

by J. Gramelle

THE ETYMOLOGY

OF

JAMAICA GRAMMAR,

BY

A YOUNG GENTLEMAN.



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P R E F A C E.

This little work was never intended originally to meet the eye of the Public; the writer merely prepared it as a source of social amusement to such of his friends as are of a literary turn. They however resolved, on the perusal of it, to pitch-fork him rather uncerimoniously into print, notwithstanding his serious remonstrances; he therefore had no alternative but to yield passive obedience: thus it happens that he has now to cast himself on the tender mercies of the literate portion of the public. He says "literate portion," as he is thoroughly convinced that none but such can appreciate (if there be anything worthy of appreciation), and peruse it with anything like real interest, as it is altogether written on grammatical principles.

He must not forget to entreat his friends to pardon him for sacrificing "Delicacy" at the "shrine of Truth."

THOMAS RUSSELL,
My Hill P. O.

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PREFATORY REMARKS.

A form of language which has now been spoken for nearly two centuries by thousands of Her Majesty's most trusty and loyal subjects, and one which, notwithstanding the multiplication in this land of grammars of Allen, Cornwall, Lennie, and a host of other "Regulators" of the "British West India Tongue," threatens to withstand all attempts, both at regulation and extinction, surely deserves some further notice, save that of an occasional pilfering of its rich and expressive construction and idioms, to wring out a laugh, or to brighten social gatherings, when "dry" English fails.

The object then of this little work is to awaken an interest in the minds of those who are unacquainted with the Etymology of this stubborn, but expressive corruption of the English tongue, to the end they may make themselves master of it; the use of the knowledge of which will be acknowledged by all those who have had dealings and intercourse with the people of our dear little Jamaica, whether as ministers, teachers, planters, merchants, doctors, or lawyers. This most desirable end can, however, only be attained by five years' hard study, with the help of this little work, in this our "Paradise of the West Indies," the "Home of Plenty," and the "Abode of Health." As this is not intended to be anything like an elaborate work, justice cannot possibly be done; but the writer's aim will be fully attained if he shall in any manner whatsoever materially aid any "pupil" in mastering but the mere elements of this corruption. The difficulties to grapple with are manifold. Remember, dear pupil, the good old Latin adage, *Perseverando omnia vincit.*

INTRODUCTION.

Although it is evident that this, as every other corrupted form of language, is spoken by no previously well planned system, yet, as in course of time, every corruption resolves itself into certain fixed rules, so shall we find that this has settled into certain very plain and distinct ones, which are, in not a few instances, in direct opposition to those of the pure parent language.

I will now proceed to classify the different words, making, at the same time, a few observations and remarks on the peculiarities of construction, &c., under the different parts of speech.

Grammar is the art of speaking correctly, according to certain rules sanctioned by old and proper usage.

There are nine parts of speech, or sorts of words, viz.; Article, Noun, Adjective, ^{se} Pronoun, Verb, Adverb, Preposition, Coujunction, and Interjection.

CHAPTER I.
ARTICLES.

An article is a word put before a noun to show the extent of its meaning; and are of two kinds: Definite and Indefinite. The definite article is *de* and the indefinite *a* and *one*, *an* being only used as a conjunction.

It is to be observed, that *a* and *one* are used indiscriminately, and that *one* is by no means to supply the place of the proper English article *an*.

Obs. 1st—"A," will in due course be found to be a demonstrative adjective pronoun, also a preposition in place of "*of*" and "*at*," thus; (Demonstrative.) A man 'gainst de fence was ya yes-i-day. (Prepos. in place of "*of*:") "A" give him fe de good "a" him children." Prep. in place of "*at*." De man lib "a" Kingston. I must not omit to mention that "*a*" is also a personal pronoun, 1st person, as in the sentence "A give him fe de good 'a' him children."

Obs. 2nd—One is also an indefinite adjective pronoun.

