

# BEAUTIFUL BARBADOS

By H. Wood Bruce



An Island Scene

The average individual has heard of Barbados and has a hazy knowledge that it lies somewhere among the Windward group of the West Indies, but it is an astonishing fact how little is generally known of this most important coaling station, situated in direct roadstead of the course of all steamship lines plying between North and South America and touched by many European vessels. Lying about due north from the coast of British Guinea, about 400 miles distant, and almost due east from the Isthmus of Panama, its position is strategic, as well as advantageous in many ways. While only about twenty miles long and seven wide at its broadest point, it is, next to Belgium, the most thickly populated portion of the earth's surface for its size, the last census reporting over 200,000 old inhabitants, a large percentage being negroes. Among the native elements are found a few straggling descendants of the Carib Indians, who retain to a degree the custom and habits of their early state. They consider themselves far superior to the negroes, and while coming in contact with the latter in the regular routine of daily toil, appear to have very little in common with them. Hieroglyphics carved upon the rocks here and there throughout the West Indies are accredited to this tribe.

The origin of Barbados is undeniably volcanic. At the time of the eruption of Mount Pelee, over 150 miles distant, a hot spring which for years had been one of the natural wonders of this island completely disappeared. A subterranean river has long been a subject of speculation among scientists, and was recently the scene of an interesting experiment. In an effort to trace the course of the river, a duck was started down stream and soon disappeared from view. Several days afterward the fowl was found upon the seashore, miles away, contentedly feeding and apparently none the worse for its remarkable trip. The explanation offered is that the river, a duck was started down stream and soon disappeared from view. Several days afterward the fowl was found upon the seashore, miles away, contentedly feeding and apparently none the worse for its remarkable trip. The explanation offered is that the river, a duck was started down stream and soon disappeared from view. Several days afterward the fowl was found upon the seashore, miles away, contentedly feeding and apparently none the worse for its remarkable trip.

An interesting spectacle greets the newcomer to this delightful spot. As the ship anchors, a veritable flotilla of small craft swarms about the vessel. Scores of small boatmen, soliciting "fares" to take ashore. The buxom and ebullient laundress who collects soiled linen and returns it immaculate before the hour of sailing. Among naked negro boys, perched fore and aft on tiny flat-bottomed canoes, some with their wool bleached tawny by the combined effects of sun and sea water, yelling, "Oh, Master, fling me a sixpence, and I'll dive." Suing the action to the word they will plunge, and the coveted coin is secured before it reaches the bottom. The aquatic antics of these harum scarum urchins are amusing.

The first impression of Bridgetown upon the approach through a narrow canal-like stream, suggests Holland, in a measure. The water front, with its gaily painted buildings, its coral rock and limestone quay, the flags of different nations flying in the breeze, and in the distance the clock tower of ecclesiastical looking structure rising above all, presents a picture at once unique and interesting. The effect of English influence is at once apparent in the broad 's' and accent of the negroes—who are legion, and also in their general cleanly appearance, the only exception to this being presented by the women coal carriers, even those being picturesque, if not pretty, in the "soil of toil." As in most West Indian islands, the native negroes go bare-footed, but now and then the clang of wooden sandals is heard. The women usually wear simple cotton frocks hitched up in the rear and forming a thick roll of material around the waist-line. The "bandana" is generally of white—and immaculate. Now and then one sees an old derby perched upon the bandana, worn at a rakish angle, giving the wearer a decidedly comical appearance. Almost all the merchandise of the street vendors is carried upon the head, even to huge lumps of coal, and the degree of dexterity attained by the women in balancing their broad baskets filled with fruits "dulcies," peanuts, vegetables, etc., is astonishing. The sanitary water system which supplies spring water, piped throughout the island and the excellent coral rock and limestone roads, trailing like shimmering ribbons throughout the green fields of the country, are other evidences of English enterprise and concern for the well-being of the colonists.

The island is replete with interesting spots. The wild rocky coast at Bathsheba is said to resemble that of Scotland, and the tremendous heights to which the water dashes through fissures in the cliffs in rough weather presents a spectacle to be remembered. "Gun Hill" with its huge lion statue carved by the soldiers from the rock is a popular point of interest. "Coles Cave," entered through the



An Old Windmill

Street Scene



Typical Natives

Diving Boys

face of a precipitous cliff overhanging the sea, affords ample opportunity for venturesome tourists to explore its stalactite roofed caverns. In this cave is the subterranean river. "Soa aneones" is said at this point. The negroes at work in the cotton field, the waving sugar cane, with here and there enormous windmills, built after the Holland type, which are used in the grinding of corn and cane, contribute to the novelty of the scene. The "manjack" mines offer another point of interest, the deposit of which resembles natural coal, but is, in its character, more of the nature of asphaltum and is used in the manufacture of varnish.

