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A SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE

EXTRAORDINARY LIFE

AND TRAVELS OF

H. L. L.-----

NATIVE OF *St. DOMINGO*,

NOW A PRISONER OF WAR

AT ASHBOURN,

IN DERBYSHIRE;

Shewing the Remarkable steps of Divine Providence towards him, and the means of his Conversion to GOD.



Naked came I out of my Mothers womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD. Job. chap. 1 ver. 21 Thy Righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgment are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest Man and Beast. Psalm. Chap. 36 ver. 6.

WRITTEN BY HIS OWN HAND.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

PRINTED AND SOLD BY PARKES ASHBOURN,
BURDITT LONDON, AND PRITCHARD DERBY.

Price One Shilling.

Yellow

WILSON YATES A.

Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



OBSERVATION.

—O—

IT is not doubtful, (*as it is a common method in this world,*) that my life, and all what is contained therein, will be contradicted and criticised; but as it hath pleased GOD to reveal unto me the mystery of the way of the truth, (*of which I hope I am not ignorant;*) therefore I expect persecutions, contradictions, and criticism to take place; knowing, that whosoever will live according to the Gospel of CHRIST, must while in this vale of tears go through much sufferings and pains: for thus is the road that leads to everlasting happiness. Therefore let every true born soul know, that as our SAVIOUR suffered for us: so must we in return for the blessing of Redemption, suffer for his sake. *for unto us it is given, in the behalf of CHRIST, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake. phi. chap. 1. ver. 29.* I therefore leave to the public to say what they please of this book; but the GOD in whom I have trusted shall be the judge of it.

Finally, the decisive day of our LORD, will put a determination to all our works, whether they be acceptable, or not.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

The history of the city of Boston is a subject of great interest and importance. It is a city of many centuries, and its history is full of interesting events and incidents. The city was founded in 1630, and since that time it has grown and prospered. It has been the seat of many important events, and it has played a prominent part in the history of the United States. The city is now one of the largest and most important cities in the world, and its history is a subject of great interest to all who are interested in the history of the United States.

TO THE READER.



IN reading this little work, (*not only to read but to meditate,*) you will see the great disappointments that there is in those things, [*the riches of this world.*] which men put their trust. Oh! reader, art thou of that unhappy number? if thou art, delay no longer, but go to JESUS CHRIST, who is the fountain of durable riches, and take with thee the words of the *Poët*? “whom have I
“in heaven but thee that can thy creature
“bless? what were all the Earth to me,
“if a stranger to thy peace? all is vani-
“ty but CHRIST, pain and darkness,
“and despair, rankling in a sinner’s
“breast, till thou art present there.”

Art thou in prosperity, be Joyful, and praise thy GOD; art thou in adversity, consider: for GOD hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him. Be not as those, which through weakness of faith, dare not trust their GOD, whensoever in poverty or distress; for I never knew of any that trusted in GOD, and were yet confounded; He surely will supply the wants of all those who

being sensible of their sins, groan after him: and lo, (*says CHRIST*) I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

Read, and read again this book, that thou mightest know, that wheresoever GOD hath a child, there will his eyes be, and that to protect him; though he may run to a certain degree of sins and wickedness, but at last He will snatch him as a bran from the eternal burning, and let him know, that it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of his good pleasure to shew mercy. "Oh! had not GOD shewn his
"mercy to me, where should I have
"been? in the broad road that leads to
"everlasting misery, yea in the dark
"and dolesome dungeon of despair, with-
"out a glimmering ray of hope; everlast-
"ingly bewailing my miserable destiny."
See how the words of the holy prophet prove true to my case; "I am sought
"of them that asked not for me; I am
"found of them that sought me not."

Oh! if ever I am so happy as to reach within a blessed view of the happy possession of saints, what a debtor shall I be to mercy and free grace alone; to

save such an ungovernable and unwilling creature as I: "Oh! my soul it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks*! thou, who hast so long despised, rejected, and set at nought the commandments of GOD, art now through thy SAVIOUR'S obedience and blood brought to know the way of Salvation."

Dear reader, art thou a blasphemer, or a despiser of the words of GOD? if thou art, I will advise thee to take a warning in reading my case, and to consider about it, for fear thou shouldest be plunged for ever into eternal misery. Delay no longer to open thy case before the merciful GOD, though it should be ever so desperate; for He is all-sufficient, yea all-powerful, to plead the cause of thine immortal soul, and to bring to pass whatsoever thou shalt commit into his hands, for He ever liveth to make intercession for sensible† sinners, and to brigh-

* I allude this passage to a Ship going straightways against the wind; for it is no more in the power of a sinner to resist the will and mercies of GOD, than it is possible for a Ship to go straightways against the wind.

† Remember, that GOD makes us sensible that we are sinners.

ten their evidences for the approaching of a future and everlasting Glory.

Didst thou ever read, or hear mentioned, of the compassionate invitation of our blessed SAVIOUR when He lived on Earth; where He saith, "him that cometh to me (*believing*) I will in no wise cast out, but I will raise him up at the last day." Perhaps thou say'st in thine own heart, CHRIST is no more upon the Earth that I might go to him. Knowest thou not faithless man or woman, that though CHRIST is no more upon the Earth, that He is the same yesterday, to day, and for ever; and hath the same power to save and to bring to heaven whom He will: and now that He is in his holy mansion, is He not still the same? yea, He is still entreating his Father on our behalf, and his bowels are always melting in mercy towards us his rebellious Children; and his most precious arms and pierced hands, which we ourselves have crucified, are always extended to receive prodigals and backsliders home: for I am (*says CHRIST*) the friend of sinners, I eateth and drinketh with them; therefore let him that is athirst come, and

take of the water of life freely.

*Oh! reader, whoever thou art, I pray
GOD through Grace, that thou and I,
might be of that happy and highly favoured
number, that shall sing above with the innu-
merable legions of blessed Angels, the chorus
of the victory of a wounded and suffering
SAVIOUR. AMEN. H. L. L.*

1752

INTRODUCTION.

Ever since the GOD of truth was pleased to open my blind eyes, and Lead me to the knowledge of the truth, I have often meditated upon my Life past, and how the divine providence of GOD, has delivered, and preserved, such a worthless creature as I out of divers dangers: I therefore think it proper and useful to take my pen, and give a short account of my Life, and my calling to the knowledge of the true and living GOD, hoping that by the Blessing of the Eternal JEHOVAH, it may be made useful to those who Love to meditate upon the mysterious ways of the wonder working GOD.

I was born in the once proud and haughty Island of *St. Domingo*, in the Parish of *St. Rose*, of Ancient and respectable parents. My Father and Mother, were the most accomplished union according to their Religion and ways of worshiping; they were equal in fortune, for they had each a plantation, when united together made them an exceeding good livelihood.

But I have not taken my pen for to write my parents History, but my own: here then my narration shall begin. In the year one thousand seven-hundred and eighty-three, the Sixth of September, betwixt eight and nine o'Clock in the morning I was brought forth into a World of troubles, and was baptised the twenty-fourth of November in the same year, by *Father Julien Capuchin Missionary Curate*; and had for God-father my Mother's Brother, and for God-mother my Father's Sister.

From the day that I was born, I never enjoyed a good state of health; for I was so weak and Sickly, that I looked more like a Spectre than a human creature; for my Death was daily and Hourly expected, in me was

seen the very picture of Death: I was in that situation till I attained my seventh year; when I was forced to leave a Mother by whom I was dearly loved, and a Father that cherished me above all earthly creatures.

For one Morning I yet very well remember, (*though I did not expect it,*) my Father called me and my two eldest Brothers also, and lead us into my Mother's chamber, where I saw her weeping bitterly: when there I could not help asking her what was the matter that she was crying so; she made no reply but by sighs and tears; when in a sympathetic manner she took me up in her arms and pressed me with tenderness to her bosom and bedewed my innocent face with tears; it was with great difficulty that she consented to let me go; and then she kissed my Brothers in the like manner, when we left her to sooth her sorrows, and to console herself to the loss: in the mean time my Father handed us into our coach, and gave orders to drive away to Town.

I was some time silent, effected by this sudden change; when looking through the window of the coach, I saw both my little Sisters stretching out their arms as if it were to bid me the last Adieu; the scene was so affecting, that I could not restrain myself but to ask my Father where we were going too; (*for I did not know any thing about that sudden journey.*) He satisfied me, by saying, that he was sending us into *France* for our education, and that he would spare no expence to give us a good one.