REMARKS ON ACCENTUATION.—With regard to accentuation, it must be remarked that people who live on sugar estates make a peculiar stress on nouns following the indefinite article *one*; (especially on such estates which employ Africans) thus: One *man* was ya all *a* de time da look pon we (looking upon us all of the time).

This method of euphorizing by accentuation is not to be found amongst the settlers in the more mountainous parts of the island. This difference can only be accounted for in this way, I think: The estates usually employ, besides Creoles, Africans, and these lat-

ter, even after they can manage to speak "creole," still retain the deep and harsh accentuation of their own language: the Creoles imitating them become, after a time, in some measure, "infected." This is the more evident when we consider that people in the more mountainous parts, most of whom have never seen an African young man or woman, never accent words in this manner.

The worst form of accentuation is that beginning with every first noun or pronoun in a sentence, and continued upon every third word from the last; thus, De *man* da go a *ma-let* fe *mutton*. You walk *long* de *sea-side* you *fine-sun* *him* *bery* *hat*.

Sentences with the Definite and Indefinite Article: De people dem dis side lib well fe true: De cow fat till him fool: De buckra pickne hansam fe true.

One man was ya waitin fe you. One man keep a eatin-match yesi-day. A gie you a beatin if you don't mine (mind). ("Eating match," a feast).

CHAPTER II.

SUBSTANTIVES.

Nouns are the names of persons, animals, places or things. They are of two kinds generally, Proper and Common. As our purpose would not be properly gained by following barely this division, I shall treat of them under three heads.

Before proceeding, however, I must introduce a regular grammatical monstrosity: a noun made up of one interrogative, three personal pronouns, and a verb. This is the name of anything, which is either not known, or is forgotten. The noun is: "Wa-dem-call-e," used thus: Gie me de "wa-dem-call-e" ya. It must

be observed that most of things belonging to a more civilized state of society go by this dreadful appellation, as people here usually do not know or care to know the names of such things they do not use. Considering therefore the state of civilization generally, we will find a host of "wa-dem-call-e" in our vocabulary.

All verbal nouns end in *in* as sign of the present participle: thus: Him get a good beatin. De "wa-dem-call-e" get a good brushin; De hos mak a good gallopin; Mr. "wa-dem-call-him" make a bery bad sellin yesiday manin.

1st. Nouns in which the letters, *s*, *d*, *t*, or other letters are merely added or dropped.

2nd. Nouns in which there is an entire change, or half of the words only used.

3rd. Nouns not belonging to the English language, or derived from it.

I.—Nouns in which certain letters are dropped or added. With regard to this head, I shall be brief, as this falls more strictly under what is called "incorrect speaking."

Observe, however, 1st.—All words which begin with *s* and end without, the *s* from the first part of the word is transferred to the last part of it; thus; De walking *ticks*. Sometimes *s* is prefixed and affixed to words to which it does not belong. I could not illustrate this better than by giving a model sermon of brevity and completeness delivered to a large congregation of people by a "Professor of Theology."

Sdear Sbredrens an Sistas,

My discoses stoday will sbe from the A B C scards. I stake stree lettas, sB, Cs, sDs; only stree heads

'membra, sbredas an sistas, wa onos ebers hear any sman spreach from cool-childrans scards! Ono swandas what a sgwiins to says: hopen ono ase 1st heads: sB sboughts its. 2nd C, scuts it. 3rd, sD sdigs its. Conclusion: Sdigs what? Sdigs the Hearts.

It must be observed that this ludicrous addition of the *s* is only made when the speaker is "cutting English."

2ndly.—All plural nouns in *s*, or *es* drop the indication of the plural in the noun, plurality being indicated by the pronoun *dem*, joined to its corresponding noun by the conjunction *an*. Thus, De cow an dem: De horse an dem. De chair an dem.

Nouns ending in *s*, as no sign of the plural, resist this curtailing; as, glass, brass, puss, grass.

3rdly.—The letters *t* and *k* preceded by a consonant are not used; as *wris* (wrist).