The scenes within the city present a never-ending kaleidoscopic spectacle. The very narrow, crooked streets afford the most heterogeneous mass imaginable. Handsomely-gowned women dashing by in victorias passing modest little donkey carts laden with farm produce and drawn by the tinniest of burros, English gentlemen on horseback, "caracadores," and negro boys nibbling immense sticks of sugar cane; negro women offering live, squealing pigs, for sale, and half-breeds of every possible shading from mulatto to almost white, are much in evidence. Many of the latter are employed in the important English shops as salesmen or "clarks," as they are called after the English custom. Trafalgar Square, with its statue of Nelson—the first ever erected to this popular hero, it is claimed—and a very ecclesiastical-looking building nearby, which is used for a post-office and commercial chambers, appears to be the center of activity from which everything radiates.

The "leté-noir" of the tourists' sojourn, however, is found in the perfect pests of negro boys who insist, unasked, upon becoming one's guide. So persistent are they that if they see one enter a shop they will often edge up to one and exclaim, "Yes, sah, this is the place you wished to find," even going so far sometimes as to follow into the shop and demand a tip or a commission on purchases from the shopkeeper. Another common trick is, if they have observed a party having separated, they will undertake to "re-write" the different members upon some pretext, all in hope of the coveted tip.

"Do you want Browns, Master?" is a common salutation of this class, meaning "Do you want a guide?" They possess a keen sense of humor, these street urchins, and will frequently point out a companion blacker than themselves and say "Him Snowball, sah." A tourist, annoyed to the limit of endurance by a crowd of these little pests, retorted, "Oh, you're Snowball, are you?" "Yes, sah," came the quick response, with expectant look. "Well, for goodness sake, Snowball, get out in the sun and melt." Like all negroes they are very musical, singing to the accompaniment of the guitar, their favorite selections being the hymns of the

English church. The English custom of turning to the left instead of the right obtains. Cricket is very popular and is, because of its leisurely character, an excellent game for so warm a climate.

Enormous quantities of "flying fish" are taken in nets—fish nets, not butterfly nets, as the name might seem to imply. These fish are sold by the natives at about sixpence a bushel, from which it would appear that the increased cost of living had not as yet become a vital issue in Barbados. At night when the "songs of birds" are hushed, a species of tree toad, very tiny, but possessed of a very shrill whistle, breaks in upon the stillness of the air, blithely contributing his own note at frequent intervals.

A very popular side trip is afforded in a ten-hour sail to the island of St. Lucia, important as a coaling station, and also for its interesting botanical garden, which is almost entirely self-supporting, from its sale of shrubs and seeds. From this point a five-hour sail brings one to the theatre of the great cataclysm, the eruption of Mount Pelee (Bald Head), where, on May 6th, 1902, the entire population of the capital, St. Pierre, some thirty thousand souls, together with two big ships in the harbor, were

annihilated, the only survivor, by a strange prank of fate, being a negro awaiting execution in a local jail. It is claimed that this criminal afterwards escaped to the United States, where he was exhibited in the side show of a circus, being subsequently arrested for an attempt at manslaughter. St. Pierre presents to-day a spectacle of abject desolation. The ruins of the cathedral and the standing walls of a few dwellings are the only reminders of human habitation. A few "curio" shacks, and a small inn recently built to provide tourists with refreshments, and supplied with "dark rooms," for the development of photographic negatives, being the only structures. Towering full six thousand feet above the scene of desolation, Mount Pelee stands, cold, cruel and uncompromising, denuded of its conical crown, blown off in the eruption, but still sinister, forbidding and repellent, a grim monument of the mountain two dry river beds still offer mute evidence of the annihilating character of the frightful sulphurous gases which snuffed out human lives in an instant. An evidence of how instantaneous it must have been in some cases was found in a body of a woman with her needle still within her fingers, and her sewing resting in her lap. In another case, a family seated at the daily meal in composed attitudes, evidently overcome before a realization of the awful situation dawned upon the victims.

Coursing downward from the crater the wide bed of the lava flow twisting here and there like a serpent is seen, and on either side and below hillocks shaped like immense ash heaps formed by the great deposits of volcanic ash, but now overgrown and beautifully green. Further down the mountain two dry river beds still offer mute evidence of the annihilating character of the frightful sulphurous gases which snuffed out human lives in an instant. An evidence of how instantaneous it must have been in some cases was found in a body of a woman with her needle still within her fingers, and her sewing resting in her lap. In another case, a family seated at the daily meal in composed attitudes, evidently overcome before a realization of the awful situation dawned upon the victims.

Plants Greater Than Sun. Astronomers have made some progress toward showing what is the largest object in sight. The earth is small, and the sun, 850,000 miles in diameter, but over a million times its bulk—but the sun is not one of the largest stars. In brightness Sirius is equal to forty suns. Capella to 220, Antares to 900, Arcturus to 1,200, and Canopus, in the southern hemisphere, to 10,000.

