

- Can You Swim ??? -

An old story relates that a gentleman scholar who once was being ferried across a river asked the ferryman if he knew anything about astronomy. The ferryman said he did not and the scholar sadly remarked: "It's unfortunate my good man, but one-third of your life is lost." A little later he asked the ferryman sarcastically if he even knew how to read and write. When the ferryman said he did not, the scholar cried out mockingly: "Then, my good man, another third of your life is lost." A little later the boat was upset and both of them were thrown into the water. "Can you swim?" called out the ferryman. "Alas, no," cried the scholar. "Then," remarked the ferryman sadly as he watched the man sink beneath the surface, "all of your life is lost."

No matter how much a man may know, he or is only partly educated if he does not know how to swim. If he cannot swim, not only is his life exposed to a number of unnecessary hazards, but the knowledge of his helplessness prevents him from enjoying various recreations.

In all cases the process is both a life insurance and means of enjoyment to the end of life, but even if it should involve trouble and expense, it should be religiously attended to. To neglect it, may mean an unnecessary death in the family and much sorrow.

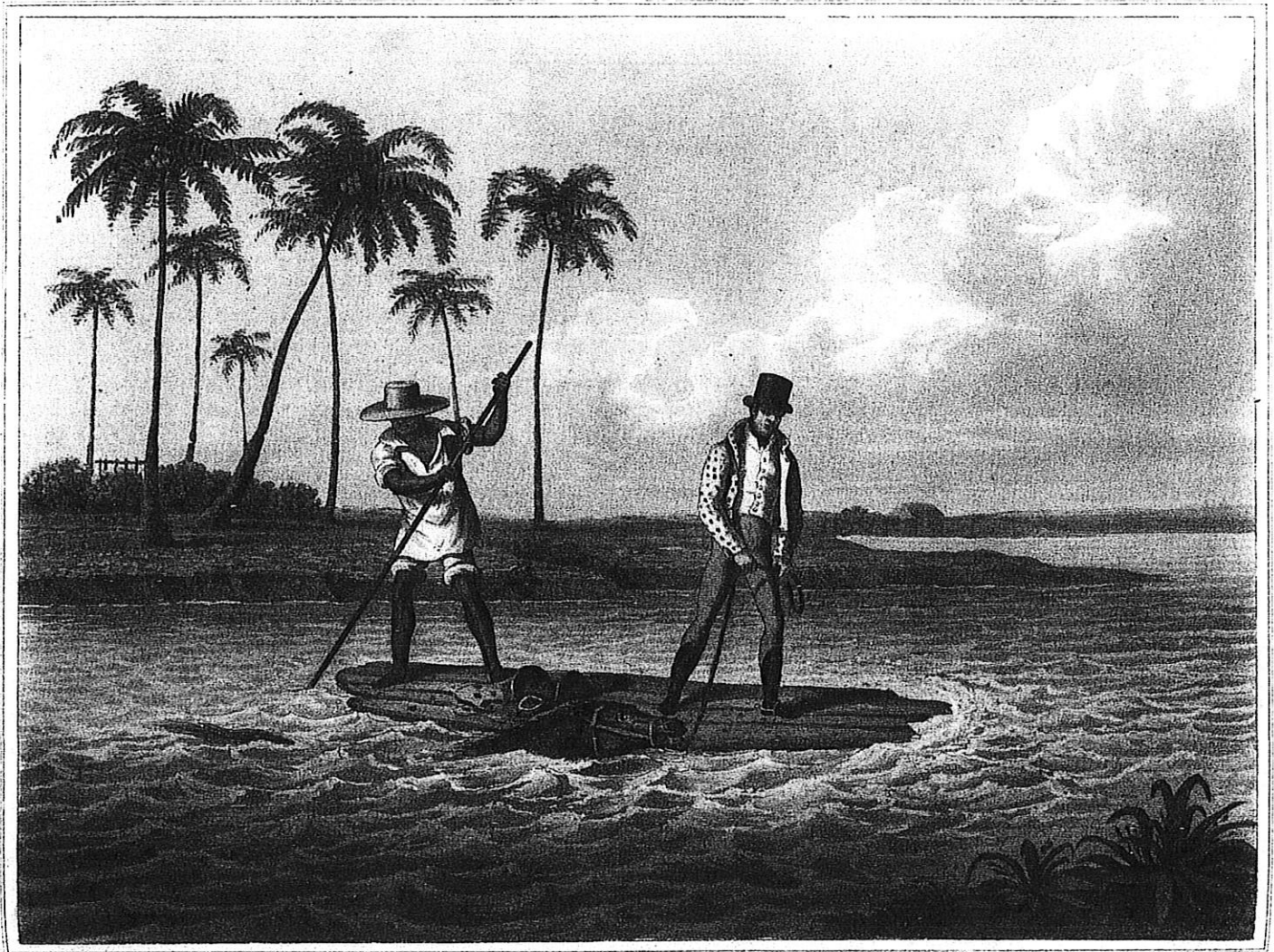


Illustration from Travels In Bronze, 1816. Original in the John Carter Brown Library