The letter *r* preceded by *e* is dropped, and changed into *a*; as *matta-matta* (matter.)

4thly.—The letter *d* is never used at the end of a word, when preceded by a consonant; as *san*, (sand) *ban* (band). A list of the nouns included under this head would be superfluous.

II.—Nouns in which there is an entire change, or half of the word only used, and characteristic names compounds of English words.

This change follows no certain rule, except in this: that some nouns of one or two syllables are in using repeated; as *mud-mud*, *matta-matta*.

Observe that in changing, *b* is usually changed into *v*, and *v* to *b*; thus, *Savat*, (Sabbath) *bittle*, (victuals) *manubas*, (manœuvres.)

I could not do better than give some of the nouns included under this head

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LIST OF NOUNS

Aneul, Uncle	Moos-moos, Mouse
Agas, August	Mada, Mother
Bra-ra-Breda, Brother	Mash-mash Fish broken [in small bits]
Balinsteer, Volunteer	Mamme, Mother
Blausam, Blossom	Nyams, Yam
Brial, Brier	Oman-kiek-am, Yellow [yams]
Bagga, Beggar	Pedita, Potato
Cobring, A blanket	Put-put, mud
Base, Basket	Pangshalla, Spanish elm
Casara, Cassava	Poun pan, Pudding pan
Doe-mout, Threshold	Pea, Pear
Dutty, The earth	Rocka-tone, Stone
El-nut, Oil nut, castor [oil]	Tambran, Tamarind
Guaba, Guava	Ticky-ticky, Ruinate Land
Gubna, Governor	Tamba, Tambourine
Gubnis, Governess	Pecta Inspector
God-bud, humming bird	Mackiri, Mackerel
Hanen, The Ant	Tety, A string
Hebiny, Ebony	Mengo, Mangoes
Handkicher, Handkerchief	Watinelin, Watermelon
* Jack-ass, Breadfruit	Tung, Town
Full mout, A large kind [of beans]	Peggydone, A dangerous [creeping prickle]
Hashish, Ashes	Bra-nat, Breadnut
Sinte, Something	Brok-fuss, Breakfast
Ky, the sky	
Marra, Marrow	

III. Nouns not originally belonging to the English language. The majority of these are purely

* To pad, or saddle a jackass (culinary business) is to roast it, but to ride it and gallop it is to eat it with no bad appetite.

African, and a few are from the Spanish language.—
The following is a list of such nouns:

THOSE PURELY AFRICAN.

<i>Asono</i> —The Elephant.
<i>Aham</i> —A creeping plant.
<i>Muse</i> —Cassava in form of a thick paste.
<i>Bagabo</i> —A caterpillar.
<i>Bogro-sal</i> —Coarse mine-salt.
<i>Qua-qua</i> —Cassava in the form of a thick paste.
<i>Benta</i> —A rude musical instrument.
<i>Foofon</i> —Diff. vegetable food, beaten into one mass and eaten with "pepper pot," hot soup—(See "Sir Bryan Edward's History of Jamaica.")
<i>Canta</i> —The torch wood.
<i>Calibeau</i> —A basket snare for birds.
<i>Banlera</i> —A hand-basket.
<i>Duppe</i> —A Spirit.
<i>Congo peggy</i> —A large species of ants.
<i>Banju</i> —A rude musical instrument.
<i>Myal</i> —Excitement bordering on madness.
<i>Tacooma</i> —The Spider
<i>Granke</i> —The cock-roach.
<i>Chaklata</i> —A light meal before work or school
<i>Rashe</i> —A little hasty meal.
<i>Pickini</i> —A child.
<i>Duckonoo</i> —Corn boiled in balls, and then toasted.
<i>Ga-ge</i> —Rum.

Gasó—A single piece of obeah.

Funge—Corn parched and beaten.

Cuscús—Gruel of any kind whatsoever.