In the afternoon we reached the Town, and alighted at the Crown-Hotel: my Father being not well in health, we were obliged to delay our voyage for the space of three weeks; and when the appointed time was come to separate us from a Father dear and tender, I was taken very ill, in which state I remained for some days; at the same time the Captain of the Ship came to let my Father know that he could not wait any longer, and that he was to weigh Anchor the next day. My Father, though very ill, said, "well, they shall be ready to go with you to-morrow." (*I was then but indifferent in health.*)

The most affecting parting took place, he took us by the hand and led us to the Sea-side where we were to embark, and said, in the most pathetic manner. — "My most beloved Children! the time is now come that you must be parted from a Father, by whom you are dearly loved; receive for the last time from my almost dead lips, the pledge and tenderness of my love towards you; for I know I shall never live to see you again, so take the last parting of your Father, for you shall never see him any more; to day is the last time that you will behold the Author of your days: my duty forced me to send you into *France*, and your education will be a friend to you when in distress."

Before we parted he recommended us to a gentleman that was on board, and that nothing should be wanted for our care. And then he withdrew, extending his arms once more towards us in the

most distressing manner: so that we were filled with grief and sorrow to see our Father in such a melancholy state.

We began our course with a fair wind and good weather, which continued for several days.

About twenty days after we were upon the Sea, the wind rose with such violence, that we expected every instant to be cast into the depth of the Ocean: we was in that situation for a considerable time, till at last it pleased the ALMIGHTY to appease the waves, and to send fair weather. We were seventy-two days in crossing the immense Ocean, at the end of which we landed at *Bordeaux*. Myself and my Brothers were received with great kindness by our Banker, to whom we delivered the letter concerning our coming into *France*.

The next day we were sent to school in the same Town, to give us the first beginning of education before we could go to College.

Three months after we were arrived in *France*, we received a letter sealed in black from our Mother, in which the Death of our Father was confirmed: his last parting from this World is too cutting to relate. (“*I hope he died happy, and hope to meet him in Glory.*”)

Though I was so young, the impression of the Death of my Father plunged me into such a melancholy state, that soon after I was seized with a violent fever; no rest was to be found for a long while: in the strongest of my pain I used to get out of my bed and run about the chamber like a madman, crying out, “Oh! my

“Father! my Father is no more.” I was in that state for six months, before my health was established.

As my Father's desire was to give us a good education, he told my Mother when on his Death-bed, that we must be removed as soon as possible to the College: accordingly we were sent into the South of *France*, at the distance of two-hundred and twenty miles from *Bordeaux*, to the College of *Soreze*, one of the most eminent places of teaching that ever existed since the World began; for every thing, consisting of Arts and Sciences was to be learned.

Here is an account of what the College consisted. Teaching Masters, ninety; besides ten prefects to maintain the police into the yards: and twelve-hundred scholars. Instruments of Music of all sorts to be learned; Latin, Greek, German, Spanish, English, Italian, and French tongues to be learned; Writing of different sorts; Reading, Arithmetic; Drawing of all kinds, both of Human-likeness, as also the Landscape: Dancing, both French and English; Ancient History, Chronology, Literature, Declamation, Fortification, Structure, Poesy, Rhetoric, Philosophy, Natural History, Geometry, Geography, Trigonometry, Statics, Fencing, Riding, Military Exercise, Natation, Architecture, Algebra, Mythology, Theology, Cosmography. &c.

I took such a delight in learning, that all my Masters were pleased with my conduct; but this did not last long, for one evening the Director

of the College called me and my Brothers, and said, " here is a letter from your Mother that " I have just received." On opening the letter I saw these words.

My most beloved Children, it is with grief and sorrow, that I took the pen to inform you of all the misfortunes which have destroyed St. Domingo; your fortune is lost for ever, it is only in your Education, that you will be able to recover it: my long silence would perhaps make you think that I have perished among so many Victims which were destroyed in that unhappy Island, no! the LORD was pleased to save me from so many dangers, that I might be useful again to you; and I hope that by his Mighty Power, He will restore you again to the bosom of a languishing Mother, whose arms are always open to receive your tender embraces.*

My dear Children, I can hardly hold my pen to inform you of the gloomy and unhappy end of both your Sisters; they are no more! poison has put them into the grave: for all the springs and wells were poisoned, by which perished many others also. Your Uncle and Aunt, P.— with their Children, in number thirteen, had their heads cut off upon a block in less than half-an-hour. Your Uncle V.— was cut to pieces upon an hedge †. A great many of your relations I need not mention, perished in the most cruel manner: the mag-

* Behold, He taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, what doest thou? Job. chap. 9. ver. 12.

† Being Persued by the Negroes, and as he was escaping over an hedge, his Horse alighted; where the Barbarous Negroes cut him in small pieces with their Swords.

nificent City of du Cap-Francais is burnt down to ashes by the Negroes; no more for the present Adieu, Adieu, Adieu; my poor unfortunate Children, Adieu. M. L. F. M. L.

After reading this letter, the Director said unto us, "my dear little friends, I am deeply sorry for all your misfortunes, and still more so, that I am obliged to send you out of the College; but my means do not permit me to keep you any longer, you must be ready against to morrow morning, I shall bear the charges of your Travel from hence to *Bordeaux*: here is a letter for your Banker, that you are to deliver soon after your arrival thither."

Never was a sentence more dreadful to me than this; torrents of tears fell from my eyes; my Heart was almost broken: I was in such a deplorable situation concerning these sad tidings that I thought I should never be able to see the returning of the Day. Clouds of Gloominess hung upon my mind; all the night long no rest was to be found, neither in mind or body; and was forced to rise up, as I layed me down.

We begun our journey in a coach and went as far as *Toulouse*, a City, where we took a Boat, and finished our voyage by water, and arrived safe at *Bordeaux*. We went to our Banker, and were received with great kindness.

During our residence there, the most atrocious cruelty was exercised upon the people of the Town*; Blood was daily shed by those bar-

* Alluding to the French Revolution

barous race of Human kind, who cry down Government: nothing was seen but terror and abomination; the innocent Blood was continually running under the fatal stroke of the *Guilotine*, and every branch of Royalty was to be destroyed: being afraid that we should be apprehended, we were put at an old Dutch Woman's house not far from our Bankers: there we enjoyed some little comfort, being quite retired from the World. She being a protestant, (*and our banker likewise,*) she used to entertain us with a deal of conversation about CHRIST, and shewed us all the errors of Popery; but all this did not enter into my mind, because I was always thinking about my unfortunate fate. My Brothers used to go with her to Chapel, which was just by the house; but as for me I was so unhappy, that I never could constrain myself to go; though she used to say, "your happiness that you have lost, will be found there, if you could take upon yourself to go:" but all this was quite new to me, and I gave but very little attention to it. I remained with her till GOD was pleased to put a stop to the shedding of blood.

About that time I heard that my Aunt V.— was arrived in Town; I hurried myself to go and see her: and found that she was married again, and to a stranger, who received me with the greatest kindness. He being a man that followed the Tobacco business, made a proposal to our Banker that we should stay with him as being near relations to us, which was easily granted: and we began to work with him in

his business. At first he shewed us a deal of kindness, but it soon vanished away, for he became a tyrant to us, especially against me who was the youngest: many a time I went to bed with a hungry belly; I wanted all the necessaries of life, hardly clothes to put on my back, beaten shamefully; I was the greatest slave that ever lived, for I used to go to work as soon as it was light, and work till midnight: many a time I was so harassed and tired, that I used to fall asleep at my work, and awoke in the same place to begin again my slavery. I was so tired of that course of life, that I resolved to run away; accordingly I did, and went to my Banker for protection; but my pretended Uncle knowing of it, came and told him not to listen to what I said, that I was a Child and wanted correction. But he said unto him, "those Children are not yours, they are under my care, and for that reason I will not have them treated in such a cruel manner; and am sorry I ever let them go to live with you, but for the future I hope you will behave better." He promised that he would.

My Banker bought me a suit of clothes which I took with me, and followed my barbarous Tyrant. When at home he appeared more reserve, but for all that, I could perceive in his dissembled face that he still bore a hatred against me. I was not mistaken, for he soon began again with me, and threatened to flog me. I rose up from my chair in a passion filled with despair, and said to him; "I am nothing

" to you, neither Child or relation, why should
 " you thus ill use me? if my poor Father who is
 " now mixed among the dust was alive, he would
 " have taken my part, and not suffered me to be
 " abused thus by such a Rascally beggar, and vile
 " Wretch as you are *." He flew into such a
 passion, that he did not know what to do; till the
 Devil which was so powerful in him, excited him
 to dispatch me to the other World. For that pur-
 pose he seized a long knife † which was by, and
 run towards me to perpetrate his atrocious deed;
 but seeing him coming with such vehemence, I
 ran under the table, by which he missed his aim
 and fell all his length upon the floor: in the
 mean time both my Brothers jumped upon his
 back and were assisted by my Cousin and others,
 to take the abominable weapon out of his hands.
 He was in such a rage when he was set free, that
 he frothed like a wild beast. I took the opportu-
 nity while they were with him, to fetch a few
 of my clothes which was in the room next to that
 where he was, and coming again before his pre-
 sence with my bundle under my arm, I said,
 " Brothers follow me, let this miserable Savage
 " live by himself;" then I run from the spot and
 went to my Banker, and gave him an account of

* This was the first time I ever dar'd to contend with him,
 but the remembrance of my Father and former state rose in
 me such a violent spirit, that I spoke to him with such a
 Gloomy tone of voice, that all those that were present could
 not help but pity my situation.

