

the neighbouring graves. From the moment the coffin was committed to the earth, nothing of order was maintained by the party. The attendants dispersed in various directions, retiring, or remaining, during the filling up of the grave, as inclination seemed to lead.

When the whole of the earth was replaced several of the women, who had staid to chant, in merry song, over poor Jenny's clay, took up a handful of the mould, and threw it down again upon the grave of their departed friend, as the finishing of the ceremony, crying aloud "*God bless you, Jenny! good-by! remember me to all friends t' other side of the sea, Jenny! Tell 'em me come soon! Good-by, Jenny, good-by! See for send me good - - - to-night, Jenny! Good-by, good night, Jenny, good-by!*" All this was uttered in mirth and laughter, and accompanied with attitudes and gesticulations expressive of any thing but sorrow or sadness.

From the grave-digger we learned that poor Jenny had been a washerwoman, and

that the females who had, so merrily, founded her requiem, had been her sud-affociates. They had full faith in Jenny's transmigration to meet her friends, at her place of nativity; and their persuasion that death was only a removal from their present to their former home—a mere change from a state of slavery to a state of freedom—did not barely alleviate, but wholly prevented the natural grief and affliction arising from the loss of a friend. They confidently expected to hear from poor Jenny, or to know her influence, in the way they most desired, before morning.

The faith of these poor ignorant slaves, regarding a happy transmigration, after death, would seem calculated to lead them to the crime of suicide; and, accordingly, this effect of their superstition is said not to have been unfrequent among them. A tale is told of a singular remedy having been practised against this fatal expedient of the negroes. Several individuals of a gang having hanged themselves to escape from a cruel master, and others being about to avoid his severities by similar means, he

prevented them, by the happy expedient of threatening to hang himself, also, and to transmigrate, with them, carrying the whip in his hand, into their own country; where he would punish them ten times more severely than he had hitherto done. The stratagem is said to have succeeded. Finding they could not, thus, escape from the tyrannic lash, they resolved, rather than receive disgraceful stripes among their African friends, to continue their existence under all the hardships of slavery.

LETTER XXIV.

Author and his comrades receive kind attentions from Mr. B. Hinde. Make a visit to Dr. Hinde. General face of the country above Bridge-Town. The party at Dr. Hinde's witness the process of making rum and sugar. Slaves employed as running footmen. Four women seen toiling in a cane-field with a man holding a whip at their backs. Dr. Cleghorn and the Author continue their walking exercise. Meet with trees of the poisonous manchineel—also of the sea-grape. A coco-nut grove. Hospitality of a planter. A happy negro-yard. Mode of washing linen at Barbadoes.

Barbadoes, Feb.

HAVING fatigued you, in my late letters, with tedious notes, concerning the slaves and their customs, I feel happy to have it in my power to introduce you to the society of their masters. Through the friendly medium of Mr. Benjamin Hinde, a merchant of great respectability in Bridge-Town, we have been made known to several gentlemen who reside in the country, and are of importance in the island: and who, in liberal and friendly hospitality, offer us the means of seeing the whole of Barbadoes, and of

witnessing the customs and manners of its inhabitants. It were unnecessary to remark that this will be a great source of gratification to me, and will, even, lead me to rejoice in the event, while I lament the cause of our delay.

We have made a ride about four miles into the country, to dine with one of our professional brethren, Dr. Hinde, a man of high acquirements, and sound knowledge. He was educated in England, and remained many years, in the prosecution of his studies, at Cambridge. Until lately he employed himself in the practice of medicine, at Bridge-Town ; but he has, now, in great part, retired from the fatigues of medical occupation, to engage in the more genial, and more lucrative employment of a planter. To the inhabitants of the town this is a severe loss; and they, justly, lament the absence of a man not less endeared to them by his private worth, and urbanity, than by his eminent professional talents.

We very much enjoyed the ride to the doctor's estate ; which is situated upon much

higher ground than the immediate environs of Bridge-Town; the country rising towards the interior of the island, in elevated ranges of distinct table-land. At one spot we ascended by a very steep road, and, having reached the summit of the declivity, there found ourselves again upon an extensive plain. Soon afterwards we came to another rocky precipice, and having mounted this, by a path of difficult ascent, we arrived upon another, and still higher range of table-land. From the points of these sudden elevations we commanded very extensive and delightful views of the country below, of Bridge-Town, of the sea, and of the shipping in Carlisle Bay.

The land is cultivated in open field—hedges, walls, and all the usual fences seem to be unknown; nor does the eye discover any distinct separation of the different estates; but it ranges, uninterrupted, over a wide-extended surface, richly spread with the various productions of a tropical soil, and pleasantly interspersed with the mansions of the whites, and the huts of the negroes. Cotton, pigeon peas, and Guinea corn, constitute

the great produce of this part of the island. Some fields of aloes, and of plantains, were also seen: but there appeared a degree of nakedness from the want of wood, of which there is not a sufficiency to give a general richness to the landscape, although about the great *Backra*-houses there are several fine groves of the coco-nut and the majestic mountain-cabbage trees.

We arrived about two o'clock, having made our ride in the strongest heat of the day; but from the purity and freshness of the air, and from the country being more elevated, as we advanced, we felt no degree of languor or oppression, from a full exposure to the sun. At the doctor's house, in consequence of the situation and construction of the building, we felt it cooler than either in Bridge-Town, or Carlisle Bay. The party at dinner consisted of eight ladies, and fourteen gentlemen; the attendants were also numerous, yet, notwithstanding the number of persons in the room, and the many smoking dishes on the table, the steady perspiration of the breeze kept us sufficiently cool.

The day passed most pleasantly:—all was harmony and good cheer. The hospitality which spread the feast, enriched its flavor, and the entertainment was highly graced by the urbanity and attentive politeness of the doctor and his lady. On our way back to Bridge-Town, in the evening, we perceived the air to be more close and oppressive, and the heat greater as we descended from each plain of table-land; so that the difference we felt between breathing in the town, and in the cool breeze of the country was very striking, and led us to felicitate the doctor in having so advantageously exchanged physic for sugar—the confined streets of the town for the open hills of the country.

It was the season of cutting the canes, and Dr. Hinde, kindly attentive to our gratification, had contrived that the works should be going, in order that we might witness the method by which the saccharine juice is separated from the canes, and afterwards prepared into sugar. We also visited the distilling house, and inspected the apparatus for making the rum; hence, we had

this day, an opportunity of witnessing the progressive steps from the cutting of the canes, to the converting of their juice into sugar and rum. At some more leisure moment, perhaps, I may note for you the whole of the process.

We made our excursion in single-horse chaises, like those, with leather tops, used in England; from which they only differ by having the leather, at the sides and the back, made to roll up, and let down at pleasure, for the twofold purpose of admitting the air, and excluding the rain. We were attended by slaves as running footmen, whose duty it was to travel as fast as we did, and to be in readiness to hold the bridles, or stand at the horses' heads, at any spot where we might chance to alight, or to pause. They were equal in number to our horses, but as we were unaccustomed both to running footmen, and to slaves, we had strong feelings of compunction respecting these pedestrian pages; and from seeing them run, and pant, and broil, exposed to the mid-day heat of a tropical sun, merely for our ease and pleasure, it be-

came so painfully annoying to us that we lost all sense of comfort and enjoyment: Dr. Cleghorn and myself, therefore, stopped to desire that they would get up, alternately, and ride behind our chaise. Two of them, only, accepted the offer—all the others continued to walk or run throughout the journey.

Upon our mentioning to the gentlemen of the island our uneasy feelings respecting these sable attendants, they smiled at our European tenderness, and assured us that so far from it being a fatigue or hardship to them, they always hailed such an excursion as a holiday, and preferred it to remaining quietly at home. We could not, for an instant, dispute the information; but from knowing that such violent exercise, under such excessive heat, must have been fatal to ourselves, and not being enough West Indians to know how very differently it affected the negroes, we could not regard them without suffering strong feelings of *mal-aise*.

At one spot, in the course of our ride, we had our attention arrested by observing

a party of four, almost naked, females working in a cane-field. Curiosity would not allow us to pass on without devoting to them a moment of particular regard. We, therefore, went a little off the road to approach them nearer; when we found that they were labouring with the hoe, to dig, or cut up the ground, preparatory to the planting of sugar; and that a stout robust-looking man, apparently white, was following them, holding a whip at their backs. Observing that he was the only one of the party who was idle, we inquired why he did not partake of the task, and were told, in reply, that it was not his business—that he had only to keep the women at work, and to make them feel the weight of the whip if they grew idle, or relaxed from their labour.

Impulsive nature flushed at this information, and we felt shocked and indignant, at seeing a man, apparently, strong enough to do as much work as the whole of the four, employed in the sole occupation of brandishing the whip over these poor degraded females.

Reverting to the protection demanded from us, by the tender sex, we forgot for a moment, all the circumstances of the country we were in, and, indulging in a train of European sentiments, could not refrain from rebuking the man: and although reflection whispered "*he is but on duty,*" I confess that I must remain long in a land of slavery, before I can witness such a scene, without feeling a strong impulse to take the whip from the fellow's hand, and lay the lash across his shoulders, until he shall relieve the women, by, at least, partaking of their toil.

Notwithstanding the alarm of our Barbadoes acquaintance, Dr. Cleghorn and myself continue our walks, by rambling about the fields, and the paths, in the environs of Bridgetown, at an early hour of the morning: and, perhaps, we do not feel more fatigue than we might experience from the same degree of exercise in Europe. We, lately, walked from 6 to 9 o'clock, and if you had the opportunity of consulting our stately mulatto attendant, at

Mary Bella Green's, you would learn that we exhibited no marks of a decreased appetite at breakfast-time.

Near the sea we were protected from the great force of the sun by the shade of trees whose leaves and trunk very much resembled the common pear tree of England, but whose fruit was, in form, a correct likeness of the apple. We knew not that it was forbidden, but had enough of caution not to taste it. However I gathered a small branch, bearing fruit and leaves, and put into my pocket as a specimen, from which we might ascertain what tree it was. Presently afterwards we met a negro, and upon our shewing it to him, and asking its name, he, instantly, exclaimed with all the impulse of alarm, "*Ab, Massa, dat poison—dat no good for nbyaam—dat daamm manchineel, Massa.*" Finding that I had fostered a serpent, I directly threw away every leaf, and every apple; but I discovered that, like other insidious foes, manchineel had quickly diffused its poison, and I afterwards smarted for my curiosity. Either my handkerchief,

or my gloves had imbibed the offensive particles and from having incautiously used them, my lips and face burnt for many hours after, with all the scorchings of cantharidistical acrimony ; also from their having reached the tongue and fauces I was brought into a copious salivation, and, throughout the morning, my mouth and throat were much swelled, and throbbed with fiery heat.

Near the sea we saw likewise some other trees, bearing a fruit very like grapes,—but experience of the manchineel made us cautious in gathering further specimens of tropical production. Some negroes whom we met informed us that they were called sea-grapes, and were used as fruit : upon which we ventured to gather a few of them, and found that they were of pleasant flavor. In the course of the same walk we met with a fine avenue of coco-nut trees, bordered with the aloe and the plantain. This was not to be resisted. We could not forego the pleasure of exploring the extent of this delightful shade, and, therefore, proceeded to its utmost depth, when we found that it led to

a gentleman's house ; from which, as we approached, the lord of the mansion came out to bid us welcome, and to tender us the civilities of hospitality. We accepted the very grateful refreshment of a fine shaddock, pulled fresh from the tree, and the gentleman, kindly, conducted us to the plantain ground, the negro yard, and different parts of the house and estate.

We had, before, seen many negro huts, some shaded by the sea-grape, some sheltered by the broad and balmy leaf of the plantain, some protected by the umbrageous coco-nut, and some standing amidst the open fields, exposed to the full ardor of the sun ; but all these were of a mean order, straggling, and dispersed, and bearing no kind of resemblance to the collective abode, constructed for the slaves of this estate.

It is common at the plantations to allot a small piece of ground, at a short distance from the house, to the use of the negroes, and this is called the negro-yard. Here the slaves

are allowed to build themselves small huts to live in, but they are, commonly, of very coarse construction, and are dark, close, and smoky. At the estate I now speak of, a circular piece of ground had been appropriated as the negroyard, but instead of the slaves being left to construct their own habitations, sixteen very neat and uniform cabins have been erected of wood, and well roofed with shingles*. Placed in eight divisions they form a hollow octagon, a free opening being left for the breeze at one end of each hut. In the centre of the octagon is built a common kitchen, which serves for all the sixteen families. The huts are neat, and the whole premises wear an air of order, and of cleanliness, not common to the abode of slaves.

We contemplated this spot with much satisfaction, and were gratified in observing the high degree of attention, which was here given to the comfort and accommodation of the negroes; who had little cause to lament

* Wooden tiles.

their removal from the wild woods of an opposite shore; and could as little desire to change their present lot for the high-rated freedom of European paupers.

This happy negro-yard forms, as it were, a little village of sixteen families, all of whom may assemble, each evening, after the labour of the day, to join in the merry dance, or to smoke and sing together, free from every care. No thought have they how to provide for their infants, or their aged parents—nor have they to seek either food, habitation, or apparel. To each family is allotted a separate, and to all a common home; the necessary food and clothing are issued to them; and they know none of the anxious cares or difficulties of the world. No fearful concern, nor harassing incumbrance can arise to them on account of their offspring, who, like themselves, are furnished with all that is needful; and those who have most children find themselves most valued and esteemed. In sickness, medical attendance is provided for them, and whatever is necessary is administered, without thought or anxiety, on their own behalf.

Thus are they guarded, at every avenue, against the approach of want and care. Six days labour is demanded from them in the week ; but the sabbath is given them as a day of rest and relaxation ; and, from the total absence of care, it is usually spent in unbounded mirth and festivity.

In the course of our walks we have met with another washing party, and as you desire to know all that occurs, whether of much or little importance, I may tell you that, in this operation of cleaning, our linen is here beaten and rubbed, and scrubbed to pieces in a most unmerciful manner, and, after all, without being made, even, tolerably clean.

The following is the process employed ; the linen is first put into a tub, and rubbed through some water, then it is taken out and sprinkled with sand, previous to being pressed and beaten with a piece of wood, upon a coarse large stone, by the side of the river ; after which it is rubbed out in the open stream. Next it is sprinkled with the fine white sand of the shore, and spread out by the sea to

whiten ; then it receives another dipping in water, and, finally, is rinsed out in the running stream of the river. From the rough treatment it undergoes, it seldom comes home without being torn into various rents and holes. The demand made for this rude cleaning is *a bit* for each piece, without any regard to its size, or the labour required. A dozen shirts are washed for *twelve bits*, or, according to our coin, for twelve sixpences, and for the washing of a dozen pocket-handkerchiefs we pay the same.

LETTER XXV.

Author and his comrades make an excursion to Col. Williams's. Custom of riding with a sugar cane. Soil of Barbadoes. Picturesque scenery of the district called Scotland. "Sweet shades" of Turner's-hall wood. Boiling or inflammable spring. Barbadoes-Tar. Lemons left to fall under the trees, like crabs. Mountain cabbage-tree. View from Mount Hilloughby. A "runaway estate." A golden orchard. A "social rock." Crayfish soup, and Centurian Oranges. Evening ride to Bridge-Town. Running slaves the only alloy to a most delightful excursion. Belfast transport captured by the enemy. Trees, plants, and fruits, of Barbadoes. Remarks concerning the cultivation and flavor of pines.

Barbadoes, Feb.