Proper nouns, names of persons, are 14 in number. They are given according to the day of the week on which a person is born, and are as follows, with the general signification :

	MALE.	FEMALE.
Sunday—	Quashe, Quasheba	Cunning, Slender built.
Monday—	Cudjoe, Juba	Strong-headed, Clever.
Tuesday—	Cobena, Bene	Inventive, Handsome
Wednesday—	Quaco, Cooba	Bad luck - Stout lazy.
	(1)	(2.)
Thursday—	Quaw, Aba	Ugly, stupid, Strong phys- [sic]
Friday—	Cuffe, Fiba	Hot tempered, Gentle mild
Saturday—	Quamin, Mimba	Full of tricks, Wild, fury.

WORDS FROM THE SPANISH LANGUAGE.

Subana—Savannah Habana—Havanna.

Grande—An old respectable woman

Habana—The flea, called usually dog flea.

Subul-oringa—Seville Orange.

All names of places given by the Spaniards; thus :

Akaria (Ocho Rios) ;

Pote'n Tony (Port Antonio).

Note 1—An ugly stupid looking man, with grey eyes, is called a "Quaw" by way of derision.

2—See metonymical adjectives the meaning of "strong physic."

CHAPTER III.

NUMBERS.

Notwithstanding in treating of Nouns I have spoken of numbers, I shall, partly for the sake of regularity, devote a separate page to them.

Nouns have two numbers, the singular and the plural. In forming the plural, no change takes place in the Noun : plurality is, however, indicated in three ways.

1st—By cardinal numbers used with the Nouns ; as De two hamper : De four man : De tree boy.

2nd—By the Adjectives *nuff*, *plenty-plenty*, *lat* ; as Nuff cow pass ya ; Plenty-plenty yam dig. (See observation 2nd, under pronouns about the verb to be.) Lat a man.

3rd—By the pronoun *dem*, immediately following the noun and joined to it by the Copulative Conjunction, *an*, in most cases ; thus—

De horse an dem hard fe ketch, massa : De house an dem high sa : De bud an dem fat fe toroo.

Sometimes *an* is omitted ; as, De boy dem clever : De crab dem bery sweet.

Before finishing with numbers, it must be remarked, that the singular Objective Personal Pronoun *him* is used when strong emphasis is to be marked after all singular Nouns ; thus, Dis teacher him bery cross. De Bible him bery true.

CHAPTER IV.

CASE AND GENDER.

There are three Genders, the Masculine, the Fe-

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feminine, and the Neuter. There are only two ways of distinguishing sex.

1st.—By different words. This is in comparative-few cases; thus, Boy, Gal, Breda, Sista, Fada, Mada; Uncul, Anty, Horse, Mare, Cock, Hen, Man, Oman, Sa, Ma'am, Son, Daughta, King, Queen, Husban, Wife, Massa, Misses.

These are about all under this head. This will not be wondered at, when we recollect that only Nouns that are absolutely necessary, the names of things, &c. with which there is a thorough acquaintance, are used; all others going under the designation of the awful Noun "wa dem call e."

2nd.—By prefixing the word Man and Oman.—This is done to animal, as well as to vegetable names; thus-Man-cow, Oman-cow, Man-prementa, Oman-prementa.

A list of these Nouns is unnecessary here.

Observe that some Nouns are the same in the masculine and feminine; thus, Old witch (Wizard-witch), Exzeckita (Executor, Executrix), Prafit (Prophet, Prophetess).

Of Cases, I can only remark here that in the Nouns themselves there is no distinction of the possessive from the nominative and objective cases. More shall be said of Cases under Pronouns.

CHAPTER V. ADJECTIVES.

Adjectives qualify Nouns, and have three degrees of comparison—the Positive, the Comparative, and the Superlative. The Comparative is formed by adding *er* to the positive; thus, Great, greater; Bad, bader; Good, gooder.

D.

