PRESENT STATE OF THE WEST-INDIES

1778
THE PRESENT STATE OF THE WEST-INDIES:
CONTAINING
An Accurate Description
OF
WHAT PARTS ARE POSSESSED BY THE SEVERAL POWERS IN EUROPE;
TOGETHER WITH
An Authentick Account of the first Discoverers of those Islands, and the Parts adjacent;
THERE
SITUATION, PRODUCT, STRENGTH,
EXTENT, TRADE, GOVERNMENT,
BOUNDARIES, COMMERCe, AND
SOIL, INHABITANTS,
STRENGTH,
SOIL, RELIGION.
ALSO
THEIR PRINCIPAL BAYS AND HARBOURS.
The Materials for which were collected on the Spot during the last War by some of the Officers of his Majesty's Forces, and diligently compared with all authentick Narrators.

ILLUSTRATED WITH
A COMPLETE MAP OF THE WEST-INDIES,
DONE FROM THE LATEST OBSERVATIONS.

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PRESIDENT'S STATE
OP THE
WEST INDIES
An Account of
What Parts Are Possessed by the
Hollanders.

A Map of the

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THE Design of the following Work is to give a succinct Description of the different Countries known by the Name of the West-Indies; their civil and natural History, Situation, and Trade: The Importance of these Places, their different Possessions and Productions, render them so interesting, both in the System of Commerce and of Politics, as to make a particular Account of them as useful as it is entertaining. The late Peace has made such various Changes in the whole Face of Affairs in this Part of the World, that all former Accounts of it are almost become useless, and contradictory to the Present State, both with Regard to the Trade, Government, and Proprietors. A new Description and History of the West-Indies, and adjacent Countries, was, therefore, highly necessary. There being no Work extant which gives an authentic Account of all these different Territories as they now exist, prompted us to attempt the present Performance, in compiling which, we have selected and examined all the authentic Testimonies, and Accounts of Authority, any Way relating to the West-Indies, that were already published; besides several original Charts from actual Surveys, Minutes, and other Memoirs, on which we could securely depend, which, besides affording us many excellent Helps in improving the present Work, have enabled us to correct the Geography of the West-Indies, as may be seen in the following Sheets, and the annexed Plates, which are principally founded upon, and improved by, these valuable Evidences and Observations, many of which were taken from the Spaniards, &c. during the late War.

Notwithstanding the Multiplicity and Length of the different Authorities we have consulted and made use of, one of our principal Designs has been Brevity, as well as Method and Exactness; to reduce into as short a Space as possible all that relates to the History of the Discovery of each particular Country,
PREFACE.

Country, its ancient and present State, its Revolutions, and the memorable Events which any Way concern it; the Situation, Description of the principal Rivers, Mountains, and Towns, the Harbours and their Conditions, the Nature of the Climate and Soil, its Manufactures, Productions, and Trade, and what Improvements might be made, or what new Branches of Commerce might be introduced with Success; the Form of Government, the present State of the Population, and its Comparison with what was the Case formerly: all these Articles, I say, have been minutely examined into, and reduced to a regular Form, with as much Conciseness as the Matter would admit of, without omitting any Article of Consequence which had any Connexion with this Subject. And as we have not been wanting in our Industry and Attention to render this the best as well as most exact and authentic Account of what the West-Indies now are or have been, we flatter ourselves that it will meet with the favourable Opinion and Approbation of the Public.

DESCRIPTION
DESCRIPTION OF THE

WEST-INDIES.

PART I.

A General View of the West-Indies.

The Portuguefe, directing their course towards the East, had passed the Cape of Good-Hope, and discovered the East-Indies, when Christopher Columbus, under the auspices of the crown of Castille, made the first discovery of the New World. The rivalship of the nations of Portugal and Spain shewed itself, at first, only by the emulation, each of their navigators had, to make different voyages. Each of them quietly brought back to his country, accounts, together with the spoils, of regions before unknown, which he had the courage or good luck to find out. This peaceable state could not last long. Two people, neighbours, and consequently enemies, in Europe, failing in two opposite courses on the globe, could not fail of meeting each other: and it was very natural, that those who in our Continent were destroying each other in pitched battles, for the possession of a small territory, should come to blows for the division of a new world, when they were 3000 leagues distant from their own habitations. They, however, met, and did not attack each other. This, which ought to be considered as very amazing, was owing to Pope Alexander VI. one of the worst of men who ever abused sovereign power. Rome, which at that time governed the world with an empire more absolute, perhaps, than that of the Cæsars, sometimes instructed and enlightened nations, and sometimes hindered their sovereigns from destroying each other. Her priests, the only prefervers of literature, of principles and customs,
customs, did not always abuse this trust; we are in general so much prejudiced against them, as to heighten their abuse of power, and to impute to them crimes which were more owing to the age they lived in, than to their profession; there is unluckily so much to say against them, that it is thought wrong to say anything in their behalf. The militia of Rome, who governed by the Gospel, were the priests, who supplied the place of those invincible legions, whose discipline and courage had conquered the world. The Pope, general of this innumerable army, servant of the servants, master and absolute judge, in the name of God distributed crowns, and made new kings, as we have seen the Emperor of Germany make one in our days. He ordered nations to go to war, he commanded them to make peace; he put his seal to treaties, and gave a security to the possession of new acquisitions. His court of Chancery was for all Europe; and the general bigotry rendered his decrees more formidable, as they were more sacred. When the Portuguese had made their first discoveries, they took care to strengthen themselves with the sanction of Rome, which imposed on them no other obligation, than the conversion of the infidels. Ferdinand and Isabella, joint sovereigns of Castille and Aragon, at the time of Columbus's expedition, provided themselves likewise with a bull of Pope Alexander VI. which secured to them all the new islands and countries which were or might be discovered by this navigator, under condition that the Gospel should be preached there by good men. What sort of good men they were, who have preached the Gospel there, may be judged from hence, that, of all the priests who have gone from Europe to those unhappy countries, Bartholomew de las Casas is the only one of whom history has not transmitted the name and actions with execration. Besides, this Apostle of the Americans, as he is commonly stiled, has he not been guilty of as much evil as his barbarous colleagues, in first recommending the trade and slavery of the Negroes, with a view to hinder the total extermination of the natives of America? However, the Pope, by an irrevocable decree, distributed the new-discovered countries: but, as they were continually increasing, it was too troublesome, as well as expensive, to be always applying to Rome on the return of every ship. Besides, avarice, excited by the commodities and precious metals which these new countries produced, was just going to make the Portuguese discoverers take arms against the Spaniards. These two nations agreed to divide the globe by an imaginary line, which, reaching from one Pole to the other, should serve for a boundary as well to their possessions as to their enterprises; and addressing themselves to the Pope for his consent to this curious division of another's property, the Pope agreed to divide the world by this famous line of *Demarcation*, placed in the Atlantic Ocean, at the distance of 100 leagues to the West of the Azores. The line which is called that of *Demarcation*, and which runs 270 leagues beyond this, was adopted a little while after by an agreement made between the kings of Castille and Portugal. All the discoveries already made, or to be made, to the East of this political meridian, were to belong to the Portuguese; whilst all those to the West were the share of the Castilians.
Each nation was to preach the Gospel as fervently as possible in that part which fell to its lot. It is easy to conceive the absurdity of this line of marchation. The Pope, and his geographers, having not said a word of an opposite marchation, as the Portuguese have since pretended, which ought naturally to be 180 degrees distant from the former, it would follow, that either nation might comprehend the whole earth in its moity, and that this curious species of property only depended on the course which each followed. From this consideration it was, that Magalhaens, or Magellan, discontented with the Portuguese his countrymen, formed the design of taking away the East-India islands from them, by going there on the Western course which he did in the name, and under the authority, of the Spanish flag, when he discovered the South-Seas. Notwithstanding this absurdity, notwithstanding the inevitable meeting and avarice of these two nations, the Pope's line of division hindered them from attacking each other, and that was sufficient.

As nothing was then attended to but the Indies, newly discovered by the Portuguese, all the new countries, in the new as well as in the old hemisphere, received the name of Indies. From hence came the original division and denomination of the Great Indies, Old Indies, or East Indies, for the true and ancient India; and of Little Indies, New Indies, or West Indies, for America: this was relative to the line consecrated by the Pope. The names of East and West Indies are the only ones which are now preferred: under the first is comprehended the greater part of Asia, with all the islands: the second, at present, only takes in the middle part of America.

Geographers commonly divide the Continent of America into two parts, North and South; the narrow Isthmus of Panama joining the two immense portions. This division, without doubt, is the most simple that can be conceived, and appears, the moment we look at the form and disposition of America: it is likewise that which was made by the first Spaniards who went from the Isthmus of Panama, to discover the South-Sea, so called in opposition to that from whence they came.

But this Bay, be sprinkled over with innumerable Islands, improperly called, from one of its parts, the Gulf of Mexico, when it ought to be called the West-Indian Sea, which a simple neck of land separates from the great sea, to the East of it; this Gulf, whose depth distinguishes, in a very striking manner, the two masses which seem to balance each other in the new Hemisphere, ought not it likewise to enter into the physical division of America? To this vast Gulf the Spaniards have retained the name of West-Indies, leaving that of North and South America to the two opposite Continents. Under this name they comprehend all the coast of the main land, which lies adjacent to it, as well as all the islands, the chains of which seem to keep back the sea, which beats with violence against this part of America. It is in one of these islands of the coast of Northern chain, the little Isle of Guanahani, at present uninhabited, that the discovery was first made of the West-Indies. This Gulf is the center of the most extensive as well as most precious trade of America; and which surpasses, at least in riches, that of the East-Indies. The appellation of West-
DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST-INDIES.

West-Indies, in its whole extent, has been adopted by the English, the Dutch, and all other navigators; and the merchants, in conforming to it, have obliged geographers to divide America into three parts, North America, the West Indies, and South America.

§ 1.

If you throw your eyes on a Map of the West-Indies, you perceive a sea comprised in three great Basons, divided from each other by large projectings and sinkings-in, and separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a string of islans, both small and large. This division is that of Nature, and what presents itself at the first view. The sea of the West-Indies was most likely formed by an irruption of the ocean always driving towards the West; all the shores that look towards the East, as well as the Islands, bear the marks of this continual action; the first are for the greater part overflowed, and the others are torn and broke throughout. The waters, pushed forward and accumulated in the sea of the West-Indies, flow back to the ocean very rapidly through the Gulf of Florida, which, being the largest and principal outlet, keeps up their circulation.

The most Northerly Bason is known by the name of the Gulf of Mexico; it is the largest of the three we have just taken notice of. To the East it has, for a boundary, the Peninsula of Florida, with the Island of Cuba; between which is the outlet which leads to the Gulf of Florida, also called the Canal of Bahamas; on the side of the Continent it is bounded by the overflowed shores of Florida, Louisiana, and of New Leon, with those of a considerable part of Mexico, in which are contained the entire West and North coasts of the Peninsula of Yucatan. These two coasts are surrounded by a large chain of shoals, sands, and rocks; the terrible remains of the lands, the sea has swallowed up.

This Bason, which I shall call the Mexican, terminates at Cape Cataco, about 72 leagues from Cape St. Antonio, the most Westerly point of the Isle of Cuba. Between this strait, and a line drawn from Cape Gracias a Dios to Point Negril in Jamaica, Nature has formed the second Bason of the West-Indian Sea; it is less than either of the others, to which it serves for a communication. This Bason might be called the Sea of Honduras, after the Bay of that name, of which it makes the most remarkable part. Its boundaries on the side of the Continent, from Cape Cataco to Cape Gracias a Dios, are all the Eastern side of Yucatan, and all the North coast of the Province of Honduras, as the Spaniards call it. The waters running continually out of this Bason into the Mexican Gulf through a very narrow strait, ought to act with the greatest violence in the Bay of Honduras; and, indeed, this Bay is full of overflowed islands and rocks, some under water, and some just level with it, sand-banks, &c. and all the Eastern coast of Yucatan, which lies open to its action, is entirely torn and pierced with lagoons: throughout the whole may be seen the ravages of a low but continual inundation.

The
The third Basin is bounded on the West by the Mexican coast, on the South by that of Terra-Firma, to the East and West by chains of islands: if we compare it with the two others, we ought to give it the name of the Southern Basin. The Spaniards, who first discovered the sea which is on the other side of the Isthmus of Panama, gave it the name of the South-Sea, and called that of which we are speaking the North-Sea. It has been sometimes called the Caribbean-Sea, which name it would be better to adopt, than to leave this space quite anonymous. It spreads from East to West, and the ocean breaks in through a great number of inlets between the Caribbee Islands. Its waters, which may be said only to slide along the coast of Terra-Firma, beat upon the Mosquito shore, and that of Costa Rica, which are directly opposed to its action, with great violence: these coasts, of consequence, are overflowed, and cut into great lagoons and lakes. The ravages of the waters are equally sensibible in the sea, which is full of shoals and sands. The opening of this Basin, between Cape Gracias a Dios and Jamaica, is quite filled with sand-banks, loaded with rocks and little islands. The environs of the Cape, especially about 25 leagues off, shew nothing but overflowed marks, the terrible number of which often deceive the efforts of the mariner who has got amongst them.

This is pretty nearly the physical division of the West-Indian Sea. The division of the islands which bound it on the side of the ocean appears more complicated; it is founded on their respective situations, or on the relations that the course of navigators has produced. We shall begin this division from the South.

From the 11th degree to the 18th of North Latitude is a crooked chain, lying nearly N. and N. N. W. of small islands, of which the largest is hardly 18 leagues long. These the first discoverers called the Antilas, or Forward Islands, because they really form a barrier advanced towards the ocean. The Spanish navigators, who traversed through the little channels that separate them, to pass into the inner part of the West-Indian Sea, distinguished them by the general name of Windward Islands, and at the same time called those the Leeward Islands, which lay from East to West along the coast of Terra-Firma, from the most Southern passage to Cape Chichibacoa, or Coquibacoa, if we adopt the vicious appellation of sailors. The winds, which almost always blow Easterly, shew naturally this distinction between the islands which lie more to the East, and those which are more distant. The Antilles, or Windward Islands, are still called Caribbee Isles, from the name of the first inhabitants, exterminated a long time since by the Christians of Europe; the unfortunate remains of whom, mixed with some Negroes, whose ancestors were freed by them and faved from shipwreck, have lately fallen under the yoke in the Island of St. Vincent.

At the 18th degree, the curvature of the Caribbean chain ends. This rounding comprehends several small islands, which the English call the Leeward Caribbees. At this ending the line bends all at once, and stretches out to the E. and N. W. This lengthening affords us several divisions.

The islands on the East, which are the most considerable of this sea, have been called,
called, in their whole extent, the Leeward Islands, for the same reason as those which we just mentioned on the coast of Terra-Firma, and by some the Greater Antilles, to distinguish them from the Antilles properly so called.

Before these great islands, there stretches out a second chain of smaller islands, long and narrow, placed in sand-banks, some of which are of a prodigious size. This is the extension of the line to the N. W. to which they have the general name of Bahama Islands, or Lucayos.

The subdivisions of these different archipelagos arise from the particular groups of islands in this long series; so the name of Virgin Isles distinguishes that cluster of islands and rocks which fill up that part of the sea between the Leeward Caribbees and Porto Rico; and the names of islands of Espiritu Santo, of Cayques, of Turkish Isles, &c. have been given to several parcels of rocks and sands which divide the Lucayos. Herrera, who called by this last name all the islands to the North of the Greater Antilles, even those of Florida, makes three grand subdivisions of them, which we do not repeat here, because nobody has followed him herein.

This general view of the West-India Islands naturally leads us to some reflections on their formation.

§ 2.

One cannot help regarding them as lands which have escaped the irruption of water; and, which ever way we consider them, we see nothing but the remains of an immense shipwreck. The Caribbees principally appear to be only the summits of mountains, the lower chain of which, at present under water, is distinguishable in the channels of different breadths which separate these islands; some of them are six leagues broad, others 10 or 15; but in all of them we find a bottom at 100, 120, or 150 fathoms. There is between Grenada and St. Vincent a little archipelago of 16 leagues broad, known under the name of the Grenadilles, or Grenadines, where in some places there is only 10 fathom. To this we may add, that, in all the Antilles, the principal mountains, which lie in the same direction as the chain of islands, are all volcanos, either now burning or extinguished; and we find throughout, the marks of a subterraneous fire, which must have joined its efforts to that of the ocean, in the general irruption.

Though philosophers try in vain to find out what was the first cause of this irruption, or what was that of the particular inundations, which have drowned whole countries, and left others uncovered; or those exceeding great accidents, which have overturned a part of the earth's surface, and totally changed its face; it is certain that these grand changes in nature are attested by the most authentic monuments. The knowledge and proofs of them are almost coeval with the greatest antiquity, and tradition has preserved them among the most uncivilized and most distant nations. The principle of these alterations is to be found in the waters which sur-
round the globe, and which act in all directions on its surface. Europe has not suffered less changes than that part of America we are now considering: and the ancients, who lived nearer to the times when these strokes happened, were as well convinced of it as the naturalists of our own times. "It was not enough (says Pliny, B. 6. ch. 1.) for the ocean to surround the earth and continually wear away the shores, it was not sufficient for it, by opening a passage between Calpe and Abyla, to have absorbed a space as great as it already took up; not contented with having swallowed up the lands which filled up the Propontis and Hellepont, it has besides destroyed a whole country beyond the Bosporus, so that it has at last joined itself to the Paludes Meotides, which have only been formed at the expense of the regions they have overflown."

These particular deluges, in conjunction with great earthquakes, and eruptions caused by the volcanos and sulphureous earths, are sufficient to account for all the revolutions, both sudden and progressive, which change the surface of our globe. The continual agitation of one element against another, of the earth which swallows up a part of the ocean in its interior cavities, of the sea which tears off and carries away great portions of the land in its abysses, is the great cause of these inevitable changes. To this we may add, the motion of the sea from East to West, a motion impressed on it by that which carries the whole globe from West to East: this motion is much greater at the Equator, where the globe, being more raised, moves in a larger circle. Thus it is that the sea seems to break all the dikes that the land opposes to it, and that it opens itself a number of passages, in places, where the tops of mountains which by their great height escape being overflowed, compose at present the Caribbee Islands. All the parts of these islands which are exposed to the East, that is, to the shock of the waters, are cut and wore away in their whole extent: the sea, which continually beats its waves against these shores, renders them almost inaccessible: the harbours and places of shelter are on the opposite side, which is generally distinguished by the name of Baffe-terre, while the Eastern coast is called Cabes-terre.

In the same manner Nature has formed the North-West islands, which we have comprized under the general name of Lucayos Isles. These, much more flat than the Caribbee, may be considered as the surfaces, not immerged, of several large sand-banks. We may easily conceive, that, the lands of which they made a part being upon the whole more elevated than those from which the Caribbee have been detached, the water ought not to have cut them in so precise a manner, and has overflowed them with a less quantity.

We might confirm these remarks, and several others, as well by the physical appearances, the disposition of the streams of water, &c. as by the natural productions, which would all tend to prove that the islands of the West-Indies have been torn from the Continent; but we think that these new proofs would be unnecessary, in so general an account as this: besides, the bounds we set ourselves will only suffer:
suffer us to give a succinct relation of each object. We shall now go on to consider the climate, productions, and commerce, which offer us so large and fruitful a field, that we are less embarrassed in the choice, than in the manner of comprising, in a short as well as interesting manner, the objects which present themselves on all sides. After having finished this part, we shall enter into the political division of the West-Indies, by treating separately of the possessions of each nation. The Philosophical and Political History of the Indies, a work full of acuteness and genius, will be of great use to us in this part of our work; and we shall appropriate to ourselves several pieces of it which we could not have treated on better than that author.

§ 3.

THERE are but two seasons in the West-India Islands; the dry, and the rainy. By their situation between the Equator and Tropic of Cancer, they are subject to some differences, which arise from the position and qualities of the soil. The heat is continual; it increases from sun-rise to an hour after noon, and decreases as the sun descends. The thermometer rises to 44 degrees, sometimes even to 47½, above the freezing point. Nothing is more rare than temperate weather; sometimes, indeed, the sky is covered with clouds for an hour or two, but there are never four days in the year in which they do not see the sun.

Wherever the wind does not blow, one is scorched; and yet all the winds are not cooling: it is only the Easterly winds which moderate the heat; those from the South or West afford little relief, but they are more rare, and less regular than the Easterly. This Easterly wind is not perceived in the islands before nine or ten in the morning; it freshens as the sun rises above the horizon, and diminishes as the sun descends, and falls calm about the evening; but it is only along the coasts, and not in the open sea, that this wind constantly moderates the excessive heat of the climate.

The rains likewise contribute to cool the air of the West-Indies. In general, these rains are so common, and so plentiful, especially during the winter, which lasts from the middle of July to the middle of October, that, according to the best observations, they yield as much water in one week, as falls in our climate in a year. These rains, so salutary against the heat, are, at the same time, accompanied with all the disagreeable and bad effects of an excessive dampness: the fruits rot, iron rusts from morning to night; meat cannot be kept fresh longer than twenty-four hours, and it requires continual attention and precautions to preserve seeds, until the season comes to sow them in the ground.

To these inconveniences of periodical rains succeed those of hurricanes and earthquakes. A hurricane is a violent wind, most commonly accompanied with rain, lightning, thunder, and earthquakes, and always with the most terrible and destructive circumstances that the winds can produce. It tears up the largest trees by the roots, throws down the most solid buildings, and destroys the plantations; you would
would fancy it was the last convulsions of Nature, just ready to expire. As none of the hurricanes come from the East, that is, from the great sea, to which the Caribbee islands are exposed, one is tempted to think that they are all formed on the continent of America, by the impetuous concourse of opposite winds. The earthquakes are not quite so frequent as the hurricanes, but are sometimes more terrible and destructive.

