

**NOTICES RESPECTING
JAMAICA, IN
1808 - 1809 - 1810**

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Notices Respecting Jamaica, in 1808 - 1809 - 1810 by Gilbert Farquhar Mathison

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GILBERT FARQUHAR MATHISON

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THESE few pages are addressed to all descriptions of persons, who may in any way be interested in the island of Jamaica, as well as to others, who from curiosity, or humanity, or duty, wish to investigate the affairs of that island.

The motive which suggested the publication, is a desire to rouse the attention of planters to a recollection of their own *true* interests; to explain to those, who may not have had the same opportunities of observing, in what manner the circumstances of their plantations may be affected, either beneficially or otherwise, by the abolition of the slave-trade; to point out defects in the prevailing modes of management, together with the suitable remedy for

such defects; and generally, to endeavour to throw light, if not to promote free inquiry, on an interesting subject, with a view to the common good.

Utility, therefore (utility in a liberal sense), is the object aimed at; by which standard alone, the Author of these imperfect Notices presumes to hope his well-meant production will be approved of or condemned.

Though his own concerns had always been most carefully superintended during his absence from the island, yet he thought it necessary to undertake a voyage to Jamaica at a very early period after the abolition of the slave-trade, from a consciousness of some fatal error in the ordinary management of Negroes, and a belief that these errors were only to be rectified by the presence of the master.

He has studied his subject with more than cursory attention. He has delivered his opinions with freedom, and without favour to

the enthusiasm nor fear of the prejudices of any person. He would rejoice, if he were able to control, both enthusiasm and prejudice, as the bitterest enemies of all candid investigation. He is too obscure an individual to suppose that his bare opinions will carry much weight; neither does he desire that they should. His purpose will be fully answered, if, by a statement of facts, and an exposition of faults in the prevailing system, he should be fortunate enough to lead the planter to a clear perception of the naked truth, and thus open the door to the establishment of a system better suited to the exigencies of his present situation, more consonant to the relations between different classes of people in other countries, and less repugnant to the honest feelings of the genuine friends of man.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and government operations. This section also highlights the role of technology in streamlining record management processes and reducing the risk of data loss or corruption.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the implementation of robust internal controls and risk management frameworks. It outlines the need for regular audits and assessments to identify potential vulnerabilities and ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations. This section also discusses the importance of fostering a culture of integrity and ethical behavior within the organization, supported by clear policies and procedures.

3. The third part of the document addresses the challenges of data security and privacy protection in the digital age. It emphasizes the need for strong cybersecurity measures, including encryption, access controls, and regular security updates, to safeguard sensitive information from unauthorized access and breaches. Additionally, it discusses the importance of data governance and ensuring that data is collected, stored, and processed in a lawful and ethical manner.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of stakeholder engagement and communication. It emphasizes the need for transparency and open dialogue with all stakeholders, including employees, citizens, and the media, to build trust and ensure that the organization's actions are aligned with their expectations and interests. This section also discusses the role of public relations and communication strategies in promoting the organization's mission and values.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the importance of continuous improvement and innovation. It emphasizes the need for regular evaluation and refinement of processes and procedures to ensure the organization remains effective and responsive to changing circumstances. This section also discusses the role of research and development in driving innovation and creating new opportunities for growth and development.

NOTICES,

&c.

I ARRIVED at Kingston, in Jamaica, on Sunday the 28th of August, after an absence of nearly thirteen years.

Sunday is market-day for the Negroes throughout the island. On this day they bring to market a variety of articles for the weekly supply of the town and its immediate neighbourhood; namely, poultry, pigs, wood, fruit, vegetables, pork, corn, &c. With the exception of pork and corn, the town is, I believe, almost exclusively supplied with the above-mentioned articles by the industry of slaves, who bring their surplus productions to market from the country within a circuit of twelve or fourteen miles, and usually carry back different articles for the subsistence and comfort of their families; namely, salt-pork and beef, cods

fish, butcher's meat, rice, flour, bread, rum, clothes, &c.

It is much to be regretted that Sunday could not be set apart for better and pious purposes, without diminishing the stock of comfort and happiness of this class of people. Sunday is not market-day by law; but if a law were made to forbid the holding of market on a Sunday, the Negroes, in their present state of ignorance and irreligion, would thus be deprived of one of the few indulgences they possess, without obtaining any equivalent for the deprivation in moral and religious instruction.

Great bustle and activity prevail in this market. The groups are full of spirit, but by no means pleasing. Loud laughter and noisy bargains assail the ears at every corner of the market. Quarrels, productive of violent gestures and great apparent agitation of mind, but rarely leading to bloodshed, give an alarming and a false appearance of the prevalence of the most angry passions in the Negro character. In the midst of this busy and tumultuous concourse of people, are seen well-dressed beaux and belles, black, brown, and yellow, walking about with the greatest possible indifference

and composure, having apparently no object but to display their persons and their tawdry dresses, and feeling no apprehension whatever of surrounding mischief. Some are seen anxiously engaged in managing their little traffic, which they do with great good order and decorum; others, less industrious, but no less active, are seeking in the crowd for brothers, sisters, wives, husbands, friends, lovers, whom once a week they have an opportunity of seeing. To these animated and well-dressed groups a foil is seen in the wretched, who are distinguished by filth and nakedness; in the lazy, who, like the Lazaroni at Naples, give way to the most disgusting abandonment of their persons; and in a few others, who may have brought their saleable commodities from a distant part of the country, and who, covered with dust, and overcome by fatigue, lie down in the open street, in the midst of this noisy and busy scene, to re-establish by sleep their exhausted strength.

This representation will, no doubt, be disgusting to many readers, and can be pleasing but to very few; still it is a faithful picture, and as such I give it without superfluous colouring, and without any sort of disguise,