

It may extend the whole distance across the island as there are other towns on different parts of it. Here on either side it is intersected by numerous paths for they can scarcely be called even lanes - remarkable for their irregularity and uncleanliness only between which and crowded together are situated their miserable habitations. The lanes besides being the only places of egress for the inhabitants, are made the receptacle of rotten fruit stones with which they are thought to be paved dried grass and pigs in large numbers of all sizes and shapes from the little stunted piggy down among the stones first giving you notice of its actual existence by a faint squeal caused by the accidental intrusion of your foot upon its premises as you pass along unaware of its presence, to the large long slab-sided sharp-nosed grunts that roam the streets unceasingly and would not make a shadow unless standing broadside to the light. To these the avenues are particularly adapted as they may always find a living in them. The principal street besides being occupied by these is the chief resort of the female portion of the town whenever a vessel chances to arrive when they may be seen with their baskets of fruit consisting of grapes figs apples and oranges for sale

Without shoes and stockings and with only a miserable substitute for dress they walk up and down this street or sit on the stones on either side with their sales. It is a curious fact they have for begging chiefly in their native language but often with a little broken English. If a stranger chances to buy and pay the required sum for a basket of fruit which may generally be bought for 20 etc they will earnestly entreat you him to make them a present of the basket and if that be promised one point is thus gained and they will then redouble their intreaties for the fruit itself often following their victim the length of the town and if he proves to be the least irritable or annoyed he will gladly give up at length after having eaten a part - the remainder of the basket and all to get rid of such spirits of beggars who perhaps have sold the same a half dozen times before. There may however be some excuse for them when it is remembered that they are the slaves of the men who generally while ashore live a life of idleness and dissipation while the former gather fruit cultivate the soil and even participate in providing their own shelter and though they succeed in procuring food of some sort generally consisting of fruit they cannot by their own exertions