The Superlative is formed by adding *is* to the Positive; thus, Sweet, sweetis; Good, goodis; Bad, badis. The Superlative of more is moris; thus, A half de moris mango (of wosa wosis)

There are then three ways of comparing Adjectives.

1st.—By adding *er* Comparative, and *is* Superlative.

2nd.—By adding more Comparative, and moris superlative.

3rd.—By adding wosa Comparative, and wosis superlative.—See Metonymical Adjectives.

Adjectives in the positive degree are often repeated to give them weight; thus, Bad, bad-man.

There are some Adjectives not derived from the English language; but by far the greater number are. Adjectives derived from the African language, admitting of no comparison. *Buffro-buffro*, clumsy, stout. What a buffro-buffro man!

Cra-ca—Careless, nervous, clumsy. Dis boy *ezell cra-cra*.

Bogro-bogro—Coarse. Wa me fe do wid dis bogro-bogro ting.

Takro-takro—Ugly, ill-proportioned. Dat is a takro-takro man.

Chaka-chaka—Disorderly (Adv.) De boy clothes so chaka-chaka.

Makla-makla—Bad taste from too many mixtures. Dis is a makla-makla drink.

Nyaka-nyaka—Filthy-looking (Adv.) De yard look so nyaka-nyaka.

Menya-menya—Slender. Wat a menya-menya pickni?

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Chin-chilly, Small. Gio me chinehilly bit.

Wenya-wenya, Meagre not fat. Dat wenya-wenya boy trong.

Adjectives derived from the English language. Some are simple, others are compounded by repeats; thus, be-be-be-be (for biggest). The Adjective big and some others are therefore compared in two ways; thus, big, bigger, bigis; and big, be-be, be-be-be-be.

All Adjectives of only one syllable are compared in two ways after the above form.

Observe that some Adjectives of more than one syllable are also compared by repeats, as plenty-plenty, hansam-hansam; no superlative by repeats.

Adjectives compared by *er*, *is* or by repeats also:

Chupit, Stupid
Cruffy, Rough
Farad, Froward
Blacky, Blacky
Whisy, White
Natty, Knotty
Tall, Tall
Dutty, Dirty
Peckle, Speckled
Fool-fool; thus, Dis man
fool-fool fe toro (true)
Sicky, Sickly

Plenty
Hansam, Handsome
Train, Startling
Markable, Remarkable
Ticky, Sticky
Maschebas, Mischievous
Tout, Stout
Tear-up, thus, You see
one tear-up-tear-up dut-
ty fella pass ya.

There are some compound Adjectives used metonymically: as,

Pick mout, Troublesome. A pick-mout boy come teasing. Refers to one who teases another to quarrel. again fe make quarrel.

Trong-eye—Domineering, If Jim no bin trong-eya not easily brow-beaten. him would'nt get de money.

Trong-physic—Hot tempered, bad. Creole pickni too trong-physic sista.

Trong-mout—Boisterous, De lawyer gain de case brow-beating. by trong-mout.

Sweet-mout—Winning, persuasive. Some people tak sweet mout lib.

Big-eye—Greedy, covetous, selfish. Big-eye people nubba is fe satisfy in dis wol.

Hard-aze—Disobedient, wilful. Hard-aze people nubba prasper.

All the above adjectives are compared thus, comparative, *wossa*, superlative, *wosis*; e. g. Hendry *wossa* sweet-mout dan William, but Fedric is the *wosis*.

Observe, however, that the superlative *wosis* is not so often used, the superlative being more often indicated in this way: John *wossa* sweet-mout dan ebry body me eber see.

Dan ebry body me eber see, or Dan ebry body me know, put with the comparative *wossa*, form the superlative degree generally.

CHAPTER VI.
PRONOUNS.

A pronoun is a word used instead of a noun. Pronouns are of three kinds, Personal, Relative and Adjective.

The personal pronouns are *A* (as *a* in laugh), *me*, *ou*, *him*, *e*, *we*, *ono*, *dem* (*e* always short as in eat).