WE have made another very delightful excursion, and find this little island more interesting and picturesque than my pen can tell you. Being invited to form a party to the plantation of Col. Williams, and to go very early, in order that we might extend our ride to some of the most beautiful spots of the island, before dinner, Cleghorn, Master, and

myself rose very early, and left the ship at 5 o'clock. On arriving at Bridge Town we found slaves, horses and every necessary, for the excursion, provided by the friendly attention of Mr. B. Hinde, under whose guidance we placed ourselves for the journey.

We went to the house of his brother before breakfast, where we found the table spread, and the doctor waiting to receive us, and prepared to join the party; as was also Mr. Abel Hinde, another of his brothers. After amply satisfying our morning appetites, we proceeded towards Col. Williams's, which is some miles further in the country. The sun had become more powerful than we had felt it on our way from Bridge-Town to the doctor's; but we gradually ascended to higher land, and coming into a mountainous part of the country, we found the breeze sufficiently strong to prevent all sense of languor or oppression.

A little before we reached the abode of Col. Williams, we passed through a field where a large gang of negroes was employed

in cutting canes. This proved a seasonable refreshment to us, for we had grown thirsty, and were glad to adopt the Barbadoes custom of giving our whips to the slaves, and taking sugar canes to ride with—sucking one end to quench our thirst, while we beat on our horses with the other.

Thus equipped, we presently arrived at the dwelling of the owner of the canes, saluting him with the staffs of sugar in our hands, which we had just taken from his field. He greeted us very cordially, invited us to alight, and, perceiving that some of us were strangers, conducted us to the works, to shew us the process of making the sugar. While looking at the sugar-works, we were joined by Col. Williams, who had rode out thus far, to meet us; and our party being now complete, we proceeded to a most romantic and beautiful part of the island, called Scotland.

Near Bridge-Town we observed that the soil was of rich black earth, but not of great depth, being in many places only thinly spread upon calcareous rocks, which are formed

mostly of madripores. Further in the country the earth is of a reddish cast, and evidently argillaceous. This is broken, by cultivation, into fine mould; and the soil is deeper, though less rich, than that near to the Town.

In some divisions of the part of the country called Scotland the land is white; and pieces of earth have, here, been found so hardened as to bear the knife or chissel, and it has been possible to mark, or write with them, as with chalk; and hence one spot has been denominated chalk-estate: but the name is founded in error, for the soil is not calcareous: it is argillaceous, and being hardened by the evaporation of its aqueous parts, the earth is rendered white by exposure to the weather. The district of Scotland comprehends the whole of the parish of St. Andrew, and part of two other parishes—the tutelar faint contributing in larger proportion than both the others.

This part of the island is uncommonly picturesque, and comprehends a very grand and interesting variety of scenery. With the

rude stupendous irregularity, and the dark shades of the Alps, and the romantic wildness of the mountains of Wales or Scotland, it combines the gentle but lively variety of the soft and flowing surface of England: and, together with these, it offers wide views of the encircling ocean, the shipping at sea and in the harbour, and all the rich luxuriance of tropical vegetation.

The particular spot from whence this part of the island would seem to have derived its name, is raised in rugged cliffs, and broken uncultivated summits, forming a rude contrast to the high fertility of the vallies, and the bottoms of the hills. Neighbouring mountains, yet more lofty than these barren cliffs, tower around, clothed with rich verdure; and the great variety of the scene is further increased by the umbrageous foliage and diversified tints of Turner's-hall wood, —the most extensive, and the oldest forest in the island.

After being long exposed to the scorching sun, in contemplating the many beauties

of this sweet neighbourhood, we passed over rough and rugged roads, along crooked narrow paths, up steep mountains, and down rapid descents, into the deep gloom of the forest; where the change of scene was no less striking, than the coolness of the temperature was refreshing and grateful. Literally might these be called *sweet shades*, for they not only offered the protection we courted, but likewise contributed the refreshment of oranges and lemons to quench our thirst, and further regaled us with the fragrance of odoriferous shrubs and plants.

Nor was this all, for the cool retreats of the forest ministered still more bountifully to the pleasures of this charming excursion; which was equally calculated to amuse the traveller, and to gratify the naturalist, and the philosopher. Fastidious, indeed, must he have been,—nor would you, my friend, have envied him the apathy of his feelings, who could not be amused, nor find subjects for his contemplation in such a tour. No such travellers were of our party—all were amused—all delighted and gratified. We, who were

strangers dwelt on every scene with rapture ; and our kind friends, to whom the whole was familiar, expressed new delight in administering, so amply, to our gratification.

The cool shelter of the forest was derived from the mountain-cabbage, from large cedars, and from others of the oldest and finest trees of the island. Amidst these shades we descended to a narrow gully, between two mountains, to see one of the great curiosities—one of the reported phænomena of Barbadoes—"a boiling spring !" On approaching the spot, we came to a small hut in which was living an old black woman, who employed herself as a guide to exhibit, under a kind of necromantic process, all the details of this boiling and burning fountain. The old dame, bearing in her hand a lighted taper, and taking with her an empty calabash, and all the other necessary apparatus of her office, led the way from the hut down to the spring. In a still, and most secluded situation, we came to a hole, or small pit filled with water, which was bubbling up in boiling motion, and pouring, from its receptacle, down a narrow chan-

nel of the gully. Here our fable forcerefs, in all the filene and solemnity of magic, placing the light at her fide, fell down upon her knees, and, with her calabafh, emptied all the water out of the hole, then, immerfing the taper in the deep void, fhe fuddenly fet the whole pit in a flame; when fhe instantly jumped upon her legs, and looked fignificantly round, as if anxious to catch the furprife expreffed upon our countenances, from the workings of her witchcraft. The taper being removed, the empty fpace continued to burn with a foft lambent flame, without the appearance of any thing to fupport the combustion. We obferved frefh water flowly diftilling into the pit, from the earth at its fides, and dropping to the bottom; and as this increafed in quantity, it raifed the flame higher and higher in the pit, fupporting it upon its furface, and conveying the appearance of the water itfelf being on fire; although it was very clear and pure, and not fpread with any oily or bituminous matter. When the water had rifen to a certain height, the flame became feeble, then gradually declined, and prefently was extinct. The

water was now seen to boil and bubble as before, and, soon overflowing the pit, resumed its course down the narrow channel of the gully, and all was restored to the state in which we had found it.

You will, before this, have discovered that the water was cold, and that the boiling and burning of this fiery deep was only the effect of inflammable gas, which, escaping from the bowels of the earth, and rising from the bottom of the pit, supported the flame when it was empty, and, bubbling through it, when it was filled with water, gave it the appearance of a boiling spring. During the combustion, the smell of the inflammable air was very powerful.

In the stones and soil, in the very rocks and roads, we traced the origin of this phenomenon of nature. Asphaltic productions abounded on every quarter: and, upon inquiry, we found that we were in the very part of the country which produces the celebrated Barbadoes tar; the smell of which saluted us as we rode along; and we even saw it distil-

ling from the hills of hardened clay, and likewise issuing from the rocks at the sides of the road. The argillaceous soil of this neighbourhood is every where strongly impregnated with bitumen, in which you will readily perceive the origin of the "boiling, or inflammable spring."

We were next conducted to several spots, amidst the rough and wooded mountains, where we saw the tar issuing copiously into pits from the earth, and witnessed the mode of collecting it. So plentiful is it in this part of the country, that it may be procured from any hole dug deep enough to contain water; for when small openings are made in the earth, and water has flowed into them, the petroleum exuding from around accumulates and floats in a thick coat upon the surface. The mode of collecting it is by laying the palm of the hand flat upon the water, and then scraping off the tar, which adheres to it, upon the edge of a basin or a calabash, repeating the dipping and scraping until the surface of the water is entirely cleared of its bituminous coating. After a

few days the water is again covered, and more of the tar may be collected in a similar manner.

To reach these pits of tar we were obliged to scramble, on foot, through deep and mountainous woods, and by way of narrow rugged paths; leaving our slaves and horses to go round and meet us at a distant spot below. Near the pits were growing great numbers of lemon trees, whose fruit, like the crabs of the English hedges, having fallen from its branches, lay in heaps, unheeded, under the trees.

In the part of the wood where we saw the inflammable spring were great numbers of mountain cabbage trees, which were said to be of a peculiar kind, and different from all others in the island. This magnificent palm is unquestionably the finest tree that grows. From words, or drawings, you can only collect an imperfect idea of it. To comprehend its fine symmetry, its grandeur, and majestic loftiness, it must be seen. Its trunk is very smooth, and almost regularly

cylindrical, rising into a superb and stately pillar, resembling a well-hewn column of stone. At the base its circumference is somewhat greater than at any other part, yet lessening so gradually, upwards, as to preserve the most just and accurate proportion. Not a single branch, nor even the slightest twig, interrupts the general harmony of the trunk, which often rises, in a correct perpendicular, to the height of from sixty to a hundred feet, and then spreads its palmated foliage into a wide and beautifully radiated circle. Branches it has none, but the fine expansive leaves, shooting immediately from the summit of the stately trunk, extend around it, crowning, and, as it were, protecting the massy column, in form of a full expanded umbrella.

It will perhaps occur to you that our noble English oak, with all its rude and crooked limbs, must be a more picturesque object. So it is, and so is likewise the wide-spreading silk-cotton : but the loftiness, the stately grandeur, the exact proportion, and the deep-shading foliage of the mountain-cabbage are unequalled, and, in their happy

combination, crown this tree the king of the forest—the most exalted of the vegetable world.

When planted in avenues, it forms a grand and imposing approach to a dwelling, conveying an air of greatness to the mansion it adorns. It grows, free from decay, to a very old age, but cannot be converted to the useful purposes of timber. It is a tree of state, calculated to enrich, and augment the magnificence of a palace: nor let it detract from its majestic qualities to know that, after all, it is but ———— *a cabbage tree*! Its loftiest summit is a spiral succulent shoot, the sides of which, by gradually and successively unfolding, form the fine wide-spreading foliage. Before this opens, to expand itself around, it is a congeries of young and tender leaves, and is often boiled and brought to table as a cabbage, of which it is the very best kind I ever remember to have tasted. It is also used, without boiling, by way of salad, and is then eaten with oil and vinegar; and so highly is it esteemed for these culinary purposes, that, too often, a very fine tree has been de-

voted to the axe, merely because no other means could be found, of obtaining, from its towering summit, this most excellent cabbage.

The variety of this tree found near the inflammable spring, differs only in having its thick tuft of fibrous roots appear several feet out of the ground, looking as if the tree, instead of taking root in the earth, was growing upon another short trunk placed under it, as a base or pedestal, to support it from the soil: a circumstance which would seem to have arisen from these trees growing upon the side of a hill, and the earth being partially washed from their roots by heavy rains. In all other respects they are the same as the rest of their species.

After viewing the beauties of Scotland, and seeing the inflammable spring, and the tar pits, we next went to Mount Hilloughby, and ascended the highest point of land in the island; and, from what I have said of the beauties of the part called Scotland, you will believe that the prospect from Hilloughby's summit must be grand and delighting indeed.

The whole island, encircled by the Atlantic ocean, was under the eye, displaying a scene which comprehended all the variety of land and sea, of hill and vale, of rude nature and high cultivation. On one hand were barren rugged rocks—on the other rich and fertile plains. Towns, houses, huts, and sugar-works were seen distributed about the island; bays and rivulets were before us opening into the sea; a large fleet appeared at anchor, with its forest of masts intermixed amidst the buildings of the town; multitudes of ships and boats were sailing in all directions round the coast; and the solemn forests and painted groves displayed all the rich foliage of tropical vegetation. To form such a picture would defeat the genius of a Claude, or defy the bold pencil of a Salvator Rosa. It was also further enhanced, by the circumstances under which we saw it; the bright tropical sun being, suddenly, overcast by a heavy black cloud; which, stealing along the mountain tops, so varied the shades and tints as to give additional effect to all the beauties of the scene: but while we were devoutly contemplating it, this cloud broke upon us in

all the violence of a pelting storm, and drove us to seek shelter in a neighbouring cottage.

Amidst the variety comprised in the view from Hilloughby hill I must not forget to mention that we saw what is here termed the "*runaway* estate"—which is a territory of many acres of fine and rich soil, so called from having been removed, at various times, to a considerable distance, by heavy torrents of rain, or sudden ruptures of the earth. It is said not to be an unfrequent occurrence, in this island, for a large tract of land thus to assume a change of place; many examples of which are to be seen in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Joseph. Large trees, plantains, sugar canes, and different crops of growing produce have been removed with their soil, and have continued to thrive in their new situation, as well as if they had remained undisturbed.

A very singular change of crop, and of soil, is said to have happened at the estate of a Mr. Foster, where a large portion of land, in the possession of a poor tenant near the

coast, suddenly journied into the sea ; and, while the unhappy man was bewailing the loss, not only of his crop, but likewise of the territory on which it was growing, the land of his neighbour, Mr. Foster, travelled to the spot, and brought to him a crop of canes, which continued to grow quite as well as before they took their journey.

On our approach to Col. Williams's, we were led into a fine valley of fruits, which offered us the most grateful refreshment that could have presented itself. We had been long riding in excessive heat, and were parching with thirst ; when the Colonel, without previously announcing it, conducted us to the point of a hill from which we suddenly viewed a rich and golden orchard below. Elevated as we were above the narrow gully in which the fruits were growing, our situation seemed in a degree vexatious and tantalizing—but the Colonel only tempted us, to augment our gratification, for we quickly descended, by a steep and confined path, into the midst of this region of sweets ; where, had the fruit been prohibited as the

fatal apple of our first parent, it had been scarcely possible we could have resisted the desire- - - *of tasting* ! Such grateful—such delicious refreshment never before had met our lips ! The oranges were not only *ten times better* than the very best in the world ; but they were taken fresh from the tree, and at a moment of heat and parching thirst which was calculated to render them *ten thousand times* sweeter than the sweetest of themselves ! But without any hyperbolical flavor, they were, really, and in plain fact, very superior to any oranges I had ever tasted. We gathered and consumed them in dozens, and, after having most gratefully allayed our burning thirst, we proceeded to explore the extent, and the many exquisite productions of this bounteous orchard, by whose delicious fruit, and fragrant odour, three of our senses had been so sumptuously regaled : indeed I may say four, for, like Buffon's automaton upon gaining his existence, we gathered, and experienced a new sense of delight - - - - from feeling the fruit.

The orchard is planted in a narrow gully between two hills, and is nearly half a

mile in length. It abounds in the various species of the orange tribe—oranges, shaddocks, limes, lemons, and forbidden fruit hanging in the most inviting profusion. The banana, the plantain, and divers other fruits are likewise plenteously intermixed. It is the employment of two negroes constantly to attend the orchard and protect the fruit. The oranges we most enjoyed, and which were esteemed the best in the colony, were from a tree nearly a hundred years old, and the largest upon the island. They were small, but of most exquisite flavor. I have formerly enjoyed oranges even in England, and have always held them a fine fruit; but after tasting the incomparable produce of the venerable centurian branch, I fear those to be met with in Britain will be insipid indeed.—If you don't feel a wish for tropical thirst, and some oranges from the Colonel's old tree, you ought never to know the true flavor of fruit!

Having made a most delicious repast in the sweet shaded valley, we again mounted our horses, and, after a short ride, arrived

at Col. Williams's house. Here we enjoyed the refreshment of cold water and a change of linen, and having taken a little time to rest ourselves, proceeded in great comfort to eat our dinners in the open air under the "social rock." Descending from the house by a steep path, we came into the valley, a short distance from the orchard, and passed under a large open arch of a rock, which formed the grand entrance to a suite of natural and romantic apartments. A little further in the gully we came to an excavation called the drawing-room; and, beyond this, under a stupendous and impending part of the rock, we found a smooth and level spot called the dining-room, which is sufficiently spacious to accommodate a hundred people. Here was placed the hospitable board, which is often and liberally spread by the friendly Colonel; and in this sequestered shade were assembled chairs, benches, wine, punch, fruit, and all that could contribute to the ease and comfort of wearied travellers. But, in truth, we were not of this class; for the gratification and high mental delight we had experienced, had prevented all sense of

bodily fatigue from our long and scorching ride.

