

[PDF] The American tropics; notes from the log of a midwinter cruise

The American tropics; notes from the log of a midwinter cruise

William Thomas Corlett

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William Thomas Corlett : The American tropics; notes from the log of a midwinter cruise before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American tropics; notes from the log of a midwinter cruise:

This historic book may have numerous typos, missing text or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1908. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... ten and spread out like mushrooms. One is surprised to see tufts of long wild grass growing and even small fish have been seen in the water fissures and pools. In conversation with a negro I was told wages were six cents an hour and board costs from twentyfive to thirty-five cents a day. Work was not constant, which I thought seemed to his liking; he further said that he came from Montserrat and had been working at the Pitch Lake for six months. All the darkies of the West Indies look longingly to the Panama Canal Zone, where wages are higher, as their Eldorado--"But how's yo gwine ter git dart" was the puzzling question. Returning to the ship on a choppy sea stirred up by the brisk wind, I did not fully realize the intense heat to which I had been exposed until noticing that my clothing, which was the thinnest procurable, was saturated with perspiration. I had taken the trip leisurely, too, and under a sun umbrella. At two o'clock we passed the newest and largest gun-boat in the British navy, the "Dreadnaught," and in a few minutes were at the chief town of the British possessions in the West Indies, Port of Spain. On account of the shallow water we anchored nearly two miles from shore. Even at this distance we stirred up considerable mud and tub baths were discontinued until we were again on the open sea. Sunday in Port of Spain is marked by due decorum, as becomes a staid English town. It is not

wholly an exemplary place, however, probably on account of its heterogeneous make-up. The electric tram cars were running, and many, especially those who had not visited Pitch Lake in the morning, rode about the town or strolled along the shady walks of the Botanical Gardens and some attended church in the evening. In both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals ne...