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Sing. 1st person *A* in nominative case only.
 Obj. and poss. *me*, Masculine or Feminine.
 " " *Me* in all cases Masculine or Feminine.
 " 2nd. " *You* " " " "
 " 3rd. " *Him* " " " "
 " " " *e* Nom. & Obj. Poss. *him*; Neuter Gen.
 Plur. 1st " *We*, all cases Masculine or Feminine.
 " 2nd " *Ono* " " " "
 " 3rd " *Dem* " " Mas. Fem. Neuter.

A Tabular view of the Diff. Persons:—

Sing. 1st— <i>A</i> or <i>me</i> — <i>I</i> .	Plur. 1st— <i>We</i> .
2nd— <i>You</i> .	2nd— <i>Ono</i> — <i>you</i> , <i>ye</i> .
3rd— <i>Him</i> ; <i>e</i> ,— <i>He</i> , she, <i>it</i> .	3rd— <i>Dem</i> — <i>they</i> .

Observe 1st—The third Personal Pronouns are used in a sentence immediately after the noun with which it agrees, as a second subject to emphasize the noun with which it agrees; thus, *De man him mus be mad*: *De boy him cleber*; *De house e pretty*.

Observe 2ndly—After the Nominative [subject] Noun or Pronoun, the Verb *to be* is omitted when followed by an Adjective or Adverb; thus, *Him bery larned*; *Dey him man good sa*.

Observe 3rdly—The Verb *to be* will be found to be very seldom used as an auxiliary.

In attempting to improve the Personal Pronouns, ("cutting English") some rather awkward faults are made as the using the objective feminine and masculine for nominative, and vice versa; thus, *Me good sista*, *me tell she*, *bout e*, *but him tink fe her own way better than fe we*. You see she pass we gate yet.

The use of the second person plural Nom: *Ono* *ill* is a pack a chupit; Poss: *Ono cow look bery well*;

Obj: *A we tell ono de trufe*.

The Relative Pronouns—A Relative Pronoun relates to some Noun or Pronoun going before it, called its antecedents: They are *Who*, *Wich*, *Wat*, *Dat*. The Possessive of *who*, *Fe who* (whose) *Wich* and *wat* are used interrogatively. *Wara*—*wat* or *what*, is now nearly obsolete.

Observe: *Who*, *wich*, *dat*, when used in the past tense are followed by the past participle of the Verb *to be*, accompanied by the principal Verb corrupted into *ben*; thus, *De fella dat ben tak de money sick*, or *who or wich ben*, etc.

In the present tense by "is" thus, *Dem fella who is ya*.

In the future by the preposition "fe" preceding the verb; thus, *De man dat fe go no come yet*. *De place dat fe sell no run out yet*.

Adjective Pronouns are of four kinds Distributive, Possessive, Demonstrative and Indefinite.

Possessive pronouns; *Alla him*, *we*, *e*, *dem*, *you*, *ono*.

Sentences—*Me cow dead*. *Hit foot broke*. *We house bun (burn)*. *E blansam hansam*. *Dem place take way las mont*. *You cousin come las night*. *Ono place clean*.

Distributive, *Ebry*, *Ebry creole ha cunny [have cunning]*.

Demonstrative, Sing, *Dis*, *da* or *dat*, or *dari* (*i* as in *lick*).

The plural of *dis* is 3rd person pronoun *dem*, with the addition of the adverb *ya* (here), making *dem ya*—these.

The plural of *da*, *dat* or *dari*, is *dem*, with the adverb *da* (there), (*a in da* as in *lay*) making *dem da*—those.

Sentences—Da man no look well. Gie me dari-da. Dem ya hat wite, but dem-da black.

Observe that "dari" is nearly obsolete, da and dat being more used.

The Indefinite Pronouns—All, noon, sich, whole, any, some, all or alla used with any number; thus alla, two, tara. (other) nada [another] nara (another).