We drank a glass of punch, and explored the deep caverns and various recesses of this rocky retreat before the dinner was served. About four o'clock we took our seats at table, having been in almost constant exercise from five in the morning. A hanging rock of madripores shaded us above and behind; and, in the front, we had the breeze of the valley softly breaking its way to us through a plantation of bamboos and fragrant limes, while, immediately before us, smoking viands, rich wines, and delicious fruits crowned the board. Having endeavoured to provoke your thirst for the oranges of the valley, I might further urge your appetite in quest of the cray-fish soup of the "social rock," for I do not know that I ever tasted any dish so rich, or of such exquisite flavor. But tell not this to our friend - - - - the newly elected alderman, unless he can spare time for a trip to Barbadoes; where he might feel compensated for the voyage, by feasting upon cray-fish soup, and centurian oranges under the "social rock;"

or, if these should not suffice, I might ensure him an ample reward for his journey, in the society of the hospitable friends with whom we partook the feast.

In the evening the Colonel loaded us home with fruits from the orchard; but the party did not separate until our kind friends had planned for us a still more extensive marooning excursion; to which I need scarcely say we gave our most cordial consent. Our return to Bridge-Town was peculiarly pleasant: the moon shone bright: the heat was moderate, and we had quite the agreeable ride of an English summer evening. The distance is about eight miles, and as we descended from the higher to the lower land the air became perceptibly closer, until, at the town, the breeze seemed to desert us, and we, no longer, felt the cool perflation, which had been so grateful to us in the more elevated parts of the island.

Never, perhaps, did a long and interesting day pass more pleasantly; nor was hospitality ever evinced with more friendly

urbanity. No attention was forgotten to render every thing comfortable and agreeable to us: no care was omitted to promote or forward our gratification. It seemed the object of all to offer us every possible accommodation, and to bring us acquainted, in the happiest manner, with the country and its inhabitants. We felt infinitely less of fatigue than might have been expected, from the great distance we had journied, and from the length of time we were exposed to heat, and exercise; and the only alloy which in any degree interrupted our enjoyment, throughout this grateful day, was a sense of suffering, of which we could not wholly divest ourselves concerning the poor slaves, who had to support, on foot, the very same journey which, in us, was regarded as a surprizing exertion on horseback.

In the course of the day we repeatedly made compassionate appeals to the gentlemen of the island concerning them, but they as constantly assured us that our pity was misplaced, adding that they were accustomed to the exercise, and would suffer

far less fatigue than ourselves. Still our European feelings forced upon us the wish that either they had been accommodated with mules, or we had dispensed with their attendance; and it will require a much longer residence, amidst this new order of things, before we shall be able to persuade ourselves that our sense of disquietude was only a misplaced humanity.

Upon reaching the Lord Sheffield we experienced some diminution of our pleasurable feelings, by hearing that the Belfast transport, with troops, was taken and carried into Guadalope; which intelligence had been brought by the captain of an American ship, who had been detained by the captors while they removed the prisoners.

I should have told you that in the course of our long ride we had the opportunity of seeing a very extensive variety of the vegetable productions of the tropical world; and that we met with multitudes of trees, shrubs, and plants, that were not before familiar to us—and many which were wholly new

to our observation. Among those which most attracted our attention were the pimento, wild cinnamon, ginger, cassia, cassada, banana, plantain, tamarind, cashew apple, mango, sapadillo, papaw, mammee, fourfop, goava, grenadillo, water lemon, oranges, limes, lemons, shaddock, forbidden fruit, the aloe, logwood, mahogany, cedar, and lignum vitæ. The great staple productions of the West Indies,—sugar, cotton, and coffee, were also brought frequently before the eye, during this interesting excursion.

It appeared to us somewhat remarkable that, in the whole extent of our tour, we should not have seen any pines growing, except at one spot near Hilloughby hill, where they were regularly planted as the crop of part of a sugar field. The fruit was not ripe; and therefore we had no opportunity of comparing its flavor with that of the pines of our English hot-houses; and, consequently, none of judging whether the cultivation of this plant is one of those circumstances, as some have asserted, in which art has been made to rival, or even to surpass the works of nature. Improbable as this

would seem, upon a first view of the great perfection of nature's productions, still a further consideration renders it more than possible ; for, if animals can be improved by culture ; if the apple and the cabbage can be rendered more useful, the pink and the tulip more beautiful, by the hand of man ; and, if the powers of our organs of vision can be enlarged by his researches in the science of optics ; what is there that shall prevent him from enriching the flavor of a tropical fruit, in a temperate climate ? It would seem, indeed, to require only an accurate and steady attention to the laws, and operations of nature herself—not with a view to oppose or distort the beautiful harmony of her works—but to profit of the great lesson she so liberally displays, by directing, towards the one great object of our care, those means which she is busied in supplying to all. Her bounty is not confined to one plant, or one animal, but is unlimited as the universe. It belongs to her not only to foster the fragrant pine and the honied cane, but with equal care, to give pungency to capsicum, and bitterness to the aloe.

If the growth and flavor of a pine depend upon a certain degree of heat and light, with a due proportion of air and moisture—all these we have in England; and, from careful observation, we may enable ourselves to supply to this, or any other particular plant, the necessary quantum of these elements with a more undeviating certainty, than will commonly be done by nature; she having to dispense her means, not to one root alone, but to all creation. The particular degree of moisture necessary for the pine might injure the neighbouring coffee—the appropriate quantity of air, might not be the exact proportion required by the cotton—or the precise ratio of light and heat might differ from that demanded by the sugar cane! But where man commands the disposal he may direct the elements, in due degree, to his exotic nursling, and, avoiding the irregularities of the natural climate, may learn to cultivate, and to improve, at home, what nature never gave to his native soil.

What a lesson of industry is here taught us, my friend! How flattering is this fact to the

progreſſive powers of our ſpecies ; and how ſtrongly does it invite to their expansion ! How immense, how boundleſs is the field which it opens to new gratification and enjoyment in the government of the vegetable world : and how ſeducingly does it invite us to the exerciſe of thoſe talents, which all-bountiful nature hath ſo liberally beſtowed on man ! But the ſubject would lead me beyond the limits of a letter, however delightful, therefore, I muſt not purſue it here.

LETTER XXVI.

Convoys and packet still delayed. Single vessels arrive. Transports taken by the enemy. Inhabitants anxious to have the troops employed. Sailors desert from the Lord Sheffield. Alarm concerning a boat's crew. Oars employed as sails. Negroes in slave ships taught to be useful. Captains of Guineamen walk on shore with parties of the ship's cargo. Book-binding not among the trades of Barbadoes. Preparations for an excursion to Hackleton's cliff. The church at Bridge-Town. The signal code.

Barbadoes, Feb.

WE still remain without any accurate intelligence respecting the great body of our convoy: and, having no tidings of the commander in chief, we continue in equal uncertainty when we may proceed to our original destination, at St. Domingo. All here is suspense and anxiety. The solicitude of the mercantile world is not less than that of the military. No packet is arrived; the affairs of commerce are interrupted; we have no news of Europe or the war, and all seems shut in ignorance, or absorbed in painful uncertainty. Straggling vessels of our disastrous fleet con-

tinue to arrive ; and, from these, we catch with eagerness, every report, but still without acquiring any thing satisfactory. Some separated on one day ; some another ; and some another : but with respect to the actual state of the convoy all is still enveloped in doubt and incertitude.

Most unhappily our disappointment and our regrets are further augmented by the painful intelligence of frequent captures being made by the enemy's privateers. From the vessels coming out, in this dispersed and divided manner, the cruisers, from Guadalupe, are but too successful, in picking up numbers of our unarmed, and unprotected transports.

A ship which arrived this day reports that she parted from the Admiral and a hundred sail of the convoy, on the seventh of January, in latitude 45, longitude 17. This is received, by some, as favorable intelligence, it seeming to strengthen the hope that the fleet has not been under the necessity of again putting back to Cork, or Spithead. But it is now so long since the seventh

of January, and we have known in the interval such violent,—such repeated and long continued gales, that, to many of us, this news is equally unsatisfactory as all we had heard before. So little does it meet our hopes, that we have still many apprehensions lest the majority of the convoy may have been obliged to return to Ireland or to England. Between five and six thousand troops have reached Barbadoes in the ships already arrived, and the inhabitants of the Islands express sad regret and impatience at seeing such a body of men remain so long unemployed. Looking to the spot most in danger, or concerning which they feel a more immediate interest, they wish that to be made secure, forgetful, that were the troops to be divided as they might wish, and detached on different services, before the arrival of the commander in chief, with the remainder of the armament, the great object of the expedition might, thereby, be altogether defeated.

Unhappily the finest season is passing away—and before the whole army can have arrived, and be brought into action, the rainy

period will be fast approaching ; but, as many of the men already here are in a sickly state, we hope the delay may prove beneficial to them, by affording them an opportunity of recovering from the ills of the voyage, and of their long confinement on board, before they enter upon the fatigues of the campaign. They are daily taken on shore to relieve them from the close atmosphere of the transports ; and, from being regularly exercised, they will have the advantage of becoming, in some degree, acclimated previous to being ordered upon actual service.

A report is current here that the Spanish part of the island of St. Domingo has refused to submit to the French ; and that the governor has sent down to Jamaica to demand protection from the English. If such be the fact, it leads to additional regret respecting the unfortunate delays of this powerful armament : a very considerable part of which is supposed to be destined for St. Domingo.

We learn from our captain that an alarming desertion is taking place among the sailors of his ship. Six have already ab-

scended, and the number of our crew is reduced to fourteen. This intelligence makes us apprehensive lest, by the time we sail for St. Domingo, we may not have enough hands to work the ship. But we are consoled in the recollection that the friendly trades will be directly in our favor; and that we cannot require so strong a ship's company as amidst the terrific, and adverse gales which so long beset us on our passage hither.

A sad alarm has spread throughout the harbour, and we have been all in vivid and anxious concern, respecting the fate of twelve men who went out in a flat-bottomed boat to consign to the deep bosom of the ocean, the body of a deceased shipmate. Desirous not to throw over the corpse within the harbour, where it would be instantly devoured by the numerous sharks which infest the bay, and which we see almost daily stealing round the vessels in search of prey, they rowed so far out to sea as to be unable to pull back again; and the tide being against them, their heavy boat, notwithstanding all their efforts to row her into the harbour, was set adrift, and carried

out into the wide Atlantic, with all hands on board. The captain finding it long before his men returned, grew very apprehensive regarding their safety. A general alarm spread throughout the bay; and extending likewise to the shore, multitudes soon covered the beach, while the shrouds, and yards of the ships, were thronged with anxious crowds looking out for the funeral party. No boat appeared, and the fears respecting the perilous situation of the party becoming universal, two schooners were dispatched in search of them. Happily the weather and the waves were moderate, or the whole had certainly been lost, for the boat was found adrift at open sea! Fortunately all the men were in her, and were brought back in safety to the harbour, expressing themselves very thankful for their unexpected deliverance from the jaws of hungry ocean.

A strong contrast, to the dangerous situation of these poor men, was offered in the repose of some other boats' crews, whom we perceived sitting at rest in their boats, and sailing about the harbour by means of their oars; a custom which we find to be common

here ; for we often see parties of negroes, boatmen, and sailors, scud indolently about the bay, employing their oars by way of sails. They fix the handles of them at the bottom of the boat, and setting them up, two on each side, with the flat surface to the wind, collect a sufficiency of the breeze to carry the boat along without the trouble of rowing.

The captains of the Guineamen often relieve their ships' company from the duty of the boat, by training some of their black cargo to the use of the oar.—Indeed so useful do many of the negroes become, during the passage, and the time they are detained on board, that their assistance is of much service in working the vessel. We occasionally see the master of a slave ship rowed ashore by four of his naked Africans, who appear as dexterous, in the management of the boat, as if they had been for years accustomed to it.

Often we observe the captains parading the streets, accompanied by parties of their prime slaves—apparently with the intention of exhibiting them to the eye of the public, in sound state and good condition. This

contributes, at the same time, to the health and amusement of these poor beings, who seem delighted at feeling their feet on shore, and, in due obedience to their captain, dance and frolic as they go along, either in real, or in well dissembled contentment and happiness.

I made a visit on shore this morning in the intention of leaving some books to be bound, which, you will remember, I brought out, in sheets, from the printer ; but you will be surprised to learn that no such person as a book-binder could be found in Barbadoes. We called on Mr. Hinde, and were informed that, by the assistance of his friends Messrs. Jordan and Maxwell, he had provided horses for our intended "*Marooning* party" to Hackleton's Cliff, and the northern coast of the island ; when, upon our apologizing for being so troublesome to him, and his friends, and observing that we had sent our servants to hire horses for the journey, he replied that no apologies could be necessary, for it would be " quite inconsistent with Barbadoes to suffer strangers to have the trouble of procuring horses, or of seeking, for themselves,

the accommodations of a country excursion."

Mr. Hinde accompanied us in our walk to different parts of the town, and to see the church, which is a plain and neat edifice, built much upon the plan of Greenwich chapel; the interior is fitted up with enclosed seats of cedar, regularly constructed in the modern style. It is also furnished with a handsome organ.

The ship being made our head quarters, it is a great source of amusement to us while we remain in harbour, to observe the different signals made at the flag staff, at the entrance of the Bay, when any vessels appear within sight. Indeed the hourly expectation of the fleet has made the signal-staff so much an object of our study, that scarcely a flag can be hoisted but we instantly comprehend the intelligence it is meant to convey to the Governor, at Pilgrim, from whence the signals are answered. Master, in particular, is become such an adept in this science, and is so entirely *au fait* to the signal code, that, should a vacancy occur, during our continu-

ance here, it is proposed to recommend *Dr. Robert Master*, phyfician to the forces, as a proper perfon for the appointment of *Signal-Mafter-General*, for Carlifle bay, and the whole of the bays and promontories of his Majesty's ifland of Barbadoes.

LETTER XXVII.

Marooning excursion to the windward coast of Barbadoes. Harrison's Cave. Sugar Hill. Joes River. Unhappy fate of the Rev. Mr. H. its late possessor. Bay-house. Beer-sheba. Animal flower. Hackleton's cliff. Mules of the Alps. Ginger plantation. Colleton estate. Urbanity of Mr. Hollingsworth and family. Codrington college. Coach Hill. Negroes dine in the open field exposed to the sun. Mode of claying sugar. Eccentric manager of Kendall estate. Drax-hall. Barbadoes one of the "Friendly Isles." Spendlove estate. Hospitality and benevolence of Mr. John Waith. Fat people not uncommon in Barbadoes. Gratitude of slaves. Negro privileges. Picturesque scenery of a Negro yard. Market held on Sunday. Supplied by Negroes. Sprats, lobsters, and milk punch served after dinner. Mr. Waith, sen. invites the Party to a Barbadoes farmer's dinner. Disappointment respecting Mr. Ellcock's botanical collection. Compensation by recommending it to the attention of Dr. Wright. General remarks concerning the excursion.

Barbadoes, Feb. 27.

WE have made our projected Marooning excursion to Hackleton's Cliff, and the windward coast of the island, as planned by our friends at the "social rock," and how often, in the course of it, did my thoughts wander to another friend, wishing yet one addition to the party!