† No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper.
 Isaiah chap. 54. ver. 17.

every thing that had passed. He was sorry to hear it, but said, "there is a Ship that is going to *Guadeloupe* in the West-Indies, I will send you there as soon as possible: when there you will perhaps find an opportunity to join your Mother."

We were made ready for our voyage that was to take place in a few days; our Banker gave us a draught for one hundred Dollars, on a marchant in *Guadeloupe*.

We took leave of him, and thanked him for the care he had taken of us during our residence in that Country. We began our voyage with a fair gale of wind, but it soon altered, and we were obliged to cast Anchor at the mouth of the River, and remained there till the weather was fair: the eleventh day seeing the weather and wind favorable we weighed Anchor, no sooner were we under sail, but there rose such a violent tempest, that we thought our endeavours would have been without success; for we were surrounded by dreadful rocks, and the Sea roared with such impetuosity, that it filled our Ship almost with water. Another Ship that was close by us, was already dashed to pieces against the rocks. Never was a scene more Gloomy, and cutting than this; for we had seventy Women and Children passengers on board, which put Terror into every Heart: nothing was heard but cries and Prayers. We were in such great dangers that no one had strength to work, and we left the Ship to GOD's mercy, expecting every minute to share the same

fate as the other Vessel had. The most affecting sight was to be seen, every soul prostrated upon the deck, calling and exalting their voices for GOD's merciful protection; till at last a young Man who was a Passenger* started up and taking the helm, said, "my Friends do not despair, I will be bound to take you out of danger, revive your spirits, and help me says he, "we shall soon get free from the rocks." So we did, and were relieved from perishing amongst frightful rocks. But for all that the wind appeared not, for it continued six and thirty days with great violence, very often we were near to be buried for ever in the Bowels of the Sea; at last we had fair weather and wind to proceed on our voyage, and arrived safe at the Island of *Guadeloupe* at the end of fifty-six days.

After we were Landed, my Brothers and myself went to the Governor for a pass, to go and join our Mother who was in the *United-States-of-America*; but the answer he made us was this, "the Republic is a good Mother, besides that, the Island is besieged, and we want Soldiers." As we could not get a pass, we went to seek for the Merchant that the draught was drawn upon; and having found him, we offered him the bill which he took and payed us generously.

My eldest Brother being a young man grown up, he made him a proposal to stay with him

* This passenger was a Captain which understood the Navigable part of the river.

as a Clerk, and said that he would satisfy him according to his behaviour: my Brother accepted his kind offer willingly. As for me and my other Brother, being too young for any kind of business, we were recommended to an old Lady who received us with much humanity; for she maintained us for six months or thereabouts. In the mean time I began to tire of being without employ, and acquainted my old benefactress of my disposition, which was to go upon the Sea and learn to be a Sea-man; she said, "if that is your resolution, I will recommend you to a Captain that I know;" accordingly she did, and I went on board of a Privateer as a cabin boy: and a Clerk's place was provided for my other Brother; so we began our course of Life in the like manner as it is described. My rank being a cabin boy as before mentioned, I was to clean the chamber,* wash the dishes, and sweep the deck twice a day.

We weighed the Anchor and went a Cruizing: we were a long while before we took any prize; at last, one morning we saw a Ship, and immediately we chased her, but all our endeavours were without success, for we could not attain her though we sailed all the day long; and when night was coming on the Ship we were chasing tacked about and sailed back towards us, and when near enough she fired a gun, and made signal to know what Nation we were; but we did not answer the signal, supposing

* Called in Sea terms a Cabin, ...

she was an English Sloop of war: so we prepared for the conflict. The enemy seeing that we did not answer their signal, did not doubt any longer but we were enemies to them; so they came as near as they could, and fired a broad side: as we were ready for them, we returned in like manner; and the engagement took place with courage and obstinacy on both sides; and fought for a long space of time without knowing what Nation we were fighting with, though we guessed it was English, but we were not sure of it. At length of time an opportunity offered itself; we hailed her in English, but no answer, in French, no answer, in Spanish, and yet no answer was to be had; so we did not know what to think of their mysterious silence. We renewed the Battle again with great courage and Boldness, and attempted three times to jump on board of her; but she always avoided it: our people were so enraged, that they unanimously cried out, sooner die! than let her go. We fought like Lions on both sides, from seven o'Clock till midnight, at which time a misfortune happened on board our Ship; a box full of cartridges and gunpowder blew up, and set the Ship on fire, which put disorder among our men. The enemy, joyful to see that spectacle, (*though dreadful,*) began to shout aloud, Huzza! Huzza! thinking that we should soon be theirs, but they were mistaken; our brave Captain, who was an American, soon put the fire out, by dipping mattresses and blankets into the Sea, and then

quenched it in that manner. We begun again to dispute the Victory till one o'Clock; and each side being tired at that time, we took a pause of about half-an-hour; and coming again to action, the enemy hailed us, "ah! says our Captain, well, we will be more polite than them, for we will answer though they were not willing to do it when we hailed them." Accordingly we answered that we were come from *Demerara*:* the enemy was so exasperated at the answer, that they answered back by saying, "you are a D****d Liar,† and renewed again the battle with great anger and intrepidity; the bravery was equal on each part; our deck was covered with Blood and Dead Bodies; all our rigging was cut off by the bullets; our Bowsprit, and Fore-top-mast were cut down: the enemy seemed to be very much damaged, for their Fore-mast and main-top-mast, with their Bowsprit, were cut down. We were so tired and disordered, that we were forced to retire on both sides, after a conflict of nine hours, which was from seven at night till four o'Clock in the morning. After an hour of rest, we were employed to re-

* Though we did not come from that place, we applied the untruth as you see above, only that we might deceive them and pass for an English Ship; for our Ship was a great deal less then theirs: besides that we were much damaged, both by the Sea, and by Fighting.

† They were come from Demerara themselves, and they knew that there was no Ship of war in that Harbour. We heard after that the name of the Ship was the Pelican, and carried eighteen Guns of nine Pounders, which were a great advantage over us, who carried but twelve Guns of four Pounders.

pair the damages we had received, and return into harbour; for we were in too bad a state to stay at Sea any longer. On our journey back we had the good luck to take two prizes, one came from *Africa* laden with Negroes, and the other which was retaken, was come from *Norway*, loaded with gin, butter, and combustibles &c. We arrived safe in the harbour of *Point-a-Pitre* in *Guadeloupe*.

I went to see my Brothers as soon as I was landed; the eldest was removed to another place where he thought he could do better, and the other took example from me, for he was just going out of the Harbour when I entered in.

In a few weeks our Ship was entirely repaired, and we ventured again upon the Sea; our design was to go a cruizing upon the coast of *Brazil* to meet with some rich Portuguese Ship. We steered our course for the appointed place, and met with a deal of contrary wind, and bad weather; but all this did not discourage us, for we proceeded on our way with cheerfulness, and now and then a glass of grog to drive away the care of past sorrows*. One day about noon we saw a Ship, and instantly chased her, we continued the chase till very late at night before we could come up to her, and when near we hailed, but she proved to be a dutch vessel, which disappointed us very much: so we left her to proceed on her voyage because they were not at war with us. We likewise went further

* This is a real Mariners principle.

on, and were a considerable time upon the Sea; till at length we begun to perceive that our provisions were short, and being a great number of miles from the shore, we were afraid of being starv'd with hunger; so we made haste to the nearest land if possible, before we should entirely perish of such a languishing and hard death, for we were perishing with hunger and thirst; every moment we expected to be forced to come to that most horrible and shocking point of eating Human flesh, and become cannibals for want of food. Many were so weak that they could not work, nor get up from the place where they lay. We were several days in that awful and pitiful situation, exposed to all sorts of dangers and evils; in the most painful of my agonies I swore that if GOD spared me to put my feet upon Land, I would never go to Sea again. At last the LORD smiled on us, and spared us once more: a sea-man who was watching at the top of the mast, shouted, Land! Land*. Never was joy greater in our Hearts than that day, to see ourselves set free from dangers, and safely landed at that most desirable and appointed place; and found that it was *Cayen* near south *America*.

The Doctor went immediately on shore to provide food and refreshment, and ordered that no one should eat any thing without his orders; because, he said, "some will not be wise enough

* In famine he shall Redeem thee from Death. Job chap. 5. ver. 20.