Little is known of the actual diameter and mass of the stars, but Myers has found evidence that one binary has components that are each more than 10,000,000 miles in diameter, with masses ten and twenty-one times that of the sun. Even this is small compared with the apparent size of the nebulae.

Though the computation is very uncertain, the great nebula in Orion is thought to be about 1,000 light years distant, and, if so, its diameter is twenty-five or thirty light years—that is, the distance across this object is about seven times that of the nearest

fixed star from the earth, or about the same as the distance from us of the star Vega. A light year—the distance light, at 186,000 miles a second, travels in a year—is nearly 6,000,000,000,000 miles, so that the breadth of the great nebula is approximately 150,000,000,000,000 miles.

The great nebula in Andromeda is also of inconceivable size, and may be even larger than the Orion nebula. But try to imagine an object 180 trillions of miles across! The Lord loves the silent as well as the cheerful giver. In the honest way you leave no regrets behind.



The Correct Style in Spring Overcoats

A VISIT to the Semi-ready tailor shops is most interesting at this season of the year, when all the new style creations are being shown in patterns and weaves which are the pride of the English woolen mills. Four of the prevailing models in spring top coats are shown in the accompanying sketch.

The Chesterfield and the Rigby top coat are in evidence, while the button-through chesterfield and the motoring coat show how closely the sartorial artists follow the needs of the modern day. These overcoats or top coats are shown in all the varying standard values of the Semi-ready shops, from \$15 to \$20 and \$30. Since the Semi-ready company has started tailoring clothes to order in four days, when one does not find just what one wants in the stock, they are getting 50,000 new customers every year.

THE H. D. BIBBY CO.

**Good Bye Hat!**

BUT

if it happens to be a Buckley, he can get another without it costing him a cent.

You've seen "guarantees" before—but you never yet heard of a hat guarantee that guaranteed the owner even against accident.

Here's one that does—the sweeping Buckley guarantee—provides for such cases as that

GUARANTEE

The Owner who wears this hat can obtain by guarantee, and only for which will not pay, a new hat within four months after purchase. We also agree to exchange the hat, if same is damaged or soiled during the said four months.

BUCKLEY & SONS, Manufacturers

your Buckley hat has not in every sense "stood the racket." Read carefully the broad, all-embracing guarantee.

Why, you ask, should the guarantee be made so far-reaching?

Well, in the first place, the makers of the "Buckley" have absolute confidence in their product—they feel sure it will give satisfaction in 999 cases out of 1,000. But there's always that thousand man—even he must be satisfied.

And, in order that he may get a new Buckley hat from any Buckley dealer, without having to answer questions or give a lengthy explanation, it has been thought well to provide that, whatever his reason, if the Buckley he's been wearing has not lasted four months, it will be cheerfully, unquestioningly exchanged.

Don't let this remarkable guarantee feature of the Buckley overshadow the style pre-eminence of these hats. The quality is English, but the styles are American and up-to-the-minute. There's a Buckley shape to suit every type of man.

Buckley hats are made by Union workmen—there's high grade material and honest workmanship in every hat that bears the Buckley name. Price, \$25.00, at all the best hat shops.

BUCKLEY HATS

## You Can Cure Chest Colds

And Bronchitis by Using Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine If You Get the Genuine.

The mere mention of pneumonia and consumption causes a person to shudder, but a cold is such a common thing that it is too often left alone until these other ailments develop from it.

You can readily cure throat and chest colds, croup and bronchitis, by using Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine. This medicine is both thorough and far-reaching in its influence on the system. For this reason its merits are well-known and its sales enormous.

But there are at least four imitations of Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine. And imitations are always a little cheaper, how else would they sell. They are never sold on their own merit, but on the merit of the article they imitate.

Their likeness is in name only, and when you are in need of medicine you don't want to depend on a name or imitation. Every bottle of the genuine bears the portrait and signature of A. W. Chase, M.D., the famous Receipt Book author, 25 cents a bottle, family size 60 cents; all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

## CUSTOM HOUSE FLAGS

Were Originally Provided for Revenue Cutters.

Baltimore Sun. Tradition is responsible for the flying of the revenue flag over the customs houses of the country, according to a high ranking member of the department.

The flag which floats from the roof of the custom house has not only no legal existence, but is not protected by law from popular use on land and sea nor from advertising, as is the national flag.

The revenue cutter service was established under authority of an act of congress of Aug. 31st, 1790, as an arm-

ed force. It soon became evident that the vessels of the service should have some distinguishing flag or mark, to indicate their employment and authority, and under an act of congress of March 21st, 1799, the marker was provided for. This act set forth that "the cutters and boats employed in the service of the revenue shall be distinguished from other vessels by an ensign and pendant, with such marks thereon as shall be prescribed by the president."

As is apparent from the act of congress mentioned and various revisions of labor date, the revenue ensign was intended especially for the cutters and boats of the service, but it has long been displayed over custom houses.