

Barnard, Frederick Lamport
A Three Years Cruise in the Rozambique Channel.
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MERCANTILE COMMODITIES.

bottoms, and to be able to nominate and pay their own Governors. This indeed would be a blow to the slave trade, as it would open new sources of commerce, and produce new interests; and the poor wretches who are now driven from the interior like herds of cattle would be employed carrying gum-copal, ivory, gold dust, and various other articles with which Africa abounds. During the floods occasioned by the rainy season coals might be got from Tete in any quantity, and the mighty power of steam be employed in sowing the seeds of civilization, which can never be done whilst the merchants, agents, and their Governors find it, or think it, their interest to keep the Blacks in such a degraded and ignorant state, that they look upon slavery as a blessing, and voluntarily sell themselves and families for three pieces of cloth.

The coffee-trees were in full blossom, and scented the whole country. They were without leaves, and the flowers either white or pink. The berry has a strong aromatic flavour, and is preferred by many to the Mocha coffee, although few like it at first. Many fine es-

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tates are in ruins, the houses gradually crumbling away; and a few wretched huts with their sable inhabitants idly basking in the sun, or preparing their scanty fare, are the only remaining signs of what the place once was, the orange, citron and lemon-trees, and pine-apples growing amongst weeds and fallen branches. On the road, we espied a snake in the act of killing a lizard, which it had seized by the back of the neck; and as it was twining itself round the body, the General gave him a crack with his stick, and I finished his business by pulling him out of a hole by his tail, and breaking his back. I then hung him on a stick and carried him to Dr. Peters to put into spirits.

We dined at Senhor Cardoza's. His wife and daughter sat down with us, the latter a fat, round-faced, bright-eyed, good-natured, dumpy little body, as black as the ace of spades. Her name was Minina Domingo, and I talked away with her in bad Portuguese, and we soon got good friends; and in the evening hearing a great clapping of hands and singing outside. I went out and joined a dance with all the female part of our company, and about

twenty negresses, and soon made such a row in the kitchen with a hand-organ and singing, that nearly all the visitors came out and enjoyed the fun very much. After this we played "old bachelor," and I persuaded them to sing, the burden of the chorus being "Ita bons Inglezes," soft soap having found its way to Mozambique as well as Sam Slick's clocks, one of which may be seen in every house, with a fine drawing underneath, representing a farmhouse with a tree growing out of the top of it, the house standing on the heads of a very stiff lady and gentleman. On the following day we went on board to divine service, and the tide being out, we had to walk over about two miles of a sandy flat, the captain taking off his shoes and stockings, and shewing the example, in preference to being carried in a machila. However, we found it no joke in a broiling sun.

The Governor-General invited us all to a grand hunt on the Tuesday following, and sent out to the adjacent free tribes, to surround a place well known as abounding in game, with nets. On the appointed day, we

left early for an estate belonging to a Moor, visiting the port of Conducia on the way, and at about ten sat down to a sumptuous breakfast, and the chiefs of the different tribes came to pay their respects to the Governor. We were all on the tiptoe of expectation, anticipating fine sport, but were much disappointed at finding it a very tame affair; for instead of sallying with dogs and guns, and knocking over the game as it passed us, we were expected to sit still in the house, whilst the blacks ensnared a few unfortunate gazelles and partridges. I went out to try to shoot a few birds, but the burning tropical sun soon drove me back, tired and exhausted.

We again dined at Cardoza's, for the Governor's salary is so limited, that he has not adequate means to keep up the dignity of his position, and all the people around him are better able to entertain than himself. With his predecessors it has not been so, who have generally amassed large fortunes by speculation, and connivance at the slave trade, but General De Lima seems to be too straightforward an old soldier to compromise his honour, and yet