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W. OSBURN, NATURALIST—HIS JOURNAL & HIS LETTERS

By K. E. INGRAM

In the first number of the *Jamaican Historical Review* Mr. P. M. Sherlock gave an account of an original ms.* journal of a visit to Jamaica in 1857-1858. That article adequately described the contents of the journal and it is not my intention here to go over the same ground except in so far as it helps to establish the authorship of the journal, which has hitherto remained unknown. I have been able to establish conclusively, as I hope to show, that the author is W. Osburn, a naturalist who came to Jamaica in December 1857 and resided here until his death in the spring of 1860.

There is in the West India Reference Library a volume of extracts from "The Zoologist: a popular monthly magazine of natural history . . ." February 1859 to April 1860, which contains some letters of W. Osburn to P. H. Gosse, on the birds and bats of Jamaica, and which were communicated to that magazine by Gosse. A comparison between these letters and the journal shows that their author is the same person.

In his first letter dated "Mahogany Hall, Jamaica, December 4, 1858", Osburn writes that his only reason for addressing Gosse, a perfect stranger, was his "delightful book on the Ornithology of Jamaica, which has afforded me so much instruction and valuable information since my residence here for the last twelve months." Throughout the journal the author makes frequent references to Gosse and is evidently quite familiar with his works. The letter continues: "My first residence was for three months at Grand Vale, in Westmoreland; afterwards at Camp Savanna, near Morgan's Bridge; then at Savanna-la-Mar; and finally here, on the borders of St. Anne's and Trelawny, about ten miles inwards." These dates and places are in close agreement with the time-table of the author of the journal, who after a couple weeks' stay in Savanna-la-Mar and a like period at Camp Savanna, is a guest at Grand Vale from January 5, 1858, to March 17, 1858, a period of two and a half months; on March 18 he returns to Camp Savanna where he resides until he goes to Savanna-la-Mar on July 7, 1858; from then to September 13 he is at Savanna-la-Mar; he leaves for Mahogany Hall in mid-September and remains there until the end of the year 1858.

* In the Mss. collection of the West India Reference Library.

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