

THE JAMAICA MAROONS.

REGULAR STATUS UNDER AN ANCIENT TREATY.

Race of Mixed Negro and Spanish Blood—The Hard Tussle They Gave the English.

The Maroons of the island of Jamaica, who have been making themselves so troublesome to the Colonial Government of late, are a strange and remarkable people in many ways. In the first place, ethnologically they are the only class or caste extant in whose veins flows the blood of the aboriginal race which gave its name, Xaymaca ("Land of Streams and Woods") to the island. Secondly, they are the only known descendants of the few negro slaves—not more than 1,500—whom the Spanish settlers left in the island when it was seized by the English, under Penn and Venables, in 1655.

But this mixed origin, with the probability of a trace of Spanish blood, is not all that makes the Maroons remarkable. Their history during the last two hundred and forty years is unlike that of any other people in the British West Indies, and their legal status is probably unique in this hemisphere.

This peculiar status is just what has brought about the trouble of the hand under dispute in St. Mary's Parish, on one side and on the other side a band of Maroons, who, like their brethren in other Maroon settlements, are and know themselves to be military tenants of the British crown in virtue of a treaty ratified and signed just 150 years ago.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME. It came about very simply. From the time when, on the expulsion of the Spaniards in 1655, the Spanish negro slaves took to the woods, mixed with the scattered remnant of the aborigines, and made the hunting of wild dogs their chief occupation, until the

year 1738, these "Cimarones" (wild men) had been a terror and a nuisance to the English settlers. Many laws had been enacted especially for their repression. Packs of hounds, were to be maintained by every vestry to hunt the Maroons, as they had already begun to be called by an English corruption of their Spanish name.

Between 1730 and 1738 one Cudjoe earned lasting fame by the audacity and cunning with which he led his Maroons in their characteristic methods of bush fighting. The name of Cudjoe has been preserved to this day in the legend which makes the hollow trunk of a certain gigantic cotton tree near Spanish Town Cudjoe's council chamber. At last the Government of the island, acting for George II., weary of perpetual murder and robbery on the one hand and of laborious repressive operations on the other, sent two Commissioners in the King's name to the free and unsubdued, if defeated, Maroons. These Commissioners concluded with Captains Cudjoe, Accompong, Johnny, Cuffee and Quacco, chiefs of the Maroons, a treaty, by the terms of which the latter were to have in perpetuity, free of taxation, to themselves and their heirs, certain lands specified. In return for these emoluments and privileges the Maroons were not only to keep the peace toward King George II., his successors and his lieges, but also were to "kill, suppress or destroy" all rebels against the British crown in Jamaica and invaders of that dominion. This was how the Maroon barons swore fealty in 1738, affixing their marks to the instrument as intelligently as any of their predecessors did at Runnymede.

A FORMER REBELLION. But if, as some of the recent dispatches from Jamaica have reported, the St. Mary's Maroons boasted to Governor Hemming that their race had never broken the treaty of 1738, they spoke without adequate warrant of history. It may be that that particular settlement or sept have never betrayed their ancestral pact, but other Maroons certainly rebelled in 1755. This rising was provoked by the seizure, imprisonment and whipping of a Maroon in Trelawney Parish who had stolen a pig. It was not the seizure, nor the imprisonment, nor even the mere whipping that the Maroon complained of, but the shame of being whipped by common negro in the presence of common negro prisoners. Not until several regiments of British troops had been disastrously engaged, losing many of

THE DEAD HAND WINS.

Heavy snow had panned us in the house for three days, and during those days a game of billiards had been going on in the Montana saloon. Jim Murdock—a "profess," but the whitest man that ever drew cards—the Englishman, Harris, whom everybody called the "Little Cockney Cackler," me, Joe Williams, and old Dick Hawser of Missouri that was on the crowd, and every man, having done a good summer's work, had money to lose and was willing to chance losing it.

Murdock and I had carried big luck from the first, and stood heads ahead of the game. Harris, who had been sitting back luck from the start and was some hundreds out.