“to content themselves with a little, and if our
 “bodies which have been void for so long a time
 “were filled all at once, it would undoubtedly
 “cause our Death.” So we were fed by degrees
 untill we recovered our former strength. We
 remained at *Cayen* about two months, and then
 departed to go back to *Guadeloupe*.

I was again hardened, and broke the Oath
 that I had made to GOD, by going again upon
 the Sea. About the eighteenth day that we were
 on the Sea we saw a Ship, and chased her;
 in the mean time that we were chasing, arms
 were prepared for the battle: and the Captain
 of Volunteers called me to take care of the
 arms which were upon a large box; so I kneeled
 down and clip'd a great quantity of pistols and
 muskets to prevent them from falling, and all
 their mouths were fixed towards my breast. Not
 long before I was in that posture, the Doctor
 who was below called me; I instantly quitted
 my post and ran to his orders: no sooner had I
 left my position in which I was before, than a
 pistol went off unexpected, and wounded the
 Captain of Volunteers in the knee. I was so
 surprised at this, that I thought, (*and even was
 sure,*) that it was GOD's mercy to spare me;
 for in the posture that I was as before mentioned,
 I could not have escaped being killed upon the
 spot*.

*. He shall deliver thee in six troubles; yea, in seven there
 shall no evil touch thee. In famine He shall Redeem thee from
 Death; and in war from the power of the sword. Job chap.
 5. ver. 19 & 20.

The Ship that we were chasing, when near proved to be a large man of war, and we being too small to attack her, were forced to run away, and happily escaped.

I return, to the Captain of Volunteers, whose wound made such a progress that he was obliged to have his leg, and a part of his thigh cut off; and I, being assistant to the Doctor, assisted to hold his leg while he was performing the operation: all that did not prolong his life many days, for his time was come; he departed eight days after the amputation.

We proceeded on our voyage for *Guadeloupe*, and arrived safe there. Having had so many misfortunes I thought that the Ship was unlucky, and resolved to go no more with it; so I asked for my discharge, and it was granted; but before I sought for another place, I inquired about my Brother who did take pattern by me, and venture to Sea: I heard that he had had good luck, for he had received fifty pounds prize money.

My eldest Brother was in his place still, but a misfortune happened unto him while I was on shore; the Gentleman and the Lady where he was at; were at variance on his account, for his Master was jealous of him, and he was obliged to quit; having nothing to do, he determined to follow our example; and embarked in the same Ship where my other Brother was; they wanted me to go with them, saying, "if we perish, we shall perish in the arms of each other, and if we have good luck, we can work and live together in union:" but I could

not be persuaded, I wanted to have my own way, for I knew that it was enough for me to bear my own misfortunes; without adding to those of my Brothers: so they both took leave of me, and went to seek their fortune.

A few weeks after their departure I embarked on board of a small Privateer, carrying only two swivels, and seventeen men: we sailed and cast Anchor at the Island of *Marie-Galante*, to take some provisions; and again went out for Sea. Soon after, we met with a large Merchant-Man; passing by we hoisted an English colour to deceive her, and having men on board that could speak the English Language perfectly well; we hailed her; she was come from *Martinico* and going to *England*, and had fourteen guns: our Captain said to us, "they think that we are English, but let her sail on, and when night comes we will attack her:" so we followed her at a distance, till the time was come to perform the intrepid design; coming near all was silent, and every one of our Men were ready to jump on board at the first signal; and when near enough orders were Given, and our wishes fulfilled; for we took her with very little resistance, and conveyed her to *Curacao*, a Dutch Island. The cargo consisted of five-hundred and fifty-four hogsheads of Sugar, twelve ditto of Coffee, and eighteen bales of Cotton; which when sold gave every one a prize of fourteen hundred dollars. Being young and foolish, I soon spent a great part of my Money with my comrades, in drinking, dancing, Gambling, &c.

I was sometimes intoxicated for a whole week, and every night at the ball room, along with bad company. I was two months in *Curacao*, and spent five-hundred and forty dollars; after which we proceeded with a larger Ship, which was ready for Sea, in which we sought for a better fortune. A few days after we were out, another prize fell into our hands, which we sent to the place above mentioned; and proceeded on our Voyage, and went to *Bonaires*, a dutch Island, to take some refreshment. After we quitted that place, we perceived that our Ship had a leak, for we had fourteen inches of water in the hold every hour, which forced us to enter into the Harbour of *Porto-Cabello*, a large Spanish City on the coast of the *Meridional America*: we were there two months; and proceeding further, we cast Anchor at *Cocoa-madrilla*, a Spanish Town on the same coast as before mentioned, and remained there but a few days: we went out and cruized for a long while, and having captured no Ships we went into the harbour of *la Guaires*, another Spanish City, to take some provision, for we were short of them.

During our stay there the Lieutenant of the Ship and two men went to take a walk on shore, and were taken up, and put in the inquisition, because they did not bow to the HOST: for as it was related to us by them, that when they were passing through the streets they saw a great procession of Clergymen, going with a large silver Cross, to give the Extreme-Uncion to a sick person; they not knowing the

rules of the Country, passed by, and took no notice: when they were examined, and found under French colours, the inquisitioner could do nothing at them, but release them.

We went out of that abominable Harbour with the design to go back to the happy Island of *Guadeloupe*.

On our way back we took two prizes, but were retaken again; so we went and cast Anchor at *St. Martin*, a French and Dutch Island, and were but a few days there; and strightways we sailed for *Basse-Terre* the Capital City of *Guadeloupe*, and from thence to *Point-a-Pitre*, where I Landed my little treasure which consisted of one hundred and twenty pounds; as I had a Cousin there who was a sober man, I deposited the money in his hands to begin a small trade; and I was determined not to go on the Sea for a long while, as I thought my money would suffice me to live in a decent manner; when I was just going to begin trade, my Cousin was taken very ill of the putrid feyer, and was in great danger of his life. One day he called me, (*he was then very ill,*) and said, "I have lent the money that you have deposited in my hands, to Mrs. Pero*:" I said, very well, you are wise enough to know what you do? he said do not fear, the money is in good hands. I did not care much about him lending my money, because I knew that he

* She kept a linen drapery shop where he boarded and lodg'd.

was too good to do me any injury; but growing worse every day, I began to be afraid; and was going to speak to him to inquire whether had Mrs. Pero given him a receipt or not, I was prevented by her, saying, "he wants some repose and you must not disturb him." She knew too well the matter, or she would not have prevented me speaking to my Cousin: she was nights and days watching in his room for fear I should speak to him. I had no witness who could testify whether she had given him a receipt or not: and was so tormented in mind about it, that I did not know what to do, till I saw he was dying, when I resolved to go into the next chamber where his trunk was, and look in to it if I could find any paper concerning my money: at the time I was looking into the box, she came in, and said, "what are you looking for?" a receipt I said, Madam? she knew then what I meant, and said, "do not be afraid, I have got your money, and you shall have it back again, whether your Cousin live or die." I was a little reconciled by what she said, but she took care that no one was present when she said it: and the day after my Cousin breath'd his last.

I was very much affected at the Death of so near a relation, and went in the Country for a month to alleviate my sorrows: when I returned to Town, I went and asked her for my money, that I wanted it to begin some business: she said I will satisfy your request. And went to her desk, she brought me five and

twenty Portugueses * which she laid on the table, saying, "this is the remainder of your money, here is a bill † of what I have paid for your Cousin." I took the bill and read it: there was so much for physic, and the Doctor's trouble, for board and lodging, for the funeral, and for goods of different sorts. &c. It was the most shameful bill I ever saw; I began to fly into a passion, saying "this bill does not concern me at all, besides, I am not compelled to pay the debts of my Cousin". She then began to grin, saying, "if you are so impudent and insolent you shall have nothing at all, because I am ignorant whether the money was yours." I was so irritated that I thought my anger would have choaked me, I did not know what to do, having neither attestation nor receipt; so I was forced with great reluctance to take the five and twenty Portugueses, and to leave the rest to her.

With the little I had I bought some goods, and went to *St. Croix*, an Island belonging to the Danes, where I sold my little Cargo, and got double of my money: and after I had settled my business there, I went to *St. Thomas*, an Island belonging to the same, and there I purchased some other goods to go back to *Guadeloupe*, when there, I sold them for three times as much as they cost me: seeing fortune smiled on me, I took courage, and

* A Gold coin worth thirty-six shillings.

† It was a forged one as I heard after, as the Doctor did not charge any thing for his trouble.

bought goods with all the money I was worth; but not being well enough in health to undertake the voyage, I trusted a friend with my business: he went to *St. Thomas* again, and sold the goods at a very good price, and some others were purchased for to return; when only three miles from the Harbour where he was to land, he was taken by the enemy; which ruined me totally. I was then worth nearly three-hundred Pounds, but all was lost.

