

Daily Eagle

DAILY LIFE IN JAMAICA.

QUEER CUSTOMS WHICH PREVAIL ON THE QUANT OLD ISLAND.

Scenes and Incidents in and About Kingston—The Mammas in the Market Place. The Negro as He Appears Under a Tropical Sky.

[Special Correspondence.] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug. 26.—This lovely island of the blue Caribbean is indeed a tropical garden. As far as scenery and climate are concerned it is impossible to conceive of a more delightful spot in which to winter. Less than six days from New York, there is hardly any time of year when at least two-



ROONEY'S MONUMENT, SPANISH TOWN.

thirds of the time of the voyage may not prove fine weather. The beautiful harbor of quaint old Kingston is protected by a long and narrow strip of land, past which the steamers come slowly from the north, and around whose point they enter, still more slowly, rounding in by Fort Royal, whence long since set forth upon his memorable raid Morgan, the buccaner. Jamaica takes its name from an old Indian word, signifying "wood and water." And most appropriately so called. The streams descending seaward from the mountain regions of the center are numerous. There is hardly a month in the year when everything has not a fresh and deliciously spring like look.

The bloom of the hillside is eternal; the fruits are marvellous. Pass through the Victoria market on a December day and you can hardly refrain from exclaiming aloud at the variety, quality, and, indeed, the cheapness of everything. There is hardly a more lively scene. The negroes and negroesses, mostly kindly faced old uncles and aunts, are irrefragable as vendors. You may not desire to purchase; you may even have resolved firmly not to purchase; yet you do purchase—and in astonishing quantities. The old woman rushes at you with an "O, my sweet pretty young mistress" or "O, my dear husband's money" lays hold upon your arm and argues you into first a basket to put things in, and then something to put in it. They make in Jamaica very pretty little baskets, too, hand plaited, of a sort of rushes. These are sold at "threepence" (six cents) apiece, or larger ones at fourpence. They are very nice for souvenirs of Kingston, and strangers always take away several.

The market is a wide pavilion built of brick and stone. One end of it faces upon the sea, and here the fish are received fresh at 10 o'clock each morning. One finds nearly all the vegetables of the temperate zone as well as the products of the tropics. Here are potatoes and cabbages and squashes, no less than huge yams, and fragrant little mandarin oranges, and the kind of granadilla (or little pomegranate), with a hard shell, but is indigenous. This hard shell granadilla, by the way, is nice to darn stockings over, the ladies say. Beside the regular market there is an open market place, where vendors too poor to hire space in the pavilion are privileged to gather and cry their wares. Here also one sees a great number of little donkeys; these stand patiently waiting, having brought their master's or mistress' produce into town, to return home. Perhaps a pickaninny or a good sized chunk of a girl may ride home donkey back.

The Kingston park is one of the loveliest spots imaginable. Entering by the main gate one comes very soon to the fountain, on either side of which two huge trees provide an eternal and penetrable roof. Everywhere are seen superb orchids and poinsettias. The flowering tree called the "Jamaican thorn" provides a splendor of its own. This latter grows wild along the road from Kingston up to Gordon Town, away a cottage is completely embowered and screened, roofed with its dense foliage. The road up to Gordon Town is a romantic and a delightful drive of nine miles. Above Gordon Town one may take saddle horses and proceed on up into the mountains as far as New Castle, where is a military station. Seen from afar the white houses of the camp high on the mountain side are picturesque in the extreme.