On the 23d inst. we went off before six in the morning to Bridge-Town, where we found slaves, horses, and every necessary for the journey, provided by the friendly Mr. Hinde, and in readiness for our departure. It was arranged, that we should avail ourselves of the early part of the day, by proceeding to Col. Williams's before breakfast. The morning was dull; the sky lowered, and it threatened rain; but none fell, and from the sun being obscured, the air was pleasantly cool.

We rode slowly as far as Dr. Hinde's, where we were joined by the Doctor, and Mr. Abel Hinde, and Mr. Jordan. Upon our arrival at Col. Williams's, we found the breakfast board most bounteously spread, and the Col. prepared to take an active part in the expedition. After breakfasting with good appetite, and being well rested and refreshed, we left the "social rock," to pursue our route, in the true Marooning spirit of making a home whenever we might require it, or wheresoever we might find it, availing ourselves of whatever dwelling might present itself in our path. The first object which met

our attention was within about half a mile of the Col.'s house, where we stopped to explore one of the greatest natural curiosities of the Island—a very extensive subterraneous cavern, called “Harrison’s Cave.” Its hidden mouth opens among the rocks of a deep narrow gully, between two lofty hills. There we forsook the world of light, and descended into the dark regions of the earth, in order to advance to the bottom of the sombre depths before us. Our way was intricate and obscure. Taking with us three Negroes, with lights, we descended by narrow windings, or spacious openings, by broad walks, or narrow crooked paths, over loose stones, or rocky steeps. At one moment we found ourselves under a fine arch or dome, hung with clusters of petrifications; at another we were in a narrow aisle, whose walls, and impending vault, faintly glittered with multiform incrustations. By the senses of feeling and hearing, more than by sight, we judged of the varying uncertainty of our situation, and advanced in perilous step—now confined, now in more open space, until we reached a spot where we came to a gentle rivulet, softly stealing along its subterraneous bed in a pure

and crystal stream. A few soft rays, gleaming from above, silvered over the surface, and exhibited all the purity of this limpid current, conveying, amidst some similitudes of situation and of scene, precisely the reverse of the dismal waters of Acheron, which are represented by the poets, as wandering in the gloomy dark, where

Above no sky is seen ; below
A turbid wave is seen to flow.

But here the sky did appear above, for it was seen at a circular opening, cut through the foil and the solid rock, to the depth of thirty or forty fathoms, and resembled the pale moon, or the brighter orb of day, divested of his fiery redness, and his golden beams. The wave, too, was any thing but turbid ; indeed, it was so invitingly clear and pure, that we were tempted to drink of its limpid stream.

Together with our artificial lights, the mild rays from the opening above, penetrating to the very bottom of the cave, displayed the hanging tubes of stalactites, and the various surrounding petrifications, in a peculiarly interesting and romantic manner :

“ Here incrustations strike the eyes :

There spangled domes, with lustre bright,

Beam down an artificial light ;

Whence pensile hang, in gothic shew,

Descending to the sands below,

Fantastic forms——.”

After contemplating the fine pellucid stream, and the pendant vaults, the arches, and recesses around, we proceeded onwards to a considerable distance beyond the rivulet, until the intricate path became more and more difficult, and the gloomy cavern seemed to close upon us in dark, and endless deep. The feeble taper now scarcely illumined the spot whereon we stood, while all before us was buried in the profoundest darkness. The path grew still more uncertain and irregular : here we bent our persons almost double to pass under a rugged arch ; there descended a sudden steep ; then, again, we had to scramble up a craggy and projecting mass : presently we turned the sharp corner of a rock, into a narrow passage, between huge walls of stone ; next we opened into a more spacious vault ; soon our way was again confined, or our heads struck the hanging petrifications above. At one moment we trod on the firm rock, at

another our steppings were upon loose stones, and, perhaps, the following instant we found our feet in water, or upon damp earth : now we seemed to have reached the utmost depth of the cave—then we stepped suddenly into a wide space. At length we reached the farthest extent that had been explored, but unlimited windings seemed yet to lead on, in dark and terrific gloom, to the very centre of the earth.

Having no other lights than two or three open tapers, we did not feel it prudent to venture farther into passages unexplored, and more particularly as the road we had passed, had been so obscure and perplexing that, in case of any accident occurring to extinguish our light, we might not have been able to have traced our way back, to the mouth of the cave. Hence we declined proceeding any deeper into this silent tomb of the earth ; and turned about to retrace our steps to a brighter scene. Feeling better assured respecting our path we now more leisurely contemplated the stupendous walls of rock, the varied incrustations, and ponderous masses of stalactites, the multitudes of mad-

ripores, and other calcareous concretions, formed by nature from the limpid distilling drop, which were seen on all sides, also above and below, and hanging round about our heads in an endless variety of romantic and fanciful forms.

The air, in most parts of the cave, was confined and warm, but, occasionally, we felt it damp and chilly. On our way back, at a narrow pass, where we had been obliged to bend low the knee in order to creep under the arch of a rock, we perceived it rush in strong current; and here the whole of our lights were suddenly extinguished, and we were shut in the dark and hollow bowels of the earth, unable to explore our way to the mouth of the cavern. Unhappily, too, we were confined in a damp current of air, where we were compelled to stand shivering with cold, while Col. Williams and the Negroes, who had been often in the cave, felt their way, at great hazard, to the opening, to procure new lights. We remained buried in the silent seclusion of this subterraneous abode for nearly an hour; and when the distant sound of our conductor's feet returned

upon our ears, and the soft glimmerings of light again stole into the solemn depths of the cave, the effect was uncommonly striking and beautiful. Watching carefully as the negroes approached, we at one moment saw the rays of light gleam upon their dark skins, gilding them as it were with fire, and giving them the appearance of the sons of Satan. Presently we lost them in profound obscurity, then again, the imperfect rays stretched towards us, and at one moment we saw indistinctly the blacks descend from a rock, and at another perceived them suddenly rise as from the deep. Again the light disappeared and we only heard their distant hollow sounding steps: then they escaped from a narrow passage or confined recess, and were seen stepping forth under an open and spacious arch, where the heavy rocks, the vaulted dome, the petrified columns, the massy tubes, and impending clusters of glittering concretions, together with the solemn echo, the fiery blackness of the negroes, and the spreading rays of artificial light, partially absorbed, or feebly reflected, produced an effect, which was awfully romantic and sublime.

In such a situation, buried in darkness and sepulchral silence, you will agree that it required but little aid of fancy to create pictures of horror, or to figure to the imagination the mighty abode of terrors and of punishments. Call to your recollection the effect sometimes produced at the theatre, when the lights are withdrawn, and a few imperfect rays are thrown upon the dark skins of negroes, and you will readily allow that when our eyes first caught these Africans, at a distant part of the cavern, it scarcely required the powers of fancy to convert them into demons of darkness, approaching us with the tormenting flames of their dread parent; and you may suppose us tracing in our minds the various degrees of punishment merited by the wicked, each of the party fixing upon that to which his secret feelings seemed to consign him. Such an association did actually occupy our minds, and in stillness we watched the approach of these spirits of darkness, while the awful gloom around us, the oblivious seclusion, the dead silence, the occasional gleamings of imperfect light, and the sable skins of the negroes obfuscated by the partial rays, all conspired to fix our contempla-

tions to the mansions of the wicked ; and by the time these fable beings had reached us, we had so powerfully traced the images of the black spirits below, that it was difficult to persuade ourselves they were only black bodies, bringing us lights from above.

But the voice of the good Colonel, who had accompanied them, soon roused us from our reverie, and reminded us that, however dismal our abode, it was not that bourn from whence no travellers return : we now hastened to change our bed of darkness for brighter regions, but were obliged to tread our way in cautious steps towards the exit of the cave, for the path was intricate and perilous. As we approached the opening we extinguished the artificial lights, in order to enjoy the appearance of the soft rays which stole in at the entrance of the cave, richly gilding the rocks and petrifications, and gradually though irregularly increasing until we again met the brightness of day.

At our first escaping from the cave, the strong light of a tropical sun, falling through the widely dilated pupils of our eyes, produced a considerable degree of pain, we there-

fore remained a short time in the gully before we again mounted our horses; and then proceeded to a point called Sugar-hill, from whence we obtained an extensive and very beautiful view of the parishes of Scotland, and the romantic parts of the island which we had before visited.

Near to Sugar-hill we called at a cottage to give directions for some oranges to be sent down to the "Bay-house," a place we were to visit *en route*. Here we met with two fair cottagers, the healthy looking daughters of the old dame of the house, who, though less ruddy, were not less smiling than the lovely and blooming peasants of old England; and who, notwithstanding the want of rosy bloom, had pretty English faces.

After enjoying the sweet views of Sugar-hill, and witnessing the sweeter smiles of the neighbouring young cottagers, we were conducted to the home of a Mr. Haynes, where we were received with a warm Barbadoes greeting, and welcomed with frankness and a cordial hospitality. We rested only a few minutes, when Mr. Haynes and his son join-

ed our party, and accompanied us to a neighbouring estate called "Joe's River," a most beautiful spot, and quite the elysium of the island. Until lately it has been in the possession of the Rev. Mr. H., a man of much genius and learning, whose loss is deeply regretted by all, but more particularly by the literati of the island. He was a scientific botanist, and as much respected for his literary talents, and extensive information, as revered for his benevolent and social disposition.

The house is finely situated on elevated ground near the sea, surrounded with extensive plantations of the choicest trees and tropical fruits. The garden and orchard had long been the devoted objects of his care. It was his wish to procure an useful and ornamental assemblage of all the rare fruits and plants of the tropical regions: and in this intention he had already obtained a numerous and valuable collection, which, through his industry and perseverance, was almost daily increasing. His private hours were passed in literary pursuits. Much of his time was de-

voted to his favorite study of Natural History, and to realizing the improvements suggested by his contemplations. In society he was convivial ; to his slaves he was kind and humane ; and, possessing great urbanity, he was benevolent and friendly to all.

The fates that rule our destiny are said to be blind ; and you will agree that they must indeed have wanted sight, when you are told that they have thrown this esteemed and valuable man into dire distress, and robbed him of the powers of his enriched and highly ornamented mind. Bereft of his mental faculties, of all those fine and comprehensive talents which so adorned and honored him, both as a priest and a man, he now languishes in sadness and misfortune, lost to his friends, and the world ; and the happy dwelling which was graced by hospitality and benevolence, enriched by industry, and dignified by science ; that delightful home, the object of his anxious cares and studies, as well as the proud and just boast of the island, is now left to fall into ruin and decay. The broken walls, the hidden paths, the shattered doors and win-

dows, the wild neglected trees, the obtrusive weeds, and half covered walks all bespeak, in doleful decline, its former beauty ; and while they create a scene, at once romantic and picturesque, excite the most painful feelings of regret, and lead to gloomy reflections concerning the instability of all earthly things. The objects around convey the image of the master's now disordered mind, and the whole place seems to deplore in sympathetic sadness the melancholy derangement of his once rare and splendid faculties : and truly may it be said that Joe's river mourns the shattered intellect, and participates, in soft and fast withering sorrow, the afflicting ills that have befallen this distinguished ornament of Barbadoes.

Having viewed every part of this interesting estate, with a minuteness of attention which was merited, equally by its situation and improvements, as by the painful history of its late accomplished owner, we left it with regret, earnestly sympathizing with our friends in the sad loss they so heavily and so justly deplored.

We now proceeded to the sea-side, and our next place of call was at a cottage termed the Bay-house, a neat little building erected by Mr. Haynes, under a rock upon the open beach, to serve as a place of rest and refreshment for such of his friends, and, in great truth may we say, his friends' friends, who may chance to visit the windward coast. We found it the rendezvous of entertainment and repose. Intimation had been conveyed to the generous owner that it might perhaps be in our way to make an *en passant* visit at the Bay-house, and he had availed himself of the information to provide a rich and bountiful repast. All the good things of the island seemed to have been collected. The whole neighbourhood had been ransacked for our convenience and accommodation. The best productions from all quarters were directed hither to supply the hospitable board. Cook, butler, fishermen, servants, and slaves were all assembled to give their attendance. The net was thrown into the sea immediately before the door, and the fishes that were taken were presently smoking upon the table; fruits, wines, meat, poultry, and vegetables were brought in loads, and made only a part

of the feast of this little cottage, built by generous hospitality, and dedicated to friendship and social harmony. A supply of provisions was likewise collected for the refreshment of our slaves and horses, and these were regaled with no less liberality than their masters — the friendly hospitality of the “Bay-house” being extended equally to all.

Punch and mandram were served to us before dinner, the one to quench our thirst, the other to provoke the appetite; and soon afterwards were set before us a variety of dishes, consisting of boiled, stewed, and broiled fish, a cold roasted lamb, a cold turkey, fowls, tongues, cray-fish, and a multitude of other good things. After we had dined very abundantly the table was covered with punch, a variety of excellent wines, and several species of fruit. Among the latter was a fine pine, the first we had tasted in the island. I do not know that the flavor was superior to that of some of the pines I have tasted from the hot-houses of England, although it certainly was very exquisite: but I must taste again, and often, before I hazard a general opinion upon this subject.

Having plentifully refreshed ourselves, and the slaves and horses being well fed and rested, we called the negroes from their desert of rolling and basking in the sun, and proceeded upon our journey. To our great surprise, at the very moment the horses appeared at the door for our departure, a large dish of sprats, smoking from the gridiron, and an immense bowl of milk-punch, were set before us. This was quite a West Indian addition to the repast. Having eaten very heartily, and indulged in copious libations, we had already done even too much in the way of feasting, but, to my great astonishment, some of the party partook with a renewal of appetite which was rather indicative of sitting down to dinner, than of rising from table. At two o'clock we had commenced with punch; after which came the mandram; at three was served the dinner: busy eating and drinking continued until five; and then appeared the sprats, and bowl of milk-punch: thus did nearly four hours pass in high banquetting and conviviality at this social cottage. At length, due honors having been done to the punch and sprats, we again put ourselves *en route*, the party being increased by the ad-

dition of Mr. Haynes jun., who accompanied us throughout the remainder of the day. We rode along the sands to a spot called Beer-sheba, which is used as a natural bathing place, among the rocks, and from thence proceeded to a large mass of rocks, lying in the water, near to the edge of the sea, where we had the expectation of seeing a very curious natural production called the animal flower. But here we were unluckily disappointed; for the tide being in, the sea running high, and the wind strong, we were unable to reach the spot where this phænomenon of nature is usually found.

Although we lost the opportunity of seeing it, I cannot refrain from giving you the account of this uncommon flower, and its dwelling place, as communicated to us by our brother Maroons. It is as follows:—Within a deep cave, formed in the rock, is a spacious natural basin of water, which is about eleven feet above low water mark. It is collected from the sea beating into the cave in rough weather; and hence, that which lodges in this basin is entirely salt water, except a very small admixture from rain, which

distils in drops, through the small openings of the rock. In the middle of the basin is a large stone, or piece of detached rock, which is usually covered with water. About this stone, and adhering to its sides, as if growing therefrom, are seen numbers of apparently beautiful flowers, finely variegated in vivid colours, and of radiated form, somewhat resembling the petals of the garden marigold. Some are of a pale yellow, or a light straw colour, tinged with green; others of a greyish purple, variegated with black spots.

To gather any of these seeming flowers is a task of difficulty, for when the hand approaches them, the beautiful petals instantly contract, and become invisible. If left undisturbed they re-appear, in the course of a few minutes, gradually expanding into their former bloom; but again retire, with surprising quickness, on the approach of the hand, a cane, or any other body that may be directed towards them.

This circumstance, as you will expect, led to early investigation regarding the nature of this singular flower, when, instead of a fine

blowing vegetable, it was discovered to be an animal that was decorated with all this gaiety of colouring; and hence the name "animal flower."

