

through the settlement. Irregular "streets," or double ranges of huts, radiate from the central square. The huts are all separate, each with its little garden. They are all nearly on the same plan, built of bamboo wattles and clay, and thatched. Bananas grow wonderfully luxuriantly, embowering the little huts, some of which are whitewashed and clean and very picturesque. Often a great pumpkin plant had grown all over the roof, and loaded it with its large fruit. In the gardens there were water-melons and pumpkins, sweet-potatoes, cassava, lentils, and a few lemon, orange, and bread-fruit trees. The convicts were everywhere most civil; they were generally rather good-looking fellows. The great majority were of various shades of black, and often with the jolly expression so common in the different mixtures of the negro race. In some of the huts there were women and children, and from many of them came sounds of singing and laughter, and the music of a guitar or banjo. It was difficult to realize that the whole place was a prison, with a population of convicted felons and their warders.

Beyond the village we came to some old canebrakes, and all round there was an incessant chirping of an infinite number of crickets, not unlike our English species. They ran over the road in all directions, and one could see dozens at a time. The canebrakes were full of doves, which rose as we approached, and fluttered up to the tops of the canes and looked at us; a little field-mouse was very abundant, scuttling about on the path and among the dry leaves; altogether, the place seemed to be very full of varied life. We walked over to the other side of the rise, and had a splendid view of the weather coast, with the curiously formed rock, the "clocher," right beneath us, and the surf breaking over outlying rocks. There were some pretty views from the high ground, through cultivated valleys, dotted with banyan and bread-fruit trees and groups of palms, with scattered habitations of convicts half hidden among the beautiful foliage of the banana.