But Kingston alone supplies the visitor with sufficient that is interesting and quaint to fill a book. There is a midday sleepiness about the narrow streets. Some of the shops, with their faded green shutters, make one think of a painted stage scene. The better dwelling houses are mostly built with high and solid brick walls before them, and on ground considerably above the level of the street. Originally the streets were of the same level, but the little streams of water flowing constantly down through them—a primitive drainage system, indeed—have washed them away. The parish church stands up with a stately purity of its own—white above the dull yellow of brick of the city. Kingston is rather closely built. It has a population of 70,000. An approaching Jamaica the aspect is striking. The blue mountains rise back of the town to some 7,000 feet. The atmosphere is balmy. Although the sun shines hotly, there is con-



Life.

stand a breeze. All day long the sea wind pours landward like a tide coming in; all night long the breeze from the mountains sweeps down and out to sea like ebb tide. Never is the least uncomfortable. The hotels are good and reasonable as to price. One, at least, has the charm of a most marvellous garden sloping down to the beach. Here, carefully cultivated, grow flowers that in a northern land would be priceless. Orchids and lilies, roses and jasmine, camellias, pyrotechnics! Magnificence of coloring and exquisite perfume. Here one may sit at a table sipping cool claret or lemonade and drinking in all the beauty of the scene, while in New York and other cities the poor mortals are shivering with the cold of mid-January, perhaps.

The Jamaica negroes are a curious people. Outside of their own country they are disagreeable manner—highly offensive, indeed, to many. As home they are happy, good natured, honest and obliging. They have many superstitions, and their language is an ever changing jargon. They seem to be speaking a foreign tongue, but it is only their Jamaica English. They have some "songs" of their

own. An American is a "Buckra"; a strange child a "pick'ny." A ghost is a "duffa." There is a beautiful little blue flower that grows wild in the country. They call it the "duffa-fee-fee"—the ghost's whistle—because the wind blowing over fields of its pale bloom catches in its pea shaped blossoms and causes a timid, musical sort of whistle. It is of the pea family, larger than the sweet pea of our northern country gardens. Another beautiful wild flower is the pink four-o'clock, with heart of blood. Then there is the plant whose unimportant blossom leaves a shiny, hard seed pod of delicate lavender hue. These pods are called "judas' tears." They are strung for necklaces with pretty effect.

The smaller estates—residences out from Kingston—are called "pens." Any number of these may be seen as one drives up to Gordon Town. They are beautifully kept, with shrubbery carefully pruned and tasteful gardening. The governor's residence is also seen on this road—a massive pile of gray stone, with extensive grounds.

There are street cars in Kingston, odd vehicles, very open, with right angle seats, uncomfortable to behold, drawn by mules and driven by voluble darkeys. The tracks are single, of course; in such narrow streets it could not be otherwise. Occasionally two cars meet by mistake. Then ensues a lively scene. Each driver dismounts and proceeds to discourse upon the rank carelessness of the other. Recriminations fly through the air. Hot words lead to epithets. The discussion becomes wrathful. Meantime the passengers are getting impatient of the delay. They too become angry. At length the mules are changed from cart to cart, the drivers change, the passengers change. The cars are constructed to go in either direction. Crack goes the whip, up the brake, jingle the bells, and off they start once again.



A HOUSETOP VIEW, KINGSTON.

Jamaica has a dozen seaports of importance. Montego Bay, on the northwest coast, is well situated and has a fine harbor. Port Antonio, on the northeast, is very pretty. Between this and Annotto Bay flows the Rio Grande, one of the largest rivers. Living in Jamaica is not expensive. Traveling about here does not cost much. A shilling will do a good deal. The main thing is to possess your own servant so that he will pay you the highest compliment he can—refuse of which is this—"No like a cultured gentleman, but any one I've seen do long time. Yes, what you say, is, slash!" C. L. CHAMBERS.

It Has Been Fourteen Years a-Building. PITTSBURGH, Pa., Sept. 2.—A handsome structure will be the new government building in this city. Now, perhaps, for it is not yet finished, but already ageing, for it is fourteen years now since work on the structure was begun. The stone work is now



PITTSBURGH'S GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

finished to the eaves, and there is a promise that the building will be roofed some time during this fall. It was hoped that it would be finished in time for this year's exposition, but this hope has been dashed to the ground. A Disappointment.



Dubois—Well, I guess that is enough water in the tub. My wife takes Cain if there is ever any water splashed on the floor. Now for a—



Life.