The climate of the continent of the West Indies, that is, of those parts which lie near the sea, and which are comprised between the shore and the chain of mountains nearly parallel to it, throughout the greater part of this country, nearly resembles that of the islands; and, in general, there are only distinguished two seasons, the wet and dry. The rains cause periodical inundations, by the overflowing of the rivers; and the offensiveness of the excessive moisture produced by them, is yet more augmented by the destructive exhalations which they spread in the air; the corruption of vegetables, animals, and of dead fishes, which the floods bring with them, the stagnant water collected in the low grounds, and in certain plains of a prodigious extent, as in those near the banks of the Orinoco, still add to these inconveniences. The great rivers situated beyond the Tropic have also their regular inundations; but these arise from the melting of the snow in the distant mountains from whence they take their sources.

The regular winds likewise cool the lands within the Tropics, as they do the islands. On the coast of the Caribbean sea, the wind is generally between the North and East. The Westerly wind, which upon the other coasts is perceivable almost all the year, is predominant here only in the months of December and January. In general, the winds are more regular upon the coasts which look to the South, than upon those whose aspect is different; and every where they are subject to particularities, which arise from the jettings out and in of the shore, more or less considerable, and which render them more or less regular, and more or less sensible.

The hurricanes are never felt in that part of the continent opposite to the sea of the West Indies, and earthquakes are very rare there; but they often suffer whirlwinds, called tornados; these are sudden, dangerous, and impetuous squalls, which are commonly against the regular wind, and whose duration is very short; they likewise have some periodical storms, produced by the northerly winds, especially in the months of December and January. All the sides of the mountains opposed to this sea do not afford one volcano; indeed, we see some peaks of hills, which look like decayed ones: it is towards the South Sea that all these burning mountains are collected together; and in this part it is, where earthquakes sometimes happen, and overturn the whole surface of the country.

A person of a humane disposition, who considers the climate in general of the West-Indies, both on the continent, and in the islands, cannot help deploring the insatiable desire that carries such crowds to these countries. This climate, at all times dangerous to a European, deadly during six months of the year, infectious to strangers, accustomed to a temperate air, to a convenient way of living, and to a wholesome

nourishment.
nourishment, becomes soon their grave. The most moderate computations make the
loss of the English, who go to the West Indies, amount to four tenths; that of the French
to three tenths. It is very remarkable, that, on the continent, which is much more un-
wholesome than the islands, the Spaniards do not lose more than one tenth. This effect
of their constitution, or temperance, gives them a manifest advantage over the two
other nations; and it seems as if Nature had destined them to occupy the West-Indies,
to enrich the industrious nations, who could not live there, with its productions.

It will be easily perceived that we shall not enter into a detail of these precious and
plentiful productions; each of them, considered separately, furnishing sufficient
matter for a particular treatise, to a philosophical, a commercial, or a political writer.

§ 4.

WE shall place, conformable to the general sense of mankind, gold and silver at
the head of these productions. They do not, excepting the gold mines of St.
Domingo, properly belong to the West Indies, not even those of Mexico. The
silver mines of this country are indeed found near the shores of the West-Indian sea,
as well as in the inland parts; but the first are much poorer, and, at present, they do
not work any which are not at a great distance from the sea, for fear they might be
exposed to the invasion of foreigners. The mines of Peru belong still less to the West
Indies; but, as it is through their sea that a part of their product is brought to Europe, we
may comprehend them in this account. The moneyers of Mexico make annually twelve
or thirteen millions of piastres, the sixth part nearly of gold, the rest of silver; about
half this comes over to Europe, a sixth to the East-Indies, a twelfth to the Spanish
islands: the rest runs by an insensible transpiration into foreign colonies, or circulates
in the empire. It is commonly supposed, that the mines of Mexico employ about
40,000 Indians, under the direction of 4000 Spaniards.

According to the most moderate computation, the Spanish mines have sent into
the metropolis, from 1742 to 1746, that is, in the space of 248 years, more than
nine millions of millions of piastres, the least part of which has remained with the
original masters; the other has been scattered over Europe, or carried into Asia.
From the first of January, 1745, to the last of December, 1764, we are not reduced
to conjectures. During this period, Spain has received, in piastres, 27,027,896 of
gold, and 126,798,258 piastres 8 reals of silver; these two united form a mass of
153,826,154 piastres and 8 reals. If we divide this sum in eleven parts, we shall
find that the common annual returns have been 13,984,185½ piastres. We ought to
add to these riches those which are not registered, in order to avoid paying the duty,
and which may amount to about a fourth more, and we shall find, that Spain receives
annually from its colonies about 17 millions of piastres. We may observe, that these
mines might yield much more, and that they are inexhaustible, since there are new
ones continually forming.
After gold and silver, cochineal is the most precious article of this part of America, if it is not the most lucrative upon the whole. New Spain alone remains in possession of this rich production, without which we could not dye either purple or scarlet. Independently of what it furnishes Asia with, it sends every year to Europe about 2500 furrons, or bags, which are sold at Cadiz one with another for 800 piastres each. It is a very considerable produce, which costs no trouble to the Spaniards. They likewise have the best indigo, the culture of which having been tried successively in different places, seems fixed at Mexico, and St. Domingo, in the West Indies, as it is at Carolina, upon the Continent, a little more advanced towards the North. In the Spanish possessions are likewise found the best woods for dyeing, as blood-wood, fustic, and what is called the wood of Campechy, or logwood. I shall not mention several other productions of an inferior kind, both by their nature and their quantity; they shall be specified when we run over the particular possessions of the Spaniards.

Cacao is another precious production, of which the Spaniards carry on a great trade. They reckon that the annual crop of this fruit is more than 100,000 fanegues, of 110 pounds each. These come mostly from the province of Caraccas: the fanegue, which there costs seldom more than 6 or 7 piastres in mercantile commodities, is sold to the public at the fixed price of 38. Europe receives from 50 to 60 thousand of these fanegues; the rest are distributed in Mexico, Popayan, and the Canaries.

Sugar is the article in the West-Indies, after gold and silver, which deserves the most attention: its produce, and that of its extracts, known by the name of rum and molasses, is more important than that of coffee, cotton, indigo, in a word, of all the others put together. It is almost peculiar to the Islands; with that they procure every thing needful or agreeable to the inhabitants. As these Islands will be more or less specified, we must reserve, for that part, the enumerations of the richness of this produce, and now go on to the manner of carrying on the trade in the Western Islands.

§ 5.

Europe is continually enriched by carrying constantly to America not only all the goods which it produces or manufactures, but likewise those that its ships fetch from Asia or Africa. The direct commerce of its own commodities, and many imported from the East-Indies, and whose value has doubled in Europe, is without doubt very great; and the only one which comes near it is that of the Negroes, which they purchase, together with other commodities, on the coast of Africa, to sell them again in the West Indies. This trade, to the disgrace of the age, has so deeply taken root; it is become so necessary to the present state of affairs, and our wants have justified it in a manner so absolute, that it is now almost a ridiculous common-place to cry out against the barbarity and cruelty of it.
it. We have seen that Las Casas gave the first idea to replace the converted Americans, who were smothered by thousands in the mines, with blacks who were infidels. This diabolical idea was but too much followed. The inhabitants of Africa fold one another; all the Europeans bought them; but, as they had not all mines to work, those who were obliged to make plantations began to employ negro-slaves for that work; and soon all the islands were cultivated by Africans, badly fed, half naked, beat, and used more unmercifully than the most stubborn beasts of our country. Every year about 52,000 slaves are carried from Africa to the West-Indies. The Danes carry away about 3000, the Dutch 6000, the French 13000, the English have all the rest, which they distribute in their colonies: they fell about 3000 to the French, and near 4000 to the Spaniards, the only people having any possessions in the West-Indies who do not go to the markets for slaves on the African coast.

This trade of Negroes is carried on freely by all the merchants of these different nations, as well as the commerce of Africa, or the mother-country, with the respective colonies: but, at the same time, the interest of each nation has made them exclude all others the entrance of their colonies; and it is only the most pressing necessity which has engaged the English and the French to except some places and some certain goods. This exclusion might easily be kept up by those nations which only have the possession of islands; but Spain, which has an immense extent of country, of which it cannot supply all the inhabitants, is put to much more expence and caution: hence the number of guardia costas continually cruising on the American coasts; and the contraband vessels, still more numerous, who, notwithstanding their vigilance, continually furnish the Spaniards with European commodities, which the deficient supply of their mother-country makes them stand in need of.

All the trade between Spain and the West-Indies is carried on in the royal and privileged fleets. The ships known under the name of galleons were alone employed for a long series of years in this traffic: but, at present, the privileged fleets set out from Cadiz every two, three, or four years, according to the demand or circumstances. They are commonly composed of 15 or 20 merchant-ships, under convoy of two men of war, or more, if there is any apprehension of danger. Wines, brandy, and oil, form the most bulky part of the cargo; the richest is composed of gold and silver stuffs, galoons, cloth, linen, filks, lace, hats, jewels, diamonds, and spices.

The fleet sets off from Europe in the month of July, or, at the latest, in the beginning of August, to avoid the dangers which the violent North winds in the open sea might produce, especially near the ports, if it should set off in another season. The fleet first stops at Porto-Rico to take in refreshments, and gets to Vera-Cruz, from whence its cargo is carried to Xalappa, about a third of the distance between this port and the city of Mexico. The time of the fair which is held there, is limited by law to six months; it is, however, sometimes prolonged, at the request of the merchants.
merchants of the country, or of those of Spain. The proportion of the metals and
merchandize determines the gain or loss in the exchanges: if one of these objects is
more plentiful than the other, the sellers or buyers are necessarily losers. Formerly
the royal treasure was sent from the capital to Vera-Cruz, to wait there for the fleet;
but since this key of the New World was pillaged in 1683 by the Buccaneers, so
famous in the history of the West-Indies, it remains at Puebla de los Angeles, which
is 43 leagues off, till the arrival of the ships.

When the bullions is finished, they carry on board the gold, silver, cochineal,
furs, vanilla, logwood, &c. The fleet then shapes its course towards the Havanna,
where, after being joined by some regifter-ships (the name given to merchant-
ships which, paying a certain sum to the government, have the liberty of carrying
goods to the Spanish settlements), fitted out for the Bay of Honduras and some other
ports, it sails to Cadiz, through the Gulf of Florida.

In the interval between one fleet and another, the court of Spain fits out two
men of war, which they call Azogues, to carry to Vera-Cruz the quicksilver necessary
for the working the mines of Mexico. The Azogues, to which there are sometimes
joined two or three merchant-ships, that are not allowed to carry any thing but
Spanish fruits, in their return are loaded with the price of the merchandizes sold
since the departure of the fleet, or with the produce of those which were left on
credit. If there is any thing still left behind, it is commonly brought back by the
ships of war, built in the dock-yards at the Havanna, and which always go to Vera-
Cruz before they sail for Europe.

The commerce of the Southern coast is carried on by private persons invested with
a privilege for that purpose. This trade was a long time open to all the subjects of
the Spanish monarchy, and is still so to the Americans. Those of Europe are much
worse treated. In 1728 there was formed a company at St. Sebastian, in Biscay, called
the Company of Caraccas, from the name of the American province where it has its
port and warehouses: it has obtained an exclusive right of carrying on a cor-
respondence with this part of the New World, and fits out every year four or five
ships from the place of its origin, which return to Cadiz: their cargo principally
consists of cacao.

This short sketch may give us a sufficient idea of the commerce of Spain in the
New World. The West-Indies are the center of it. It is kept under by absurd
regulations, hindered by all kinds of obstacles, both natural and artificial, cramped
by a thousand chains, and yet this commerce is the richest in the universe. What
then ought the countries to be which support it without interruption?
Part II.

Settlements of the Europeans.

Having considered the West-Indies under the general views which the geography and nature of the country present us with, without entering upon the detail of observations which these objects would afford us, without number; we shall proceed to consider these regions in a political light. This part ought not to be so concise as the first; but, as it is very dry in itself, it will be proper to render it interesting by giving the particulars of what we have only mentioned in general. As the method we have prescribed to ourselves in this general exposition imposes on us the necessity of being as short as possible, we find ourselves in the midst of an excessive abundance of matter, more perplexed to choose, than to describe.

The West-Indies, considered relatively to the Europeans their possessors, will be the object of three divisions: the first will comprehend the Spanish territories, the second the English, and the third the French. The Danes and Dutch have so few possessions in comparison of the three others, that they do not deserve a particular section.

Of the Spanish Territories.

§ 1. Of the Continent.

Spain, which first discovered and conquered the West-Indies, still possessies almost all of it, notwithstanding the repeated attacks of the nations who have dismembered it of so many countries in Europe. Beside its two islands, and half of St. Domingo, which alone are much greater than all the islands in the remaining Archipelagos of the West-Indies, it claims all the country comprised between the river Mississippi and the mouths of Rio Orinoco; which comprises an extent of shore more than 1600 leagues in length, reckoning only from Cape to Cape. On this immense coast the first country that offers itself to our consideration, is LOUISIANA, beyond the Tropic. The low and maritime part of this great territory belongs naturally to the West-Indies. The Mississippi, after a known course of more than 700 leagues, falls into the sea in this country through several openings. This river, throughout its whole course, is the boundary fixed, by the last treaty of peace, between the English and Spanish empires in America, the navigation of it being left free to the subjects of both nations. It has formed a great part of Louisiana by the prodigious collections of leaves, rushes, branches and trunks of trees, which it is always bringing down: this mafs, pushed back by the sea, soon acquires a solidity, which continually increases the length of this part of the Continent.
The navigation of the Mississippi, both upwards and downwards, is always slow, and constantly attended with danger. At 24 leagues from the sea, on the left side of the river, is New-Orleans, the capital of this country, built by the French. It is a handsome town, the streets of which are quite straight, and cut each other at right angles; they form 65 pieces of buildings, each 50 toises square, divided into 12 allotments, to lodge so many inhabitants. The houses are all surrounded with canals, communicating with each other, and which were thought absolutely necessary for the times of the rivers overflowing. The greatest ships may lie close to the shore, along the quay, on the banks of the river. On both sides of the river we find a series of plantations, rarely interrupted; below New-Orleans they do not reach above five leagues distance; going up the Mississippi they extend to 10 leagues; and all along this 15 leagues of cultivated land is a dike necessary to preserve the lands from the floods, which come regularly every spring. Throughout this whole space, the land, quite fenny, is very favourable to all productions which require a moist soil. If the earth is the least stirred, it opens a fruitful bed for rice, maize, and all sorts of pulse and grains, except wheat, which exhausts it in putting forth too much grass. The climate of Lower Louisiana is less healthy than those more distant from the sea; its heat is about that of the Southern provinces of France.

This colony, in its most flourishing state, never consisted of more than 5000 whites, even reckoning among this number 1200 men which formed its military force; and this number is much diminished, since the giving up Louisiana to the Spaniards by France has induced many of the inhabitants to go to West Florida.

This singular cession, as a judicious writer observes, has been equally hurtful to the two crowns, which are equally weakened by it; one in losing what it has ceded, the other in accepting what it cannot keep; the extraordinary act of giving a people like a flock of sheep is almost as much provoking as the cruelty which attends the taking possession by new masters. General Oreilly, the worthy successor of the Pizarros and Almagros, and all the bloody invaders of America, joined villainy to barbarity, to destroy the unfortunate who could not resolve to pass under a new yoke without fighting. One might say, that the entrance of the Spaniards into an American territory is always to be marked with violence and slaughter: if you have the courage to follow them, their footsteps are continually drenched with tears and blood. O! ye. Americans of the North, when will ye avenge the New World for these cruelties!

Louisiana, in its present state, is of no use to the Spaniards; it is a prey which the English colonists will not fail to enrich themselves with, in the first war.

From the Rio Mexicano, which divides Louisiana on the West from New Mexico, to the mouth of the great river Del Norte, or Rio Bravo, at the 26th degree of latitude, is a great extent of country, watered by many rivers; its shores are low and overflown; the inland part is only inhabited by wild bulls. We meet there with some wandering nations, whose vagabond way of life has spared them from the yoke.
All this part is comprized by the Spaniards in their kingdom of NEW LEON; but it appears that this new kingdom ought to be inclosed between Rio del Norte and the Tropic; it will then take up a space as desolate, though less watered, than the preceding. The inland part is mountainous, and contains several mines.

Near the Tropic begins the part of New Spain which is inhabited, at least that part which has any relation to our Map, and to its object.

Panuco is the principal place of the province of GUASTECA, which borders on New Leon. This town is situated on a very deep river, whose sand-banks, at its mouth, hinder the entrance of any ships but those of a middle size: it is the seat of a bishop, and they reckon in it 500 families. In the inland part of this province of Guastea, where they gather the cochineal* and several grains, are very rich silver mines; and beyond its confines are the Zacatecas, which are composed of about 14 different mines, all equally abundant. All its shores are low, overflowed, unhealthy, and full of salt-marshes.

Leaving Guastea, the province of Tlascalal takes up the whole coast quite to Vera-Cruz. This province reaches from one sea to the other: its climate, at least in the inland parts, is healthy; its soil fertile and plentiful. It is more inhabited than the other provinces; and its inhabitants, who are the least oppressed of any in New Spain, owe this favour to the alliance that their republican ancestors made with the disciplined robbers whom Cortez commanded, and who subdued the Mexican empire. They are the most intelligent of all the Americans subject to Spain. Their ancient capital, of which they have taken the name, and their new one called Puebla de los Angeles, have several manufactures: they make there cloth tolerably fine, stuffs of cotton which are much liked, some silks, good hats, galoons, embroidery, lace, glass, and a great deal of iron ware: to these advantages is joined that of the situation of the last city. All the inhabitants of Mexico, who must pass through its territory when they go to buy the European merchanizes at Vera-Cruz, have found it convenient to provide themselves on their journey with all those things which the fleet does not furnish them with, or which it sells too dear. The clergy of Puebla are so excessive rich, that the bishop has for his part a revenue of 240,000 piastras.

On the West of the province of Tlascalal is the province of MEXICO, with the city of the same name, the capital of the West-Indies, and of all this part of the New World, situated in the center of the dominion. It is the seat of the government, the place where the money is coined, the abode of the greatest planters and the richest merchants. It is built in the middle of a great lake, about 30 leagues in circumference, which is very irregular, and divided into two parts by a very narrow neck of land: the passage to it is over five caisneways, raised in the lake; the form is square; the streets of Mexico are large, straight, and well paved; the public buildings magnificent, the palaces grand, the smallest houses convenient. Its circuit, which takes in some very ornamental walks and delightful gardens, is about two leagues round.

Its
Its inhabitants are not more than 60,000 souls. They are composed of Spaniards, Mongrels, Indians, Negroes, and Mulattoes; in short, men of all the tints that the mixture of white, copper-colour, and black, can produce. Their enormous riches, and shocking luxury, can only be paralleled by the excess of their superstition, and the corruption of their morals.

The city of La Vera-Cruz, by which that of Mexico as well as a great part of the Spanish empire carries on its correspondence with Europe, is situated at the Eastern extremity of the province of Tlascalca, in the midst of a sandy plain. The rains make it very unhealthy from April to November; most of its houses are built of wood, and the number of Spanish inhabitants is about three thousand. Mulattoes or Mongrels, who call themselves whites. The harbour, which will only contain 30 or 35 ships, and these sometimes exposed to terrible accidents from the fury of the North-East winds, is formed by the Island of St. Juan de Ulúa, covered with a square castle, furnished with a numerous artillery and a small garrison. The royal armada, destined to provide Mexico with the merchandizes of Europe, and to carry back the riches of the New World to the Europeans, arrives at this port, which is as bad as it is poorly defended, but is almost the only one to be found in the Mexican Bafon.

Leaving Vera-Cruz, we meet with the shore of the province of GUAXACA: like that of Tlascalca, it is situated on both the seas, between which the communication is through some defiles in the Southern chain of mountains, and by the rivers Alvarado and Guazahualcos, which empty themselves into the Gulf of Mexico, one on the West, the other on the East. The mouth of the first, defended by a small fort, affords a tolerable good road for ships. At 45 leagues from this mouth, towards the South-West, is built the capital, in an agreeable and fertile valley, which Charles V. gave to Cortez, with the title of Marquis del Valle. This valley is six leagues long, and four broad: its sugar and fruits are so good, that the sweetmeats of Guaxaca are reckoned the best in America; its city has few inhabitants, many convents, and a very rich bishop. The least difficult passage from one sea to the other is by the river Guazahualcos to the port de la Ventola in the Gulf of Teguantepec. The climate of this province is pretty good. It breeds horses, large cattle, and many sheep, whose wool is made use of in the manufactures of la Puebla. Mulberry-trees are here in such numbers, that they could make more silk than any other province. The mountain of Coca, which separates it from Tlascalca in 13 degrees latitude, has mines of gold and silver, crystal, vitriol, and different sorts of precious stones. These mines are but poorly worked; but the productions the most attended to, and which make Guaxaca most commended, because they make a capital object in the trade of Mexico with other nations, are cochineal and vanilla.