On examination the body is found to be of a blackish hue, less than an inch in length, and about a quarter of an inch in thickness. It adheres by one end to the rock, and from the other extremity, which projects outwards, are thrown off a number of fine membranous filaments, in a radiated and circular form; and from the point or head, at the centre of this circle, project four long slender fibrils, not unlike the legs of the spider. Thus, while the body appears as the calyx, and the expanded filaments as the petals, these fibrils serving as the stamina, complete the resemblance of a regular and beautiful flower.

It has been suggested, that as this animal is almost wholly deprived of locomotive power, the fine colours, given to the membranous filaments, serve as a provision of nature, to allure and bring within its reach the smaller insects, upon which it feeds; and from the quick spontaneous motion of the

fine central threads, from side to side, or round the whole border of the radiated circle, these would seem to be designed to act as forceps, for conveying the food to the mouth, the extended filaments serving as *antennæ*, or feelers, to discover the prey, and from their contractile power enclosing it, when seized, as in a purse, or sacculus, until it is devoured. With much disappointment at not being able to see this natural curiosity of the island, we left the coast, in order to ascend the mountainous summit, called Hackleton's Cliff, —the only spot which disputes with Hilloughby hill the claim of being the loftiest point of Barbadoes. The path was rugged, and singularly precipitate. To walk up it was a degree of fatigue which, it was insisted, Europeans ought not to encounter; and to ride was not free from danger, besides being a cruel labour to the poor horses. But as it was contended that they would better support the toil than ourselves, we were induced to continue upon our saddles, although, indeed, with much difficulty, from the rapid rising of the ascent. By stopping frequently to let the poor animals recover their breath, we did, at length, reach the summit; but never before

had I sat upon a horse to climb so steep a mountain. In the Alps of Switzerland, and of Savoy, it is not unusual to ride small horses, called Mountain Ponies, over the lesser hills; but previous to ascending the more lofty and steeper mountains these are always changed for mules; and with them I have often ventured up ascents even more nearly perpendicular than Hackleton's Cliff. But the mule is a more quiet, a more enduring, and more patient animal. He is not irascible and impetuous like the horse, and moreover, in such situations he is so accustomed to the climbing of mountains, that he appears sensible of all the dangers around him, and is careful in every movement, to consult the safety of himself and his rider. Only give him the bridle, or as the guides say, "*laissez lui aller*," and in the most perilous situations you need not feel yourself in any danger. His sagacity is equal to his care: he looks with caution at each stepping, and he knows his foot to be secure, before he ventures to bear upon it the weight of his body. I remember to have rode at first, in much fear and trembling; but upon witnessing the dexterity of the animal my terrors gave way to

astonishment ; and my astonishment gradually yielded to a placid security, until, at length, I could throw the rein upon the neck of the mule, and regard the frightful precipices, and imminent dangers around us, without any apprehension.

In the Alps a mule will carry you up mountains which are so steep as to appear from the valley quite perpendicular, proceeding by a narrow path, in which he cannot possibly turn himself round, and passing close by the edge of the most terrific precipices, climbing only by means of irregular holes made among the roots of trees, or step-pings roughly broken in the rock ; yet have you only to give him the bridle and sit still, holding by the mane to keep yourself from slipping back, and you are in the utmost safety.

But I must return from the Alps, and tell you that in consequence of our feasting delay at the Bay-house, and the time required to ascend the cliff, we found the evening stealing upon us before we came to the top. The sun had already sunk too low, to

gild the landscape with its rays, or to enliven the view of the ocean, with the brightness which shone upon our visit to Hilloughby hill; but, from what I have already said of that, your imagination will readily suggest to you the beauties of the scenery, and the extent of the prospect from Hackleton's Cliff. From viewing the delightful variety around, under the descending rays of declining day, the effect was new and pleasing. A soft and placid picture succeeded to the strong and vivid colours of noon: the landscape, though less bright, was, perhaps, not less interesting; and, as we had visited Mount Hilloughby in the full glow of day, we did not lament that we saw Hackleton's Cliff under the gentle and retiring beams of evening.

Unexpectedly we found the top of the cliff to be a wide extended surface, covered with herbage, and so gradually declining on the opposite side, that on turning our faces from the steep precipice of the east, we appeared to be upon a wide plain, instead of a rude summit, or nearly the highest point of land in the island. On the cliff we visited the estate of Mr. Stewart, at which is a pleasant

house, delightfully situated, near the most lofty part of this high summit, bearing no appearance of being so elevated, or within so short a distance of the stupendous precipice which is near to it.

Ginger is the produce of the plantation. We saw great quantities of this root spread before the house, upon a large square neatly paved, for the purpose of drying it previous to sending it to market.

From Mr. Stewart's we proceeded to the Colleton estate, where we purposed taking up our quarters for the night. On our way I happened to learn that the gentleman of the house was not apprized of our intended visit; and on discovering this, it seemed to me only a necessary civility to acquaint him with it, I therefore proposed that we should dispatch an *avant courier* to announce our approach, lest, from descrying so large a party, unexpectedly, the family might verily believe us to be a horde of Maroons; or, still worse, might mistake us for a foraging party of *citoyens-soldats*, coming to levy contributions upon the estate; but I was desired to suspend

my anxiety, and be assured that we should not fail to meet with good accommodations, and a sincere welcome, by only announcing ourselves *in propriis personibus*; and this information proved to be perfectly correct, for Mr. Hollingsworth greeted us cordially, and entertained us in all the genuine hospitality of the island. Eight visitors, eight slaves, and eight horses, thus dropping in unexpectedly, and at night, were received with such kindness and unaffected urbanity as to assure us that thrice the number would have been joyfully welcomed. No cold, nor forbidding ceremony; no seeming hurry nor confusion; no derangement of the household appeared. We were all immediately at home; no mark of surprize, or inconvenience was evinced; not an individual was incommoded; the duties of the family were continued; nor was there the slightest mark of interruption in any department of this hospitable home. The usual order was maintained, and it only appeared as though we were a part of the family. The *mauvaise honte*, the confusion and embarrassment but too common, upon similar occasions in England, were utterly unknown; and we at once belonged to the family. The

brimming punch-bowl was set before us, and pleasant lively conversation prevailed until supper called us to further feasting, which continued until the hour of repose. After supper Miss Hollingsworth kindly, as sweetly, added soft melody to complete the harmony of the entertainment.

We retired to rest, according to the custom of the country, at an early hour. Drs. Maister, Cleghorn, and myself were accommodated in one spacious room. It was the first night we slept on shore, and you will judge of the temperature of these regions, when I tell you that, in this cool part of the most Windward Island, and in the month of February, we set open the windows of the room, and threw aside all the bedding and clothes, preserving to each person only a hard mattress, and a single sheet. With this arrangement we passed the night in sound repose, and rose at six in the morning, well prepared for another marooning day.

We rode before breakfast to see the Barbadoes or Codrington College. On our way we passed an estate called "Society," and on

approaching the college from the high land of that quarter we obtained a fine view of the building, with the plain on which it stands, and the wide expanse of the sea, spread before it. Descending from the hill we met with the finest avenue of mountain cabbage trees that we had seen in the island.

The college was founded by Colonel Codrington, and richly endowed, with the generous and very laudable intention of establishing a great and useful seminary for the education of the youth of Barbadoes; the liberal founder appropriating the revenue of two large estates to the institution, in the desire of affording an opportunity to the Creole generations of the island, of acquiring learning, and fitting themselves for the important duties of society, and of their individual stations, without incurring the expence of an European education. But the benevolent intentions of the Colonel have not been duly regarded. The profits intended for this best of purposes have been squandered away, and the funds disgracefully neglected or abused. The superb edifice, which was planned, has not been finished, and even

the part that was erected, has, from shameful neglect, been brought into early decay. Only one side of the intended quadrangle has yet been built, and that, to the disgrace of those concerned, has long been left to fall into ruin.

The present manager, highly to his honor, has done much towards recovering the estates, and directing the funds, arising therefrom, into their proper channel. By his care a very considerable sum has been recently accumulated, and the part of the building which has been erected, is now undergoing a thorough repair, in the hope of saving it from utter and premature destruction.

The walls are built of stone, and are of uncommon strength. They withstood the dreadful hurricane of 1780, and appear to be still capable of a complete repair, but it must be at great labor, and a prodigious expence.

As we were viewing the large hall, and the chapel, we received a message from the master, the Rev. Mr. Thomas, requesting us to take breakfast with him : but our plan for

the day, and our engagements with Mr. Hollingsworth did not allow us to accept the invitation. We however had an opportunity of thanking him, by making him a visit in the house built for the principal of the college, which we were sorry to observe, like the other parts of the structure, had been left unheeded, and was falling into comparatively youthful decay. Mr. Thomas shewed us a model in wood, according to the original design; and, had the building been completed upon this plan, Barbadoes might have boasted a college, vying in grandeur, and elegance of structure, with the greatest ornaments of the celebrated universities of the mother-country. The model, like the building, feeling the destructive effect of the climate, and of sad neglect, was fast crumbling into a state, in which it could only serve to minister dust to the elements!

Twelve boys, only, are yet admitted on the foundation, and these, instead of occupying any part of the college building, are accommodated in the house of the master, the parlour being converted into a kind of a school-room, for the purpose.

We returned to Mr. Hollingsworth's by a different road, from that we had taken in going, ascending some high land near the college, called "Coach-Hill." This ride afforded us an opportunity of seeing a numerous gang of negroes grouped in the middle of a field, taking their breakfast, during the temporary suspension allowed them from labor. They were seated upon the bare earth, and exposed to the full ardor of the scorching sun.

On our arrival we found a handsome breakfast prepared for us, and neatly served in a large cool room, with all the taste and fashion of the West Indies. While partaking of it I several times detected my thoughts wandering to the poor blacks in the field, contemplating the simplicity of their fare, and the humble natural board on which it was spread. They had no water-glasses to cool their fingers, nor had they, like us, a youthful slave to fan the breeze with a fragrant bough, and protect their naked skins from the painful annoyance of insects.

The Colleton estate is one of the largest in the island. It is, at present, the property of a Mrs. Colleton, who resides in London. The direction and sole management of it is left to Mr. Hollingsworth ; and Mrs. Colleton is fortunate in giving her confidence to a person of high honor and integrity, who does every justice to the estate, and the proprietor. At the Colleton plantation we had an opportunity of witnessing the mode of claying or (as they commonly term it) *improving* sugar. This is a very simple process by which the sugar is much whitened, and increased in value. A coating of clay, softened nearly to a liquid state with water, is spread over the surface of the sugar, as it stands in the deep earthen pots into which it is received from the boiler, and the fluid parts gradually draining away, the clay becomes hardened into a dry cake at the top ; while the water passes through the whole of the sugar, and carries with it a considerable portion of the melasses, through an opening at the bottom of the pot, leaving the sugar greatly whitened, and improved. The clay having become dry and contracted into a hard cake, is easily removed from the surface. We saw it lifted from several of the pots ; and

the difference between the sugar in these and in the pots which had not been subjected to the same process was very striking. After being thus improved the sugar sells at a price nearly one third higher, than in its raw state: other advantages are likewise said to derive to the planter from this partial mode of refining the produce of his canes. Soon after breakfast we resumed our morning wanderings, leaving the Colleton estate impressed with a strong sense of the kind reception, and the very warm hospitality it had afforded us. Upon taking leave, it was discovered that our party had decreased from eight to seven. The family and the house had sufficient attractions to detain the inclinations of us all; but the peculiar magnet which influenced the person, whose society we lost, was of an irresistible nature,—the junior Mr. H. was the happy suitor of Miss Hollingsworth, and, amidst the crowd of the evening, her attentions had necessarily been too much divided for him to have secured the exclusive proportion due to a faithful and devoted admirer.

After leaving Mr. Hollingsworth's, "Clarke's Court," and "Kendall" estates, were

the two first Plantations that arrested our attention. The latter is under the direction of a very singular and eccentric character, whose great ambition is to act differently from other men; and who finds a secret pleasure in deviating from all established and common rules. His mill is oddly trimmed, the sails strangely cut, and all the works, by some deviation or other, made peculiar. Among a multitude of other singularities he has planted a patch of pigeon peas in the neighbourhood of a field of canes, in order to allure the borers from the sugar,—a piece of policy very like setting a dish of tough beef before an alderman to seduce his appetite from a haunch of venison!

From Kendall's we rode to "Drax-Hall," the largest plantation of the island, and the property of the Grosvenor family. The house is a spacious old mansion, quite proportionate to the size of the estate, which we observed, from its great extent, had two mills, and a double set of works for the preparation of the sugar. This was also the case at the large estates of Colleton and Kendall.

No interruption,—no chasm occurs in the hospitality of Barbadoes ! It is universal and literally, as justly, entitles it to be ranked among the “ friendly isles.” In all the liberality of the country Mr. Chatterton of Drax-Hall, invited us to pass the day at the good old mansion, kindly profering us every friendly accommodation. But it was not consistent with our plan to take up our quarters at so early an hour ; we were therefore compelled to violate our inclinations, which would have detained us throughout the day at the Hall. After taking the refreshment of some wine and water, we pursued our ride, and passing by way of a wood, called after the name of the plantation “ Drax-Hall wood,” we proceeded to an estate called “ Spendlove,” which is under the care, and very excellent management of Mr. John Waith, a gentleman in no degree less friendly, or hospitable than any we had seen in the island, and although very active, no less fat and good humoured than some of our well fed priests, who feast upon the good things of England.

We find that fat persons are by no means uncommon in this island, notwith-

standing the great heat of climate, and the excessive waste of fluids by perspiration ; nor can this be at all wonderful to those who have witnessed their hearty devotion to the good things of the table. Spendlove was our place of dinner, and, while this was preparing, we begged permission to see the negro-yard, and to extend our visit into some of the huts, being desirous to inspect the habitations, and witness the mode of life of the slaves. It was remarked to us that the negroes were tenacious of their home, and disliked to have their huts exposed to the prying eye of strangers. We accordingly treasured the intimation, promising not to be too minute, but to regulate our curiosity with all becoming decorum, paying due regard to the feelings and prejudices of the sable inhabitants : and I should have been truly mortified not to have had this opportunity of telling you, from the testimony both of my eyes and ears, the very comfortable, and, I might say, happy state in which we found the slaves of Spendlove.

In your future good wishes for the comfort of the poor Africans forget not to pray that all masters may possess hearts as kind,

and humane, as that which beats in the bosom of "Jack Waith," this being the title by which that gentleman is best known in the island. The kind indulgence of the master is amply repaid in the attachment of his slaves; and the history of Mr. Waith and his gang, may stand in everlasting reproach to the self-arrogating opinion which maintains that negroes know not the divine sentiment of gratitude, but are most treacherous toward the master who best treats, and most indulges them. Were this the fact, as is not unfrequently asserted, it would offer itself in direct opposition to one great principle of human nature, and would place the blacks very far indeed below the whites, but, however much individual instances might seem to countenance the opinion, these, perhaps, do not occur more frequently among Africans, than among Europeans, and surely cannot be considered to arise more from any defect of a great and amiable principle of nature in them, than we should be willing to admit that they do in ourselves. Such instances are but the effect of depravity in either, and proceed from a *perversion*, not from a genuine *principle* of nature, and hence cannot in the one, more

than in the other, serve to establish any general maxim.

By kind attentions, by occasional and friendly indulgences towards his slaves, Mr. Waith had so meliorated their condition, so softened to them the hardships of slavery, and so improved their comforts, as to attach them to his person and his interest by the secure ties of affection and gratitude. The loud clang of the whip was seldom heard among them, and the smartings of its painful lash were scarcely dreaded ; for a better principle than fear impelled them to their duty. Their friendship for their master made his interest their own ; and their gratitude, towards him, rendered his safety the object of their solicitude, and even of their lives. Of this he had, in two great instances, known the most unequivocal proof,—one when the negroes of the estates had formed a conspiracy to rise upon their masters,—the other upon an alarm being given that the island was attacked by the French ! On both these occasions the slaves of Spendlove had voluntarily offered to lay down their lives in defence of Mr. Waith and his house.

