

LEGENDS OF THE BOCAS, TRINIDAD

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Legends of the Bocas, Trinidad by A. D. Russell

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A. D. RUSSELL

LEGENDS OF THE BOCAS, TRINIDAD

Legends of the Bocas Trinidad

by
A. D. RUSSELL
First Puisne Judge, Trinidad and Tobago

with

An Introduction by Sir John Chancellor, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief of that Colony,
1916-1921

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THESE legends, inspired—nay, it may be said *created*—by the scenes to which they relate, with little oral, and less written or printed tradition to account for the marvels they contain (except Legends XVII to XXI, which are historical), came to their recipient at intervals during the course of fifteen years' residence in what is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful islands in the world. Some, such as "M'an Grosdent," "Los Cotorros," "The Presbyter and the Pitch-Men," came to him in mirth. Others such as "Duendes' Mead," "The Three Caves," "La Divina Pastora," "A Morning Vision," came to him in sorrow. All alike, however, came of themselves, with little or no drudgery of literary composition. To the *genius loci*, therefore, is due any merit they may possess. For their demerits, which doubtless are numerous, the deficiencies of the medium ought to be remembered. *Non sum dignus*, though the deity have entered. When, instead of a dry lawyer, some true *vates sacer* visits these shores, or (as will doubtless happen, though the Serpent forgot to mention it), one springs from the soil, then shall be seen the fulness of the inspiration of Trinidad woods and caves and waterfalls, and the amazing Bocas del Drago.

The identities of "Scribbler," who wrote the verses, and of "Ignotus," who edited them, may safely be left to the imagination of the reader.

Port of Spain,
29th March, 1922.

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