck shown by the others was in a measure a consoling theme, and one that he frequently alluded to afterward. The excitement of the day had nearly worn us out, but after cooling down, and having a dip in the cool mountain stream, we felt refreshed, and were in capital form for the evening's entertainment. Our host and hostess during our absence having invited several neighboring families to come over to an impromptu party, the surprise, if anything, added to the

pleasure, and on retiring to rest at 5.30 A. M., we three came to the conclusion that a more jolly time we certainly had never spent, and I, for my own part, cannot recall another such good days sport.

The Government House is situate about five miles from Kingston, a fine house with well laid out grounds, a gardener from England being employed for the purpose of keeping up and superintending the cultivation. The Governor gives a ball occasionally, say three or four times a year, when all who have called and left their cards, obtain invitations; they are generally a success, and the guests have a very enjoyable time; the only mar being the room for dancing is not sufficiently commodious.

The plant known as the "Cinchona" or Quinine plant, has been very successfully cultivated in a plantation, forming part of the Blue Mountain range, it is under the supervision of the Botanist of the Government, and the prices realised on the bark in the London market, promises to make the cultivation of this valuable plant, one of the chief products of the Island. The other Government gardens are situated at a place called Castleton, sixteen miles or so from Kingston, where every specie of tropical plant is reared, and sold at a nominal figure, several valuable East India ornamental and fruit trees, have been planted, and promise to do well; with few exceptions the entire fruit of the colony has from time to time been brought in seedlings and slips from the East Indies, flourishing just as luxuriously as on their native soil.

The Huts of the natives are of a very rude and primitive nature, chiefly composed of 4 or 5 posts and a few sticks to support the bundles of straw of which the roof is comprised, a dash of white lime, plaster, and you have the negro hut; there are exceptions, where is to be seen a house of a shade higher class, but the exception is rare; the house is divided by wattling into two compartments, the one used as cooking and general room, and the other for sleeping purposes; several philanthropists have endeavoured to start on foot, schemes having for their chief object, "a better class of homes for the negroes," but Quashie is not disposed to contribute to a Buchra house, as they considered the class of house suggested for their comfort, so long accustomed to his mud hut and the surroundings, he would feel miserable and out of his element in more refined quarters. The young men and girls are particularly fond of dress, putting on as they do the most bright colors to be selected, and mingled quite indiscriminately as to the blending of colour, it is a matter of surprise to account for the means of obtaining the dress, their wages being so very small, domestics not obtaining more than 3 or 4 shillings a week, and have to find themselves, whilst the laborer averages 9 pence to 1 shilling and 3 pence a day, working but 5 days a week, and sometimes but 4 days; their chief staple food is a root called Yam, it grows to some 2 or 3 feet, and when cut in slices and boiled is very nutritious, mixed as the Negroes eat it with salt codfish and herring, becomes a cheap dish, a man is thus able to support his family on a few shillings a week.

Until very late years superstitions reigned rampart on this Island, having willing subjects in the negro; Obeah, a

species of witchcraft, is to-day practiced among some of the natives, though the laws are so rigid, the evil still predominates, it is simply a system of fraud practiced by the Obeahman to make a living. Should any one happen to pass Quasshie's path, he at once makes up his mind to pay the Obeahman a visit, this means on his paying out a few shillings; a collection of bones, feathers, broken glass and hair is collected together and is brought out, a spell is supposed to be at work on the unfortunate one who, if he is not very cautious, will find himself laid on a severe bed of illness, caused through some vegetable slow poison, administered through the Obeahman's agency. The extensive school grants it is to be hoped will be the means of thoroughly eradicating this evil, as it is doubtless through blind ignorance that the powers of the Obeahman are so fastly believed in; the Educational Department have erected extensive day schools throughout the Island, generating a healthy moral tone and religious sentiment that has hitherto been a stranger to these black brothers of ours. The chief exports are rum, sugar, ginger, coffees, pimento and dyewoods—the fruit trade has been a new feature in the export trade, and is one that promises to compete with the best of the staple products.

DEPENDENCIES OF JAMAICA.

The Cayman Islands are three in number, viz.: Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brack. They are situated about 300 miles from Jamaica: The chief exports are coarse salt and turtle; of the latter, thousands are caught and shipped to the neighbouring Islands, comprising as they do one of the chief sources of food supply. The

turtle is so constructed as to comprise fish, meat and fowl ; this is no fallacy, but the sterling fact. The turtle soup is very nutritious and can be procured for a few pence, not as in England where a plate of soup cannot be procured for less than 10s. The salt ponds cover a very extensive area. The land in the locality of the ponds being lower than the sea, the water percolates through and forms artificial ponds, these are kept very clean and free from any deleterious deposits, on the tide receding the saline properties are incrustated in the ponds, and the action of the sun causing evaporation the saline crystals are formed, and when raked up and is ready for exportation. Canadians are doubtless aware that the coarse salt is extensively if not exclusively used in preserving the shad, mackerel, herring, &c., caught around the coast of the province of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

PEDRO CAYS.

These Cays are situated to the south west of Jamaica at a distance of about 90 miles, are quite barren but provide a source of considerable wealth to the lessees, an American firm ; like the Cayman Islands these Cays are the dependency of Jamaica as are also the Morant Cays. During the last two years several cargoes of guano have been shipped to Liverpool, &c., and are found of good quality and a valuable agent as a fertilizer, but does not excel the Peruvian deposits. On this small coral reef is laying only to be dug and removed an open mine of considerable wealth, that will bear comparison in value and far exceed in usefulness the glittering veins that traverse many mountains. It is asserted that when the sea breeze is very fresh the odorous scent

of the guano is distinctly perceptible on the south side of Jamaica, and is far from unpleasant, when thus mingled with the pure briny air.

On the side next the main land the cays rise precipitously from the sea to a considerable height, presenting only a bare dark wall of honeycomb rock. On the upper end of this promontory and for hundreds of yards around is the deposit to be seen, here and there a few rough craggy point of coral thrust their white heads through the brown crust of guano, which has completely filled in the deep hollows that originally existed in the land, and would soon, had operations for its removal not commenced have covered even the crests of what were once tall pinnacles. The landing places are not very safe, being quite open and exposed to the full force of the Caribbean sea, which often washes over the lower parts of the Cays. Several hands are employed in the digging and removal of the deposit, and subsist to some extent by the fish caught all along the banks, king fish, mullets, snappers, etc., there is no spring or supply of water here, so casks have to be filled and brought with other supplies at periods from Jamaica. Several wrecks have occurred on these banks, the Royal Mail Co., lost a short while back the "Shannon," one of the finest of their fleet. Lying as these Cays do in the course of steamers and sailing vessels bound to the Spanish Main, great care has to be exercised, and calculations made for the strong currents inclining thereto.

These Cays were the resort of Morgan the pirate and buccancer of renown, who carried on his nefarious trade to such extremes of brutality. Several treasure trove expe-

ditions have been started in search of the gold and other valuables alleged to have been buried on this and other Cays in the Caribbean sea, but the result has ever been attended with disappointment combined with futile expenditure of money. The eggs of the boobie, a small specie of sea gull, are in the season gathered, and ship loads find their way to the surrounding islands, where they form an addition to the food supply, the eggs are very coarse and are strongly impregnated with a fishy flavour.

THE END.

