

by G. S.

An African Song or Chant, - taken down in Notes from the information of Dr. Wm. Dickson, who lived several years in the West Indies, & was Secretary to a Governor of Barbadoes.

A Single Negro, (while at Work with the rest of the Gang) leads the Song, and the others join in Chorus at the end of every verse. (Generally in a minor Key - suppose E, with minor 3<sup>d</sup>.)

(Key Note) Massa buy me he won't kill a me Oh - Massa buy me he won't kill a me Oh Massa

buy me he won't kill a me Oh for he kill me he ship me regulaw

Chorus of Labouring Negroes as they proceed in their work

NB a is sounded by them like the french ai or English a

' For<sup>+</sup> I live with a bad Man oh la - ' for I live with a bad Man Obudda<sup>x</sup>-bo

' For I live with a bad Man oh la - ' for I woud go to the River side Regulaw<sup>⊕</sup>

Chorus a a a a a a a a O di-

Notes

+ ' For is an abbreviation of Before, meaning - Before I woud live, or rather than live &c

x Obudda signifies destruction; from the Hebrew. a bad (he destroyed) & abadon (a name of the Devil in Holy scripture) the Destroyer; & from thence the English word bad

⊕ - Regulaw - seems to mean - to be sold, or merchandise, and may be derived from the Hebrew-word recal (רעל) - which has a Merchant, or Merchant, &c