Sentences—All a dem gwine out. You nubba gie me noon sa.

Sich boy like ono, a don't matta. Alla two de pick'ni dem da ya.

De tara better. Nada backra come. Nara pig dead. Tara day me see him.

With regard to the appellation backra or buckra, observe, that the name backra is not use exclusively in referring to the white man, a brown or black gentleman is also called so in acknowledgment of his gentility, or genteel appearance; but this little "privilege" (?) is only given him with his good morning or good evening, or when he is asked a favour, otherwise he is only "gentleman" or "smart fella." Should he however, by his education and position, or money, move much in the upper class society, then he is said to turn "pure-pure backra."

CHAPTER VII.

OF VERBS.

A verb is a word which denotes *being, doing* or *action*. Verbs are never inflected to express either number, person or tense, except in few cases when usually the irregular verb, past tense, is inflected to ex-

press the past tense; thus, I bought a horse for ten pounds talin money.

1st—Observe 1st—The past tense is represented by the past participle of the verb to be *ben* (been); thus, Me ben tell you.

2nd—By the adjunct of time expressed; thus, Me tell you yesiday. A take e in a la-sha—I took it in last year.

Auxiliaries are seldom used, except *ben* [for been], also *we* for will, in the formation of the future tense; thus, Me we come nex week. A we go if you payme.

There are but three tenses, the main present, main past, and main future.

In the present tense we have the verb merely.

In the past, the verb with the auxiliary *ben*; thus A ben go las week.

In the future, the verb with the auxiliary *we* (for will).

Observe that *we* is used only in the affirmative sense, and *sha'n* (*as* in law—contraction of shall not) in the negative future; thus, A we go. "A we not go," is never used, but "I sha'n go." I must notice two exceptions with regard to the auxiliary verbs.

Exception 1st—The present participle of the verb without any auxiliary is used as a kind of present incomplete tense; thus, "A" list'ning to you dea [dear] breda—I am listening to you dear brother.

2nd—The present incomplete is also formed by prefixing *da* to any verb; thus "A da listen to you."—I am listening to you.

In trying to "cut English," the most elegant form of the verb is the past tense of the verb to be, and the past participle used together, or with another verb,

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thus, A was ben told you of it. A was ben da go wen de boy come.

Observe—The sign of the Present Participle *in* (ing) is only used in verbal Nouns; thus: A we gie you a good beatin. It is an interesting fact that here one can always judge of the state of pecuniary affairs of the "boasters," by the style and manner of their language. When they "cut" the purse is not over light, and fields (especially coffee) look promising. When they give out a long drawling jargon, things are not in an over-pleasing condition; no doubt drought or vegetable diseases telling upon the crops. With the temperament peculiar to inhabitants of the tropics, this is not much to be wondered at.

There are some rather interesting and original verbs; they are:—

Hinka, Hanging after for the purpose of getting something; thus: Don't hinka-hinka after de backra massa so.

Dilly-dally, To stand about idly; Don't dilly-dally 'bout de place.

Dilly-dally is also used as an Adjective; thus: Thomas is a dilly-dally fella.

Winka-winka, To neigh as a horse.

Halla, To cry or bawl out; thus, Wye mak you halla so dis blessed marnin.

Naym, To eat; thus, You mus'n naym all the mangoe.

Saca-saca, To cut as with a saw; thus, Dis knife jis da saca-saca de meat.

Bokle, To catch by surprise; thus, A bokle de chap sa.

ADVERBS.

Adverbs qualify Verbs, Adjectives or other Adverbs.

A LIST OF ADVERBS.

Adverbs of time:—Tomara, yesiday, aternoon, nuba; (never), wen, (when); demeiate-ly, (immediately); sun-time, (sometimes); te-day, (to-day); den, (then).

The compliments of the day are in the morning, *mante* or, *mara*; good manin, good morning.

In the evening, *kobite*, or good eveling. *Kobite* means properly good night, and is only used as a parting compliment.