I now began to look for another kind of business, and was recommended by some of my friends to a Gentleman, (*a planter,*) to be his Clerk, and to look over his plantation; but did not remain long there, though I performed my duty with zeal, and was loved as their own child; the reason was, I could not be happy from the Sea, though I knew it was very dangerous. I acquainted my Master of my thoughts; he told me to go and try again, and if I had not good luck to come back to him; for says he, "my house shall always be open for you." I took my leave of him, and went again upon the roaring Ocean, seeking after the fortune of this World: on our way we cast anchor at *Desirada*, an Island not far from *Guadeloupe*, and stay'd there only a few days. After we departed from the Island forementioned, we were some time without seeing any vessel, but one morning we saw a large Ship, which we soon perceived was an English Frigate; we lost no time, but put all the sails out to make our escape if possible. We were almost out

of sight of the enemy, when the greatest misfortune happened unto us; our mast being too much loaded with sails, and the wind being very high, by which cause the mast broke, and fell down. Having neither mast nor sails to effect our escape, we were obliged to stay where we was, and were taken prisoners. We were well treated by the enemy while we stayed on board their Ship; and were afterwards landed at the Island of *Martinico*, and put under close confinement in a prison Ship. Being the first time I ever was confined, I was plunged into a gulf of despair and grief; every day I was scheming how I should make my escape, till at last I found a way for my purpose; and guided by resolution, was determined to fulfil my scheme. It was the ninth day after my confinement, when I, and two others escaped from prison, by breaking an iron bar which fastened the port-hole, and letting ourselves down into the Sea by the means of a rope: we swam about half a mile before we could reach the shore; having gained the land, I wrung my clothes, which consisted only of a shirt and trousers; we began our journey through a great shower of rain, and when passing through the town, the sentry called? we immediately ran away as fast as we could for fear of being taken again; but the third of our band being left behind, was taken again; and I, and my comrade proceeded on through brambles and briers all the night long; and when the sun was beginning to spread its beams upon the surface of the Earth, we enter-

ed into a thicket to hide ourselves, and take a little rest: while I rested myself my comrade watched, and so on by turns till the approach of night, which enabled us to pursue our way through its gloomy shadow.

Being excessively harassed by fatigue and hunger, we endeavoured to see whether we could find some wild fruit to satisfy our inward wants, but all our efforts were in vain, for nothing was to be found through the darkness of the night; and as morning was coming on apace, we retired to an adjacent wood. In the pitiful and perishing situation in which we were, I could not help but lament my deplorable fate and condition; when on a sudden I felt for the first time, a glimpse of the love of GOD, and many ideas came into my mind such as this? rely on GOD, and He will help thee, and stand by thee. With all these thoughts I fell upon my knees, and began to pray in the midst of the wood, saying, as well as I could.

“ Now, O! GOD that I am in distress I call
 “ upon thy power and goodness, because I know
 “ that there is no other that can alleviate my
 “ pain but thou. O! GOD, though I am in
 “ trouble, yet I feel that it is good for me to
 “ be so, for I have a comforter to fly to;
 “ but forgive me that I have liv'd so long wi-
 “ thout doing the duty which I ought to have
 “ done towards thee, for it was nothing else but
 “ the pleasures of this perverse World which
 “ banished me from thee, and my misery and
 “ trouble has drawn me near unto thee: do help

"me, and guide my steps that I may fall into no
 "dangers, and bring me safe back to the land
 "where I come from; and with thy help O!
 "GOD, I vow to serve thee according to my
 "knowledge all the days of my life here on
 "Earth, and hope to praise thee above when
 "time shall be no more." AMEN.

I did not quit my position till I thought I had
 full assurance that GOD would protect me un-
 der all my troubles and trials.

As night was drawing nigh, we began our
 nocturnal journey as usual. Two days and
 nights were gone without having tasted either
 food or rest; when passing through a Vil-
 lage, an old Woman who was sitting before the
 door of her house, called us: I did not know
 whether I should go or not, but I said
 to the comrade of my misfortunes, let us go
 and see what she wants. Coming near to her,
 she said, "I know my friends that you are de-
 "serters from prison? be not afraid I will
 "do you no harm, knowing what it is my-
 "self, for my Son is a prisoner in a French
 "Country, and I should not like that any one
 "should ill use him if he was in the same case
 "as you are now." She questioned us upon
 many subjects concerning the state of her Son,
 and at last she said, "I think you must be wan-
 "ting of food since you left prison?" I answer-
 ed that for two days we had not had any:
 immediately she went into the house, and
 beckoned us to follow her. Being in the house
 she told us to sit down, while she dressed

some meat, which she did with great dexterity: and presenting the same to us, I said, "O GOD! " since thou hast been pleased to provide food " for us this night, bless it. we beseech thee " with thine own power and will." AMEN.

The old Woman was much pleased to hear what I had said; and after we had satisfied our wants, she gave us some more meat tied up in a cloth, and shewed us the road that led to *St. Peter's Town*: we thanked her for all her kindness, and proceeded on our march all the night long until morning, which forced us as usual to retire into some thicket or wood: there I began to thank GOD for having preserved us from dangers and pursuits till the present moment; I then took the cloth which contained our provision: having spread it, I called upon GOD to give his blessing. My comrade said, "you pray too much, do you think " that GOD takes notice of what you say?" surely said I, because, if He did not take notice of what I said and asked him, He would not have provided for us: well says he, "all your " nonsense will bring nothing but bad luck."

After we had refreshed ourselves, I tied up carefully the remainder of our food, and said to him, if you desire to take a little rest, I will watch in the mean time: he did so, and when asleep, I went a few yards further and rested myself in prayers, for they were the best refreshment I ever could take; after my duty was performed, I was easy and full of an unknown joy which I could not describe.

Some time after my comrade got up and told me to rest myself and he would watch his turn; but I told him that I was not wearied, and it would be better to search the wood, to see whether we could find any fruit; he agreed with my proposal, and we went seeking for some provisions, for ours were getting very short: after a long while rambling up and down, we found at last a great quantity of wild fruit of all sorts, some of them were very pleasant to the taste; we gathered as much as we could carry, and as it was already dark, we came out of the wood and travelled on as usual. We were several nights and days rambling up and down in the greatest misery, till at last one night we arrived at *St. Peter's Town*: there I, and my comrade parted. I went on board of an Irish Ship which was in the Harbour, and he on board of another. I was well received on board of the Ship, but as I was very hungry and having had no refreshment for some time, I told them my situation; and they gave me some food. I was after introduced to the Captain, who told me that I might stay in the Ship and work with the other men: I was about three weeks on board working very hard, and receiving very ill treatment. One day a Negroe came on board about some business, and I asked him many questions about the people of the Town, and especially about two Gentlemen which I perfectly knew; one was a Knight, and the other a Baronet. I sent by the Negroe a few lines to them, and as soon as they received them, they hurried to come

to see me: they were struck at the first sight to see me in such a deplorable situation, as they knew my parents, they could not help but mourn and pity my miserable state: they told me to go with them on shore, which I did with great pleasure, though I was ashamed of myself being very dirty. Arrived at their house I was put into a bath to wash me, for I had need of it; and clothes were provided for me: after I was dress'd I could not believe that it was the unhappy me, when looking at my ragged clothes which I had on but a few minutes ago; I was in a perfect state of happiness, for nothing concerning the necessaries of life was wanting for me. I was in that state of affluence for three months, and wheresoever they went, they took me with them, so that I was acquainted with the best company of the Town: but for all that I did not forget my GOD.

Some time after they procured me a passage on board a Ship that was going to *St. Thomas*: all necessaries, both for life and body were provided for me, and ten guineas which they gave me when we parted, also letters of recommendation.

We went out of the Harbour and sailed towards *Dominica*, where we cast Anchor to take some passengers, and from thence we sailed to *St. Kitts*, where a part of the convoy were waiting for us, after to *St. Bartholomew*, for some other business, and from thence to *St. Thomas*, where we arrived safe after a good voyage.

I went to the Gentlemen for whom I had

letters of recommendation, and was received with great civility and kindness; one of them took me to his house while I stay'd at *St. Thomas's*. The first Sunday I went to Church with him and another Gentleman that I did not know, and that same Gentleman said to me after we came out of Church; "I hope you love GOD, young man?" I said yes, well, said he, "in all your troubles trust to the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and whatsoever you stand in need off, ask it in his name, and I am sure He will grant it unto you, for He has promised through *His Blood* to make intercession for us." I kindly thanked him for his instruction, and he withdrew.

I remained at *St. Thomas* three weeks, and took an opportunity of going to *Guadeloupe*; but before I took leave of the Gentleman where I was at, I thanked him for all his good-nees: he said, "you are welcome to stay longer if you chuse;" I returned him my thanks saying, I wished to se *Guadeloupe*. "Here is a purse (*says he,*) which I beg your acceptance off;" then shook hands with me, and retired, he one way, and I the other. I immediately went on board, and in a few minutes were out of sight of the place where I received so much kindness. I had a pleasant and short voyage, and safely landed at that most desired Island of *Guadeloupe*. I hasted to see my acquaintances; and having inquired after my Brothers, I heard that they were taken prisoners, and conducted to *Plymouth* in great *Britain*.