Every body knows at present, that cochineal, which was supposed a long while to be a seed, is an insect, of the size and shape of a bug. This insect feeds upon

\[ \text{a prickly} \]
a prickly shrub which they call Nopal, full of a red juice, to which the cochineal probably owes its colour. They have every year three gatherings, which are so many generations of this animal; and after the cochineal is dried, either in the sun or by the fire, it will keep both its colour and its virtue for ages. They gather it in many parts of New Spain, especially in Tlaxcala, Chiapa, &c. but no where in such plenty as in Guazacac, which produces likewise the best vanilla in the West-Indies. This is a little pod, whose inner part is lined with an aromatic pulp, full of an oily and balsamic liquor, in which are a multitude of black, shining seeds, almost imperceptible: it is the fruit of a plant which attaches itself to trees like ivy, and delights mostly on the steep mountains. The Indians, the only cultivators of vanilla, gather these pods from the end of September to the end of December, and dry them in the shade to preserve them; the use of them has passed from the Mexicans to the Spaniards, and from the Spaniards to other nations. Vanilla is particularly used to perfume chocolate, and the nuns of the city of Guazacac have the most dexterity and reputation in this branch of American industry. Vanilla is likewise used in tobacco, as the Eastern nations make use of the wood of aloes.

The province of Guazacac, on the Eastern side, is separated from the great Peninsula of Yucatan by the little Province of Tabasco, which lies on the Southern coast of the Bay of Campeche. It is neither healthy nor fruitful; it is suppos'd, on some foundation, that it has given its name to the acrid fecund plant that has had such good success in our Continent. There is a large tree, peculiar to this district, whose leaves are like those of the orange-tree; it produces round black fruits, of an agreeable smell, and of an acrid taste; the Spaniards make use of them to season their vi'tuals, and call them Tabasco pepper. The sea-shore of Tabasco, quite destitute of harbours, presents the mouths of two large rivers, both rising in the neighbourhood of the South-Sea; one is known by the name of Tabasco, upon which stands Villa Hermoña, the contemptible capital of the Province; and more to the West, inclining to the South, Chiapa de los Indios, which may be regarded as the metropolis of the original Mexicans. This last town is only inhabited by Indians, who are there to the number of 20,000. It gives name to an inland province which bounds Tabasco on the South, and whose territory, well cultivated, is exceeding rich in all sorts of productions: the European fruits, and especially apples and pears, have there an exquisite taste; and it breeds a great many horses, which are thought the best in the West-Indies. The inhabitants, as industrious and intelligent, as those of Tlaxcala, have, besides, the advantage to be friendly, amiable, and to cultivate all the arts and agreeable exercises. They are the only Mexicans who have any taste in their works: they are painters, musicians, and poets; their language is as soft as their manners. They are particularly expert in making pictures and cloths of feathers, that have never been imitated elsewhere, and figured stuffs of different coloured wool, which the best artists in Europe might not be ashamed to own. All these advantages the Indians of Chiapa owe to their inland situation, to the barren-
DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST-INDIES.

refs of their mines, but mostly to the famous Las Cafas, their bishop, who protected them against oppression in the beginning, and obtained privileges for them which the conquerors have always respected. Their country, which belongs to the Audience of Quatimala, is bounded throughout its whole Eastern side by the great river Sumafinta, which falls into the sea on the coast of Tabaco; its mouth is a large lake, not deep, where several other rivers empty themselves, and whose low and marshy banks are covered with those trees so useful in dying, known by the name of Logwood. The buccaneers, in the last century, being obliged at the peace to give up their maritime expeditions, settled themselves on the shores of this lagoon, and became logwood-cutters. The trees they cut down, and which afford the wood for dying, would be very like our hawthorn, if it was not so large: the trunk is sometimes high and straight, but more commonly short and crooked; there are some which are five or six feet in circumference, and these they are obliged to blow up with gun-powder. The sap is white, and the heart red; this heart part, cut away from the sap, is what is carried into Europe, to die purple and black. The best logwood grows in the high and dry grounds about Campeche; and this town has given it its name, as it has to the Bay on which it is situated, and to the Western coast of Yucatan.

YUCATAN lies between the Gulfs of Campeche and Honduras, both formed by its projection into the sea. It is a very large peninsula crossed diagonally, in its greatest length from South-West to North-East, by a chain of mountains, which decreases as they approach to Cape Catoche. All the part to the West of this chain is dry, and defitute of rivers; but the water is every where so near the surface, and sea-shells are in such great numbers there, that it is visible this immense country formerly made part of the sea.

On this side, which we may call SPANISH YUCATAN, at fifteen leagues from the Northern shore, is built the city of Merida, defended by a citadel and some soldiers. The Governor and the Bishop of the province reside there. It is a handsome city of a square form; with straight and spacious streets, cutting each other at right angles; the houses are of stone, and their artificial whiteness is very hurtful to the eyes in this burning climate; there are about 30 churches. The greater part of the inhabitants pass their life in idleness, supported by the continual labour of the Indians.

St. Francisco de Campeche, upon the Western coast, is the second town in the province; it has a good citadel, a large harbour not deep, a dock-yard, and many merchants. This city was taken in 1685 by the English and French buccaneers, who plundered every place within 15 leagues round it for the space of two months; they afterwards set fire to the fort, and to the town, which the Governor, who kept the field with 800 men, would not ransom: and, to complete this pillage by a singular piece of folly, the French buccaneers celebrated the feast of their king, the day of St. Louis, by burning the value of 50,000l, sterling of Campeche wood, which was a part of their
their share of the booty. Several years before, this city of Campeche had been taken by Christopher Mins, afterwards Sir Christopher, a famous captain of the English buccaneers: as he marched in open day to the assault, drums beating and colours flying, the old privateers of Jamaica advised him not to venture so much, and to make use of a stratagem, the success of which they represented to him as infallible; "I am come here," answered this magnanimous pirate, "to gain a victory, not to steal one."

The climate of Yucatan is very hot in the summer, which begins in April and ends in September; the winter is tolerably cool, except in the months of January and February, which are almost as hot as the middle of summer. In the ridge of mountains there is a much purer air, and the Indians there arrive to a very old age. These Indians are very numerous; their lands being happily destitute of mines, their population has not been worn out as in the countries which abound more in metals: they are mild, friendly, laborious and temperate; they are of a short stature, but of an agreeable look; those of the North and West, being obliged to labour in the salt-works, or to cut logwood, are more miserable. The others keep flocks, cultivate the fields of maize, and gather the cotton which abounds in their forests; this article makes the principal revenue of Yucatan, as wax, skins, copal, ebony, Campeche wood, and salt, are the objects of its commerce.

It is well known, that cotton, the product of the two worlds, is nothing else but a very soft and white down, which surrounds the seeds of the plant and of the shrub which bears its name; they separate the down from the seed by means of a very simple machine; it is distinguished into two kinds, the cotton wool, and the cotton in thread; each of which is employed for innumerable uses in manufactures.

We ought naturally to speak of the Eastern side of Yucatan, after having described that which is beyond the mountains; but the division we have fixed on, obliges us to defer this part to the article of the English territories.

We shall now transfer ourselves to the little Province of VERA-PAZ, that borders on a part of Yucatan on the South. The Dominicans, who pretend to have made a conquest of it by spiritual arms, without the assistance of soldiers, have given it this name of "True-Peace," yet notwithstanding their conquest, a great number of its inhabitants live free on the mountains, where they follow the religion and customs of their ancestors. It produces abundance of cotton, guams, refin, and medicinal drugs; its rivers afford the best fish in America; and in the plains near the Acajutlan, they cultivate mulk-melons, one of the most delicious productions of the West-Indies.

The Province of Vera-Paz, the last of this side under the Government or Royal Audience of Mexico, lies at the bottom of the Bay of Honduras; this bottom, which is prodigiously full of fish, the Spaniards have called by the particular name of the Gulf of Amatique, upon which they have the harbour of St. Thomas of Castille.
The Gulf is itself the discharge of another much smaller, called Golfo Dolce, which may be considered as the mouth of the River Acasabaflan. The communication of one Gulf with the other is a straight between two rocks, within gun-shot of each other. The merchandise of GUATIMALA wait at the Port of St. Thomas, to be exchanged for those sent there from Europe, in three or four middle-sized vessels, which commonly arrive in the months of July and August. The way from Guatimala to St. Thomas, about sixty-five leagues long, is next to that from Acapulco to Vera-Cruz, through the Province of Mexico, the communication most followed between the Sea of the West-Indies and the South Sea; it goes through plains which are inhabited and fruitful; for the last 15 leagues only it is over mountains where we find proper roads and baiting-places. The principal commodity of the Province of Guatimala is the product of its Indigo plants; a kind of shrub, about two feet high, from which, after having bruised and macerated them in water, is got a blue substance or fæcula, called Indigo; it serves for several uses, the laundresses use it to give a blue colour to linen, the painters in their washes, and the dyers could not make a fine blue without it. These plants, whose native countries are the East-Indies and Africa, have been transplanted into America in modern times. The culture of them requires as much care, as the different preparations, which follow the gathering them, to extract the coloured matter; they require a fat close land, well-dug; they grow up to maturity in about two months, and last about two years; but as they do not exhale enough air and dew through their leaves to moisten the ground, they soon exhaust the soil which nourishes them.

The Port of St. Thomas, we have just mentioned, is in the large Province of Honduras, where begins a new Audience. Guatimala, which has been no more for these two years, since the earthquakes have swallowed it up, gave its name to the whole government, which reaches upon the two seas from Chiapa and Vera-Cruz to the Isthmus of Panama. This city, the third of the Spanish Empire in America, had 40,000 inhabitants of all colours, Indians, Negroes, Mongrels, and Spaniards. For two centuries they heaped up riches, which are now returned for ever into the bowels of the earth, from whence they were taken. Those who only consider the great convulsions of the globe as objects of calculation, make the loss, suffered by the destruction of Guatimala, amount to fifteen millions sterling.

The Province of HONDURAS, the most Northern of its government, comprehends not only all the South side of the Bay, which has given it its name, but likewise a great part of the coast to the South of Cape Gracias a Dios: this, at least, is the pretension of the Spaniards; but, as almost all this coast is entirely occupied by the Mosquitos, a free people, allies, and under the protection of the English who are settled among them, we are obliged to throw this part of the description of the Continent into the section defined for England.

Upon the coast of Honduras, the Spaniards only possess two small towns, that of Omoa, fortified for some years, whose harbour is excellent for the largest vessels; and
and that of Truxillo near Cape Honduras, which still carries on some trade, especially with the contraband ships. The capital, called by the Indians, Comayagua, and by the Spaniards, Valladolid, is thirty leagues from the sea on a great river. The seat of the bishopric has been transferred there from Truxillo; it is the residence of a particular Governor, and they work several silver mines in the neighbourhood; the labour of these mines, and of several others they have been forced to abandon, has depopulated a province, which enjoyed the united advantages of the fruitfulnes of the soil, and the healthines of the air, at least in the inland parts. They gather maize, cotton, wheat, honey and wax, in abundance; and its pastures feed an incredible number of cattle. The objects of its exportation to Europe are reduced to skins, cassia, farfapilla, wool of the Guanaco, and silver; all these in but small quantities. The Guanaco is a wild species of the Lama, commonly known by the name of the Peruvian sheep; it is stronger, more active, and lighter than the domestic Lama, running as swift as the stag, climbing like the wild goat; it is covered with a short reddish-coloured wool; although at liberty, the Guanacos like to join together in flocks, sometimes to the number of two or three hundred; they choose the North, travelling among the ice, and keeping a little above the snow, for fear of the heat of the low grounds. When they are hunted for the sake of their fleeces, if they gain the rocks, neither hunters nor dogs can ever reach them.

After Honduras we meet with NICARAGUA, which, in like manner, stretches from one sea to the other. The Mosquitoes, whose country it originally was, enjoy still all the Eastern part, which we shall reserve for their article. The Province of Nicaragua is inhabited by the Spaniards, only towards the South Sea; its climate is the most pure of any in New Spain. Here are all its fruits and grain, and the greater part of those of Europe; a great quantity of sugar-canes, and of cacao, which is as much esteemed as that of Caracas. It furnishes, besides, timber, cordage, pitch and tar, wax, &c. The inhabitants, who are more impatient of the yoke than the other Mexicans, cultivate their lands with skill, and succeed very well in the making of cotton. Leon, their capital city, is situated at the head of the Lake Lindiri, which may be reckoned the beginning of that of Nicaragua; its port upon the South Sea is at Realco, fourteen leagues to the West. Grenada, the second town of the province, is much larger, finer, and more populous than Leon, from which it is distant about 18 leagues to the East; its situation upon the lake brings the merchants there, and renders it one of the greatest mart between the two seas. All these cities are famous in the history of the buccaniers, who have, more than once, plundered or ransomed them.

The Lake of Nicaragua, properly so called, is of the shape of a parallelogram, rounded at the corners; it is forty nautical leagues long, and fifteen or sixteen broad. One might think, that this immense reservoir has been formed in one of those shocks, whose marks are so evident in all the West-Indies. Its Western extremity
tremity is within three leagues of the South Sea, and, thereabouts, the great chain that runs through the Continent leaves a vacancy of twelve or fifteen leagues. The mountains, which surround the lake, have several volcanos near each other, and some of the islands in it are likewise burning mountains.

The great River St. Juan, more than thirty-six leagues long, serves for the discharge of its waters into the West-Indian Sea, as well as for the transport of goods from one sea to the other. Several rapid falls render its navigation difficult, and the Indians are the only ones who know how to get over these obstacles. This river is defended by some forts; the principal of which, erected on the Southern bank at the entrance of the lake, is built on a rock, wherein they have cut a ditch six feet broad; it is mounted with twenty-five pieces of cannon, and has a garrison of one hundred men, the greater part of whom are criminals condemned by the Spaniards to the military service. The shores of the River St. Juan, near the sea, are frequented by the English, French, and Dutch smugglers, who carry on a great trade there. The Lake of Nicaragua is well stocked with fish; it has a periodical motion of flux and reflux, but, the water not being deep, will only admit flat-bottom vessels, the only ones which are used in the trade carried on by the city of Grenada with Carthagena, Porto-belo, &c. and, as the seamen of the lake are the most awkward of any in all the Spanish settlements, the navigation of this little sea is of a tediousness as tiresome to the passengers, as hurtful to the merchants.

At the beginning of the New History of Jamaica, in three volumes, full of particular descriptions and very curious pieces, is placed a general chart under the name of "The Environs of Jamaica," this chart, which seems to have no other relation to the work than by its very singular name, is servilely copied from the large Chart of the West-Indies, mentioned in the Introduction. The engraver, who assumes the title of Hyrographer to His Majesty, has only added a straight of about a league broad, through which the Lake of Nicaragua communicates with the South Sea. This person has not perceived, that, if such a communication had existed, it would produce a new order of things in the government, trade, and navigation of the West-Indies. It is thus, however, that blunders and futilities are multiplied in geography.

From the Lake Nicaragua to the Isthmus of Panama, where New Spain ends, the Continent, more narrowly confined between the two seas, comprehends two small provinces, that of COSTA-RICA, and that of VERAGUA, both traversed by mountains covered with impenetrable forests. Their soil is dry, their climate unhealthy; but they have mines of gold and silver, and their rivers roll down grains of these metals; this is enough for the Spaniards, who, as may be easily judged, have depopulated them as much as possible.

Carthago is the capital of Costa-Rica; it is situated at nearly an equal distance from the two seas, on a small river which falls into the South Sea, about twenty leagues off, towards the South-West; it is still a mart between the two seas, and its merchants
merchants trade with Porto-belo, Carthagena, the Havanna, &c. The principal port on the West-Indian Sea is at the mouth of the river, which the buccaneers have named Carpenter's River; it is one of the grand rendezvous of the European contraband traders. Between Veragua and Costa-Rica, you meet with the Bay del Almirante, formerly called, by the same buccaneers, Bocacoro (instead of Bocca del Toro), from the name of one of its openings. This bay has some excellent anchoring-places; and, from the top of the mountains that surround it on the South, one may discover the two seas, when the weather is clear.

Almost all the provinces we have just run over, and which make up the greater part of New Spain, are situated in the Torrid Zone. The air is excessive hot, damp, and unhealthy, upon the coast of the West-Indies. These pernicious qualities are much less sensible near the South Sea, and hardly at all in the inland parts of the country, where runs a chain of mountains, that may be considered as a continuation of the Cordilleras.

The quality of the soil follows these variations; the part exposed to the sea of the West-Indies, as we have already observed, is low, marshy, overflowed in the rainy season, covered with impenetrable forests, and quite uncultivated; it is a desert and deadly frontier, which defends the most distant settlements of the Spaniards, better than forts and regular troops.

The population of New Spain is not less variable than the soil; those who have written that there were ten millions of inhabitants before the Conquest, have manifestly exaggerated the number: some reduce it at present to 900,000 souls; others make it amount to three millions, and some others to five millions; we may perhaps, by a reasonable computation, fix it at four millions. The most distinguished inhabitants are the Spaniards sent by the court to enjoy the places of government: for the Creoles, those descendents of Cortez and his soldiers, who conquered this vast country, without the least expense to Spain, are debarred from all employments, civil, military, or religious. It is said, that they have naturally more life, courage, and activity, than the Spaniards who come every year from Europe, to take from them what they regard as their patrimony. It is certain, that they are commonly richer, and of a more distinguished birth. The constant preference given by the ministry to the European Spaniards stifles the good qualities of the Creoles, and destroys all their greatness of soul: the habitual unjust contempt which they undergo, has, at last, rendered them really contemptible; to all the vices which can arise from an idle life, the heat of the climate, and a plenty of all things, they add the most vile and scandalous superstition.

The Mongrels, born of Spaniards and Indians, who form the third order of inhabitants, are still more debased. The Creoles return to this mixed race as much humiliation as they receive from the Europeans.

The Blacks, who come after the Creoles, are not numerous; these are slaves that luxury alone has introduced, they have a right, like their masters, to oppress the Indians,
Indians, who owe them an implacable hatred. The laws have endeavoured to keep up this enmity between the two nations, by taking such measures as will prevent any connection between them. The Negroes are prohibited to have any amorous relations with the Indians, under the penalty for the men to be mutilated, and for the females to be very rigorously punished.

The Mexicans, reduced at first by their conquerors to the state of domestic animals, owe the easing of this slavery to the indefatigable endeavours of Las Casas, who had the courage to represent at the court of Spain that they were human creatures. No one is ignorant, that, at this time, the ingenious bachelors of Salamanca had proved on their desks, that these unhappy wretches were a middle sort of beings between a man and a monkey. Condemned to work for their oppressors, who never have restored the lands they robbed them of, these are now obliged, at least, to provide them well with food, to give twenty-four piastras a year to those they employ, or a part of this sum proportional to the time they have served. They cannot go out of the territory wherein they are established, and a very severe law prohibits them from carrying or making use of fire-arms.

The Indians are divided into districts, the common extent of which is about eight or ten leagues, and the administration trusted to a Chief of their nation, who bears the name of Cacique; his dignity is hereditary: his office is to preserve the peace, to receive the tribute of the Indians who work on their own account (as the tribute of the others is kept by the masters they serve), to prevent their flight by having them always under his eyes, and not suffering them to enter into any engagement without his consent; and, lastly, to make them march for the business of the government.

As a reward for these services, this kind of magistrates have obtained from the government a right of possession; they are allowed to take from the common chest about three-pence every year, for each Indian subject to their jurisdiction; the Cacique is besides authorized to have his fields cultivated by the young Indians, who are not yet liable to the capitation, and to employ the girls, till they are married, in works proper to their sex, without any other salary besides their maintenance.

Each district is administered under the Cacique by three other officers, who are chosen commonly from the most honest and experienced among the people. These are the Teniente, the Alcalde, and the Fisical. They determine any differences in a particular place in each district, appropriated to the uses of the government, under the name of "The King's House:" they are distinguished by outward ornaments. The Alcalde wears a square piece of blue cloth, with the corner embroidered, on his left shoulder: the Teniente carries a staff with a cross at the top; the Fisical a key, and a whip with three lashes, which are hung to his girdle, to shew that he is both the keeper of the prison, and inflicter of correction. Besides these three officers, there is a kind of Secretary, called Escribano, belonging to each House of the King; his office, in places on the great roads, is principally to register the arrival and departure of the messengers sent out by the government.
Such is the order established for the slavery of the Indians, loaded, besides, with a multitude of particular vexatious burdens; the only recompense for all these evils, is, to have our grain, our fruits, our animals, some of our manufactures, and the whole of our superstitions. These harassments have not, however, hindered them from regaining, at different times, several parcels of the immense territory of their ancestors. They have purchased them of the government, or of the grand proprietors. If we except the very small number of those who gather vanilla, it is not their labour that has put them in a condition to make these acquisitions; some of them owe it to their good fortune in having discovered mines, others to their digging up the treasures which were hid at the time of the conquest; the greater number draw their means from the priests and monks, to whom they owe this light.

These Indians have but few wants: their houses are huts, generally in the form of a beehive, made of poles covered with the leaves of the palmetto, a kind of palm-tree, the stem of which is smooth and straight, about 30 feet high, and whose leaves, nearly of the shape and size of a fan, are all placed at the top. They sleep in hammocks, made of cotton, or of the plant called silk-grass. Maize is their principal food; and the water in which it has been fermented, their drink; a few pieces of earthen-ware, all their household-goods; shoes, drawers, a shirt, a great-coat of cotton, a ruff, and a hat, compose their whole dress; and the consideration they have at last attached to these enjoyments renders them more frugal and industrious. They are not permitted to carry any other arms but the bow and arrow, with a kind of axe, which serves them both for hatchet and knife. However stupid they appear at present, they regret their ancient government; and tradition, carefully kept up, has transmitted to them an account of all the cruelties of the Spaniards, whom they curse from time to time in songs, which the fathers teach their children. Their religion is a medley of the superstitions of the Roman church, which they have been made to adopt, in accommodating them to the festivals and ancient superstitions of their country.

All the male Indians, from the age of 18 to 50, pay a capitation of 18 reals, 16 of which go into the chests of the government, the rest is put to other uses. The Mongrels, who are reckoned Indians for the two first generations, and the free Mulattos, are subject to the same tax: they exempt from it the Negro slaves, for whom 36 piastres have been paid to the king, at their landing into the colony.

