

by G. J.

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!)

(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 \oplus

Chorus of labouring Negroes as they proceed in their work

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

' For I live with a bad man oh la- ' for I live with a bad man Obudda-^xbo

' For I live with a bad man oh la- ' for I would go to the River side Regulaw \oplus

Chorus a a a a a a a a a O de

Notes

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^x For is an abbreviation of Before, meaning - Before I would live, or rather than live &c

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

\oplus - Regulaw - seems to mean - to be sold, or merchandise, and may be derived from the Hebrew word rekal ~~to be sold~~ a Merchant or Merchandise