As I had nothing do and no desire to go to Sea any more, I went again to my late master (*the Planter:*) who was very glad to see me, and encouraged me by raising my wages, which made me apply the more to my business.

As I did not yet forget my Maker, I daily performed my duty towards him who had been so gracious unto me. My master (*or rather my friend,*) soon perceived a great change in me, which he did not know what to attribute it to; at last he knew by some of the servants who watched me, that I was in the ways of Christianity: some times he used to plague me about it, for fun, but for all that he did not esteem me the less.

One day having some company at home, that were invited to spend two or three weeks with us; I retired as usual after supper to bed, and knelt down: at the time I was pouring out my soul unto GOD in prayers, a young lady inadvertently passed by, and seeing my chamber door half open, stepped in; and finding me in the posture as before mentioned, she bursted into a loud laugh and rushed out of the room, and in a few minutes I had the whole company round me making all sorts of jests, some laughing till they fell down on the floor, others holding their sides with laughing, and others jumping and stamping. &c. it was indeed such a noise as I never heard before, for it was both a tragedy, and comedy. In all that disturbance I was as firm as a rock, and did not move from the place in which I was, untill I had fulfilled

my duty towards my SAVIOUR. I told them it was very unmannerly to disturb me thus, in my most precious time: for prayers were my best delight and comfort, and without them I could not rest nor be happy. The tale soon spread in the neighbourhood about me being a devout,* so that I was persecuted daily by my own friends, but as I did not mind them, they were soon tired, and at last were obliged to let me be quiet, seeing they could not get master over me.

Three weeks after that scandalous scene, I was taken very ill, of the putrid and malign fever; three days after the Doctor gave me up, for I was so ill that he thought I could not recover.

I was ten days and nights senseless; and saw wondrous things in my agony; and the eleventh day I came to myself again: my keeper said to me, "I hope you have prayed enough this time?" I did not know what she meant, but having asked her the reason why; she said, all the time I was senseless, I did nothing else but pray night and day untill I came to my senses again. I was a long time before I could recover my former strength again; and as soon as I was able, I went to my business. I then was melancholy with thinking about my Country, and Mother; as for my Mother I did not know in what quarter of the world she was in; notwithstanding that, I took my

* In England, if any profess Christianity, he is called a Methodist, and in France or any other dominions appertaining to the same, a Devout.

pen and wrote, first, to *St. Domingo*, and then to two or three other places where I thought most likely, but all was without success, for no answer was to be had. Again I wrote, and so on for about eighteen months without receiving the least tidings: which made me some how think that my poor Mother was no more. I was in such a low state of mind that my life became a burden to me, I could not find any comfort either in amusement or prayer; and when at prayer, I prayed not with such a delight as I used to do: so that in a short time I quite turned my back from the path of the truly and most blessed LORD JESUS CHRIST, and became again as wicked as ever.

One day my master called me, and said, “the Negroes are in rebellion, and you must go to war and fight.” He provided horse and arms for me, and sent me to join the cavalry that were encamped at a little distance from where we lived. Some days after I was at the camp, the Captain ordered me to go into the Town to carry some dispatches; I made some excuse, telling him to send some others; but he said, “you are appointed to go and you must? for I dare not trust any other.” I obeyed and went out of the camp, and rode to Town which was nine or ten miles distance from the place above mentioned; and not being able to return the same day, I waited till morning: but what was my great surprise at the moment I was putting my foot in the stirrup to return? an alarm was given that the whole camp were murdered

in the night,* except one who escaped having on nothing but his shirt. We being the only persons that were spared, we were put into another company, and marched on the same day against the rebels, and were successful in all our attempts. I was for three weeks night and day fighting, some times wet through with rain, and at other times suffocated with the heat: all that while, I never knew what it was to lay down or take rest; neither having an opportunity to put clean linen on: but at last we returned into the Town, where we took some refreshment and put clean linen on, for we had need of it. No sooner was I refreshed, but I was ordered to carry some letters of consequence to a camp nine miles off; but as the road was very dangerous, I asked one of my comrades to go with me, which he did with great pleasure; we arrived at the camp without the least injury or danger: but it was not with the same luck we went back, for as we were passing through a dark Wood, (*it was then between ten and eleven o'Clock at night,*) a shower of musket balls were fired at us, which unexpected noise and hissing, so much frightened our horses,

* Oh! reader consider and meditate? see how GOD was pleased to spare such a rebellious Creature as I; and how Divine Providence distinguished itself by calling me alone, though I, with obstinacy refused to comply to its orders: but who can resist the power of the LORD when he says, I will and they shall.&c. "Oh! bless the LORD O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name: for the LORD has done wondrous things. He has lifted me up, and has not made my foes to rejoice over me."

that it was impossible for us to lead them; they rushed through brambles and briers, and at last plunged into a dead Lake, where we had like to have been drowned; but our horses being stout animals, they swam and gained the other side in a few minutes. We made the best of our way through woods and thickets to escape the fury of the balls which were continually flying about us, and after having wandered a great while through unpracticable places, we found again the road. and rode as fast as we could to the Town: since that affair I have been in many obstinate and bloody engagements.

One day as I was reading the news-paper, I heard that *St. Domingo* was in a state of tranquillity; at this I was determined to go thither: accordingly, I went on board a Ship that was going there; we went first to *St. Thomas*, to take some passengers, and for my dear Country we sailed, and arrived safe there. My first inquiry was my Mother; I was about two days rambling through the streets without hearing any tidings respecting her or any other relations; till at last peradventure I met with one of my Cousins that was in *France* at the time I left that Country; she took me to her house and entertained me with loving kindnesses; and told me that my Mother was in the Spanish part of *St. Domingo*, at the distance of sixty miles from the place where I then was.

Anxious to see the author of my days, I would have set out immediately, but she entreated me to spend a week or two with her, to which I

agreed: we related to each other our misfortunes, and soothed each other's sorrows. Once in my conversation I was speaking of that barbarous and pretended Uncle of mine, who used me so ill when I was in *France*; I asked her whether she knew where he was, she told me that he was in the Town, and not far from the house; I was indeed amazed that such a wretch was still alive; she told me also that he came some times to see her; well, said I, if he comes I will be ready for his reception, for I am no more what I formerly was, [*a Child*,] that I should dread him. Two days after, he heard that I was in Town, and came to see me: as soon as he came into the house, my mind was struck with horror. He advanced towards me and asked how I did stretching forth his hand to shake hands with me; I refused my hand and said, Sir, I do not shake hands with people that I know not. "why (*said he*) don't you know me?" no Sir! I replied: "why don't you know your Uncle S?" no Sir! I never had any relation of that name: "why don't you remember "you lived in *France* with me?" no Sir! for I am sure I never saw you before to day, if I did, my mind does not afford me the recollection of your features: "how is it you don't remember "me, who married your Aunt V—in second wedlock?" "Oh! yes I do now you execrable "villain; retire from my presence, monster of "iniquities; think not that you shall go unpunished, nor escape the wrath of GOD, for the "sword of vengeance hangs over your head, and

“ will crush you to atoms in an unexpected time that justice may be satisfied.” He first blushed, then became pale, and without replying left the house; and I saw him no more while I tarried there. My Cousin was very much pleased with my reception of him; but as the time I agreed with her was expired, I thought of going to see my Mother; so I took leave of her and embarked in a long-boat which was going that way: in four and twenty hours I was landed at *Moutechristo* where she resided, and was not long to find out the place of her dwelling; the Town being small. I will just let my reader know how I made my entrance: first, I knock’d at the door; when in, I asked her whether she knew me; she said no Sir; I asked her again whether she had not Children abroad; she said yes, “ but, [*giving a deep sigh,*] all my hopes are vanished, for it is between thirteen and fourteen years since I have seen or heard from them.” I then said to her, behold the youngest of them before you: she exclaimed in a transport of joy, “ Oh! my Son is it you? my dear H***** is still existing?” and then fainted: but was not long in that state, for her exceeding joy soon called her to her senses again. My hard heart was melted in an instant; I could no longer withstand that filial love; I thrèw myself into those arms which were so desirous and eager to welcome me to that breast which was so ardently panting for me: our joy was so great on both sides, that neither of us could utter a word. Our language was

only by sighs: and those precious tears which bedewed my face when I first parted with her, were once more mixed with mine. Our arms interwove in each other as an emblem of the most affecting tenderness. In that posture we remained a long time, so much were our feelings affected, that we could not utter a single word.