At the negro yards it is common for the slaves to plant fruits and vegetables, and to raise stock. Some of them keep a pig, some a goat, some Guinea fowls, ducks, chickens, pigeons, or the like; and at one of the huts of Spendlove, we saw a pig, a goat, a young kid, some pigeons, and some chickens, all the property of an individual slave.—This is mere indulgence, but it gratifies and amuses the negroes, and becomes, in various ways, highly useful. The little garden, and their stock, not only afford them occupation and amusement for their leisure moments, but create a degree of interest in the spot, and excite feelings of attachment toward the master, who both grants and protects the indulgence. The negro-yard, viewed from a short distance, forms an object of highly interesting and picturesque scenery;—it comprizes all the little huts, intermixed with, and more or less concealed by the variety of shrubs and fruit trees, which kindly lend their shade; likewise the many small patches of garden ground around them, and the different species of stock, some appearing in pens, some tied by the leg, or the neck, and some running at large; and if it be evening, you have also the

crowd of negroes, male and female, as they chance to be seen, at rest, or moving in busy occupation, some passing from hut to hut, some dancing to their favorite music, some sitting at the door with the pipe in their mouths, and others smoking their loved fagar under the broad leaf of the plantain. The picture is also further enlivened by the groups of little black children;—some running and skipping about, some seated, playing before the doors, in Nature's ebon dress, and some, unable to walk, attempting little pedestrian excursions upon their hands and feet. Perhaps within so small a space, few scenes could offer so much to interest a contemplative mind; or to aid the pencil of a painter of the picturesque.

Independent of their own provisions, either raised or purchased, each negro has his weekly allowance issued to him, every Sunday, from the estate; and hence they are at liberty to take the whole of their own private stock to market, and to procure whatever additional comforts they prefer with the money it produces; and perhaps it will seem strange to you when I tell you that the markets of

the island depend almost wholly upon this mode of supply. They are all held weekly, and upon the Sunday; that being the day when the negroes are free from labour, and have leisure to attend.

Mr. Waith has learned the happy art of governing the slaves with kindness, and he finds it a better steward than the whip. With great goodness of heart he indulges his own humane feelings, and finds it better policy than using stripes. He is a man of social manners, and would certainly deceive Lavater himself, if he possessed not all the generosity and benevolence for which he has obtained such universal credit; for so plainly is all this written upon his brow, that those who run may read it.—He is of a ruddy complexion, and, with an uncommon degree of fatness, is very active, and appears to have all the strong health of an European. Never was entertainment more bountiful, or given with greater liberality, or a more cordial welcome, than at the plantation of Spendlove. Punch and mandram preceded the dinner; at table was an extensive variety of good things; and after the cloth was removed, the board

was spread with fruits of various kinds, together with claret, port, and madeira wines, and Goava-punch.

The round of feasting having continued for several hours, it was followed, like our dinner at the Bay-House, by new provocatives ; and the appetite, having already consumed more than it required, was invited to take more than it ought, by the unexpected appearance of smoking sprats, hot lobsters, and a large bowl of milk punch.

The cloth was again regularly spread, at a side table, and these things placed by us, as if we had just arrived from a journey with all the cravings of hunger ; and to my astonishment, I confess, some of the party left the fruit and wine, and seating themselves in due form at the other table, exhibited a renewal of appetite, as if the dinner they had just taken had been already digested and forgotten.

Mr. Waith's father and brother came from their different plantations to meet us at Spendlove, and were of the party at dinner. The old gentleman is an uncommonly

handsome man, sixty years of age, with all the health and spirits of a person of forty. He is not so fat as his son, *mais très enbon-point*. He is jocular and lively, a facetious companion, highly convivial, and, in the full spirit of the West Indies, a perfect *bon vivant*. He entreated us, with much kindness and urgent solicitation, to make a visit to his estate before we leave Barbadoes, apologizing in his own mirthful way, for not having it in his power to offer us more than a “plain farmer’s dinner,—a pig, a duck, and a turkey cock.”

In order to reach Bridge-Town in time to go on board to sleep, we left Spendlove earlier than our inclinations would have dictated. On our way we called at the house of Mr. Ellcock, brother to an eminent physician of that name, whom we had met at Dr. Hinde’s. We were led to the house through an avenue of the stately mountain cabbage trees, which are so peculiarly calculated to form a grand and imposing approach to any gentleman’s dwelling. These were the finest which had yet occurred to our observation, not excepting those we had seen at the college. Mr. Ellcock’s is the most modern, and most European-look-

ing abode we met with in the whole of our tour. The house and little flower garden before it resemble those of England, and near to the door is a cool avenue forming an agreeable promenade, deeply shaded with the foliage of a very handsome tree called the "Evergreen."

We walked into the small garden before the house, which is laid out *à l'angloise*, and has much more correctly the appearance of an English garden, than the many very humble imitations, which Englishmen are so often invited to see in France, Germany, and other parts of the continent, under the title of "Jardin Anglois."

Mr. Ellcock's favorite pursuit is botany. He is occupied in obtaining an extensive collection of rare and curious plants, and of the different species of tropical trees, and fruits. He is particularly curious in his orchard; but unfortunately he was from home, and the key was not to be found, hence we lost the opportunity of seeing perhaps the most varied, and valuable assemblage of fruit trees in the island. Nor could we even steal

one look at the collection, through any opening, for the gate was close as the door of a convent, and the whole orchard was surrounded with a high hedge of the *lignum vitæ*, so thick and impenetrable as to resist even the prying eye of curiosity.

Both the orchard and garden were originally planned, and have been wholly planted under the immediate inspection of Mr. Ellcock, to whose taste and industry every credit is due for the improvements made, and the very valuable collection already brought together. He is a scientific botanist; and, from learning the attention he devotes to his plants and trees, and to the vegetable world in general, we could not but contemplate, in strong sympathy, the severe loss he must have felt in the unhappy fate of the learned naturalist of "Joe's River." In a small and remote island such a loss becomes, in many points of view, irreparable, it being unlike Europe, where from science being more advanced and more generally diffused, so many may be found of congenial minds, that the loss of one of Flora's favorite sons might not be equally irremediable. I have

not heard that it was so, but reason and sympathy would seem to imply it, and you, I know, will feel with me, that from circumstances of locality, and from similarity of sentiment and occupation, Mr. Ellcock and Mr. H— must have been more than brothers in regard and esteem, and that, to either, the loss of the other must have been of multiplied severity.

Although disappointed in this visit, we have still an eye to the collection of Mr. Ellcock, and do not intend to let it escape without inspection; for should it happen that we may be called away, before we have an opportunity of returning to it ourselves, we have made known its situation to a friend of ours, whose industry and acuteness in the science of botany will not allow a twig or a flower to pass unnoticed. Our colleague, Dr. Wright, is told where to find it, and as he is of the Charibbee Island staff, and may remain longer here than ourselves, or may possibly be stationed in the island, it will be a great delight, and perhaps the highest gratification that could offer to him, to explore this tropical vegetable depot. The Doctor is a veteran in the field of Flora, and in him Mr.

Ellcock may find a valuable substitute for the late unhappy possessor of "Joe's River."

Zealous and well versed as our friend is in the realms of botany, and particularly from having already augmented his fame by his industrious researches respecting the botanical productions of Jamaica, to range amidst such a collection of tropical plants, would form the delight of his leisure, and, from his accurate knowledge in the science, the whole botanical world might perhaps be benefited by it. To Mr. Ellcock, I trust it is also a pleasure in store, for he could not but find pleasure in being known to our friend, whose reputation as a botanist, is only rivalled by his philanthropy, and his amiable character as a man.

Disappointed in our visit at Mr. Ellcock's we rode on to Bridge-Town without further delay, and arrived in time to go off to the Lord Sheffield before the prohibited hour of nine, after which no boats are permitted to leave the shore.

To bring into one point the sum of gratification afforded by this delightful excursion,

would be a work of difficulty. You will form some idea of it from the loose details I have marked. It has offered us an abundant opportunity of seeing the whole face of the island; of viewing many of the different plantations; of observing the produce and mode of cultivation; of witnessing the manners and customs of the inhabitants; and of noticing the labors and mode of life of the slaves;—whom we have seen in the fields,—in their huts,—in the sugar works,—about the houses,—at their moments of rest and retirement, and amidst all their various occupations and modes of employment.

LETTER XXVIII.

Still no tidings of the commander in chief, or the convoy.

A trading ship arrives from Glasgow. Anxiety displayed when any vessel enters Carlisle Bay. Privateers captured.

A detachment of troops sent to Grenada. Uncertainty of all expeditions by sea. Black corps formed at Barbadoes.

Negroes of the French colonies betray all the levity and vivacity of the French character. Dry season at Barbadoes.

Heat of the climate. Suggestion that it might be politic to send out the hospitals, barracks, and other buildings, previous to the sailing of the troops.

Hospitals erected at St. Anne's hill. Troops in the transports unhealthy.

Moon-light view of a coco-nut grove, near Bridge-Town.

Carlisle Bay, Feb. 29.

IT proves that we might have lengthened our Marooning excursion, without any interruption from the fear of being hurried away to St. Domingo. Scarcely any vessels arrived in the bay during our absence, and very few have come in since our return. Our solicitude, concerning the commander in chief and the convoy, is still undiminished. One ship left them in one latitude, another in another, one

parted from the fleet in the bay of Biscay, another off Portugal, a third off the coast of Africa, and others in different latitudes. Some suppose the convoy to have put into Lisbon, some say Gibraltar, and others various other ports. All is still enveloped in a cloud of uncertainty ; nor are we without our suspicions that the fleet may yet be nearer to you than it is to Barbadoes, and, indeed, this would seem probable from the extraordinary delay of the packets, not one having arrived since we came into harbour. Amidst all our apprehensions we still hope, and still, in daily expectation, look for their arrival.

One vessel has at length reached Barbadoes, which sailed subsequent to ourselves. It is a Glasgow trader, and although from a remote port, you will judge what multitudes thronged on board, as soon as she entered the harbour, to ask for news. She brings papers of January, and we are much gratified to learn that the admiral had written to England, so late as the fourth of that month, saying that he had, then, with him one hundred and eleven sail ; but we are sorry to find that a part of the convoy had been again compelled to put back, and we read,

with trembling apprehension, that fifteen vessels were known to have been dismasted, or otherwise disabled—all of which, it is to be feared, may not have reached even a safe port at home. Later than this date, the papers contain no news of the convoy : nor have we any through any other channel.

At this very interesting period of suspense, if a strange vessel enters the bay, the whole harbour becomes a crowded and moving scene, in consequence of almost every ship sending off a boat to seek tidings of the fleet. You, who can feel for our solicitude, will compassionate our disappointment, when we happen to find that the stranger is not direct from England. This frequently occurs, and we return loaded with chagrin. Of two ships which have been this day thronged with eager visitors, one proved to be from Newfoundland with fish, and the other from the coast of Africa with slaves—consequently neither of them knew so much of England or the convoy as ourselves.

News has just reached Barbadoes that some of our frigates have captured several priva-

teers off Trinidad. This is peculiarly important at the present moment, as multitudes of our defenceless transports are scattered over these seas, in search of which hosts of armed cruisers have been fitted out by the enemy.

I am sorry to tell you that information of an unpleasant nature has reached us from Grenada, in consequence of which it has been deemed expedient to embark a body of troops on board the Expedition *armée en flûte*, and other smaller vessels, to send to the relief of that island, without waiting for the arrival of the commander in chief.

Could it have been foreseen, that the remainder of the convoy would have been detained so many weeks behind us, the troops which have been accumulated at Barbadoes might have been beneficially employed in restoring tranquillity to our disordered islands, and, perhaps, have been still in time to have joined in the great, and more combined object of the expedition. But it is not given to humanity to foresee events, and the sad disasters of this formidable armament only tend

to prove the extreme uncertainty which must ever attend our expeditions. The plan may be concerted with wisdom ; all the necessaries amply provided ; and the force, on sailing, fully adequate to the intended purposes : yet, after all, the lamentable uncertainty of the elements will often frustrate the best and wisest arrangements. If an army be destined to march, by land, to any given spot, it may be calculated, with considerable accuracy, in what number, and at what period it shall arrive ; and, with still greater certainty, any given quantity of stores and provisions may be transported with it : but no such accuracy can be attained where the high-road is the sea, and the trackless path to be traced by the capricious and inconstant winds.

We have an encampment of negroes formed near to Bridge-Town, upon a spot called Constitution-hill. They are a fine body of men, who have been enlisted from the revolted French islands, or brought away on the evacuation of them by our troops. They are active and expert, and are training into a formidable corps to assist in our intended expeditions. About sixteen hundred of them

bear arms ; besides whom there are twelve hundred to be employed as pioneers. They have all the vivacity and levity of the French character about them ; and it, occasionally, affords us amusement to observe the Barbadoes negroes regard them with evident amazement, gaping with wonder at their volatility and alertness. John Bull differs not more widely from a Parisian *petit-maitre* than many of the Barbadoes slaves from the *sable fops* of this sprightly corps.

It is now the dry season of the year at Barbadoes, and if you have imbibed the same idea of a tropical climate which I remember to have once felt, you will learn, with surprise, that very few days have passed, since our arrival, without a refreshing shower of rain. The heat is far more supportable than we had expected. The thermometer, at noon, is commonly about 80, and very seldom exceeds 82 ; we have not yet seen it above 84.

It happens, fortunately, that some of the ships, laden with the temporary hospitals, made in England, have arrived in Carlisle Bay, and, likewise, a few of the men belonging to

the corps of artificers; who, together with some creole and negro carpenters, are actively employed in fitting and putting up these frames with all possible expedition: but much of hurry and difficulty might have been avoided had the hospitals, the barracks, and other buildings been sent out in time to have been erected before any of the troops, or any division of the moving part of the expedition arrived.

The confusion that must necessarily arise from the arrival of the soldiers, of the buildings requiring to be erected, and of all the various departments, at the same moment, must be self-evident; and it will readily appear, from the hurried and numerous claims each department will have upon the artificers, that many of the requisites attaching to the hospitals may not be completed, before the more pressing occasion for them has ceased, on account of the removal of the troops to distant stations. Present experience may convey an useful lesson.

From the great exertions now making we hope very soon to have hospital room at St. Anne's Hill for, at least, a thousand sick, and I

am sorry to remark, from the unhealthy state in which some of the transports have already arrived, that it seems likely we may have occasion for it all ; but we have the further accommodation of hospital ships, should they be required, and have, therefore, the prospect of seeing all the sick comfortably placed, and amply provided with such necessaries as their unfortunate state may demand. This, to a medical officer, is a circumstance of no trivial import. To the service it is likewise essential : but, speaking as an individual, I know of few things that could be so truly distressing to a man of feeling and humanity, as to behold a crowd of brave and suffering soldiers lying destitute of the comforts and accommodations required in sickness ; and you will believe that I have very sincere gratification in finding that I am not likely to be exposed to this painful necessity.