The Spaniards, exempted also from this tax, are subject to all the others. The greatest is that of 33 per cent. of the price of all the goods sent there from Europe: the Old World retains 25 under different denominations, and 8 more are paid at their entrance into the New. This ruinous impost does not hinder their being afterwards subject to the Alcavala, a duty of two and a half per cent. on all wares which are sold or exchanged, and as many times as they are sold or exchanged. After this comes the Cruciada, a Bull, which gives great indulgences, and allows them the use of eggs, butter, and cheese, during Lent; it was fixed, in 1756, at three reals for
for every rank. The government does not oblige any person to purchase it, but the priests and monks refuse the comforts of religion to all those who have not bought it; and there is not, perhaps, in all the Spanish colonies in America, a man who is sensible or bold enough to set himself above this tyranny.

These priests and monks, whose riches, ignorance, and debauchery, surpass all belief, exhaust, in their turn, the country which they debaue; they rigorously gather the tithes of every thing that is produced; their offices are paid at an extravagant price; their estates are immense, and daily acquire more extent; it is supposed that they are in possession of one fourth of the revenues of the empire, and that they compose about a fifth of the number of white inhabitants. Some of them are born in the colony, but the greater part are adventurers who come from Europe, to get themselves away from the authority of their superiors, or to make their fortune in a short time. The Jesuits are now no more to be reckoned among the number of monks; they were as rich as the others, but in the midst of this ignorant, superstitious, and depraved crowd, they might have passed for learned men of decent manners: they became then as dangerous by their behaviour and knowledge as by the slow and continual ambition which formed the character of this extraordinary institution. Their suppression by the civil power alarmed principally the American superstition; hence the Bull that abolishes the whole Order, obtained, at last, from Spain, supported by France, and the rest of the House of Bourbon. This Bull will quiet the greater part of the Americans; but it is doubtful whether it will extinguish the party of the Jesuits in the Spanish territories: the resentment of this party, joined to all the old grievances of enormous taxes; loans not reimbursed by government; the aversion of the Creoles to the natural Spaniards, who possess all places, and devour everything; the discontent produced by the duties of late laid upon salt, tobacco, and, especially, upon stamped paper, taxes which are gathered in the most odious manner; all these things have raised a ferment in the minds of the people, that Spain will find difficult to allay, without making some sacrifices, and without relaxing from its system with regard to Mexico. This ferment, very apparent in the Deputies of the Empire, who came to Madrid to demand justice of the King of Spain, has given rise to a project, so grand, that it appears insane; and whose sketch (presented to the public in 1773) has more the air of an Eastern romance, than of a political scheme. The author is a French officer, who was forced, by some unjust treatment, to leave his native country and go to Spain: at first carrefused, and afterwards deceived by the Court of Madrid, he became acquainted in this city with the Deputies of Mexico, who were tired of complaining to no purpose, and contrived with them the project and the treaty of an exclusive trade between their country and England. It does not appear, by his memoir, that he has much more reason to be pleased with the Court of London, than with those of France and Spain; however that may be, the Mexican Creoles, of which he makes the number amount to three millions, and the Indians, their vassals, which he reckons
reckons between four and five millions, uniting together against the Spaniards, their common enemies, were to form a republic, under the protection of England, by the name of the "Imperial Republic of Mexico." They were to begin by delivering to the King the Town of Vera-Cruz, with the Fort of St. Juan de Ulua, where they would admit only English ships. Immediately after the revolution, they were to lend, at three per cent. to their deliverers, 100 millions of piastres, taken from the plate in the churches, making twenty millions sterling; and, if England should be engaged in any war on their account, they obliged themselves to produce a revolt in Peru and Chili. Not to alarm or disgust the superstition, the countries of Orizava, Xalapa, and Cordova, of about 2500 square leagues, which contain all the passages between Vera-Cruz and Mexico, were to form a political and religious barrier between the English and Mexicans. These countries, being erected into a sovereign territory for the officer who negotiated the treaty, he was to draw thither Europeans from all parts, and Orizava to become the general mart for the commerce between the two worlds.

This project has not been adopted; and, indeed, ought not, in the middle of peace. What we find the most remarkable in it, is, the author, treading in the steps of Cortez, enters into Mexico by the same port, follows the same rout, and employs only the Tlascallans, though probably supported by some Europeans, in the defence of the country become free, as the Spaniard did formerly make use of them for his conquest. I do not know the means, or the resources, which he has laid open to the ministers, who were nine months taken up with his proposal; all that I know is, that, if Fernando Cortez had, before his departure, given in a project to the Court of Charles V. to conquer the Empire of Mexico, with 50 soldiers, 109 sailors, and 15 horses, he would have passed undoubtedly for the most distracted of men.

In the continued description we have given of the Main Land, we have flopt at the Isthmus of Panama, the boundary of New Spain, and separation of the twomasses which compose the Continent of America. What remains for us to describe, in former times, bore the name of Golden Castle; at present, we may comprehend it under the general name of TERRA FIRMA. It reaches, under different governments, from the Isthmus of Darien, or of Panama, to the mouths of the River Orinoco.

DARIEN, the first government that occurs, is that of the Isthmus itself; closed up on the North by the sea, and traversed through its whole curvature by the high chain of mountains which unites the two Cordilleras. It is much more important for its situation, than for its soil or burning climate. All its mountains, covered with thick forests, are almost impassable: the rivers, which fall from them, overflow periodically, always bringing down muddy and unhealthy waters. The low coast exhales pernicious vapours, and we find only a few places cultivated, or proper for culture. However, the reason of abandoning its ancient capital, Nombre de Dios,
(the Name of God), has been less this deadly intemperance, than the weakness of the situation, and inconvenience of anchoring. The inhabitants of this town, having retired, in 1584, about six leagues to the West, built there a new city, which Christopher Columbus had laid the plan of, in 1502, round the superb bason, named by him Puerto-belo; we call it Porto-belo. The entrance is 1200 yards broad, but so straightened by rocks, even with the water's edge, that it is reduced to a very narrow channel, beyond which the ships, once entered, enjoy a perfect security: it was defended by some calles, which did not hinder the city from being taken and ransomed four times, by the Buccaneers, between 1595 and 1678; and, notwithstanding their additional fortifications, Admiral Vernon, with only six ships, destroyed them in 1739. The city of Porto-belo stands upon an agreeable declivity, well watered; it is composed of two great streets, whose principal buildings are two churches, a good house for the Governor, an exchange, a custom-house, and several warehouses. The intemperance of the climate of Porto-belo is so noted, that this city has been called the "Grave of the Spaniards." More than once they have abandoned the galleons, who had left there the greater part of their crew. The English, who blocked up this place in 1726, would have been too weak to have got back to Jamaica, if they had stayed a few days longer. The inhabitants themselves do not live long, and have all a weakly constitution: it is reckoned mean to be one of them, and we find only some Negroes, some Mulattos, and a few Whites, who are fixed there by their employ under the government. The garrison itself, though composed of only 150 men, never stays in the place more than three months together. Until the beginning of this century, not one woman dared to lie in there; she would have thought her child and herself devoted to certain death: it is asserted, that, the domestic animals of Europe, which are prodigiously increased in all the parts of the New World, lose their fruitfulness when they arrive at Porto-belo; and, if we judge by their scarcity, notwithstanding the abundance of pastures, we shall be led to think that this opinion is not without foundation. Plants, transplanted into this fatal region, where heat, damp, and vapours, are excessive and continual, have never thrived. The environs produce a quantity of very large toads, nothing like which is known in any other part of the world. In short, it would be too long to mention all the ills undergone in this place, as well as all the causes to which they are attributed. The sea at the ebb, leaves on the strand a prodigious quantity of black and infectious dirt, from which exhales a noxious vapour, that is supposed to be the most destructive poison of all those which are collected together on this pestilential coast.

These inconveniences have not hindered Porto-belo from becoming the theatre of the richest trade that has ever existed. Whilst the riches of the New World came there to be exchanged for the industry of the Old, the vessels which set out from Spain, known under the name of galleons, arrived, laden with all the objects of necessity, convenience, and luxury, which could tempt the owners of mines. The bad qua-
lity of the air had fixed the duration of this fair to forty days, and they did regard it as a small instance of mortality when only 500 persons died in this time. All the riches of Peru were depofited, 18 leagues from Porto-belo, in the city of Panama, on the South Sea. This city is the capital of a particular Audience, whose difttrict takes up the Southern coast of the Isthmus; it is large, well-built, pretty full of people, and surrounded with a rampart defended by a great many cannons: there are 50 churches or chapels, and most of the houses are built of Rose-wood. The Bay of Panama is famous for the fishery of pearls.

The treasure of Peru was transported from Panama to Porto-belo two ways. In summer, they made use of mules, who went across the mountains through a path, often very steep and very dangerous, but always passable. In winter this communication becoming impracticable, the merchandizes were carried for three or four leagues to the River of Chagre, upon which they did descend to the town of this name, from whence they were carried to Porto-belo, to be put on board the galleons.

The prosperity of the fair of Porto-belo lasted, without interruption, till the taking of Panama, in 1673, by the Buccaneer Morgan, afterwards Sir Harry Morgan: then the mistrust of the inhabitants of Peru occasioned slowness and stops in the trade, which increased the practice of smuggling. This difidence and the contraband trade were still augmented by the attempts of the Scots at Darien, towards the end of the last century. The peace of Utrecht having taken away the treaty of the Affiento from the French, who could make no advantage of it, to give it to the English to whom it produced immense riches; the English company, who enjoyed the privilege of bringing Negroes into the Spanish colonies, obtamed besides, permission to send every year a ship of 500 tons burden, laden with merchandizes, to the fair of Porto-belo. Then the smuggling was immense; the galleons, almost crushed by this concurrence, were still more so by what the English poured into the ports where they carried Negroes. At last, it was impossible, after the expedition of 1737, to keep up any longer this trade, and we saw the end of these famous fairs, so envied by the Europeans, though one might consider them as the common treasure of all nations. After this epoch, Panama and Porto-belo have sunk almost to nothing. These two cities now only serve for a passage for the Negroes who are carried into the South Sea, and to some other less important branches of a languishing commerce; the more considerable business has taken another direction.

Darien is separated from the Government of Cartagena by a deep Gulf, to which it gives its name. The Eastern coast of this Gulf receives the Atrato, a considerable river, by which the Spaniards bring to the smuggling vessels which come thither, a part of the gold their Negro slaves get from the mines of Choco. At about 25 leagues from this river, going towards the North-West, we find a tolerable good port, that has preferred the name of Caledonia, which the Scots gave it in 1698. They disembarked there 1200 men; their design was to gain the confidence of the wild Indians whom the Spaniards could not conquer; to let them, with European arms
arms in their hands, against a nation they detested; to form an establishment upon their territory; to cut off the communication between Cartagena and Porto-belo; to intercept the galleons; and, joining their forces with those of Jamaica, to establish a decisive superiority in this part of the New World. This plan, which had nothing chimerical in it, was ruined by the diseases that destroyed the infant colony, as well as by the policy of England, who feared left a success of this nature should retard, if not hinder, the union of the two kingdoms, which had been already planned, and was effected a few years afterwards.

On the Eastern side of the Gulf of Darien begins the Government of CARTAGENA, whose sea coast extends from South-West towards the North for about eighty leagues: it is bounded on the East, for near the same length, by the great River de la Madalena, which hardly leaves it more than 40 leagues for its greatest breadth; these are reduced to 16 or 17 near its Northern extremity. On the Southern side it borders upon the new Kingdom of Grenada. We find there the Port of Samba to the North of the capital, and those of Sinu and Tolu to the South; this last town gives its name to a resinous liquor of a very agreeable smell, much esteemed for its physical use; it runs from incisions made, in warm weather, in the bark of a small tree, which is called after it; it is a kind of pine, growing principally between Cartagena and Nombre de Dios.

The shores of the great River de la Madalena are well inhabited; among other towns the most distinguished is Monpox, a place of much trade. This great river, which has a course of above 200 leagues, and whose mouth is much frequented by smugglers, serves to bring to Cartagena the productions, the grain, and especially the gold, of the new Kingdom of Grenada: after several days navigation, the boats enter into a narrow channel, which, having been enlarged about the middle of the last century, leads to the sea at a very small distance from Cartagena. In those seasons when it wants water, (and soon it will want it in all seasons, through the negligence of the government,) the goods are disembarked at three days journey from the capital. The gold and commodities of Choco and Popayan come down the River Caucara, whose source is in common with that of La Madalena, in the Lake Papas, near the eighth degree of South latitude, and which, about thirty leagues from Cartagena, falls into this last river, after a course of 160 leagues, nearly in the same direction.

Cartagena, founded in 1527, was pillaged, in 1544, by the French pirates; and burnt, in 1585, by Sir Francis Drake; the Buccaneer Carlisle completed the pillage of its ruins, in 1586. It was hardly rebuilt when Pointis and the French Buccaneers took and ranomied it, in 1697; their booty was above 2,500,000l. sterling. After this epoch it has had sufficient time to become impregnable, and was not attacked till, in 1741, by Admiral Vernon, who found himself obliged to raise the siege, though he had formed it with 25 ships of the line, six fire-ships, two bomb-ketches, and had landed troops enough to conquer all America.

After
After all these revolutions, Cartagena continues in splendor, in a peninsula joined to the Continent by two necks of land, the broadest of which is not above 70 yards. Its fortifications are regular, and after the modern manner. Nature has placed, at a little distance, a hill of a muddling height that commands the whole, upon which the Citadel of St. Lazarus is built. In peace these works are guarded by ten companies of regular troops, of 77 men each. The city is one of the best built, best laid out, and best disposed in the New World; there are even few in the Old which surpass it. The streets are broad, straight, and well paved; the houses, mostly built of stone, are elegant, and only one story high. The cathedral, the palaces of the Governor and Bishop, the town-house, and the custom-house, are magnificent buildings. It is divided into the Higher and Lower Town; the Higher is upon the Isthmus itself; and the Lower, called also the Suburbs, is upon a neck of land, that becomes an island at high water, whose communication is over a wooden bridge. Both towns together may contain 25,000 inhabitants, of which the Spaniards make the sixth part; the Negroes, the Indians, the races formed of an infinite number of mixtures, compose the rest. Cartagena is the seat of a government, subordinate in the civil and military to the Viceroy of New Grenada; of a Tribunal of the finances, of a Bishop, and of an Inquisition, whose power and jurisdiction are very extensive.

The heats are excessive and continual at Cartagena; the torrents of water which fall without interruption from May to November, have this singularity, that they do not ever cool the air, which is sometimes moderated in the dry season by the North-Eastery winds; the night is no less suffocating than the day. The inhabitants pass a summer of six months as if they were in hot baths. A habitual transpiration gives them the pale and livid colour of sick people; notwithstanding which they often live to 80 years of age. Every thing among them shews an effeminacy, every thing leads them to inaction: indolence is carried so far that the rich men and women leave their hammocks as little as possible; their occupation is to be rocked in them to cool themselves; and the greatest misfortune, as well as the last ignominy, is for a White person to be reduced to labour. The slaves, black or half black, cultivate the rich and numerous productions of this province, and manufacture a small part of them. The sugar-canes grow there so fast that they cut them twice a year, and the cacao-trees, which are seen in abundance on the banks of the River de la Madaleda, produce fruits preferred by many to those of Caracas.

If all the diseases of the hot and damp climate of Porto-belo are not felt at Cartagena, its inhabitants, in return, are attacked with a hideous leprosy, which spares neither country nor colour. All the lepers are shut up, without distinction of sex, rank, or age, in an hospital of an immense extent, which is built without the city. Every one there enjoys a little piece of ground, marked out for him at his entrance; where he builds a cottage proportional to his fortune; he brings his wife, or marries there, (for this disorder is such that one is obliged to allow marriage to these wretches,) and perpetuates his burning disorder with his pleasures and existence.
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Notwithstanding this terrible malady, and other inconveniences as numerous as dangerous, Spain has always been extremely attached to Cartagena on account of its port, one of the best and most convenient that we know of; it is of two leagues extent, an excellent and deep-bottom, except near the city, where the water is low, and so sprinkled over with rocks, that it is impossible to approach it, at least so as to make good a landing; there is less agitation than on the most still river. The channel of Bocachica (Little Mouth), an opening of three furlongs, was formerly the only one that led to it. There could pass but one ship at a time, under the cross battering of some forts built on both banks. The English having destroyed, in 1741, the fortifications which defended Bocachica, it was shut up by the Spaniards; they opened again an ancient canal, so disposed, that it would be very difficult for an enemy's squadron to force through it: all vessels now enter into the port through this passage.

At the time that the trade of Peru was carried on by the way of the galleons, these ships came to Cartagena before they went to Porto-belo, and passed by it at their return. Since the suppression of them, the trade of Cartagena, which is prodigiously diminished, is reduced principally to the supplying with stores and provisions its own government, Choco, and the Kingdom of New Grenada. The returns are never above a million of piastras in a year. The contraband trade, which is carried on in a hundred places on this coast, takes away from Spain almost all the riches and profit of this commerce.

Beyond the great River de la Madalena, you enter into the Government of SANTA MARTHA, which reaches quite to Cape de la Vela on the North side; a chain of mountains separates it on the East from the Province of Venezuela. All the Northern part is full of other mountains of an excessive great height, known to all sailors by the name of "the snowy mountains of Santa Martha." The air is colder, and much more pure in this province than in the countries we have just described. The valleys are very fertile; they produce a quantity of maize, with other grains and fruits; especially oranges, lemons, pine-apples, and grapes: their inhabitants gather likewise a little indigo and cochineal, and cut some wood for dyeing. The mountains produce but little gold, but they find there, emeralds, sapphires, chalcedonies, jasper, and marbles most curiously veined. Upon the sea-coasts, where much smuggling is carried on, are some salt-works, and two very rich fisheries for pearls, one at Santa Martha, the other at Rencheria. Pearls are found from the month of October to March. In the time this fishery was in its splendor, a small fleet of 10 or 12 banks set out regularly from Cartagena, under the convoy of one or two men of war; all the oysters were then deposited on board the commanding bark, which was called the Capitana of the armadilla. They still employ a great many slaves in this fishery, and some are such good divers, that they will stay for a quarter of an hour under water, and rise with a basket full of oysters. The pearl oyster is three or four times larger than the other oysters, and commonly contains 10 or 12 pearls of different sizes: they bury the oysters in the sand, that the heat may make them rot, and open
of themselves; after having cleaned and dried the pearls, they pass them through sieves, whose different holes fix their respective size and price; all that are below a certain proportion are sold in a lump for pearl-feed, and are of no use but in physic. As it happens sometimes that the slaves employed in this work swallow the pearls in order to steal them, upon the least suspicion their masters make them take a violent vomit.

The Province of Santa Martha has two principal maritime cities, Santa Martha, and Rio de la Hacha: the first is the residence of the Governor and Bishop; its houses, built of canes, are pretty; its harbour large, convenient, and safe; the environs agreeable and fertile. At present it contains but 3000 inhabitants, who carry on a very rich trade, and make a quantity of cotton, besides the stuffs of this kind brought them by the neighbouring Indians, with their earthen wares, which is much esteemed.

Rio de la Hacha, the capital of a little province inclosed within the Government of Santa Martha, takes its name from the river at whose mouth it is situated. This city is small, and fortified; the Indians about it do not acknowledge the yoke of the Spaniards; they are all shepherds, and breed very large flocks in the fruitful pastures which their plains and mountains afford them. As for the rest, the inner part of the Government is very well peopled: it includes the towns of St. Sebastian and Los Reyes on the Cesaré, that of Oaca, at its Southern extremity, on the little river Lebríja, which falls into the river de la Madalena; and the cities of Tamalameque and Tenerife, on the Eastern bank of that river.

The Province of VENEZUELA joins that of Santa Martha, and spreads round the two sides of the Gulf of the same name, that reaches near 30 leagues within land. The middle is taken up by a lake 20 leagues long and 30 broad, with a circumference of 80, and deep enough for vessels of 30 tons; it communicates with the Gulf by a Strait, on which is built the city of Maracaybo, which gives its name to both Lake and Strait; as the Lake receives a considerable number of rivers, its water is drinkable, though the tides make it a little brackish. The entrance of this Strait, where there is a bar of a small depth, is defended by several forts, which have not been attacked since the last century, when Sir Harry Morgan, having forced the passage, laid the whole coast under contribution, ransomed the capital, and burned all the towns on the most Southern bank of the lake.

The length of the Province of Venezuela is about 100 leagues, with a breadth nearly equal. It is supposed the name of Venezuela, or "Little Venice," came from the resemblance its small lagoons, at the entrance of the lake, bear to those of Venice. A little time after the discovery, Charles V. mortgaged all this province to the family of the Welfers of Augsburg, who had furnished him with considerable loans; these rich merchants sent 480 Germans thither in 1528, whose avarice and fierceness surpassed all that had been seen before in the New World. History accuses them of having massacred, or caused to perish, a million of Indians, and it does
does not appear that the accusation is false. Their tyranny ended with a horrible catastrophe, and the sovereign did not think of replacing them: in the excess of desolation it was looked upon as a piece of good luck, that the country they had laid waste came back under the Spanish administration.