Hade, *houdy*, is more used by friends to one another on meeting.

Adverbs of place.—*Low-dong* (below); *fur* (far); *ya* (here); *wa* (where); *da* (there); *yanda* (yonder).

Yanda is used in giving a rebuff and insult; thus *Ga lang yanda sa*, you too manish. (Go away from me sir, you are too froward.)

Adverbs of quantity.—*Nuff*, (enough); *mo-am-mo* (more and more); *Hini* keep on beat me *mo-am-mo*.

Plenty-plenty. *Him* beat me *plenty-plenty* massa. It must be observed that *plenty-plenty* as an Adverb is more used by Coolies and other emigrants.

'Ceedingly (exceedingly).

Bery (very).

Adverbs of quality.—*Well*, how *sofie* (softly) *cra-cra*, *takro-takro*, *chaka-chaka*, *makla-makla*, *nyaka-nyaka*, *buffro-buffro*, *minya-minya*, *wenya-wenya*. (See Adjectives). *De* man walk so *cra-cra*; You clothes

put on so takro-takro; You weed de place so chaka-chaka; De tiug taste so makla-maklo; William yad look so nyaka-nyaka; Dat colt look so wenyaw-wenya.

Observe that some Adverbs of quality or manner express the sound of the action of the Verb; thus, A lick him *ply* wid de trap; Him knock me *bap* wid him fis; I hit him wid de horse wip *swi, swi*; De gun make *bow*; A hear wen de rock stone knock *dong* pan de tank battam; De trap fly *bram*, an cut off de puss foot; Him tumble in de pan, *bash*; De wood fall down, *pongo-rong*.

Adverbs of affirmation; Cartintly (Certainly) yes.

Adverbs of doubt: 'Praps (Perhaps).

In trying to "cut," it sometimes occurs that several Adverbs of time are hurled together in one sentence; thus, Sometimes, always, now and then, 'casionally, seldam, *a* tak a drink. On hearing this mighty sentence, you can always be pretty certain that the maker has just passed through this awful period of *ne*, intimated in his attempt at grandiloquence.

CHAPTER IX.

PREPOSITIONS.

A Preposition is a word put before Nouns and pronouns to shew the relations between them.

LIST OF PREPOSITIONS.

Bout-bout; thus, A see a man da walk bout-bout de place; Crass (across); ater (after); gins (against); lang (long); rong-an-rong (round); thus, De mule walk rong-an-rong de mill; A man run rong-an-rong the paster. For *at*, *a* is used; thus, Go *a* Maniville you see wite soja. 'Twix (Twixt, betwixt); juring (during); cep (except); fo or fe (for); tro-an-tro (through); wid (with); widin (within); widout (without); to pon (upon).

Observe, that *a* is also the Preposition equivalent to *of*; thus, Him take de medicine fo de good *a* him body; Me work fe de good *a* me childran.

A is therefore an Article when it precedes (immediately) the Noun subject in a sentence; thus, *A* boy ride well.

A Pronoun when it precedes a Verb; thus, *A* take myself.

A Preposition before a Noun or Pronoun objective; thus, Me peak fe de good *a* him charicta.

CHAPTER X.

CONJUNCTIONS.

A Conjunction is a word which joins words and sentences together.

LIST OF CONJUNCTIONS.

Also, an (and); as, becausin (because); fe (for) (if); sense (since); dat (that); den (then); dafo (the fore); aldough (although); but, ida (either); yet; cepin (except). With regard to many of these aforegoing words, Europeans usually have to rely whonly on the context to make out the true meaning of a sentence.

INTERJECTIONS.

CHAPTER XI.

An Interjection expresses the feeling or emotion of the speaker.

As inhabitants of the tropical regions, it will be found that we are not over poor in original interjections.

Not only are single words as such, but long phrases; thus, as an exclamation of horrifying surprise Lack, lack, me ma'se, woy me dead!

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