In a moon-light walk from St. Anne's hill to Bridge-Town, after our visit at the hospital, our attention was lately very powerfully arrested by the striking appearance of a gently waving grove of coco nut trees, at the side of the road. From the brightness of the

moon, the peculiar form of the trees, and the dead stillness of the night, we were suddenly struck with the grandeur and solemnity of the scene ; nor do I know that my eye was ever attracted to one so divinely soft and sepulchral. On beholding it, I was fixed in pensive contemplation. The trees grew nigh, one to another, and the naked trunks formed so many stately pillars, supporting their palmated summits, which, stretching to meet each other, assumed the semblance of extensive aisles of Gothic arches. The whispering breeze gently waved the leaves in soothing undulation, while the deep and dark shading foliage shut out the silver moon-beams, leaving only an occasional solitary ray, to steal in here and there, at partial openings, to increase the interest and relieve the plaintive gloom. A contemplative mind could not fail to be enamoured with the soft melancholy of the scene. It produced a kind of solemn, and tender enchantment ; the effect of which was highly increased from the broad sea appearing below the grove, whose waters, in all the stillness of night, bearing the trembling beams of the moon upon their surface, moved in gentle murmurs to the shore, and broke in whif-

pers, scarcely to be heard, upon the sands. Never was spot more calculated to fill the mind with sublime and tender impressions ! It seemed the fit abode of silence, and of sleep—a sacred shade where the child of sorrow might sweetly indulge his grief, listen to the sympathetic rustlings that whispered to his sighs, and pour forth, in reflection and penitence, the genuine effusions of the heart :

“ What solemn solitude around !

Here Nature’s true sublime is found :

Hence thought should travel to the sky.”

It was a pensive and sequestered retirement, where a sorrowing and heart-rended lover might indulge a full feast of soul, in offering his devotions at the tomb of a lost mistress : for, amidst such scenes, the mind springs from its mansion of clay, to range in plaintive cogitation and delight : it feasts in rapturous melancholy, and, dwelling in solemn thought, is elevated above itself. Filled with sublime contemplation, the spirit is unmindful of its earthly chains, and the soul, absorbed in greatness, soars to its peaceful and heavenly mansion above.

LETTER XXIX.

Author claims the freedom of "noting" upon all subjects. Polite and learned practitioners in medicine at Barbadoes. The contrary. Anecdote of a Barbadoes medicaster. Remarks upon the fatal consequences of allowing every pretender to range at large in the medical profession. Empirics and patents. New Tavern at Bridge-Town. Mode of separating the seeds from cotton. Barbadoes method of carrying children. Suggestion whether it may not be preferable to the English method. A specimen of the bitter hardships of slavery.

Barbadoes, March.

It being stipulated that all subjects of remark are to find place in my *Notes*, you will not reproach me with the dissentient term "Parish business," if an occasional sentence should chance to steal in upon the topic of medicine. Indeed you have desired it should be so, and this, at once, prevents the necessity of apology.

You will have collected, from what I have said before, that there are Gentlemen in the

medical profession in Barbadoes, who are, equally, an honor to their profession, and an ornament to society, and I may here repeat that many such are to be met with in the island. But it is an unhappy truth that there are others who are only pre-eminent in ignorance, for, alas ! practitioners in medicine may be found in this island, who, in learning and manners, are not far removed above the slaves. They are more illiterate than you can believe, and the very *negro doctors* of the estates too justly vie with them in medical knowledge. It has happened to us to see, among them, men, who instead of having the care of the health and lives of their fellow-subjects, ought not to be entrusted to compound a pill, or a bolus. A tyro, advanced only a year or two in his apprenticeship, in England, is far better instructed in his profession, than some of the soi-disans and practising *proficients* of Barbadoes. Totally unprepared with a classical education, and, indeed, wholly devoid of the very rudiments of literature, they indolently waste a few years, in the house, or idly looking out at the shop-window of some uneducated apothecary of the island, and then in all the bold confidence of ignorance,

they commence *Doctors*, feeling themselves fully qualified, without professional reading, without visiting the schools of Europe, without experience, and I might say, without thought, or judgment, to undertake the cure of all the direful maladies which afflict the human frame; —in short, without one necessary qualification do these creole *pretenders* feel themselves competent to exercise all the various branches of the healing art.

Cleghorn, Master, and myself called, lately, at the shop of one of the practitioners of this class, to purchase some Peruvian bark, when we found our *brother doctor* disposed to be facetious and communicative; and prone to talk with equal confidence and loquacity. His bark, he assured us, was “of the best,” for he had plenty of the “Cort. Peruv. *optimum*,” and had “advertised it *for sale*,” although he “never used it for his *patients* ;” — adding to this very liberal and laudable avowal “I have “also the Cort. Peruv. *common*, but I never write now for the Cort. Peruv. *second*: formerly I did, and the druggists cheated me, but I have found them out, and now make the Cort. Peruv. *second* myself. I mix a little of

the Cort. Peruv. *optimum*, with the Cort. Peruv. *common*, and so make Cort. Peruv. *second*,* and in this way gain the money myself which, before, I foolishly paid to the druggists in England."

This man who, independent of a total want of professional knowledge, avowedly, and from the most sordid motives, never administered to his patients a single grain of that bark, which (even in proper cases for its exhibition) was most likely to prove beneficial,—*this man* is a busy practitioner in Bridge-Town, and is esteemed the great Hippocrates, the family *doctor*, and the confidential, and prime guardian of health to many of the inhabitants of Barbadoes!

In all climates, a sound judgment, and an acuteness of discrimination, together with a correct knowledge of the human frame, are necessary to the successful treatment of diseases: but in the West Indies, where the attack

* It were much to be wished, that the vendors of drugs had not discovered a still worse means of adulterating this most valuable medicine.

is frequently sudden, and the progress destructively rapid, if the malady be neglected or badly treated, in its incipient stage, medicine becomes inefficient, and, too often, the disease cannot be subdued by all the art of the wisest Physician.—How lamentable, then, is it that such ignorant medicasters as our “Cort Peruv. *optimum*” should be entrusted, and particularly in a tropical region, with the health and lives of multitudes of their fellow-beings.

When we reflect that the riches and prosperity of a country connect, most intimately, with its population, and that the lives of men are of the highest importance to the state, it becomes matter of surprise and astonishment, that, even in the remotest colony, such pretenders should be permitted to disgrace the healing art. If that wise principle “*salus populi suprema lex*,” be correct, and I suspect it cannot be disputed, the health of the people must be a subject of prime consideration in the eye of every government;—how then are we to account for the apathy which permits such dangerous *doctors* to wield the destructive lance, or, how shall we explain the miscalculating policy which not only tolerates a tre-

mendous host of empirics, but suffers them to overrun every part of the state, under the all-creating sanction of *a patent*, or allows them, on the bare privilege of bold assurance, to commit depredations upon the health, the purses, and *the lives* of His Majesty's subjects?

You will recollect the name of "Betsey Lemon" the respectable mulatto whom I formerly mentioned to you as the leading support of *the Bar* at Mary Bella Green's, and you will be pleased to learn that she is released from the toils of slavery, and placed in a more independent situation, where she may become established as an useful and respectable member of the community. She has opened a new tavern at Bridge-Town, where we have made a party of encouragement, to take a dinner, and drink to the success of the hostess; and, from the accommodations we met with, I may add, that, should any more of your friends follow us to Barbadoes, you may assure them of attention and good treatment at the house of *Betsey Lemon*.

In one of our late walks, near Bridge-Town, we met with two small windmills,

erected for the purpose of clearing the cotton from its seeds ; and, as they happened to be in motion we availed ourselves of the opportunity of waiting a short time, to witness the process. The cotton, when pulled from the pod, envelopes the seeds, forming the matrix in which they grow and are embedded ; and it is separated from them by being caused to pass through the bite of two small metallic rollers, placed horizontally, one over the other, and turned by the action of the mill. These passing round, near to each other, are fed with the cotton, which they take in, without receiving the seeds, leaving them to fall to the ground, or into a basket below, while the cotton, drawn between the rollers, passes through and is ejected into a box on the opposite side. The process is so entirely simple that it might be performed equally well by a smaller instrument worked with the hand, or the foot, and which we are told is the method practised in many parts of the West Indies.

Among the novelties which meet the eye of an European upon his arrival at Barbadoes, or probably in any of the West India islands, is the practice of carrying the children across

the hip, instead of seating them upon the arm. The lower class of white women, in Barbadoes, have adopted this custom, from the example of the negroes, among whom it seems to be the universal mode of nursing; and, perhaps, it would admit of argument, whether this method be not preferable to the European custom of carrying them upon the arm. Seated upon the hip, the infant soon learns to cling, and in a great measure to support itself; but, placed upon the arm, it must always remain a helpless or dead weight upon the mother, being without the power of assisting itself, or relieving its position. Further, it is so conveniently placed when upon the hip, that the mother can support it with much greater facility, for by only putting the arm behind it, the child can lie back, or rest and change its posture in various ways: thus the weight becomes less fatiguing to the mother, and perhaps less injurious to the infant; for, at this tender age, the long bones of the thigh, not being firmly ossified, are liable to yield, and a degree of deformity may be induced, from their being made to bear the whole weight of the body, at long and frequent periods, upon so narrow a seat as the arm.

Trivial as this subject might appear to some, it is worthy the serious consideration of British mothers, and nurses. A deformed negro is a very rare object, and this may probably be attributed, in great measure, to the manner of nursing them in their infancy; for, besides the better mode of carrying them, they have the further advantage of being allowed to crawl about upon their hands and feet, in perfect freedom, unrestrained by ligatures, or tight garments.

Although I have observed the mode of carrying children upon the hip to be the common method of nursing among the slaves, yet, when they have to carry them to a great distance, they neither place them upon the hip, nor the arm, but upon the back; and I have, frequently, been surprized to observe by what slight support they secure them in this situation. A mere pocket handkerchief, tied carelessly round the mother, often forms all their seat, and all their safety!

A few evenings ago I had the afflicting opportunity of witnessing a scene of cruelty, which strongly exemplified the abject, and wretched-

ly humiliating condition to which human beings are subjected in a life of slavery. I happened to be waiting upon the quay for the Lord Sheffield's boat, in order to return on board, when two men, apparently white creoles, came up, and seized a negro, who was standing near me, accusing him of having run away from his master. The poor black assured them that he had no master,—that he belonged to Mrs. —, that he was well known in the town,—and that they must, certainly, have mistaken his person; and, upon these grounds, urged the impropriety of their taking him to prison. But, regardless of his remonstrances, and of their own error, they tied him with a heavy cord, fastened his hands, and forced him towards the place of confinement! Curiosity led me to follow them. The poor man still pleaded his innocence, and the mistake they had committed, begging and praying to be allowed to refer them to his Mistress, or to another family in the town, to identify his person. Heedless of his protestations and entreaties they still dragged him on, and from his only expressing a reluctance at being thus, unjustly, hurried to a prison, one of these hardened wretches struck him a violent blow

on the head, with a large stick, calling out to the other, in broad Barbadoes accent, "Daa-am him, cut him down."

A little before they reached the prison they had to pass a door-way where there happened to be a strong light, by means of which one of these cruel instruments of the law of *force* instantly recognised the poor ill-treated slave, and finding that they were actually guilty of the mistake which the negro had stated, he called out to his savage comrade, who had struck the helpless black upon the head, "Daa-am him, I know the fellow, we must let him go," upon which, they both, with horrid and dreadful imprecations, ordered him to stand, *without stirring*, while they should untie him; and, upon his only moving his arm to expedite the loosening of the cord, they swore, that if he dared "to stir, or look savage," they would "cut him down," or put him, "directly into prison." Such was the compensation dealt him for the unjust and cruel treatment he had already received. The wretches not only dragged the poor unoffending slave to a prison, in defiance of his solemn assurances of their having mistaken his person,

and without allowing him an appeal to any one who knew him, but, because he ventured to say they were committing an error, had the inhumanity to strike him with a force sufficient to have fractured his skull, and to threaten him with the further severity of death, or a dungeon, should he dare to express only a *look* of displeasure.

What must have been the feelings of this injured man? who, after being abused and mal-treated, was further put in fear of his life, should he only permit nature to assume her seat on his brow,—should the cruelty, pain, and injustice he had suffered, only cause a mark of disapprobation to appear upon his countenance! But Nature, however proscribed, was not to be restrained by such command! While the power of memory remains to me I can never—*never* forget the indignant, but hopeless expression of injury which overspread the features of this poor slave, as he retired!—He felt aggrieved, and was conscious that he had no remedy,—no appeal!

LETTER XXX.

Author sends his friend a list of the ships of the convoy which had reached Barbadoes. A vessel from Liverpool arrives in Carlisle Bay. The body of the fleet still wandering upon the ocean. Packet still delayed. Cork division found to be at Cove long after it was reported at sea. Probability of the author and his comrades being employed, in consequence of the increasing number of sick. Carlisle-Bay disturbed by Press-gangs. Confusion created by the sailors of one of the transports resisting them. The Lord Sheffield visited by two gangs in one night.

Barbadoes March 9.

IT occurs to me that, amidst all the uncertainties of our unfortunate fleet, it may be pleasant to you and others of our friends to know which of the ships have made good the passage, I, therefore, send you the annexed list of upwards of sixty, which are now safe at anchor in Carlisle Bay.

A vessel from Liverpool is come into harbour, which sailed on the 9th of January,

but we are still without any late news of the fleet, which sailed on the 9th of December; and, singular to tell, the Liverpool ship, now arrived, made the whole passage without happening to fall in with any one of the convoy. We learn that, previous to her sailing from port, the Admiral had again written to England, mentioning that ninety sail still remained with him, at the date of his letter; but that, from the repeated gales they had met with, he feared the others had been obliged to put back disabled. It would seem, from this, that he has no idea of so considerable a number having reached Barbadoes. We, who are here, observing on the other hand that very heavy and bad-sailing vessels have made their passage, are surprized what can so long have detained the remainder of the convoy; and what can be the cause why we are so long without any direct and accurate intelligence of its situation. It is now thirteen weeks since the fleet left England, and we know about as much concerning the great body of it, at this moment, as if it were sailing in the moon.

We are sadly anxious for the arrival of a packet, and of newspapers, neither the ship from Glasgou, nor that from Liverpool having brought more than one or two papers of the few days preceding their departure. We look for them in series, and expect quite a feast of delight from the perusal. Debarred from the news of our own country, and the old world, we have occasionally been much gratified by reading the American papers, brought by vessels which have arrived with stores and provisions from the United States.

We, who are destined to proceed to St. Domingo, have new disappointment in finding that the Cork division, intended for that island, had not sailed at a date many weeks subsequent to the time it had been reported at sea; and hence we feel it probable that we may even yet be long delayed: nor does it seem unlikely, that, before we depart, we may be called on duty at Barbadoes, in consequence of the increasing number of sick, and the non-arrival of the medical officers of the Charibbee-Island, or what, with strange incorrectness, has been called the Leeward-Island staff.

You will, perhaps, be surpris'd to know that the transports in Carlisle bay have been several times interrupted, and the whole harbour disturbed, and brought into a state of confusion, by the visitings of different press-gangs, in the exercise of that necessary custom, so repugnant to the feelings, and the freedom of Englishmen.

In one instance an alarming scene took place in consequence of the sailors of one of the ships resisting this arbitrary and unconstitutional method of obtaining their services. They oppos'd the boarding, and beat off the agent, and two boats with the press-gang. This resistance was soon followed by the appearance of a party of soldiers, with firelocks and fixed bayonets, who had been call'd upon to aid the press-gang, and to force the sailors to submission. Upon seeing the troops approach, thus formidably armed, the sailors jumped into the ship's boat, and made the best of their way towards the shore. The press-gang and two or three boats, filled with armed soldiers, pursued them. A general sensation of alarm overspread the harbour, and it was fear'd that much blood would be shed. Every

vessel was thronged with spectators, an universal impulse was excited, and feelings of anxiety seemed to possess every mind. The sailors manœuvred best in the race. They gained headway at every pull of their oars, and made the shore at a point beyond the reach of the soldiers and their musquets. Several shots were fired at them in vain; and upon their landing, a loud and general shout instantly spread around; which seemed to be involuntary, but was strongly expressive of the wish of the multitude that the sailors might escape. Their only hope was in flight, and some of them had the good fortune to elude the activity and vigilance of their pursuers; but the soldiers proved to be more successful in the chase, on shore, than they had been in the boats, for a party of the sailors was brought back a short time after, under a strong guard, and compelled to submit to this law of force.