Unluckily the scenes of horror which these Germans had shown, were renewed by Carvajal, who was intrusted with the government of this unfortunate country; he finished the depopulation, and it was so complete, in 1550, that they brought from Africa a great number of Black slaves, upon whom the greatest hopes were founded. This is one of the principal epochs of the introduction of Negroes into the West-Indies. The habitude of tyranny caused these wretches to be treated with so much cruelty, that they revolted; their rebellion was made a reason to massacre all the males, and the colony of Venezuela became again a desert, mixed with the ashes of Negroes, Spaniards, Indians, and Germans. Since this time it has been no more walked by its governors; but it required no less than the extreme fruitfulness of its soil, and the healthiness of its climate, to repair all its losses. The Indians, who are there to the number of more than 100,000, live tolerably happy. The Spaniards give themselves to trade, to planting, and to the feeding of flocks; in the large and rich plains of Carora, between the Lake and the Province of Caracas, they bring up a prodigious quantity of European sheep. In the neighbourhood of their capital they cultivate sugar and tobacco, which are famous over all America. Maracaybo, the capital, has succeeded to the City of Coro, of which we now only see the site on the Northern coast; it is handsome and well-built; the houses, almost all regular, are ornamented with balconies; there is a magnificent parish-church, a fine hospital, and four convents. The inhabitants, who are about 4 or 5,000, carry on a large trade, and build many ships, which makes their industry very distinguished on this coast. The other towns of the province are St. Philip of Carora, Trujillo, and Merida, within land; Paraute, Gibraltar, and St. Pedro, on the Lake, &c. Maracaybo is the natural mart for their productions and trade, as well as for those of the Northern parts of the Kingdom of New Grenada. We shall speak in another place of the islands adjacent to the coast of Venezuela.

The Province of Venezuela is bounded on the East by that of Caracas; which takes up about 45 leagues of the coast, with an indeterminate depth. This coast is bordered in its greatest length by a chain of mountains, running from East to West, and divided into a number of very fruitful vallies, well watered, whose direction and opening are towards the North. It has two maritime fortified towns, Puerto Cabelo and La Guayra; the first is about the Western extremity, near to Golfo Triste: the second, 27 leagues to the East of this, between the Capes Blanco and Cadera, though it has only an open road, is the chief place for the trade of the Caracas or Guipuzcoa Company, of which we have spoken at the beginning of this work; seated at the foot of a very high mountain, the narrow shore, along which it extends, is defended by an intrenchment well furnished with artillery, and commanded by two forts.
at the bending of the mountain. In 1743, Admiral Knowles made an attack, without success, on La Guayra and Puerto Cabelo, which are only peopled by sailors and factors, the rich inhabitants residing at Leon, the capital of the Province of Caracas; this is situated six leagues more to the South, on the other side of the mountains. The valley in which it stands is a savanna or meadow, well watered and very healthy, about three leagues long, and near a league broad in the middle; and whose only entrance is through a crooked and steep road. This valley is bordered on the East by mountains of an immense height; those on the West and South are not so high. The city is near a mile long; the houses handsome and well ornamented; the streets regular, straight, and broad, cutting each other at right angles, and terminating at a magnificent square in the center. The number of inhabitants are about four or five thousand, most of them owners of the plantations of cacao, which 12 or 13,000 Negroes cultivate in the rich valleys that divide the chain of the Caracas. One may easily conceive their luxury and indolence; their cacao is in general the best in America, it is almost the only thing they cause to be cultivated; at least, it is the only object of their trade.

The cacao-tree is of a middling size; it comes from seeds, planted at a proper distance from each other. When it begins to push out, it divides into several trunks proportionable to the strength of its root; as it grows, the branches, always distant from each other, bend towards the earth. Its leaves are long, smooth, of an agreeable smell, and terminated in a point; they would be very like the orange-tree if they were shining. From the stem, as well as from the branches, grows a flower of the color of the jonquil, whose pistil incloses a husk that contains the fruit; this husk, which has the figure of a melon, pointed and divided by ribs well distinguished, grows to the length of six or seven inches, and four or five broad, and contains 20 or 30 little kernels. While it grows, it is of a green colour; when it becomes yellow, it is a sign the fruit begins to acquire a consistence; as soon as it has a dark musk colour, it must be gathered and dried without delay. Each grain of cacao is inclosed in the divisions of the membranes of the husk; the grains, so precious when they are pounded, served in their natural state for money to the ancient Mexicans, and are still used for the same purpose among several Indian nations.

They get two crops of cacao in a year, both equal in quantity and quality. The cacao-tree, which begins to repay the labours of the planter at the end of two or three years, requires a moist land; if it wants water, it ceases to produce any fruit, withers and dies. It is not less necessary to have a shade to keep it continually from the heat of the sun, and one ought to surround it with more robust trees, that it might thrive under their shelter; they call these the mothers of the cacao. The cares it requires besides are neither troublesome nor expensive; it is only sufficient to tear up the weeds, which deprive it of its nourishment. The plantations are called cacao-walks, and commonly contain from 500 to 2000 cacao-trees.
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Cacao is esteemed by the Spaniards as the most valuable present that Nature has given to America; it is the bane of chocolate, a paste with which the Mexicans made a drink, whose use, adopted and improved by the conquerors in all their territories, has been a long time introduced into all Europe.

In the Spanish West-Indies, every body, without exception, take it continually; and its eminent qualities have become a proverb there. Chocolate is at once cooling, nourishing, and easy to digest; it renews the exhausted spirits and vigour; in fine, it preserves the health of the young, and prolongs the life of the aged. The plenty and superiority of the cacao of Caracas, make this province infinitely the more precious to Spain and to its Indies; we have already mentioned the extensive trade of its Company in this branch, which is become of the first importance.

The two provinces remaining for us to describe on the coast we are now considering, are those of CUMANA and PARIA; both of them have but few inhabitants, and little trade; especially the last, which, including all the mouths of the river Orinoco to the North of the great branch, is inhabited only by Indians hardly known to the Spaniards. The Province of Cumana has a little town of the same name, with a port on the Gulf of Carriaco, for its capital. At 20 leagues towards the West, is the village of Cumanagotá, where the low flat shore affords some pearls. There are several islands on the coasts of these two provinces; the most Easterly, as well as largest, is that of TRINIDAD, which belongs to Paria, being separated from it by a gulf where the Orinoco makes a rapid current; this current throws itself with violence into the sea through dangerous openings, which Christopher Columbus, in 1498, called Bocas del Drago, the Mouths of the Dragon. Trinidad is of a triangular form, the longest side about 36 leagues long; the two others 15 and 20. The Spaniards have here the Port of St. Joseph on the Western side, with a garrison and governor; their habitations are but few, their plantations and trade very middling, but the island breeds a great number of wild cattle. On the North side are the islands of MARGARITA and Cubagua, both famous for the pearl fishery, from which the first takes its name; it is 16 or 17 leagues long, with few inhabitants, but plenty of hogs and cattle. The inhabitants of Trinidad and Margarita, a mixed race of Spaniards and Indians, are lazy, thieving, and superstitious; they have about thirty sloops without decks, which serve them to exchange, by stealth, in the neighbouring islands, lean beafts, and meat dried in long narrow slices, for camblets, black veils, linen, silk stockings, white hats, and iron ware. CUBAGUA, on the South of Margarita, is only two or three leagues long; its fishery produces the greatest number of pearls, but they seldom exceed five carats: those of Margarita, which are not so numerous, are the largest as well as the best shaped in the West-Indies. The famous pearl of the King of Spain, called "La Peregrina," was fished up in the bed of oysters of the last-mentioned island; it weighs about 25 carats, and is valued at 25,000l. sterling. Every body almost knows the answer of the traveller who presented it to Philip II. This prince, astonished at the price he had given for this pearl,
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so singular for its size and beauty, asked him what he thought in making such a purchase; "I thought," answered the Castilian, "that there was but one Philip II. in the world." The banks of pearl oysters are, at present, nearly exhausted, both on the islands and on the coast, and the fishery is almost nothing in comparison of what it was formerly.

The part of the Continent which belongs to the Spanish West-Indies, does not extend beyond the Province of Paria, with the adjacent islands. We now ought to finish the description of these Indies by a succinct detail of the Islands of Cuba, St. Domingo, and Porto Rico.

§ 2.

Of the Spanish Islands.

At the extremity of this multitude of isles, which separate the inner sea of the West-Indies from the Atlantic Ocean, Nature has placed the Island of CUBA; which may be considered as the points of union where all the chains, both uncovered and overflown, meet at the end. This island extends, from East to West, a length of more than 220 leagues, on a very unequal breadth, leaving between its shores and the Southern flats of Florida a channel of about 22 leagues, through which the waters run with rapidity into the ocean. Though it was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, it was not till 1511 that the Spaniards undertook to conquer it. Velasquez, who was sent there, did not lose a single man; the Indians, being mild and peaceable, submitted themselves with eagerness to the Spaniards, who soon, in return, exterminated them. Las Casas, undoubtedly a great amplifier, makes the number amount to 600,000; it is certain that 60,000 died in six months time of the small-pox, that the Spaniards had already exchanged in St. Domingo for that horrible poison, which destroys the sources of love, from whence it takes its rise, and seems to oppose the grand design of Nature.

Cuba, crossed throughout its whole length by a range of high mountains continually decreasing towards the West, is watered by an immense number of rivers and streams; these produce coolness, verdure, and fruitfulness, in the plains through which they pass, and are most of them well floured with fish. The winding and indented shores afford a number of excellent harbours, but the whole island is little better than a forest, where we find plenty of the largest cedars in the West-Indies. The breed of European cattle, introduced by the Spaniards, and become wild, has so multiplied in these immense woods, that it is now one of the principal riches of the island, and furnishes every year, in its trade, 10 or 12,000 hides.

Cotton is the production which ought naturally to have been propagated with more success in the Island of Cuba. At the time of the conquest this shrub was very common, and nothing was easier than to continue and increase its culture; but at present
present it is so rare, that sometimes there passes many years without the least exportation of cotton to Europe.

One may say the same thing of sugar; of this rich and most important production of America the island has but a few plantations, where the finest canes do not afford, with a great expense, but a small quantity of sugar of a middling quality.

The Spaniards have of late adopted the cultivation of coffee; but they hardly gather 35,000 pounds weight in a year, one-third of which is sent to La Vera Cruz, and the rest to the mother country.

Their principal article is that of tobacco; besides providing Mexico and Peru, they send to Old Spain all that it consumes, except a little quantity received there from Caracas and Buenos Ayres; the greatest part is sent in leaves, though that which is prepared in this country has had, and still has the most reputation.

The remaining part of the trade of Cuba consists in some exports of ginger, aloes, farfapiilla, and other drugs, and tortoise-shells. The mountains abound in mines of all kinds; however, they only work those of copper, which are in the Eastern part; the produce of them serves for casting all the cannon the Spaniards make use of in the West-Indies, and a great part of those they have in Europe. It would be an exaggeration to assert that the hundredth part of the island of Cuba has been cleared, one does not see any traces of cultivation, except at St. Yago on the South coast, and at Matanza, a safe and spacious bay, which is at the going-out of the Old Channel of Bahama; the true plantations are all collected together in the beautiful plains of the Havanna, and those are not such as they ought to be.

These plantations, taken together, may employ about 25,000 slaves, of every age and of each sex; the number of Whites, Mongrels, Mulattoes, and of free Blacks, scattered over the island, may amount to 30,000, independent of those in the capital, whose frequent intercourse with Europeans has hindered them from depraving themselves, and intermingling together to the same degree as in the other Spanish settlements.

The Havanna, their capital, situated on the North side, has had the uninterrupted advantage, since the discovery of America, to receive almost all the Spanish ships which navigate in the New World; and has been justly styled, "the Key of the West-Indies." The houses are handsome, though low; the churches magnificent. It contains about 15,000 inhabitants, a part of whom are employed in the dockyards, very anciently made here by the Government for building ships of war; they bring the masts, iron, and cordage, from Europe. All the rest is found in plenty in the island; but what it has the most precious is the wood, which will keep for ages with very trifling care, while the vessels made in Europe dry and crack in the Torrid Zone: this wood begins to grow scarce in the neighbourhood of the Havanna, but it is common on all the shores, and the carriage neither dear nor difficult.
The Port of the Havanna is one of the safest in the universe; the fleets of all the world might lie at anchor there altogether, the watering is very easy, and the water excellent: its entrance may be said to be guarded by rocks, on which a ship runs the risk of being lost if she gets out of the middle of the channel. It is become more difficult since the Spaniards have sunk there, in 1762, three large men of war, to shut it up from the English, who had no desire to force it. The port is defended by the Moro Castle, and by the Fort de la Punta, both so high above the level of the sea, that it is impossible for the largest ships to batter them.

This Port, with the Spanish fleet of war, and 25 merchant-men, who had taken refuge there, the two forts, the city, its immense magazines, 3,000,000 of piastras, &c. were all taken, the 30th of July, 1762, by the English, after a siege of 29 days, having been attacked by 19 ships of the line and eight frigates, commanded by Admiral Pocock, with 10,000 men under the orders of the Earl of Albemarle.

The Spaniards, having recovered the Havanna at the peace concluded the year after the surrender, have built the Moro anew, and made its ramparts higher; they have fortified with a crown-work the high ground which commands the Moro. On the side of the city, after having totally rebuilt the Fort de la Punta, they have flanked the outworks with two new forts of four bastions. Besides these immense works, Spain has formed a particular army to keep the field in the country: this army, in time of peace, is composed of two squadrons of European dragoons, well mounted and well armed, and of 100 Miquelets, of a regiment of provincial cavalry of four squadrons, and of seven battalions of militia, who, since the peace, have been used to the manual exercise and evolutions in a surprising manner. The fortifications and the forming of the army have cost incredible sums; whatever may be their strength, they will never defend the Havanna so powerfully as its pernicious climate.

The Island of Cuba is divided into three grand districts, which have each a Commander, all under the Governor of the Havanna, the capital of the principal district as well as of the island. The chief place of the second is Spiritu Santo, a little town in the inland part, whose port is another small town, called La Trinidad, on the Southern side. The third is that of St. Yago, at the Eastern extremity; this city, the most ancient in the island, was formerly the capital of it; its Bishop and Governor residing at present at the Havanna, it is only inhabited by some of the old proprietors; it has, nevertheless, a good port, which is frequented by some vessels from the Canary Islands.

At thirteen leagues from Cuba, still in a direction from West to East, lies the Island of ST. DOMINGO, called by the ancient inhabitants Altii. The strait between the two islands is known to mariners by the name of the Windward Passage. The length of St. Domingo is about 110 leagues, and at the middle 40 broad; the coast is near 500 leagues, taking in the circumference of all the bays and creeks. In general the air is less healthy, and the soil worse, than those of Cuba. This island being
being possessed in common by the French and Spaniards, it is only the Eastern half we shall describe here, since it belongs to the latter, who formerly occupied the whole. The great Columbus discovered it in 1492, and called it the "Spanish Island," a denomination it has preserved under the name of Hispaniola, along with that of St. Domingo. They found there some gold mines exceedingly rich, which brought all the rovers of Spain in crowds. The greater part of the male Indians perished in these mines; and almost all the females by the excessive labour of cultivating the fields of maize for the use of the conquerors; the others were massacred either in cool blood or in ranged battles, for so they called these kinds of chase which the Spaniards, covered with iron and followed by bull-dogs, made to a multitude of these unhappy wretches quite naked, and flying with all their might. The quick extermination of the natives, and consequently the difficulty of working the mines; the bloody quarrels of the conquerors among one another; the discovery of Mexico, soon after that of St. Domingo, drawing thither all the invaders; lastly, the pillaging of the capital by Drake, in 1586; all these things made the new colony fall to decay a few years after its establishment. The Spaniards, scattered about this large island, having become unable to hinder the Buccaneers from seizing the Western parts and settling themselves there, retired on the Eastern side, which they have occupied since that time. Their part, both for culture as well as commerce, is much the best; it has large fruitful plains, and the situation of its coast is infinitely more favourable to navigation than that of the French part.

The Spaniards, still more lazy here than at Cuba, plant very little; their principal employment is to breed cattle, or to hunt those which have multiplied in the woods. They get, from their neighbours, stockings, hats, linen, guns, iron-ware, some cloaths; and give them back in payment hores, horned cattle, both for work and for meat, smoked beef, hogs, and hides, besides 300,000 piastras that the Court of Madrid sends every year for the expenses of administration, the clergy, and of the troops which are maintained in this colony.

There were, in 1717, 18,410 Spanish, Mongrel, Negro, and Mulatto inhabitants, who have not increased in number since that time. The Government sent some years ago, a colony of Canarians to Samana on the North-East, whom the climate, the breaking up the ground, and the military vexations, have destroyed; and in 1757, there was formed a company at Barcelona for the trade of St. Domingo; they fit out every year only two small ships, whose returns in Europe consist of 5 or 6000 hides, and some other commodities of little value.

The capital bears the name of St. Domingo; it is situated on the South side in a large and fruitful plain covered with thorns, at the mouth of the river Ozama, which there forms a good harbour; its buildings, its churches, its numerous convents shew some magnificent ruins. It is the residence of the Governor-General, and of the Supreme Tribunal of the Spanish Islands; as well as of an Archbishop, who has several suffragans. These advantages have prevented its becoming totally desolate.
folate after the loss of its trade; indeed, the greatest part of its inhabitants are priests and lawyers.

The other towns of the Spaniards, as St. Yago, Azua, Higuey, &c. are small places or villages which do not deserve a description.

The Island of PUERTO-RICO or PORTO-RICO, so called from its excellent harbour, is situated at 18 leagues from St. Domingo, and terminates the chain of the Greater Antilles. It is a long square, which is 40 leagues in length, and 12 broad. Although discovered and explored, in 1493, by Columbus, it did not attract the attention of the Spaniards till 1509, who then came there in crowds from St. Domingo to rummage the gold mines. All the inhabitants perished in a short time by these labours; it is true that they reckoned but 60,000; at present it does not contain 6000 of every colour or sex, and in this number there are only 15 or 1600 Spaniards or Mulattos. This mountainous and unequal island, subject to insatiable dryness as well as very destructive hurricanes, is, nevertheless, fruitful; but its productions do not go beyond the necessities of its lazy possessors. Their trade is reduced to 2000 hides a year, with a little cassia, mastic, cotton, and ginger, a great many preserved oranges and lemons, salt, and a good number of mules, which are strong though small; these mules, notwithstanding the vigilance of the guairas-cofas of Porto-Rico, who have the reputation of being the most inflexible of any in the Spanish Indies, pass, by stealth, to Santa Cruz, Jamaica, and to St. Domingo. The idleness of this colony is protected by a garrison of 200 men, who, with the priests and magistrates, cost the Government 50,000 piastras a year. This money, joined to the value of its cattle, is sufficient to pay the English, Dutch, French, and Danes, for the linen and other merchandizes they furnish them with. All the utility accruing to the mother-country from this colony, is to have a place where the fleets it sends to the New World may get water and refreshments.

The seat of the Government is in the city of St. Juan, on the North side, defended by a citadel; its port, where the largest ships may ride at anchor in the greatest security, is under the protection of a fort well defended. The city is tolerably handsome, but badly peopled, notwithstanding its garrison, its contraband trade, and its being an episcopal see. The other towns are Arezibo and St. Germano, in which there is hardly either trade or inhabitants.

Of the British Territories.

§ 1. Of the Continent and the adjacent Islands.

The Spaniards formerly gave the name of Florida to all the countries which reached from Mexico to the most Northern regions; this appellation was preserved as long as they were without European possessors; but as soon as these, spreading over North America, approached the countries occupied by the Spaniards, the name of Florida,
Florida, confined naturally to the peninsula which Nature has formed on the Bahama Channel, did comprehend nothing beyond this boundary, but the countries in the neighbourhood of the ocean continued quite up to the river Mississippi. This is nearly what Ferdinand Soto, after the discovery of Juan Ponce de Leon, in 1512, first conquered: the daughter of a Cacique furnished him with the same means to conquer her country, as Marina had afforded to Cortez in Mexico. Soto died in this expedition, and his army would have entirely perished by an epidemical disorder, if the Floridians had not had the simplicity to shew their infaible oppressors a remedy against it. The Spanish historians, speaking of this army, have preserved the name of a large greyhound who made part of it; he was called "Brutus;" his pay was equal to that of an archer, because he made more slaughter than ten soldiers; at last the infidels killed him with arrows, and his death, says Garcilasso, caused a mourning in the army of the Christians. All the space conquered or ravaged by Soto soon became a large desert; and the small number of settlements Spain had formed there and never thought of peopling, served less to make any advantage of the country, than to hinder another nation from settling in this; she has been at last obliged to yield it to the English at the peace of 1763.

The English have divided Florida into two colonies or governments, under the names of East and West Florida, whose limits have been fixed by the proclamation of the 7th of October, 1763.

EAST FLORIDA comprehends all the peninsula; it is bounded on the North by Georgia, and on the West by the river Apalachicola. It contains 12 millions of acres, that is, about the quantity of Ireland. It is the Tegesta of the first discoverers. The soil, except in the middle, is very low, and cut into lakes and rivers full of fish; the trees which cover it are not close together as in the American forests, but at a distance from each other without any underwood. The shores are sandy or marshy to a great distance within land. The action of the waters violently attacking with a continual force its Southern extremity, which they incessantly wear away, has divided it into a number of islands, keys, banks, and rocks, whose masts, bent from West towards the North, has followed the direction of the current. This heap, in which we find many channels for small vessels, the Spaniards have called the "Islands and Keys of the Martyrs." Besides, the situation of this colony between two seas renders the air colder, and the rains more frequent, than in the neighbouring parts of the Continent. The mildness of the seasons, and the wholesome quality of the climate, became a proverb among its first masters, who went thither from the Havanna, Vera-Cruz, and elsewhere, for the recovery of their impaired health.