Some time afterwards, she shewed me my little Brother and Sister, by her second husband; and dispatched my Brother to go and fetch my Father-in-law who was then at the farm, a little distance from the Town. In the mean time she said to me; "your Father-in-law is an honest man? he is not like many others, but he is a true Father that I have met with for you;" she then asked me where my Brothers were; I told her they were taken prisoners by the English and conveyed to England: at the same time my Father-in-law came into the house, which interrupted our conversation. He seemed to be very joyful of my arrival, and treated me with the greatest kindness. This was the happiest moment I ever enjoyed, being in the bosom of my friends. But all this happiness did not last long, for the Negroes rose up again, and killed every white man that fell into their hands.

I was then compelled to stand in my own defence, as a foot soldier; every night, alarms were given, for the blacks were at the gates of the Town: but having received reinforcement, they were repulsed. Afterwards I was sent to garrison, fifteen miles off, where I stay'd four and

twenty days; at my return my little Brother fell sick of the fever, and died in two days after; which put my Mother and Father-in-law in such distress of mind, that I thought they would have followed, especially my Father-in-law, for he was a man of very tender feelings: but by degrees and length of time, their griefs were dispersed.

Five months were expired since my arrival at my Mother's. I was daily upon guard, or doing some other things respecting the warfaring business. One day being on guard, I was informed of the arrival of both my Brothers; I immediately ran home, and found it was so; my joy was inexpressible at the sight of them, particularly at the eldest, who was, and always has been my most intimate friend: it was then five years and some months since they were taken prisoners; during that time I never heard from them, which made me think many times that they were no more in this World. Soon after, the report of their arrival was spread in the Town; and coming to the ears of the commander of the place, they were sent for by his orders, and enrolled * them into a company of foot soldiers. The duty was hard, the rebels being daily about us, and almost every night there was some fighting or attempt. One day after a very bloody engagement that was fought at the advanced post, I was sent thither with the com-

* May it please GOD to enrol them in the Royal Regiment of Saints, commanded by his most truly and Honorable Son, the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

pany which I was in to reinforce them, in case they should be attacked again: I stay'd there four and twenty days, and was relieved by my eldest Brother. The day after I took leave of him, and returned into the Town. As soon as I arrived, my Mother sent me to the Metropolis about some business. When there, the troubles were so great, that no one was in safety of their lives: three days after my arrival, a strong battle took place, and lasted from four o'Clock in the morning till six in the evening. The day after I was occupied in doing the errand for my Mother; and as soon as I had done, I wrote a letter to her, sending an account of all the business; and told her she must not expect me to return, nor perhaps see me more; telling her my reason was, that *St. Domingo* was a place too dangerous for me to remain in any longer: and told her not to be uneasy about me, for I had already taken shipping.

We set out the 3d. of May 1803, from the harbour of *St. Domingo*: I bid my distressed Country once more Adieu; thinking to myself it is perhaps the last.

My intention when I embarked was, to go to *St. Malo*, and take shipping there for the coast of *Africa*. I had on board a small cargo consisting of Sugar and Coffee, which when sold would have enabled me to begin a trade according to my purpose. We steered for the place above mentioned; six days after we were at Sea, we had such a rough wind, that we were obliged to reef our main and fore top-sails:

all our efforts seemed to be unsuccessful, for we were driven amidst dreadful Rocks; and the winds redoubled with such violence that nothing was seen before our eyes but terrors; every moment we expected our fatal end to take place; we fired guns of distress from time to time hoping that some Ship would hear us and come to our assistance, if there was any about: but our endeavours were in vain, and we were cast in the midst of the Rocks. The scene is too cutting for me to relate it in all its parts, for it was enough to unman the stoutest Sailor: every man was in the most profound consternation; nothing was seen before our eyes but Death, and that in dreadful forms. At every instant pieces of timber were swimming about the almost wrecked Ship; the water covered almost the deck. We were in that deplorable situation till morning; and to our great joy, a Ship offered itself to our view*; we immediately put the long-boat out to Sea, to go to the Ship for refuge: I flung myself into the boat with what I valued most, and five other men did likewise. As our boat was too small to carry all the people, several were obliged to remain upon the wreck of the Ship, till we could return with the other Ship's boat to save them. We rowed away the boat, and went to the Ship that was in view; when there, the Captain asked me if all the people were come; I told him no, because

* When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee. Isaiah. chap. 43, ver. 2.

our boat was too small to carry them, and we came to beg his assistance, for those miserable Creatures which are now upon the remainder of the wreck. He said, "they may save themselves if they can, but as for me I cannot go, the weather is too favorable for me to lose a minutes time; you may go back if you like to save them; but as for me, I will go my way." So he sailed, and we went with him; the others remained upon the wreck of the Ship, in the midst of a wide Ocean, without either help or hope. The Ship which saved me was a French Ship, and steered for his own place.

The 21st day of June 1803, being at Sea, we were met by an English Vessel who told us that war was declared between *France* and *England*. and for that reason we were taken prisoners, and conducted to *Plymouth*.

I stay'd 35 days in *Plymouth*, and was sent after to *Tiverton* in *Devonshire* upon *Parole of Honour*; there I remained five months, and was sent afterwards to *Ashbourn* in *Derbyshire*. I arrived at *Ashbourn* the 17th of december 1803, and was in such a deplorable state of mind, that I did not know what to do. Very often the public house was the place where I went to seek comfort, by getting intoxicated, and then casting all my sorrows behind me; I after awhile took such a delight in this course of life, that it became quite an habit to me; I was the greatest Sabbath breaker that ever existed; I was daily fighting or swearing the most execrable

Oaths, which was enough to excite the anger of GOD against me. One morning being half drunk, I went out to take a walk; when passing through a dark foot path, I was persuaded by some evil spirit to put an end to my miserable life. For that purpose I went into the darkest part of the place, and took my knife out of my pocket to accomplish the horrid deed.—The instrument was already lifted up, and the stroke was to ensue; but an Angel of the LORD, (*or some thing of that kind,*) stopped my rebellious hand, and my weapon dropped from it; then many ideas came into my mind such as these, “Oh! miserable wretch, art thou going to plunge thyself into eternal misery? remember thou art going into Hell head-long, if thou dost such a thing:” I was struck with terror with those ideas, and was so frightened, that I durst not move from the place for fear that the justice of an avenging GOD should fall upon me. I stay’d in that place for some time, and went home with such a burden, that I could hardly bear: having my head cast down as if I was a criminal, for I durst upon no account lift it up.

I was for several days in a such distressed state of mind, that I had not courage enough to go out; for I thought every body knew what was the matter with me; and to appease my wounded conscience, I thought that a reformation would have been sufficient to justify me in the sight of GOD: so that I began to build, as it is said upon a sandy foundation, by performing a few

formal duties; thinking that by my good works, I should merit the favours of GOD so as to forgive me all my trespasses. The plan I had formed was this: having a Roman Catholic prayer book, I thought it was all-sufficient to calm my troubled breast, and to bring me to a perfect state of happiness. So every night and morning I used to kneel down, and taking the prayer book I read the morning and evening prayer; this performance I thought would please GOD, and get me from under the terrors of an accused conscience: but in all these vain duties I never looked to JESUS for forgiveness or remission of sins, neither to his precious and cleansing blood, nor could I perceive the depravity of my corrupted nature: but I depended wholly upon my best endeavours and good works. I continued but a little time in doing those erroneous duties, and felt insensibly at last that all my fears were vanished away; I was like the dog, returning to his vomit again: for I began the same method as before, keeping all sorts of bad company, and breaking the sabbath with drinking, swearing and fighting &c. I was at the least five days drunk in the week, and always quarrelling.

One day in one of my mad fits, (*though I was not drunk,*) I resolved to delay no longer to put an end to my miserable existence; for that purpose I went into a garden near by: the same instrument that had been lifted up before, was again employed; I was in such great despair, that I was relentless towards my own life and

happiness; so that I lifted up my sanguinary hand and struck my left breast twice *.—I fell down senseless; some persons who were near, hearing the exclamation I made, which was, Oh! Mother, I shall never see thee again! came to see what was the matter; and to their great surprise, found me wallowing in my own blood. They carried me into my room for dead, and some person went to fetch the Doctor. As soon as the Doctor saw my wounds, which were through my lungs, he said, I can be of no use to him? for he has not ten minutes to live; but if he does, I may be of service to him: and went away. But he was soon fetched back again for I was not dead. When he came the second time, he gave me something to drink which recalled me to my senses: my inside being full of blood, he thought it would be proper to bleed me, it might ease me a little, for I could hardly breathe. After I was bled I fell into a swoon; the Doctor then said, if he lives till one o'Clock it will be a wonder. Some-body went to fetch a Catholic Minister †, who lived in the same Town; when he saw me, he told me to recommend my soul to GOD, saying, that I had

* I have sinned: what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself. Job, chap. 7. ver. 20.

