

only eminent in his profession, but having extended his inquiries to other departments of knowledge. Meteorology had engaged much of his attention, and his work on the Law of Storms is regarded as a valuable contribution to that important branch of nautical science. Loss of health obliged him during the following year to leave Mauritius with his family for England, where his useful life terminated very peacefully soon after his arrival.

The 9th of November, the Prince of Wales's birthday, was observed as a public holiday in Port Louis, and I accompanied my two young friends, Lieutenant, now Captain, Gordon and Mr. Larkworthy, whom I often met at Dr. Thom's, on an excursion to the Pouce, a lofty mountain with a sort of thumb-shaped summit, which rises immediately behind Port Louis. We set out very early in order to secure the advantage of the coolness of the morning. Some natives carried our provisions: I took a large tin case for specimens of plants, and my companions each a portfolio for sketching. On leaving the town, we passed along a path that reminded me somewhat of excursions among the Pyrenees. After a time we entered upon the woody base of the mountain, when the road became more steep, but not difficult, affording occasionally good halting-places, with openings in the trees through which we obtained most charming views of the rich valley, with its villas, cottages, and gardens, the citadel, the town, the port, and the batteries which guard its entrance, the lines of stately shipping ranged along the sides of the harbour, with the wide blue ocean stretching far away beyond; on the other side of our path, the fine, bold, steep piles of dark ferruginous volcanic rock, diversified along its different strata by tufts of grass and stunted shrubs, rose several hundred feet above our path. Amongst these rocks in several places the monkeys which inhabit the mountain could be seen springing from branch to branch with great