Its grand productions are cattle, and maize, of which they make two harvests in a year. The English have no colony which affords a greater variety of trees and shrubs; the enumeration of them would be infinite; some serve for building, for the use of the carpenter, or for furniture, such as the different pines, the spruce-fir, the evergreen-oak, the chestnut-oak, mahogany, different kinds of walnut-tree, maple, etc.
the mulberry-trees, which here grow much larger than in any other part of America: others serve for dyeing, as fustic, braziletto, logwood, &c. the saffra and Tolu tree are used in physic: the magnolia, tulip-laurel, the turpentine-tree, &c. are become the greatest ornaments of gardens: other shrubs may become of great consequence in trade, such as the myrtle-wax-shrub, which grows in every soil, the opuntia or the cochineal fig-tree, the senna-shrub, &c. to this we may add, that East Florida has the greatest part of the fruit-trees of the New World, and almost all those of Europe succeed wonderfully there; and that one may cultivate with success not only all the productions of the Antilles, but likewise silk, indigo, and vines. In 1772, they had already exported from this colony 30,000 weight of indigo, of an excellent quality. It is also the only English settlement that produces much of the plant called barilla or kali, with which they make in Spain pearl-ashes, and of which we import such large quantities for the manufactures of glass and soap; all the shores and overflowed lands are covered with it.

East Florida, desolate in some degree when it was yielded to England, as yet contains but a small number of planters. It is known that the remainder of its ancient inhabitants have been exterminated by the Creeks, a savage nation who live more within land. The capital, where the Governor resides, is St. Augultin, a little fortified town of about 900 houses, taking in those of the suburbs. The few inhabitants are of all colours, among them we cannot help remarking the Greeks, who have been brought thither from the Archipelago. The harbour is one of the best in America, but unluckily its bar, having but six feet water with a strong Westerly wind, and twelve feet when it is Easterly, makes it only fit for small vessels. The air is very pure, and the Spaniards here lived to a very great age: it has been observed that the 9th regiment was twenty months in garrison at St. Augultin without losing a single man. There are some forts and some habitations of Indians or Europeans within land, but the principal modern settlements are on the river St. John, the largest in the province, as well as one of the finest in America, navigable for near 50 leagues; it passes through several lakes; its banks in general are low and marshy, and on the Eastern side, at some leagues to the South of St. Augultin, is Mr. Rolle's settlement, the most considerable in the colony. To give some idea of the rising commerce of East Florida, we shall add, that, in 1770, its ports received 50 ships, and fitted out 52.

WEST FLORIDA, separated from this by the river Apalachicola, is bounded on the South by the sea, on the North by the 31st parallel of latitude, on the West by the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain and by the river Mississippi: it is a long band of more than eighty leagues, in which several French settlements are inclosed, yielded to Great Britain at the same time as the Spanish part. The climate is very hot, damp, and unhealthy, particularly near the sea; the strand takes up a great depth, it is a white and dry sand. As one advances into the country, which in general is tolerable even, the climate becomes more healthy, and the lands more fruitful.
ful; they get every year two harvests of maize, and have very good pastures with plenty of cattle. The trees and plants are nearly the same as in East Florida, but it affords several articles which are wanted there. The inland parts are also much better than in the neighbouring colony; its sea-shores have a prodigious quantity of banks of pearl oysters; on the strand they often gather ambergis, as well as a kind of pitch which the high winds bring thither: the Spaniards, who mix it with tallow and use it for their ships, assure us that it does not melt so easily as common pitch. West Florida produces likewise excellent salt in the neighbourhood of the Mississippi. The high grounds contain mines of copper, iron, lead, and coal; and they find opium and sandarac in several places. The French build there several ships, and cultivate rice, cotton, and indigo; their cotton is very fine, of a bright whiteness; its only fault is that of being too short: as to the indigo, it is more brilliant than that of the Island of St. Domingo.

Pensacola is the capital of the province; it is built upon a bay which receives several rivers, and ships lie there in safety from all winds. The environs are a dry sand, where nothing grows but pine-trees fit to make masts. This city passes for being unhealthy; it is to be observed, however, that the precautions taken to expose the houses to the sea-breeze, and to introduce a free communication of air therein as well as into the streets, have much diminished its unwholesomeness. The colony has no other town, but several harbours; the most noted is that of Apalacheeola.

The whole of the inhabitants of West Florida may amount to 6000; but they increase rapidly, especially towards the Mississippi, where the beauty of the country, the purity of the air, and the neighbourhood of the Spaniards, draw the planters. At present their trade seems confined to furs, which they get from the Indians in great quantities, and wood for dying and buildings, &c. These articles are exchanged for the merchandizes they want of Europe. In 1768, their exports amounted to 10,495l. the next year to 10,806l. in 1770, 60 vessels entered into their ports, and they fitted out 41.

Besides the two Floridas, the English have claims on two considerable parts of the Continent, commonly comprehended in New Spain; they both come from the old Buccaneers, and many of our writers regard them with reason as annexed to or dependent on Jamaica. They give to the first settlement, whose possession is ascribed to us by the treaty of 1763, the vague denomination of "the Bay of Honduras," because it is in fact situated on this vast bay; it might be called with more propriety ENGLISH YUCATAN. The English claim formerly took up all the East side of the peninsula, beginning at Cape Catoche: at present, it contains only half this extent, or about 50 leagues of the shore from Hanover Bay to the bottom of the Bay of Honduras. To the North of the first bay the Spaniards have the town of Salamanca de Bacalar, of 120 houses, with a bad fort and a small garrison, designed to hinder the contraband trade, and the excursions of the Wood-cutters or Bay-men, but which
which it does not prevent. All this part is a low fenney country, every year covered with four or five feet water, indented by lagoons often overflowed, and crossed by several rivers, among which are two considerable ones, called by the English New River, and River Baliz or Bellefe. The air is unhealthy, infested with that species of gnats called musktoes; the water swarms every where with alligators, &c. but English Yucatan produces a prodigious abundance of logwood, a quantity of mahogany, sultic, and other woods for dying. The Wood-cutters were originally established in the Bay of Campeche, but having been driven out by the Spaniards, they took refuge near Cape Caroche, from whence a new expulsion made them retire to the drowned countries which they now occupy. In the dry season, or the season of cutting, they search for the wood, which stretches in veins or bands to a great distance, like the veins of minerals-under-ground. They must sometimes go several miles before they find one. When the vein is found, the Cutters build huts, cut down the trees, and take off their bark; they then make different heaps of them, to each of which there is a communication by a path which becomes a channel in the wet season. As the wood is heavy it is with difficulty carried away by the waters: this channel serves to bring it down to the barcaderes (or places of loading); the traders take it at 5l. Jamaica currency (3l. 11s. 6d. sterling) a ton, and carry it to the ships in boats, which from their use and shape are called “Flats.” During the inundation the greater part of the Logwood-cutters live at the barcaderes, 15 or 16 leagues above the mouth of the River Bellefe; the assemblage of their huts forms kinds of villages, built on high banks to defend them from the rising waters. They may be about 15 or 1600, others make them amount to 3000, masters and servants, blacks or whites; the latter always go armed, and are often malefactors transported from the Northern plantations. They do not form a regular colony, no more than the Buccaneers their predecessors; but as no society, not even among robbers, can subsist without some contract, the Wood-cutters have agreed on certain regulations among themselves, which they follow as little as they can. Sometimes they elect a chief, by the name of king, to see that these regulations are observed; and one may say, that there is no sovereign in the universe who has less authority, less luxury, less emoluments, and whose subjects are more disobedient: therefore the Government is obliged to send judges from Jamaica to the Bay, when the disorder is got to the height; and the commander of the king’s frigate, who brings the commissions, takes care to see they have their complete execution.

The quantity of wood annually furnished by the Bay of Honduras has been valued at 20,000 tons. The English export only about 6000; their trade is carried on in general by North-American ships, who provide themselves with merchandizes that are wanted at the Bay. All the rest, which besides takes in the wood of the best kind, is loaded by the Dutch, who bring the Cutters linen, cottons, cordage, powder and ball, swords, strong liquors, wine, refined sugar, earthen ware, &c. from Curacao; and as they sell all these cheaper than the goods imported from Jamaica, those articles only remain for the English which the Dutch cannot furnish, as salt

beef
beef and butter, meal and bread of North America, some iron-ware, &c. On a very moderate calculation the annual clear profit of this trade to the Dutch amounts to 90,000l. sterling.

The Bay of Honduras is besprinkled with an infinity of shoals, rocks, and heaps of drowned islands, where they find plenty of green turtles. There are several channels between them, among which a ship ought not to get without an experienced pilot.

Among the number of these islands the only ones fit to produce any thing are Guanaja, Rattan or Rusan, and Utila at the entrance of the Bay and near to Cape Honduras.—Rattan is the largest as well as the best of the three; it is 10 leagues long, three broad, and contains about 250,000 acres; the climate is very healthy, the land in the valleys rich and fertile. Here are great quantities of cocoa-nuts, wild figs, and excellent grapes. The forests produce oaks and pines big enough for masts of merchant-ships; but it has the disadvantage of being badly supplied with water, and of producing many serpents, among which is an enormous species called "owlers"; these are as big as a man's waist, and 12 or 14 feet long, with a very wide mouth; when they lie stretched out at length they appear like old fallen trunks of trees, covered with a short moss. The South side of Rattan has several good harbours; the principal, named by the English Port Royal, is naturally guarded by rocks and shoals, and has an entrance so small as to admit only one ship at a time. The English took possession of it in 1742, and built a fort, in which they put a garrison of 250 men; one Pitts, a logwood-cutter, was its first Governor, who never has had a successor. Our ships, bound from Honduras to Jamaica, touch at Port Royal when they want water or have sprung a leak; and those which go from Jamaica to Honduras, take pilots there for the Bay. The Northern coast of the island is defended throughout by a continual reef of rocks, between which there are very few passages for small vessels. The Isle of Rattan is so well situated, that it may be regarded as the key of the Bay of Honduras, and might command the trade of all the provinces which lie round this bay. We find no Spaniards there, only a few English, some of whom catch turtle, and serve for pilots to ships; others breed mules in meadows of several hundred acres towards the West end, which is the best part of the island; they belong to the Jamaica planters, who assure their property by means of a Spanish patent; these patents are granted by the Governor of Truxillo, who sells them at a very reasonable price.

After the Bay of Honduras comes Mosquitoia, or the Mosquito Shore, where the English are established, and whose Indian possessors, trading with nobody but the English, admit no other Europeans in their country, which extends from Cape Honduras to the river that serves for a discharge to Lake Nicaragua. This space takes in 150 leagues of the shore, and forms an obtuse angle at Cape Gracias a Dios, having one of its sides exposed to the North, the other to the East. The general name of Mosquitos is given to all the nations which occupy this extent, as well
well as the inner space between the coast and the higher chain of mountains. The whole of all these nations together is not above 30,000; the Mosquitos are the most numerous as well as the bravest; they muster from 15 to 1800 warriors: their country, properly so called, is about Cape Gracias a Dios, near the mouth and on the banks of the great Cape river. It is one of the most healthy and beautiful spots in the world: the Europeans do not suffer by any of those disorders so dangerous in the West-Indies, and live here to a very old age. There are near 30 English families with about 100 Negro slaves, who have begun plantations of sugar on the lands given them by the Mosquitos. They distinguish two forts of Mosquitos, the Red, and the Black or Sambos; the first are the original natives of the country, the second the descendants of about fifty Negroes, who going to be sold in the neighboring islands got their liberty by the vessel they were in being shipwrecked. The Mosquitos were very willing to kill a White-man who was saved with the Blacks: he was a Portuguese, and he had too much resemblance to a Spaniard for them to spare him: it was determined, after two years debate, to sacrifice him to serve in the other world the matter to whose lot he had fallen, and who was just dead. Luckily the Portuguese had but one eye; he represented to the nation assembled, that, in the other world, a one-eyed man would not be of service to any body, because he had not too much of both eyes to see clear there: the Mosquitos not only granted him his life, but they also gave him his liberty, with a wife, and the surname of "the man who knows a great deal." The Mosquitos are divided into four principal tribes, under the protection of the English; their chiefs have the commissions of Captain, General, Admiral, &c., which are given them with some presents by the Governor of Jamaica, whom they regard as the King of the World. The implacable hatred they bear to the Spaniards by whom their ancestors were driven from the fertile plains they enjoyed near the Lake Nicaragua, goes almost as far back as the discovery of America, and their friendship for the English is as old as the expeditions of the Buccaneers against their common enemy. Like all uncivilized nations, they have few wants, and are very indolent; "I am not hungry" is their saying when they do not choose to work; in effect, they never labour but when this need is very sensible; then they go to hunt, fish, or catch and harpoon turtle, and manati or sea-cows, an exercise at which they are remarkably dexterous; or else they hire themselves to the English to cut mahogany, build canoes, which are sold at Jamaica, to go a harpooning, &c. One might cultivate rice, cacao, indigo, silk-grafs, tobacco, &c. to advantage in this country; at present we get from it tiger and buck skins, dying woods of several kinds, gums and balsams, indigo, cochineal, farfaparilla, tortoise-shells, zebra-wood for the cabinet-makers, &c. but all these only in small quantities. All the wild nations, both inland and upon the coast, are allies of the Mosquitos, and of the English. We are sorry to find that our traders, who do not seem in these parts under any government, have often rendered themselves as obdious as the Spaniards. Several have been accused, on too much foundation, of having excited the Mosquitos at different
ferent times against the nations on the sea-coast, to have an occasion of purchasing
the prisoners, whom they afterwards sold to the Dutch, and in our islands and
Northern settlements; they have even kidnapped some of these wretched Indians
and transported them as slaves into the plantations. The indignation excited
by such horrible attempts increases, when one finds they have not been pu-
nished.

Among the different nations who inhabit the sea-shore on the Eastern side, we dislingui-
sh the Woolvas, and the Ramas, in the neighbourhood of the river St. Juan. These
two nations are very mild, and have the same manners as the Mosquitos: their coast
presents two very extensive lagoons, wherein several navigable rivers empty their wa-
ters; one called Pearl Key lagoon, on account of the pearl oysters which are in
plenty about it; the other Blewfields lagoon, from the name of a famous Jamaic-
an Buccaneer in the last century; this forms a large harbour, whose depth of water
is from three fathom to three and a half; a bar of 12 or 16 feet of water hinders the
entrance of any besides small vessels. The neighbouring land is fertile, and its
climate very healthy; the banks of its principal river are covered with cedars, large
mahogany-trees, and plenty of other trees good for building either houses or ships.
One might easily fortify Blewfields Bluff, at the entrance of this harbour, for stone is
found near it in abundance, and the oyster-shells would afford all the lime necessary.
This high eminence has a flat at top of about 1500 acres, on which one cannot land
but by two places easy to guard; it is joined to the Continent on the North part by
a low isthmus, sandy on the sides, and sappy, with mangrove-trees, in the middle.
There is the most grand and extensive prospect of the sea and land to the South
from the top of this eminence. These two lagoons are frequented by some people
from Jamaica, who come to cut mahogany, and to fish for turtle, both on the coast
and in the adjacent islands. The Corn Islands, the Isle of St. Andres, and of O.t.
Providenrce, farther off than the others, are likewise much larger. The last, at
present uninhabited, belonged originally to the Earls of Warwick, and its possession
was secured to England by the 8th article of the American treaty in 1670; it has been very
much celebrated in the History of the Buccaneers, who fortified it, and made it for
some time their principal retreat: it is only two leagues and a half long, and one
broad; its most Northerly point, called Santa Catalina, or St. Catherine's island, is
separated from the main body by a narrow channel, on which the Buccaneers had
built a bridge. Notwithstanding the smallness of this island, it may be considered as
one of the best in the West-Indies, both on account of its fruitfulness and the salu-
brity of its air, to which we may add the facility of fortifying its shores; it is wa-
tered by four streams, two only of which are dry in summer; the woods, composed
of cedars, fustic, and other trees for dyeing, are full of an incredible number of
pigeons; there is not a serpent or any other venomous creature to be found. The
island is surrounded with reefs, which leave a passage for ships along its circuit; and it
has an excellent harbour on the East side: the sea affords great plenty of fish and
turtle,
turtle. Such a multiplicity of advantages deserve inhabitants to enjoy them, and it is surprizing that Old Providence has been forsaken and desolate since the last century.

If from this island, so unreasonably neglected, we transport ourselves to the Mosquito Shore exposed to the North, we shall find, at above 20 leagues to the East of Cape Honduras, an English settlement at the mouth of Black River, by whose name it is generally known. This same river the Spaniards call Rio Tinto; its entrance, the only harbour on all this coast from Rattan to Cape Gracias a Dios, was for more than 60 years the refuge of the Logwood-cutters, when the Spaniards drove them from the forests of East Yucatan; they waited there in safety for the moment their enemies should retire. As these expulsions were very frequent, and always unforeseen, the ships which went to load with logwood in the Bay of Honduras chose to touch first at the Black-River, to get intelligence, and to determine in consequence the manner of pursuing their voyage. Wood-cutters, sailors, deserters, and adventurers of several kinds, fixed themselves indifferently in this place; they received merchandizes in return for the fruits of their industry, and soon established a lucrative trade with the Spaniards in the inland parts. The last treaty of peace, which secures to the Wood-cutters the uninterrupted enjoyment of their forests, far from making the Black River deserted, has given more activity to the settlement. The seacoast is sandy, generally low and swampy, with mangrove-trees; higher up upon the rivers and lagoons, the soil, more fertile, produces many plantains, coco-trees, maize, yams, potatoes, and several other vegetables; the passion of drinking rum has made them begin the planting of sugar-canes. The rivers, as well as the lagoons, are extremely well stored with fish, the forests filled with deer, peccary or Mexican swine, and game. On the shores they catch the finest turtle, from March to June, and from August to the end of September; besides this fishery, which is very plentiful, the Black-River settlers cut mahogany and zebra wood, and gather a great deal of farfaparilla. These settlers, still fewer in number than those of the Bay of Honduras, are, like them, under the inspection of the commander of the frigate which cruizes on the coast; but the colony is so well situated that it cannot fail of increasing; the Government, who destroyed their fort at the peace, in vain neglects it. It is one of those plants, which, placed by chance in a happy corner of the garden, flourish, increase, and bear fruit of themselves, without the gardener’s giving himself the trouble of watering or taking care of them.

§ 2.

Of the English Islands.

The English Islands in the Archipelago of the West-Indies afford several divisions, that we are obliged to follow, as well for the relief of the reader, as to keep
to the methodical progression we have prescribed to ourselves in this descriptive abridgement.

Jamaica, one of the Greater Antilles, ought to form alone one of these divisions.

The second will be composed of the islands, properly called Caribbee Islands.

In the third will be comprised those that the English call Leeward Caribbees.

The Virgin Isles, towards the West of these, will form the fourth; and,

Lastly, the Bahama Islands, with some adjacent isles, will afford matter for a fifth.

JAMAICA, the largest of the English islands, was discovered in 1494 by the great Columbus, who did not make any settlement there. Some years after, in his fourth expedition, he was cast aghore by a storm; the loss of his ships putting it out of his power to get away, he implored the humanity of the savages, and he received from them all the helps of a natural compassion: but these people, who planted only for their own necessities, were tired with maintaining strangers who put them in danger of starving by a famine, and removed themselves insensibly from their neighbourhood. The Spaniards no longer kept any measure with the Indians, and soon grew so mutinous as to take arms against their commander. Columbus, forced to yield to their threats, to get out of a desperate situation, took advantage of one of those appearances of Nature, where a man of genius sometimes finds a resource, pardonable through necessity: his astronomical knowledge informed him that there would soon be an eclipse of the moon; he desired all the Caciques to assemble together to hear from him some things very important to their safety. When he was in the midst of them, after having reproached them for the cruelty with which they suffered him and his companions to perish, "To punish you for it," said he with an air of inspiration, "the God whom I adore is going to inflict on you one of his most terrible strokes; this evening you will see the moon reddened, grow dark, and refuse you light; this is only the prelude of your misfortunes, if you perished in refusing to give me provisions." Columbus had hardly ceased speaking, when his prophecy was accomplished; the fright was general among the savages, they thought themselves destroyed, begged for mercy, and promised every thing. He then declared to them, that heaven, touched with their repentance, had appealed its wrath, and that Nature was going to refuse its course. After this moment provisions arrived from all parts, and Columbus was in want of nothing till his departure.

The court of Spain had granted the property of Jamaica to Columbus, who gave it the preference to all the other parts, on account of its populousness and happy situation; he called it the Sicily of the Indies. Don Diego his son was the first Governor of it, with the title of Duke de la Vega, from the city of St. Jago de la Vega, founded by him, and which became its capital. Don Diego had caused 70 vagabonds to go over from St. Domingo, under the conduct of Juan d' Esquimucl;
others soon followed them, and in a few years all the Indians, to the number of more than 60,000, disappeared quite to the last man.

The Spaniards had built several other cities in this unhappy island, but all their settlements, erected on the dead remnants of the Indians, fell to decay as fast as the depopulation increased; and the ravagers were convinced that the island produced no gold; they were soon reduced to that of St. Jago de la Vega, which then consisted of 1700 houses, four churches, and an abbey. The inhabitants of this city, plunged into the indolence that follows tyranny after defraiture, contented themselves to live on some plantations, whose surplus they sold to the ships which passed by their coasts. The whole people of the island, collected into a small territory which nourished this useless race of destroyers, was confined to 1500 slaves commanded by as many tyrants; when the English coming at last to attack their capital, made themselves masters of it, and settled there in 1655.