It has been our fortune on board the Lord Sheffield to be disturbed by two different parties of the press-gang in the course of the same night: one of which came alongside at midnight,—the other at two o'clock in the morning. From stealing upon us unexpected-

ly, and in the dark, you will suppose that much hurry and confusion was created. Being wakened by the noise and running of people over my head, I put on my *robe de chambre*, and went up to learn the cause, when, finding it to be the press-gang, I felt a strong disposition to observe their conduct and manner of proceeding, and therefore remained upon deck, during the whole time they continued on board.

A Lieutenant of the navy was stalking up and down with a huge drawn sabre in his hand, calling out, with boatswain's lungs, for the steward to bring up a light. His men were running about every part of the ship armed with cutlasses, pistols, hangers, and various other weapons, and instruments of death. Such of the sailors of the ship whom they found upon deck, were instantly tumbled into a boat at the side, filled with armed men. The others secreted themselves in holes and corners, while the old steward with seeming haste, but with fox-like cunning, delayed the light. Perhaps you will say it was a little severe to demand a light, at all, from the ship, in order to rob her of her own men ; but the

whole proceeding was alike arbitrary and despotic, and this only consistent with the other parts of it. They had come in darkness, and with muffled oars, that they might take the vessel by surprise, and were unable to prosecute their search, into the remote and concealed parts of the ship, without the aid of light.

The steward, somewhat endangered from the ire he had provoked by his well-contrived delay, at length appeared with the lantern; and a general search was immediately made below. The cabins,—the cable-tier,—the pantries,—the lockers—the very pig-sty,—every hole and corner they could think of were hunted out, and they seemed resolved that not a spot should be omitted. Yet, notwithstanding all their vigilance, several of the sailors contrived to elude the search. One, who had not time to escape to a place of more probable security, remained quietly in his hammock, and, when they came to examine it, affected to awake uttering a loud groan, strongly expressive of pain and suffering. Hearing this the press-gang asked who it was, and if a sailor. The mate, who was watching them with a vigilance not inferior to their own, immediately re-

plied that it was a sick man, who had been long confined to his birth. His promptitude was successful : sick men they did not want ; and the sailor was left undisturbed—his freedom the fruit of his well-timed stratagem, and of the expertness of the mate in promoting it.

The second party came more openly, and without observing the same stillness of approach, consequently all the sailors who were likely to suit them, were secreted before they could reach the deck ; and from the mate receiving them frankly, and assuring them that they were too late in their visit, in consequence of their comrades having but just preceded them, and taken away the greater part of the ship's company, they did not subject the vessel to so minute and prying a search, but, after looking generally round the ship, went quietly away without a man.

LETTER XXXI.

Senate house, and general assembly of Barbadoes. Punch and Sangaree a pleasant part of the debate. Altercation in the court of Chancery. Interesting party dine with the mess of the Lord Sheffield. Hazardous escape of two Englishmen from confinement. Honorable conduct of Victor Hugue's secretary. Remarks on bribery and corruption—on patriotism. Self-love, and the love of fame stronger incentives to action than love of country.

Barbadoes, March 15.

I NOW take up my pen, to you after making a visit to the senate house, and being present at a sitting of the general assembly of the island. The proceedings were conducted according to the routine of our House of Commons, which the assembly regards as its model. The representatives, like ours, are returned from the provinces, two, not, indeed, from each county, but from each parish: and, there being eleven parishes in the island, the assembly, consequently, consists of twenty-two members.

As in our house, so in theirs, the person who presides is denominated—"the speaker"

—the *bearer* had perhaps been more correct, as he happens to be the only person who is precluded from speaking in the debate, and is appointed, for the express purpose of hearing all others, who, through him, address their arguments to the house.

Among the members we recognized several of the gentlemen whom we had seen in our marooning excursion into the country. It did not happen to be a sitting of great interest to strangers, there being but little before the house for discussion, and, consequently, few debates. Reading and passing a militia act, and some other bills, constituted nearly the whole business of the meeting. One part of the proceedings, however, we thought to be strictly in the ----- *order of the day*. It was excessively warm, and we were sadly parching with thirst, when two persons suddenly appeared with a large bowl, and a two quart glass filled with punch and fangaree. These were presented to “Mr. Speaker” who, after dipping deep into the bowl, passed it among the members: nor was the audience forgotten, for we were most gratefully taught that the hospitality, so universal in the island, lives even in the senate. The glass was handed

up to us, and we found that it was correctly *in order* for strangers to join in this part of the debate. It came at a moment peculiarly opportune, and we drank deeply and cordially to our friends, and the house of assembly.

The court of Chancery, with the governor as president, was sitting in a chamber above, and, suddenly, a loud clamour, indicating discord and confusion, was heard from that quarter; we, therefore, left the house of assembly and ascended to the upper house, in the desire of ascertaining what could possibly have caused such turbulent proceedings; when we found this august assembly totally absorbed in a quarrel between two of its members, who had interrupted the business of the sitting, and diverted the attention of the house exclusively to their personal dispute. Each remained obstinately inflexible, with regard to the required acknowledgment, and neither could be brought to any terms of concession; hence, after a long interruption, it proved that the house had only to leave it to be settled as a personal quarrel, according to the feelings of the parties. Perhaps it had been more consistent had the court, from the first, main-

tained its own dignity, and not suffered its proceedings to have yielded to a personal altercation within its own walls, which, there, it might have prevented, but which between the individuals it had not the power to control. There appeared no prospect of a reconciliation between the parties, nor of the harmony of the court being sufficiently re-established for the business of the meeting to be resumed; we therefore left them, in order to pursue our further engagements.

You will be pleased to know that we have, lately, had a very interesting party to dine with us on board the *Lord Sheffield*; among whom were three gentlemen who had recently returned from imprisonment—one from France, the others from Guadeloupe. The narrative of their confinement and treatment, together with some anecdotes of persons whom they had about them, afforded us much amusement, and gave to their details a high degree of interest.

One of the gentlemen, who had been taken to Guadeloupe, was confined on board a

prison ship, with several others of our countrymen, where, being treated with great rigour, and fed with a very scanty allowance of bad food, he entered into a confidential agreement, with one of his fellow-prisoners, to concert some means of escape; and, one day, seeing a boat, convenient for their purpose, come to the ship, they stepped over the side of the vessel, and descending suddenly into it, as it lay alongside, immediately threw overboard three of the five negroes, who were in it, and compelled the other two to take up their oars, and assist in rowing them away.

The success of this perilous enterprise was equal to the boldness with which it was undertaken. The sentinels fired at them in vain: being once clear of the ship they pulled the oars with vigour, and, encouraging the blacks to their aid, were soon out of reach. Neither boats, nor bullets were able to overtake them: they were quickly at sea, in their open skiff, and, gladly, entrusted themselves to the mercy of the elements. The weather favored them, and they soon made a port of safety in a British island.

The manner in which the other gentleman who had been confined in Guadaloupe obtained his release was also attended with peculiar, and strongly marked circumstances. Having an opportunity of speaking with the secretary of Victor Hugues, he represented to him in strong colours the very serious personal injury his confinement might bring upon him, and urged the absolute impossibility of his release being injurious to any individual of the French nation, supporting his appeal with the offer of a sum nearly equal to 1200*l.* sterling, to be paid *au citoyen secretaire*, provided he would contribute his aid in obtaining him and two of his friends permission to leave the island. The secretary rejected the offer with disdain, expressing both anger and astonishment that he should dare to imagine that he was capable of being seduced by a bribe; adding that "formerly Frenchmen were venial and might be *bought*; but now, citoyen, we are republicans! and a good republican requires not a bribe to encourage him to the execution of his duty, nor is capable of being, thereby, impelled to commit a breach of it." He, nevertheless, listened with attention to the pecu-

liar severity of the case, and having heard the particulars, appeared to feel a degree of interest regarding the hardships that were represented. Upon leaving the gentleman he said he would try to intercede in his behalf; and intimated a hope that he might be able in the course of a week to communicate some report to him. A few days only had elapsed when the secretary returned, bringing with him the prisoner's release, which he presented to him, with felicitations, expressing himself happy in being the means of his regaining his liberty, and, peremptorily, refusing to accept, even the slightest compliment for the service he had rendered him.

Would all men act thus, my friend, of how little consequence were it whether they were denominated republicans, aristocrats, or royalists! What the form of government, or who should rule the land, could be of little consequence, were honor and virtue made the rulers of men's actions. Speaking from the warm feelings of the heart a very elegant writer has said, "I cannot be more convinced of the truth of any demonstration in Euclid than I am that that system of politics

must be best by which those I love are made happy"—but, perhaps, it might be said, with still greater correctness, that *that system of government must be best, where virtue, among the people, most prevails.*

It is idle to declaim against a government, while individuals—while even *those who complain* have not virtue enough to withstand the seducing lures of corruption! Let the people be virtuous, and the government will never be corrupt. Were men to resist bribery, and to expose their seducers to public reproach, few attempts would be made upon their independence. But alas! even those who are loudest in railing against corruption, but too commonly, when the magic wand approaches *themselves* evince that it was not virtue raised their voices! Too often the disordered appetite, which calls aloud for the high condiments of privation and patriotism, feels no nausea from a change of diet, but finds all its acrid gnawings speedily appeased by a well-dressed dish of - - - - *loaves and fishes!*

Perhaps it may be doubted whether a true patriot, in the full extent of the term,

ever existed, that is, a man who could feel himself so devoutly and abstractedly a patriot as, wholly, to forego every personal consideration, and devote himself *exclusively* to his country. Individuals, in convention, may consent to give up a portion of their personal rights, for the general good, and for the superior advantages accruing to themselves, in society : but, perhaps, no man can love his country better than himself, or become so pure a patriot as to sacrifice his personal ease, his comfort, his happiness, and even his life, from a *fondness for the soil* whereon he was born.

Self-love would seem a more powerful and more essential principle of our nature than love of our country, and, without foregoing this great leading principle, a man may be a very good patriot.—They are in no degree incompatible, and, consistent with the duties he owes himself, a man may possess enough of patriotic virtue to call forth all the high duties demanded of him by his country.

The love of fame, as a branch of self-love, is a much stronger principle of action than patriotism, and may lead to acts, whence

the country is highly benefitted, and which from intimacy of connexion, when only superficially examined, may appear to arise from patriotism alone. Perhaps the greatest deeds of the most renowned patriots, whether of ancient or modern times, could the principle from which they were derived be fairly traced, or the secret motives which caused them be fully disclosed, would be found to have arisen, not barely from a patriotic feeling, but, in a still greater degree, from that powerful and infatuating passion—the love of fame. Could those modern great men, or those heroes of antiquity, who are said to have died for their country, have been fully made to believe that from the moment they ceased to breathe their names would never again be heard, or uttered—that their remembrance would at no future moment find place in the minds of their friends or descendants, or in the annals of their country; and that their deeds would be instantly forgotten, and blotted out in utter oblivion, it is more than probable they had never regarded all the good their country might derive from the sacrifice as an equivalent for the loss of life—and

that, consequently, those great acts (said to be) of patriotism had never been known.

It has been said that—"were there no uniform there would be no soldiers." However much this may be doubted, it will, perhaps, be less disputed, that if no personal honor or fame were to attach to those great deeds, which are said to arise from patriotism, few would die from an abstract love of country.

There is a happy something in our nature which leads all men to extol honorable and virtuous actions, and to deprecate such as are corrupt and vicious: however depraved himself, there is a certain upright conduct which, in others, even the most dissolute does and must approve! Every one, my friend, will esteem the conduct of the republican secretary, which has led me to fatigue you with these remarks. Alas! that every one would learn to imitate it! Then might these dire political contests cease; and then were it unimportant to Europe and the world whether France shall, finally, succeed in establishing a republican government, or grow weary of blood-stained faction and revert to a monarchy!

LETTER XXXII.

A packet arrives at Barbadoes. Carlisle Bay, and Bridgetown one great scene of confusion. High feast of perusing the news-papers. The fleet so long expected at Barbadoes still in England. Season growing late for military operations. Report that honors are to be conferred on Admiral Christian for his great exertions in taking care of the convoy. Admiral Cornwallis expected in the West Indies. Hope of peace vanished. Austrian armies checked and defeated. Scarcity of corn and specie in England. Grenada in danger of being taken by the Brigands.—St. Vincent - - - by the Charibs. A French spy detected at Barbadoes.

Barbadoes, March 16.

WHAT a day of hurry, confusion, and solicitude! a packet has at length arrived! From December the 9th, to March the 16th, have we been separated from you without hearing one word of our friends, or scarcely of our country. How shall I convey to you any just idea of the scene this day has produced by the impatient multitude crowding in anxious eagerness to obtain letters, to see the papers, and to hear the news!

Early in the morning a signal appeared at the fort, implying that a vessel was in sight. Soon afterwards, this was lowered down, and the packet signal hoisted in its place ; when instead of the pleasing expectation of seeing a vessel of our fleet, and learning news of the convoy, all were on tiptoe in the still more lively hope of hearing news, not only of our unfortunate armada, but of Europe, of England, and our friends ! Concerning the fleet we had grown quite weary of conjecture, and now saw it probable that we might obtain more accurate intelligence respecting it, by way of England, than by any ship which had been separated from it upon the passage.

On the packet making the harbour it caused a crowd not unlike what you may have seen at a sailing or rowing match of boats upon the Thames. Each wishing to be first, and all being anxious to learn the news, the vessel was beset on every quarter before she could come to anchor, and the whole bay became one animated scene of crowded ships and moving boats. Many who could not go to the packet as she entered the harbour, repaired on shore to be ready, there, to meet the news.

The people of the town, also, thronged the beach in anxious multitudes. All was busy expectation. Impatience scarcely allowed the bags to reach the office : every avenue to which was so closely blockaded that the house was quite in a state of siege, and the post-master and his mansion in danger of being taken by storm.

I. was about eleven o'clock when the inspector general, Dr. Master, and myself, following the common impulse, went to inquire for our letters and papers ; but we could only advance within sight of the post-office walls,—to approach the door was utterly impossible. Finding the crowd to be still so deep, we rambled about the town, and made calls upon various persons in order to glean the news. We found that it was the first January packet, which had arrived, and hence it could not be expected to bring the regular papers later than to the 6th of that month, although it failed so late as the 9th of February, having been detained at Falmouth waiting for a favorable wind.

Seeing no prospect of ascertaining whether we had any letters, we returned from the hot and crowded town to take our dinners quietly on board, and to enjoy the high feast of reading the papers, which our obliging and attentive friend, Mr. Hinde, had kindly allowed us to put into our pockets. You will believe that this formed a most exquisite desert after our meal, and was of more grateful flavor than all the fruits and sweets of a tropical soil.

To an Englishman a news-paper is a never-failing source of amusement ; and the high delight thence derived appears to be, in some measure, peculiar to our nation. If, therefore, even at home, and in a peaceful hour, it be a great pleasure to take up the Times or the Chronicle of the morning, I put it to your feelings to judge what must have been our enjoyment, when I tell you that, at this wide distance from our country, and after being long shut in ignorance regarding it, we have been quietly seated in the shade of a cool cabin to peruse the papers in the regular series of a whole fortnight. We remained for several hours secluded and in silence,—