GOING HOME FROM MARKET. All day long the sea wind pours landward like a tide coming in; all night long the breeze from the mountains sweeps down and out to sea like ebb tide. Never is the least uncomfortable. The hotels are good and reasonable as to price. One, at least, has the charm of a most marvellous garden sloping down to the beach. Here, carefully cultivated, grow flowers that in a northern land would be priceless. Orchids and lilies, roses and jasmine, camellias, pyrotechnics! Magnificence of coloring and exquisite perfume. Here one may sit at a table sipping cool claret or lemonade and drinking in all the beauty of the scene, while in New York and other cities the poor mortals are shivering with the cold of mid-January, perhaps.

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THE RIDING CLUB



THEY were galloping, galloping, galloping, ever in gayest procession our eyes caught the sight of a sudden hitch in their gallop and they came down to a plain, prosaic walk, and the riding club now doesn't ride any more.

They had long been accustomed to ride in the morning in the earliest dawn of the summer day bright, and the patter of hoofs on the hard ground resounding excited their hearts with the keenest delight, but they came to a hurdle that stopped the proceedings and that of the rhyne of their gallop galore, and they came down with a jar that jerked the motical feet out of their stirrups, and the riding club now doesn't ride any more.



head as bald as a pickled mummy—and the riding club now doesn't ride any more.

Then the riders all stopped from their rhythmical gallop, and sat around on their horses and gazed at the bald headed woman, while her escort went after the hat and the hair, and every one of the women said they might have known it before, and all the men were struck speechless and completely knocked silly, and it took all the poetry out of horseback riding and brought it down to the commonest kind of prose—and the riding club now doesn't ride any more.



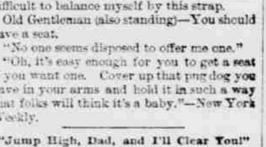
the same gallop they galloped before, for the woman with the bald head haunts the whole crowd and the hot hair takes the poetry all out of a nautical gallop; so the riding club now doesn't ride any more.—Joliet News.

Nautical Facetiae.



Secret of Seat Getting.

Lady standing in horse car—Parson me for bumping against you, but it's extremely difficult to balance myself by this strap. Old Gentleman (also standing)—You should have a seat. "No one seems disposed to offer me one." "Oh, it's easy enough for you to get a seat if you want one. Cover up that pug dog you have in your arms and hold it in such a way that it will think it's a baby."—New York Weekly.



"Jump High, Dad, and I'll Clear You!"



Life.

But he didn't clear him, and the old man expects to carry the marks to his grave.—Life.

A Song. Some go to the mountains And some to the sea, And some stay at home Weath' their own dry tree, And I'm a mosquito, So happy and free, With nothing to do, But to go to bed at three; And I'll get there— You see! —Washington Critic.

He Leaked Too Much. Teacher—Now, Johnny, I want you to draw something. Let me see. I guess you may draw a horse car. Johnny—What do yer take me for? An electric current!—Lowell Citizen.

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Excursion to St. Louis. The Missouri Pacific railway (Fort Scott Route) will sell excursion tickets to St. Louis during the "Reposition" from September 5 to October 15, 1899, at one and one-third fare for the round trip. Tickets will be sold on the following dates only: September 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 and 30, and October 3, 6, 10 and 13. Limited for return to five days from date of sale. For maps, time-tables and information as to routes, etc., call at 127 North Main street or at depot, corner of second and Wichita streets. E. F. BUCKLEY, Pass. and Tkt. Agt., 127 North Main, 1899. New Pullman car on the route to St. Louis. The Adams, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad are now running in their night train leaving Wichita at 8:30 p. m. a new combination Pullman sleeping and chair car, Wichita to St. Joseph, through Topeka and Atchison. This car arrives at Topeka at 4:30 a. m. Atchison at 6:40 a. m. and St. Joseph 7 o'clock a. m. The Santa Fe is the only line having this arrangement from Wichita. W. D. MURDOCK, Passenger and Ticket Agent.