With them entered discord; they brought the most unlucky seeds of it. At first, their new colony had only 3000 inhabitants, part of that fanatical militia that had fought and triumphed under the rebellious standard of Cromwell. They were soon joined by a number of royalists, who went to America to meet with some alleviation for their defeat, and to enjoy the calm of peace. The spirit of division which had so long and so cruelly rent the two parties in Europe, followed them beyond the seas; there was enough to renew in the New World the scenes of horror and bloodshed so often repeated in the Old. But Admiral Penn and Colonel Venables, after conquering Jamaica, had left the command to one of the wisest and bravest men, who by good luck was the senior officer; it was D'Oyley, a friend to the Stuarts. Cromwell twice substituted some of his party in his place, and both times their deaths restored D'Oyley to the head of affairs. His manner of ruling was quite military; he had to keep in order and to govern an infant colony entirely composed of soldiers, and to prevent or repel the invasions of the Spaniards, who might try to recover what they had just lost. But when Charles II. was restored to the throne, from which the axe of the fanatics had thrown his father, a civil government was established at Jamaica, formed, like those in the other islands, after the model of the mother-country; but the first attempts were confined to compiling, without any method, some provisional regulations for the police, justice, and finances. It was not till 1682 that the body of laws was formed, which at present keeps the island in vigour.

Soon after the Restoration the colony was so increased that it contained 18,000 persons, who had almost no other trade but their depredations on the Spaniards. Sir Thomas Modiford was then governor, a rich planter of Barbadoes, who came to Jamaica to increase his possessions; he introduced in this island the art of making sugar, of planting cacao-trees, and he erected salt-works. His attention to encourage culture and industry could not make the people of Jamaica give up their maritime expeditions; adventurers of all kinds increased the crowd of these romantic pirates, who often deserved the appellation of heroes known by the name of Free-booters,
booters and Buccaneers; they infested the whole West-Indian Sea, and laid waste all the coasts of the New World. The plunder of Mexico and Peru was always carried to Jamaica, both by the natives and strangers; they found in this island a greater facility, received more protection and liberty than elsewhere, both to disembark and to spend, at their own pleasure, the booty they had acquired in their courses. There the extravagance of their debaucheries soon plunged them into distress. This only sting of their cruel and bloody industry made them fly to new combats and to new prey. Thus the colony profited by their continual changes of fortune, and enriched itself by the vices which were the origin and ruin of their treasures: and when this lawless race was destroyed by its own activity, these same treasures became the base of a new opulence, by the help they afforded to increase the plantations and productions, or to open a contraband trade with the Spaniards. Under whatever point of view any one considers Jamaica, he will see that England owes the keeping of it, as well as the means which determined the grandeur of its settlement, to the Buccaneers. Jamaica is placed in the most happy situation, at 36 leagues to the South of Cuba, and 39 leagues to the West of St. Domingo; these two large islands defend it from the winds which desolate the Atlantic, whilst the number and disposition of its harbours put it in a condition to carry on a great trade either with these and the other islands of the West-Indian Sea, or with the Continent. There are about sixteen principal harbours, besides 30 bays, roads, or good anchoring-places. Though this situation may expose it to the insults of its too powerful neighbours, it, at the same time, facilitates the entrance of the succours the mother-country has lavished on it at all times. Its shape is an irregular oval, whose length is about 54 leagues, and breadth 16, containing near four millions of acres, that is, about four times as much land as all the other English Sugar-Islands taken together; in this number there are about 1,500,000 patented, although the cleared lands do not amount to near this quantity, since it is supposed that no more than a seventh of the island is cultivated.

The island, whose aspect, always verdant, affords a delicious prospect to those who approach by sea, is traversed, throughout its whole length from West to East, by a chain of high mountains, composed of rocks and of very hard clay; the Eastern part of them, famous by the name of the "Blue Mountains," defends the Southern coast from the violent and dangerous North-West winds. All this great chain emits from North to South a number of lower ranges, forming on both sides the narrow channels of 200 rivers that are reckoned in the island, among which they find 70 wherein small boats may enter laden; but as the mountains are steep and rugged, and come very near the sea, the rivers in general are rapid torrents full of cataracts; when they overflow in the rainy season, they render the communication very dangerous, and their inundations hurt the land instead of making it fertile; most of them, however, are well stored with fish, and all afford water fit to drink.

The climate of Jamaica, as well as of all countries between the Tropics, is very hot near the sea, and very unhealthy in the low marshy parts; it is true, that the constant
constant breeze a good deal moderates this heat, which is extreme about eight or nine in the morning; but in the higher grounds, the climate, naturally more variable, is likewise more cool and healthy; and persons who live temperately arrive to a very old age, without being much troubled with disorders. The plantations have made the climate much wholesomer than it was formerly: it is, however, certain, that the temperature has been altered for the worst by the great earthquake in 1692; and the island, which was then thought to be out of the reach of the hurricanes, has terribly suffered by them since that memorable epoch. They are most apprehended in September, which is the time of the greatest rains; these periodical rains, the cause of fruitfulness, are called “Seasons.” Jamaica, besides, is subject to earthquakes. Thunder is very frequent, particularly in the mountains and the Western parts: there are sometimes storms of hail, but never any ice or snow, except on the top of the mountains, where the air is extremely cold, even at a moderate height.

The North side is the most healthy, and the trees there grow much finer than on the South; but the North-West winds, which often blow with violence, render it in general less fit for the planting of canes than the last, whose sugar is of the best quality.

One may easily conceive, that, in an island so extensive, and whose surface is so irregular, the soil ought to be prodigiously varied; that which is most esteemed on account of its fertility is called in the country brick-mould, but all the other kinds may be rendered fertile with little labour, and by appropriating productions fit to each. I do not speak of the savannas, or of those large plains without any stones, wherein the ancient Indians gathered an extreme plenty of maize, and where the Spaniards, who turned them into meadows, fed an incredible number of cattle.

It would be endless to enumerate and particularize all the productions of Jamaica; the vegetable kingdom appears there in its glory, and beauty is always joined to excellence. Grains and pulse, flowers, fruits, roots, plants and trees, are both valuable and plentiful: the island nourishes all the animals of Europe, very large cattle, sheep whose flesh is of an exceeding good taste although the wool is very bad, and a quantity of hogs which afford a delicious food; both sea and river fish, with all sorts of wild fowl as well as domestic, are found in profusion; and near the sea are large salt-works, which furnish the inhabitants with all the salt they want.

Sugar ought to be placed at the head of all those productions: the cane which produces it has been cultivated time out of mind in some countries of Asia and Africa; from Madeira and the Canary Islands it has been carried to the New World, where it thrives as well as if it was a native: it is a kind of reed which rises commonly about eight or nine feet, taking in the leaves growing out of the top; the most common thickness is from two to four inches. It requires a light, porous, and deep soil, and is usually cut at the end of eighteen months. Within twenty-four hours after the canes are cut down, they break them between two rollers of iron or copper, which
which are put in motion by a horizontal wheel turned by oxen or horses. The juice, with which the inner part of the canes is filled, is received in a reservoir, from whence it is successively carried to several boilers, to reduce it into crystals; as soon as it is cold, they pour it into earthen vessels made in the shape of a cone: the base of the cone is open, its apex pierced with a hole, through which they let the liquor run which will not afford any crystals; this liquor is what is called treacle, or molasses. After the draining they have muscovado or rough sugar; it is greasy, brown, and soft. This sugar does not become white, shining, and hard, till it is refined in Europe; we may observe here that there are two refining houses at Kingston. The molasses are usually worth the twelfth part of the value of the sugar; there is a good deal consumed in the North of Europe and of America, where they supply the place of butter and sugar to the common people; the Americans use them to produce a fermentation, and give an agreeable taste to a drink called "Pruft," which is nothing more than the infusion of the bark of a tree. These molasses are likewise prodigiously useful, since the secret has been discovered to convert them by distillation into a spirituous liquor known by the name of rum. The operation is made by mixing one-third of syrup with two-thirds of water; when these two substances have sufficiently fermented, at the end of twelve or fifteen days, they are put into a still, where the distillation is carried on in the common manner. The annual exports of Jamaica in these several articles, the produce of sugar-canes, come at present to near 100,000 hogsheads of sugar, 30,000 puncheons, or three million gallons of rum, and 300,000 gallons of molasses.

Pimento is, after sugar, the most considerable article of the Jamaican culture, since above three millions of pounds weight are exported every year. There are several kinds more or less strong, and more or less acid. The tree, which produces the kind of Pimento known by the name of Jamaica Pepper, was not cultivated in regular plantations till the year 1668; it commonly grows on the mountains, and rises above 30 feet high; it is very straight, of a middling thickness, and covered with a grey close shining bark; the leaves are in all respects like the laurel; at the end of the branches grow the flowers, to which succeed berries a little larger than juniper; they are gathered green, and set to dry in the sun; they grow brown, and get that spicy finell which has given to Pimento the name of All Spice: its use is excellent to strengthen the cold stomach subject to crudities. To the culture of Pimento the people of Jamaica join that of ginger, the use of which we have learnt from the Caribbes. It is the root of a small plant, about 18 or 20 inches high; it was prodigiously in vogue about the middle of the last century, but since that time it has by degrees grown out of fashion, and is now only a secondary article in trade; especially since the consumption of the Russians and Germans is become very inconsiderable; so that the annual export is reduced to 500 bags, each of 500 pounds weight.
The diminution of this branch, however prejudicial, is not so severely felt as the
almost total annihilation of two branches of culture of the first kind, those of indi-
goto and of cacao. In 1672, Jamaica had 60 indigo plantations, which produced
yearly 50,000l. worth of indigo; they are now reduced to eight, and an injudicious
parliamentary duty has ruined this branch, which the French have got hold of with
such advantage, that it is almost impossible to recover it.

Cacao prospered at the same time as indigo; Jamaica had then 60 cacao walks in
produce, and many new ones under cultivation. Some years afterwards they were
all destroyed at once by a blact, as it is asserted; they never have been renewed
since, and there is hardly one in this island, where chocolate is of general use. The
productions which promise to increase are cotton and coffee; perhaps the suppres-
sion, ordained in 1766, of the tax laid on foreign cottons, will somewhat retard the
plantations of this article; those of coffee, adopted by the people of Jamaica, seem
to be favoured by the duty laid on coffees imported from any other place but the
British settlements; but to the present time the French have maintained their su-
periority in the manner of shipping this article for Europe, which is such that their
coffee preserves all its qualities and virtues. Jamaica exports annually 1000 bags of
cotton, each weighing 180 pounds; and 800 casks of coffee, of 300 pounds each.

Besides the capital objects we have just specified, this island produces a number
of trees, shrubs, and useful plants, some of them natives of its soil, others brought
from the other islands or the continent; among these we ought to distinguish.—The
mahogany which is used in Europe for so many purposes; there was formerly a pro-
digious abundance on the shores, but at present they must go ten or twelve miles
within land, and get nearer to the mountains, to find any; this distance rendering it
more inconvenient and more expensive to transport, the Jamaicans get a great deal
from the coasts of Spanish America, not quite so good but much cheaper than their
own, which they send to Great-Britain; in the year 1770 they exported to the value
of 50,000l. sterling.—The silk-cotton-tree, whose trunk is often 80 feet high to its
branches, and 12 or 14 feet in circumference; they make of it canoes or periagas
of 25 tons burthen.—The dogwood, which does not yield to the English oak for
hardness.—The bitterwood, much used by carpenters.—The baltard mammea, or
wood of St. Mary, whose height and quality make it fit for building ships and
houses; as well as the cedar, odoriferous and incorruptible; this, besides, serves to
cover and wainscots houses, to make pencils, &c. and for many purposes of the ca-
binet-makers.—The lignum-vite, excellent for joiners and turners; the properties
of its gum, called gum-guaiacum, are well known.—Among the trees useful in
domestic economy are,—The oil-nut-tree, or palma Chrilli, a tree 15 or 16 feet
high, laden with nuts affording plenty of an oil which is of great use, as well as
that of the palm-tree; this last is much esteemed by the Negroes.—The coco-
tree and date-tree produce fruits at the same time cooling and nourishing.—The cabbage-
tree, a beautiful tree whose stem grows to a prodigious height, some having been
seen
DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST-INDIES.

seen 270 feet high; it produces at the top a substance which has the appearance and taste of a cabbage.—The tamarind-tree, whose fruit is so well known, they get a valuable varnish by incision from the tree, and might extract an useful oil from the nuts.—The aloes, or soap-tree, affords an excellent soap fit for all the purposes of the laundress.—The red mangrove and the black olive tree serve for the tanning of hides, and their bark is infinitely preferable to that of the oak for this purpose.

For the use of the joiners and cabinet-makers, Jamaica produces the rose-wood, black and white ebony, Spanish elm or princes-wood, zebra-wood, munk-wood, and manchineal; all the parts of this last, leaves, juice, and fruit which is a little apple like a crab-apple, are a more or less deadly poison. A dyer might furnish himself with all his ingredients at Jamaica, except indigo which is unluckily neglected; you will find there the brazileto, the sultane, which, besides, is one of the best woods for building; the logwood, which has been naturalised in the island since 1715, when they brought the seeds from Campeche; the opuntia or cochineal fig-tree; the anatta or rocou, formerly much in vogue to make the colour called "Aurora." For medicinal uses, besides the guaiacum, tamarind, oils, &c. this island produces the wild cinnamon-tree (which is the canella alba of the shops, where it is used for the Cortex Winteranus), the farlaparilla, china-root, caffia, aloes, &c.

Jamaica is divided into three counties, Surry, Middlesex, and Cornwall; which contain 19 parishes: over each of them presides a magistrate called a Custos. There are but few towns in the island; and the reason is, that the greater part of the inhabitants are dispersed on their plantations, which form so many villages or hamlets.

St. Jago de la Vega, commonly called Spanish-Town, in Middlesex, is the capital of the island; it is a small city with about 20 streets and 4000 people, in a situation tolerably healthy; it is the residence of the Governor, of the Courts of Justice, and the place where the Assembly is held. The greater part of the inhabitants are persons of fortune or rank, which gives it an air of splendor and magnificence; it has need of all these advantages to maintain itself, being at two leagues distance from the sea, and destitute of trade; it has a very handsome church, a chapel, and a Jewish synagogue; the principal building is the Governor's house, one of the handsomest in America.

Between this town and that of Kingston is Fort Paillage, a little village of fifteen houses, so called, because those who go from one town to the other land or embark there. The town of Kingston, in the county of Surry, is the most considerable in the island, being the residence of the merchants, and the chief place for trade. Its plan is a parallelogram, a mile and a half long, and half a mile broad; all the streets, which are broad and regular, cross each other at right angles; they contain 1663 houses, without taking in the habitations of the Negroes and the storehouses. Its inhabitants may amount to 11,000, among whom are about 5000 Whites, and 1200 free Negroes or Mulattoes; the rest are composed of slaves: the houses are finer than those of St. Jago de la Vega, but the air is not so healthy as in this last town.
town. The Jews, who are very numerous here, have a fine synagogue, in which the
principal Rabbi of the island officiates.

The Port of Kingston, seated at the bottom of a deep bay on the Southern coast,
will admit 1,000 ships at a time, and those of 200 tons come quite up to the key; upon
an average of twenty years, the ships, both great and small, which go out annually
from this port, amount to 400, and the annual state of the shipping of the island
is about five hundred, making 58,000 tons, which employ three thousand White
sailors.

Upon the dry and sandy neck of land about three leagues long, that separates the
Harbour of Kingston from the sea, is the small town of Port-Royal, the most con-
siderable and richest of the island at the time of the Buccaneers, whose disorders it
cherished. Port-Royal contained then 2,000 houses, of which 1,600 were swallowed up
or overturned by the remarkable earthquake that happened in 1692; they had re-
built a great part of them, which were consumed by a fire in 1703. The excellence
of the situation engaged the people to rebuild them a second time, when a hurricane,
in 1722, made them a heap of ruins; these were again raised, but again destroyed,
in 1744, by another hurricane. The harbour, joining to the Bay of Kingston, is
very large and deep; it is the station of our fleet, and has a good careening-place:
when there is a war with Spain, this fleet is stationed at Point Negril, the Western
end of the island. On the extremity of the neck of land is Fort Charles, mounted
with 126 pieces of cannon which defend the entrance of the harbour, together with
the crossed fire of several other batteries.

The administration of public affairs in Jamaica is by a Governor who represents
the King, a council of 12 which form the Upper House, and the 43 representa-
tives of the people which compose the Lower House, and are chosen by the parishes.
The whole of the emoluments of the Governor in time of peace amounts to 5,000l.
a year; the annual supply required from the colony may be about 30,000l. besides
800l. the amount of its revenue; and the total of all the taxes, both public and pa-
rochial, is never above 60,000l. a year.

In 1673, Jamaica contained but 18,068 inhabitants, of whom 8,564 were Whites,
and 9,504 Blacks: in 1768, they reckoned 17,949 Whites, and 166,904 Blacks, in-
cluding the free Negroes and Mulattoes. This difference in the respective increases
of the Blacks and Whites shews how much easier it is to augment slavery than li-
iberty. As the number of people, as well as the culture, have increased since this
last epoch, they estimate, at present, the number of plantations and inhabitants of
Jamaica as follows, viz. 680 plantations of sugar, 110 cotton works, 100 Pimento
walks, 30 plantations of ginger, 500 breeding pens, 600 pollack and provision
places, 150 plantations of coffee, and 8 indigo works; all which take up and
employ 600,000 acres, 18,000 Whites, 170,000 Blacks, and 136,000 horses, mules,
or horned cattle. This number of Negroes requires a recruit of 6,000 every year.
Among the Whites, who all are enrolled and form a national militia, are reckoned,
8 or 900 Jews. Jamaica is perhaps the only place in the world where they have a country, since it is the only one where a right has been given them to carry arms for its defence: they have justified the confidence of the legislature in an invasion made by the French, where they behaved with a great deal of courage. The Jews possess several estates, and carry on an extensive trade, especially with the Spaniards. Their sobriety and manner of living make them come to a greater age in Jamaica than the other Whites; but one is sorry to find that they have carried to this island a spirit of division in their tenets which renders them sometimes unhappy, and often ridiculous. In the number of Blacks are reckoned 3608 free Mulattoes and Negroes, who are incorporated in the national militia. There are likewise included 8 or 900 Maron Negroes; these form a savage republic divided into six villages in the mountains: they are the descendants of runaway slaves who have forced the Government to acknowledge their independance. By the treaty concluded with them in 1739, they possess some lands whose produce belongs to them, and are obliged to march for a fixed salary in case of an invasion, as well as to restore fugitive slaves for a settled premium. Their Chiefs, distinguished by a medal hung to a silver chain, are under the inspection of a White called the Superintendent, without whose permission not one of the Marons can go out of his district.

The commerce of Jamaica is very considerable, not only with Great-Britain and Ireland, but likewise with Africa, North and South America, the West-India islands, and the Spanish main; it is sufficient to say, that the whole of its annual exports is reckoned, by a mean proportion, at 1,310,000l. while the total of the imports amounts to 1,054,000l.

About 55 leagues towards the N.N.W. of Jamaica are three little islands, dependent on this, and known by the name of the Caymans: the most Southerly bears the name of Great Cayman; the two others, distant from it about 20 leagues to the N.N.E., are called Little Cayman and Cayman-Brack. Great Cayman is the only one which is constantly inhabited; it is very low, covered with high trees, and the inhabitable part about a league and a half long. It has no harbour for ships of burden, only a tolerable anchoring-place on the South-West. The inhabitants, who amount to about 150, are descended from the old Buccaneers; they have given themselves a set of laws, and choose a Chief to see them executed, in conjunction with the Justices of Peace appointed by commission from the Governor of Jamaica. As they have no clergymen among them, they go to be married at Jamaica. This colony is undoubtedly the happiest in the West-Indies; the climate and the kind of food, which are of a singular salubrity, rendering the people healthy and vigorous, make them live to a very old age. Their little island produces plenty of corn and vegetables, hogs and poultry, much beyond what is required for their own consumption; they have, besides, sugar-canes, and some springs of pretty good water. Being quite hardened to the sea, they are excellent pilots for the neighbouring coasts; and their island, as well as their activity and humanity, have been many times a relief to ships which were distressed in...
in this part of the sea: their principal employment is fishing for turtle. Instinct every year leads a prodigious number of turtles to these islands to lay their eggs; the greater part come from the Bay of Honduras; and their navigation is so regular and so exact in this passage of about 150 leagues, that it is ascertained, that vessels, which had lost their latitude in hazy weather, have been successfully conducted by the noise these creatures make in swimming towards the Caymans. The low and sandy shores of these islands, particularly of the Great, are perfectly adapted to receive and cover their eggs. A female lays about 900; when they have done laying, the turtles retire towards the isle of Cuba and the other large islands, where they recover themselves in the submarine pastures, and in about a month's time acquire that fatness which makes them so much esteemed on the tables of the great. The inhabitants of Great Cayman shut them up, as soon as they are caught, in inclosures which they call "crailes," made with stakes, in a smooth water between the shore and a reef of rocks on the N. E. coast. These turtles serve for all the traffic they carry on with Port-Royal; it is an article of food very wholesome, and the shell of the Hawks-bill kind is a commodity which has a place among the exportations to Great Britain.

If we follow the course marked out at the beginning of this section, we shall transport ourselves from Jamaica to the Caribbee Isles, beginning with the most Southerly of the whole chain, which is Tobago.

TOBAGO, eleven leagues distant from Trinidad, at first belonged to the Dutch, who made an establishment there in 1632; they were expelled by the Indians, and soon after the Courlanders took their place under the protection of the English. The French, who afterwards conquered the island, only returned it to the Dutch to drive them out in 1677, and leave it desolate. After this time Tobago was regarded as a neutral isle till the peace of 1763, which assured its possession to the English.