† I did not know for what purpose they went for him; but I supposed it was to administer unto me the Extreme-Uncion; for as it is reported among the Roman Catholic that a man or woman dying without having received the Extreme-Uncion, (which they call a Sacrament,) must either go to Hell, or in Purgatory.

but a few minutes to live: and after this short exhortation he went out of the room, saying, it was too much for him to see.

I was restless all the night, for I could not sleep on account of the soreness of my wounds. When morning came I was so weak and so feverish, that the Doctor thought I could not live to see the sun set. Night came, and yet alive: but I was so tormented with ideas as before mentioned, that I durst not shut my eyes for fear I should awake in Hell. I was three nights without taking the least rest; for I was afraid to fall asleep, as I made it a sure thing in my mind, that if I fell asleep, I should awake no more. I felt myself in such a miserable condition, that I thought GOD would never forgive me. all the time I was in bed, I lay upon thorns as it were; for I was so filled with grief and sorrow, occasioned by my misbehaviour towards the everlasting being, that my life was quite miserable.

During the time of my affliction, I had such ideas and thoughts concerning my state, that I appeared to myself the vilest of men; but for all that I did not know from whence came these thoughts and ideas.

I was six or seven weeks before I could walk out; and was a great while before I could get any strength. I was five months in the most distressing state of mind, and continually tormented by some thing or other, which I could not discern. Some times I went out to meditate a little, but no sooner was I out, but was forced

to return home again; because I could not rest any where. One day after many dreadful and frightful ideas, I felt some thing extraordinary in me; and then for the first time, I perceived that I was a sinner*; and one beyond expression: I saw the horrible state in which I was plunged; I felt that I was upon the very brink of destruction: and felt also, that no one could alleviate my pains but GOD. For that purpose I went to church; when there, I could hear nothing that could do me any good. At night I went to the Methodist Chapel; there I did not find any comfort so as to set me free. When at home, I went to prayer; but could say nothing but the LORD's prayer, which I knew from my infancy.

I spent the week in reading the new Testament; and longed daily with impatience for the return of Sabbath, that I might try again to seek a place where I could lay all my burden.

* Though I had had a taste and a view of the love of GOD, (*as you may read in the former part of my life,*) and a great desire to serve and worship him; yet I did not feel the corruption of my fallen nature, neither the great weight and burden of my inveterate sins and transgressions: I was far from thinking of the inestimable worth and want of a precious SAVIOUR. I had a zeal, but not according to knowledge; I was like that sect which the Apostle Paul speaks of in the tenth chapter of Romans and the third verse: for they, being ignorant of GOD's Righteousness, and going about to establish their own Righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the Righteousness of GOD.

"I thank GOD, through the LORD JESUS CHRIST, that He has subjected me unto his blessed and Everlasting Righteousness; and made me sensible of this; that without the Blood of his dear Son, my sins must for ever remain."

When that happy day was come, I went to SION Chapel: the text was taken out of the twenty-seventh chapter of the Prophet Isaiah, the last verse; “and it shall come to pass when the “great trumpet shall be blown” &c. I was very attentive at the preaching, in hopes I could hear some passage that might comfort my distressed mind. The Minister brought forward the Brazen Serpent in his discourse, saying, when Moses lifted it up, he said, whosoever shall believe in it, shall be saved; for thus shall the Son of man be lifted up. I felt a little comfort from these words, but not sufficient to calm my troubled mind; because of the weakness of my faith. As I had not heard sufficient, I went at night to the Methodist Chapel. I did not dislike the sermon, but did not feel so much there as I did at SION Chapel: I spent the week rather better than I did the last, and was not so much distressed.

One morning I went to take a walk, when fifty yards from the house, I remembered I had not served GOD when I got up; I was so struck with shame, that I ran back to my chamber to say my prayers. Such a thing as that happened unto me three times, but was always overcome by the fear of GOD, for I durst not on any account go out of my room except I had render'd thanks to GOD for his protecting grace and mercy; for I thought, that if I was to neglect, his wrath would fall upon me &c.

Sunday came, which I longed for with so much impatience; and with joy I went again to

SION Chapel. The text was taken out of the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians; the third chapter, and the ninth verse; “and be found “in him.” The very word of “be found in him,” went deeply to my heart, and proved sweet to it; for it comforted me and released me from all my guilty fears; and convinced me of all the errors we are liable to by Nature. I was so overjoyed at that sermon, that I could not depart from the place till I had spoken to the Minister *; to tell him the benefit I had received under his labour. I went home joyful at what I had heard and tasted, and I cast all my cares and sorrows away: and was only thinking to serve him who shed his blood for me.

Now persecution began to take place by my worldly companions; they called me all sorts of shameful names †, even threatened me with punishment if I did continue in hearing the word of GOD. I could not go through the streets without meeting with some ill treatment from them; but as I did not mind what they said, I told them I would sooner go to the scaffold and suffer Death, than renounce JESUS CHRIST. Their persecutions continued for a long time, but seeing I did not take any notice, they were obliged to let me go in peace.

I went to no other place of worship

* the Reverend Samuel Franklin, of *Ebley in Gloucestershire*, Minister in Lady Huntingdon's connection, then at *Ashbourn in Derbyshire*.

† My friends scorn me; but mine eye poureth out tears unto GOD. Job, chap. 16, ver. 20.

but SION, where I first found the treasure of the *Crucified One*. Some times I thought myself too unworthy to be saved; but at other times I had better thoughts, when reflecting on Paul, Manasseh, and other characters &c.

The week before *Good Friday* I was taken ill, and was obliged to keep my bed several days. In the mean time I prayed unto GOD to give me health and strength, that I might be able to go and hear his word that precious day he bought my Salvation; but it was not permitted; for that very day I was extremely ill, and wept bitterly because I could not go to SION my happy place. So I called for a new Testament that I might read a chapter or two; but I was so weak, that I could not read; and was forced to put the book down. In the afternoon I felt myself a little better, and took the book I read a chapter, by which I received some comfort.

I was very patient under my afflictions, for the more I was afflicted; the more my mind was comforted; I did not fear the sting of Death at all, because, I had faith to believe I should be happy. In a few weeks I was entirely recovered, and the LORD soon after blessed me with the Spirit of prayer, so that I could join my friends in CHRIST in their labours,

Now I am fully convinced that I am found, and brought back to the flock of whom JESUS CHRIST is the Shepherd: and I will adore and praise him for what He has done for me through Grace, and trust in Him for what He has promised to do.

“ O! most blessed JESUS, thou who hast
 “ been pleased to protect me through so many
 “ dangers, and watched over me ever since my
 “ youthful days; be pleased I beseech thee, to
 “ keep me now that I am found: I did not find
 “ myself, thou knowest; but it was thou, O!
 “ most blessed JESUS who found me when lost
 “ and ready to sink into the valley of destruction.
 “ Thou hast brought me from thousands of miles
 “ to shew me thy light divine, and to make me
 “ a prisoner of hope instead of a prisoner of war.
 “ O! Eternal THREE in ONE, look down on
 “ thine unworthy servant, and water his Soul
 “ with the dew of thy Heavenly Grace, that he
 “ may be prepared to receive that never fading
 “ Crown, which is at the end of the race thou hast
 “ enabled him to run: and help him to renounce
 “ all other works but thine. Now I forsake all
 “ the riches and pleasures of this world, for the
 “ Eternal life which was purchased by the pre-
 “ cious Blood of thy dear Son JESUS: to which
 “ I beseech thee, to keep me now, and to the
 “ end.” AMEN.

THE

WEST INDIAN HYMN.

“ *This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found.* ”
 PRODIGAL'S FATHER.

NOW though six thousand miles from home,
 Yet nearer to my GOD I come:
 'Twas JESU'S love that set me free,
 And brought me back by grace to thee,
 And JESUS will lead me to see;
 Eternal days.

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7 Nov. 7
R. W. B. 1866

And now that I am found,—keep me
That I may never go from thee:
Thus fill my soul with thy free grace,
That I may run the christian race,
And see my SAVIOUR face to face;
In endless days.

Thou didst seek me when a stranger,
In my guilt and road to danger,
And to bring me home to my GOD,
Didst interpos'd thy precious blood,
That I might sing with saints aloud;
Through endless days.

O! blessed be the sacred Place,*
Where I have found such Heav'nly grace,
That sav'd me from my nature's fall,
And give me on my GOD to call;
O! JESUS at thy feet I fall:
Through endless days.

Till then, do thou in my heart dwell,
Rule in it and do all things well:
Lead me to that e'erblessed place,
Where I hope to behold thy face,
And help me thy foot-steps to trace;
To endless rest.

There I shall praise my SAVIOUR dear,
While his own Righteousness I wear:
I'll shout and sing redeeming love,
Which did my first affections move,
And never more will let me rove;
Through endless days.

* SION Chapel.

FINIS.





EA 804
Hills