We had just picked up our cards, after Joe Williams' deal, when Tom Simpson dropped in to ask if any one could loan him a gun, as he'd got to his way down to Missouri that night.

Williams looked up from his cards long enough to say: "You'll find a gun in my overcoat pocket—overcoat's hanging yonder,agin the wall."

Simpson said "Thank-ee," crossed the door, took out the pistol, and as a joke, started to fire a shot through the roof.

But the d— fool had a bad habit—a cowboy trick—of first slinging his gun over his shoulder and then pulling the trigger. He brought her back again. Harris, who got started somehow, for he pulled the trigger too soon, pulled it while the gun was over his back and pointing straight at our party.

"Bing!"—God! I can hear it now—bing!—and the gun spat fire, and there was poor Tom Simpson lying on his floor, blood flowing from a cruel hole in his forehead—flowing fast and painting red the five cards gripped in his hand.

He'd been sitting next to me for three days, had Cockney, I was his best friend, and he'd just started somehow, he'd dropped it in kneeling at his side, begging him to speak. But he wouldn't.

Then Dr. Frank, who'd been standing at the bar when the gun went off, he got his hand over Cockney's heart. "He's gone," says Dick; "never knew what hit him."

Nobody spoke or moved for a moment. Then Jim Murdock said: "Little Cockney never did a dirty trick in his life. When he lost he paid up like a man, paid up smiling like a fool. For three days he's sat, without kicking in rotten luck; his luck's changed, see what he holds now! Four kings and an ace; as we don't play straights, that's a sure winner. There's only one thing for us to do, boys, and that one thing is, play this hand out—play it as if Little Cockney were sitting in that chair and us not a-knowing he held the winning hand. That's square all right?"

"Square," said every man at the table. "I bet the limit," said Dick Hawser, pushing five blue chips into the center of the table. "I see that bet and lift it a hundred dollars," said I, putting up the \$200 needed.

Jim Murdock glanced down at the dead boy, then, with a catch in his breath, said: "Little Cockney sees both rises, and lifts the pot the limit?"

Speaking lower, most whispering, he continued: "Cockney, you're short \$200, but I'll loan you the chips, and he did. Then, raising his voice higher, says Murdock: "It's my bet now. I'm seeing those three rises, and I'm lifting the pot another hundred."

Joe Williams, the dealer, had a mighty little hand, but he'd a d— big heart; that's why Joe said, "out \$400, enough to call."

Everybody evened up chips and called; then we all showed cards. Cockney had won the biggest pot of the game.

Murdock looked in the chips, counted and stacked them up in front of the empty chair. "Maybe it was accident, I don't know, though I've my own opinion, but Murdock didn't take back the \$200 he'd loaned poor dead Cockney to make his first bet with."

"Two thousand and seventy-five dollars in the pot," said Murdock, after he'd counted the chips a second time; then, speaking slow, said he: "Cockney while he lived alius sent money home to England to keep his old mother. Now he's won what'll keep her easy the balance of her years. You'll send it to her, O'Hagan?"

"Ye, I send; and I did. That's how Cockney Cackler went away from us. Poor little chap!—Francis H. Hardy, in The Sketch.

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Produce Quotations.

FLOUR—Net cash prices for Family Extras, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; Bakers' Extras, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; Choice, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 1, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 2, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 3, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 4, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 5, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 6, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 7, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 8, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 9, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 10, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 11, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 12, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 13, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 14, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 15, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 16, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 17, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 18, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 19, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 20, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 21, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 22, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 23, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 24, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 25, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 26, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 27, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 28, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 29, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; 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No. 352, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 353, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 354, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 355, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 356, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 357, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 358, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 359, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 360, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 361, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 362, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 363, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 364, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 365, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 366, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 367, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 368, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 369, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 370, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 371, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 372, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 373, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 374, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 375, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 376, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 377, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 378, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 379, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 380, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 381, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 382, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; No. 383, \$1.04 1/2 per barrel; 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