

**JOURNAL OF A
RESIDENCE AMONG
THE NEGROES IN
THE WEST INDIES**

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Journal of a Residence Among the Negroes in the West Indies by Matthew Gregory Lewis

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MATTHEW GREGORY LEWIS

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RESIDENCE AMONG THE NEGROES
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By MATTHEW GREGORY LEWIS,
AUTHOR OF 'THE MONK,' 'CASTLE SPECTRE,' 'TALES OF WONDER,' ETC.

"I would give many a sugar cane,
Mat. Lewis were alive again."
BYRON.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Journals of two residences in Jamaica, in 1815-16, and in 1817, were printed from the MS. of Mr. Lewis, who died at sea, on the voyage homewards from the West Indies, in the year 1818.

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"Nunc alio patriam quero sub sole jacentem."—VIRGIL.

1815. NOVEMBER 8. (*Wednesday*.)

I LEFT London, and reached Gravesend at nine in the morning, having been taught to expect our sailing in a few hours. But although the vessel left the Docks on Saturday, she did not reach this place till three o'clock on Thursday the 9th. The captain now tells me, that we may expect to sail certainly in the afternoon of to-morrow the 10th. I expect the ship's cabin to gain greatly by my two days' residence at the "*****," which nothing can exceed for noise, dirt, and dulness. Eloisa would never have established "black melancholy" at the Paraclete as its favourite residence, if she had happened to pass three days at an inn at Gravesend: nowhere else did I ever see the sky look so dingy, and the river so dirty: to be sure, the place has all the advantages of an English November to assist it in those particulars. Just now, too, a carriage passed my windows, conveying on board a cargo of passengers, who seemed sincerely afflicted at the thoughts of leaving their dear native land! The pigs squeaked, the ducks quacked, and the fowls screamed; and all so dolefully, as clearly to prove, that *theirs* was no dissembled sorrow! And after them (more affecting than all) came a