This island is about 25 leagues in circumference; it is covered throughout with little hills that might be cultivated, and has but a very small number of craggy mountains at the N. E. extremity; out of all these high grounds run numerous streams and rivers, most of which seem designed to turn sugar-mills. The air is so cooled by the sea-breezes, that, notwithstanding its vicinity to the Line, it becomes very supportable even to Europeans. The coasts afford ten or twelve large and convenient bays, among which are two where the largest ships may anchor. All kinds of vegetables and useful trees are very abundant here, and some of the last grow to a prodigious size; there are besides whole thickets of affafrafa of a superior quality, as well as of those trees which afford the true gum-copal. According to the Dutch, who ought to be good judges in this matter, the Isle of Tobago produces likewise the true nutmeg and cinnamon trees; but experience has shewn that both one and the other were only of a bastard and inferior kind: all these woods are full of game, and particu-
larly wild hogs. Add to these, that Tobago is not exposed to those terrible hurri-
canes which cause such great ravages elsewhere; perhaps the being so near the con-
tinent procures this ineffimable advantage.

The soil, sometimes sandy, is always black, deep, and as fruitful as in any other
of the Caribbees: it is an astonishing thing to see the activity and success with
which the culture of Tobago has arisen and increased since the peace. The whole
island, comprised in seven divisions, contains only 52,058 acres; they reckon at present
286 plantations, and among them above 40 for sugar, of which the island exports
already near 3000 hogsheads, some experienced observers assure us that it will afford
30,000 (hogsheads), every year. On the Southern side, in Rockly division, is the
rising town of Scarborough, the capital of the island. Near the coast, and principally
wards the South, are scattered some families of Caribbs, the remainder of the an-
cient inhabitants; these Indians are a quiet people, without malice, and incapable of
giving the least umbrage to the colony; their right to all kind of protection arises as
well from their weaknesses and pacific disposition, as from the incontestable title they
have to their fields.

To the leeward of Tobago, going towards the N. W. is the island of GRE-
NADA, about nine leagues long, and four broad; a chain of mountains, some
very high, crosses it from North to South; the rest of the island is formed of plains
and hillocks, either cultivated or capable of culture, and cut through by a great
number of streams, several of which deserve the name of rivers; the largest plains
and the best cultivated are on the East side: there are also in the island several
mineral springs, and some salt ponds, with two lakes of some extent. The climate is
undoubtedly very hot, but besides the advantage, which it has in common with the
other little islands, to be cooled by the sea-breezes, we find some others peculiar to
this island: the seasonings, as they are called in the West-Indies, are here much
more regular than in the other isles; the blast is not so frequent, and as yet they
have never felt a hurricane any more than at Tobago. Its soil is of different kinds,
but mostly a rich and deep black mold which is very fertile. The island has some
large forests whose trees of different kinds produce excellent timber. As to vege-
tables, fruits, animals, sea or river fish, it does not yield to any of the Antilles; and
one may say the same thing with truth of those of its productions which enter into
commerce, as sugar, coffee, cacao, cotton, and tobacco, each of which in their
kind are put amongst those of the first quality.

All these advantages, ineffimable in themselves, are made more precious by the
two excellent harbours which Nature has formed at Grenada, that of Calvini or Cali-
venie at the S. E. extremity, and the harbour of Fort Royal at the S. W. end. This
last has always passed for one of the best of the West-Indies, and 25 ships of the
line might ride there at anchor with ease and in perfect safety: it takes its name from
Fort Royal, the chief place of the isle, and the seat of its government, which has
retained the French division of the island into seven quarters or parishes.
DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST-INDIES.

Between the Northern extremity of Grenada and the Southern point of the island of St. Vincent; about the 18th degree of latitude, is a range of small islands and rocks, dependant on Grenada, and known by the name of GRENADELES or GRE-NADES; this Archipelago, whose length is about 14 leagues, contains 23 islands fit to produce cotton, coffee, indigo, and even sugar. The air is very healthy, but there are no running springs of fresh water.

The most considerable at the North end of the chain is not above two leagues from St. Vincent; its Indian name is Beouya or Bequia; the French have called it de Little Martinico; it is three leagues long and two broad. The land is flat, covered with fine trees; the climate and soil are equally excellent, and it has besides a fine and spacious harbour on the North, that was of great use to the French privateers during the last war. The small islands of Moskites and CANAOUAN, FRIGATE ISLAND, and UNION ISLAND, are between Beouya and CARIACOU. This last, the second of the Grenadines in size, is four leagues from Grenada, and was the only one the French had cultivated; they were drawn thither by its harbour, which is as safe, large, and convenient, as any other in this part of the world. Cariacou produces a great quantity of cotton. The GRISON and the DIAMOND or ROUND ISLAND, are the two principal ones among those which fill up the interval between Cariacou and Grenada.

Grenada, with its dependencies, is the only colony in the West-Indies, that the English have conquered besides Jamaica. At Jamaica, almost uninhabited, all the Spaniards abandoned their settlements. At Grenada, which was thoroughly peopled, only half the French have renounced the English government. The treaty of peace gave them for a certain time the liberty to sell their estates, provided it was to British subjects, and to retire from the island; in the first enthusiasm of an acquisition, the highest idea of which had been formed, every one flew there to search for habitations, and to purchase them at a price much above their real value: this immoderate whim has caused many of the ancient inhabitants to leave the island, who would otherwise have remained there, and has cost the mother country a million and a half sterling.

As long as conquered Grenada was under a military government, the greatest harmony subsisted between the English and French; there were no diffusions until the civil government was established: then they denied the French not only the privilege of being elected members of the Assembly, but even the right of voting at the election of the members. It was very singular in these Sugar-Islands, where religion seems to be the leaft thought of the inhabitants, to make use of its name to oppress the conquered people. This absurd vexation would have dishonoured the nation, if the Government had followed the ideas of these persecutors; on the contrary, it has decreed that two French subjects may have a seat in the Council, and three in the Assembly, without being obliged to subscribe to the text; a decision which does as much honour to the policy as to the philanthropy of the ministers, and has restored
restored quietness to the island. The plantations have taken again their common
course, and one does not doubt now of their progress, especially in the Grenadilles,
which the French had so much neglected. Since the conquest all the old plantations
of Grenada are much better both in culture and in produce; it is even supposed their
number is increased a third. There still remains a third of the island which is not
cultivated, and though a great part of this space is taken up by mountains incapable
of being dug or plowed, we find several places which industry and labour might
make fit to produce something; however, the whole exports of Grenada amounted
in 1776, to more than 306,000l. sterling.

About two leagues to the North of the chain of the Grenadines, as we have already
observed, is the island of ST. VINCENT, one of those which were called Neutral,
and whose possession, assured by the last peace, is shared by us with the Caribbs. It
is more than four leagues long, and above two and a half at the greatest breadth;
the surface contains 84486 acres. Out of the ridge of mountains, which crosses it
from South to North, rise a great number of rivers full of fish, among which are
found as capable of turning sugar-mills: these mountains are in general of an easy
aspect; the vallies and plains, some of them of a large extent, are extremely fertile,
and the clearing of the ground continually improves the climate. The island of St.
Vincent is more favourable than any other for the culture of sugar, coffee, cacao, and
sassafras. The part belonging to the English is divided into four parishes, the chief
place of which is Kingstown, upon a bay of the same name at the S. W. end; it is the
residence of the Governor, and the place where the Assembly meet. About a league
from Kingstown towards the S. E. is the town of Callagua, whose harbour, being
the belt in the island, must infensibly draw there all its trade and principal inhab-

For a great while after the discovery of the Europeans, this island was the gen-
eral rendezvous of the Caribbs, who formerly possessed all the Antilles; and it now
is the only one where their small remains, hardly amounting to more than 80, may
be said to form a nation. They have been almost entirely exterminated by the Black
Caribbs, the descendants of some Negro slaves who escaped from a vessel that was
shipwrecked at St. Vincent; the number of these, which was soon increased by fugitive
slaves from Barbadoes and elsewhere, amounts at present to 2000; they were at first
so troublesome, that the natives, or Red Caribbs, who had saved the lives of their-fathers,
implied the help of the French to drive them out of the island, which these allies
not being able to accomplish, they tried at last to reconcile the two nations, and lived
in peace with both. Notwithstanding the neutrality that hindered the French from
settling at St. Vincent, they made there several plantations, whose culture consisted
principally of coffee: before the cession they exported three million weight of this
commodity, and at the same time their number was above 800, who had 2000 Ne-
gros between them. At the peace the Government sold the lands of St. Vincent, as
it had those of Tobago, and left to the French, whom the fear of confiscation had not
driven away, those which they possessed, paying a moderate fine and a yearly rent still more moderate. These operations, which unavoidably influenced upon the possessions of the Caribbes, made them rise up; some troops were sent who had several skirmishes with their warriors; and the consequence soon was a treaty of peace, concluded in 1773, which assigns to them all the Northern part, making about a third of the island, together with two little districts towards the South-East point. Since this time St. Vincent has enjoyed a happy tranquility, and the settlers may, without any alarm, let themselves to the labours which Nature and the fruitfulness of the land can suggest. Their exportations, which produced 100,000l. sterling in 1770, are very considerably increased since; in this sum we must observe that coffee, reduced to about 500,000 pounds weight, does not make an article of 16,000l. sterling. The island of St. Vincent is the only one of the Antilles, where the public spirit has established a garden, that might be called an experimental garden; they cultivate there all the plants which a similarity of climate and the industry of the planter may with any likelihood naturalize in the West-Indies, such as cinnamon, East-India mango, sesame or oily grain, vanilla, China tallow-tree, camphire-tree, gum-flax-tree, the tree-shrub, &c.

Twenty leagues from St. Vincent, and out of the chain of the Caribbes, is BARBADOS, one of the most ancient English settlements in the West-Indies. When they fixed themselves there in 1627, the island did not seem to have been at any time inhabited even by Caribbes. The Spaniards called it "Isla de los Barbudos," "the Island of Bearded People," from a kind of fig-tree on whose sides there hang long filaments which to the eyes of sailors looked like a man with a long beard. This island is of a triangular form, the length from North to South about five leagues and a half, the greatest breadth four, the circuit fifteen; and the surface contains 106,490 acres. Nature has almost entirely surrounded it with rocks, and where these are wanting, they have built forts, which, in some fort, make this island inaccessible. The face of the country, generally level, is agreeably diversified by little plains, eminences of an easy ascent, and some rows of hills; which, with the lofty trees, the spacious buildings, and a continual verdure, yield the most agreeable prospect. The climate is very hot, but the air very pure; and though it does not generate any land-wind, the heat is moderated by the constant trade-winds which come to it over the immense extent of the Atlantic Ocean. If it is true, as is asserted, that the cutting down its woods has been prejudicial in diminishing the quantity of rain, this disadvantage is made up by the salubrity it has diffused through the whole country in giving a freer passage to the air. Like most of the other islands, Barbadoes is subject in the summer months to tornadoes and hurricanes, that are so much more dangerous to the shipping as they have no harbour to get into for safety, but only some bays where they can ride at anchor.

If we consider the whole of Barbadoes, its situation, its level surface, the composition of its mass, we shall be led to think that this island, out of the common chain,
has not been formed, like the other Caribbees, by the impetuous irruption of the sea we mentioned in the first part; one would rather take it for a bank which was raised all at once out of the water in the general convulsion; and the plenty of corals and other marine productions, which are found everywhere at a very small depth, seems to favour this hypothesis: the soil that covers them is very various, in some places it is a heavy clay, in others a light sand; a heavy black mould in some, a light red earth in others; we find likewise some wet and swampy grounds, and some places which have a hard gravel. In general one may say that the lands of Barbadoes are worn out; but, by a continual use of manures which are absolutely necessary, almost all the parts produce plentiful harvests of sugar; the principal manure is seaweed, which the tide throws on the shore. The whole island appears a continual plantation, where the houses are so numerous that they seem to touch. They gather a prodigious variety of vegetable productions, of maize, of Guinea corn, and a quantity of eatable roots. As to animals, the island has some large cattle and sheep of its own raising, as well as a small number of horses, but many of these are imported from England and the Continent of America, the first for the saddle, the last principally for labour. The first planters raised tobacco, and soon left it off for sugar-canes, which they had originally from Fernambuco in Brazil. As their island increased in culture, in people and riches, the constitution, excellent in itself, acquired also more vigour, and a strict adherence to its principles produced that stability and surety which gave Barbadoes the first rank among the best regulated colonies. Although it is much fallen off from the splendor celebrated at the end of the last century, when it contained above 100,000 inhabitants, it is still one of the most valuable of our settlements in the West-Indies.

Barbadoes owes all these political advantages to Philip Bell, who was appointed Governor by the Earl of Carlisle, to whom a royal patent granted the island in 1627. This patent being recalled after the Restoration, the possession of Barbadoes returned to the crown. Its government was so well constituted, that it has subsisted entire since this æra, and served in some degree for a model for that of the other islands. The Governor is appointed by a commission from the King, as well as his council of twelve by a mandamus; the Assembly is formed of twenty-two representatives, that is, two members for each of the eleven parishes that are in the island. The island is, besides, divided into five districts, in each of which is a judge and five assistants, who hold a court of common pleas every month from January to September. There is a law, whose utility is equal to its prudence, which assigns to every servant, at the expiration of his time, a little estate of three, four, or five acres; it is what constitutes a yeomanry. This agrarian law has increased the inhabitants of Barbadoes in a proportion almost unknown in the other islands, and has always rendered its militia one of the most respectable in the West-Indies. Some calculations make the whole number of inhabitants amount to 94,000, among whom are reckoned 22,000 Whites; this gives their proportion to that of the Negroses as one to four nearly:
nearly: others reduce the total number to 75,000 persons, of whom 20,000 are Whites. They have at present six regiments of infantry, three of cavalry, and one troop of guards, all stout men, and well disciplined.

The capital of the island is Bridge-town, at the S. W. point, on the bay of Carlisle, which is much the best in the isle, although the bottom is foul and apt to cut the cables. This town, which is at present rebuilding, before it was destroyed by fire contained 1,500 good houses. It has a college founded and liberally endowed by Colonel Codrington, the only institution of the kind in the West-Indies; but it does not appear that the design of the founder has had the success that was expected. Besides this town there are some others, viz. Oistin's-town, Hole-town, and Speightstown, formerly called Little BritoI. The trade of Barbadoes with Great Britain, North America, and Africa, is so considerable, that, according to several accounts, it employs 400 vessels of all burthens. The principal articles of exportation are aloe, cotton, ginger, sugar, rum, and molasses. In 1770, this exportation amounted to 311,000l. to Great Britain, 120,000l. to North America, and 1100l. to the other islands, the whole being above 432,000l. sterling.

The islands we have just described form among the Caribbees an Archipelago possessed wholly by the English, without the interruption of the settlements of any other nation; but to the North of Barbadoes begin the French islands, in the middle of which we find DOMINICA, the third of the Neutral Isles, which fell into the possession of the English at the last peace.

Dominica, between Martinico and Guadaloupe, was discovered by Columbus, the 3d of November, 1493, and called after the Sunday which happened on that day. Its length is eight leagues and ½; its greatest breadth in the middle about four. It is certainly one of the best islands in the West-Indies, and, after Jamaica, the most important, perhaps, of those belonging to England. Its appearance is rugged and mountainous, especially towards the sea; but the ascents are commonly easy, which makes their cultivation less difficult, and the inner part contains very rich vallies with several fine plains. The soil, in general, is a black deep mold, extremely fertile, which soon repays abundantly the labours of the planter. The island, watered by a great number of rivers full of fish, and favourable to the plantations, has several that are navigable for some miles distance from the sea. The climate is remarkably hot even for this part of the world, though the air is pure and very thin, which circumstance has given the country the reputation of being healthy. Among the mountains we find one where the French imagine there is a gold mine, and two others towards the South, which are called "Souffrières," from the plenty of sulphur they contain; these seem to be volcanos either just rising or ready to be extinguished. There are besides several springs of mineral waters, whose virtues are extolled for several disorders.

One of the great advantages of Dominica arises from the variety of the aspects of its excellent soil, which is such that one may cultivate with ease and certainty, not only
only all the productions growing in the other islands, but likewise the greater part of the plants and trees of the West-India Continent. At present its forests afford an inexhaustible fund of timber of all sorts and for all uses; among them we find a great quantity of rose-wood, so esteemed by the cabinet-makers. The island abundantly produces what is called in these parts ground-provisions, such as bananas, potatoes, and manioc from which the cassava bread is made, which serves for food to the Negroes, and even to a great number of Europeans. All kinds of vegetables grow there in profusion, and among the number of its rich fruits are distinguished the ananas, which passes for the most delicious in the islands. It abounds in hogs, both tame and wild, in game and fowls; these articles, with other provisions, before the cession, made the principal trade of its inhabitants with Martinico.

The island, properly speaking, has no harbours, but there is safe and convenient anchorage in the bays and coves, which indent the whole coast; the principal of these, deep, spacious, and sandy, lies on the North-West, and is named after Prince Rupert who formerly anchored there with his fleet. The surrounding mountains shelter it from most winds, and it becomes so much the more important to Great Britain, as Dominica being situated in the middle of the French Islands, a fleet lying in Prince Rupert's Bay could easily interrupt all their trade; on this bay, between the shore and its salt-works, has been traced out the plan of a new town, which is to be called Portsmouth. Dominica is divided into 10 parishes, seven to leeward, and three to windward. On the leeward coast is the Capital, composed of two small towns, one to the North called Le Roseau, and the other to the South called Charlotte-Town. The Caribbes, formerly very numerous in this island, are now reduced to a few families, settled in a little district towards the North-East.

The description of the English Caribbees, properly so called, terminating at Dominica, we meet with, farther to the North, the Archipelago known by the name of the Leeward Caribbees, of which Antigua is the most considerable; it has been written sometimes "Antego" and "Antegoa," but the proper spelling is Antigua, after St. Maria la Antigua, a famous church of Seville, whose name Columbus gave this island. It is above three leagues in its greatest length, and about four broad; the circuit being near 22, and the surface reckoned at 108 square miles, equivalent to 69,277 acres. In general the climate is hotter, less healthy, and the hurricanes more frequent than at Barbadoes. The country is agreeably diversified by high and low grounds, but there is none so high as to deserve the name of mountains, although this name is given to the hills of Shekerly towards the South-West point; so that the island has no rivers: we find only some springs mostly brackish, and some little brooks almost always dry. The inhabitants, being deprived of river-water, collect the rain in cisterns and ponds, as well for their own use as for their cattle; it is remarked that this water is very light, extremely pure, and very wholesome. This want of water has a long time retarded the settling of Antigua,

begun
begun by Sir Thomas Warner nearly at the same time as that of Barbadoes. The planters had hardly begun to gather the fruits of their industry, when they were attacked and reduced by the French; the treaty of Breda put them again under the English dominion, which they have enjoyed ever since, to the great advantage of their possession. The soil is much varied, but in many places it is a fine black mold, in others a clay, pretty stiff, and yet fertile. This island is as well provided as any other with animals of all kinds, fowls both domestic and wild, and sea-fish of an acknowledged excellence; the roots, vegetables, and all the fruits common to the West-Indies, are found here in plenty. They formerly cultivated Indigo and tobacco, but it is a long while since these productions have given place to cotton and sugar-canes, which are at present the chief ones of the island.

The Capital of Antigua is St. John, a regular-built town on the West shore, with a good harbour of the same name, whose entrance is defended by Fort James. It is the residence of the Governor General of the Caribbe Leeward Islands, the place where the Assembly for this island is held, and the port where the greatest trade is carried on. It was once very flourishing, and we may form some judgment of its opulence from the loss occasioned by the last fire, which was computed at 400,000l. sterling. The best port in the island is English Harbour on the South side; with much trouble and expense it has been made fit to receive the greatest ships of war, who find there a dock-yard with stores and all the materials and conveniencies necessary to repair and careen. English Harbour is at a small distance from the town and harbour of Falmouth; there are, besides, Willoughby Bay to the windward of English Harbour, Nonfuch Harbour on the East point, and the town and harbour of Parham on the North Side, without speaking of a great number of creeks and smaller bays: but, in general, the shore being rocky, wherever the landing would be practicable it is defended by forts and batteries; and there is commonly one regiment of regular troops quartered there for the defence of the island.

The Governor-General, when he thinks proper, calls a General Assembly of the representatives of the other islands. Antigua has, besides, a Lieutenant-Governor, a Council, and its own Assembly composed of 24 members. It is divided into six parishes and 11 districts, of which 10 send each two representatives, and that of St. John four. The number of vessels which enter yearly in this harbour is reckoned at 300, but we have very uncertain accounts in regard to that of the inhabitants of the island. As for their exports, in which the hurricanes and dry seasons make very great inequalities, we know that in 1770 they amounted to 446,000l. sterling, as well to Great Britain and Ireland as to America; in this sum there is only 500l. for cotton, all the rest is the produce of sugar, molasses, and rum.

About 15 leagues to the West of Antigua is the island of ST. CHRISTOPHER, commonly called St. Kitt's, which has given birth to all the English and French colonies in the West-Indies. The two nations arrived there the same day, in 1625; they divided the island between them, agreeing, however, that hunt-
ing, fishing, the mines and forests, should be in common. Three years after their settling, the Spaniards drove them away; they soon returned and continued to live in good understanding until 1666, when war being declared between England and France, St. Christopher's became at different intervals the theatre of bloodshed for half a century. The weakest, obliged to evacuate the colony, soon returned with a force sufficient to avenge its losses; this alternative, so long balanced with success and disgrace, ended with the expulsion of the French in 1702, and the treaty of Utrecht, affixing this island to the English, took away from their competitors all hopes of return.

The island, taken in the whole, is 13 or 14 leagues in circuit, the length about five, and the breadth a league and a half, except towards the South, where it is narrowed into an isthmus which joins it to a headland about a league long and half a league broad; it contains 68 square miles. The center of the island is taken up by a great number of high and barren mountains, intersected by rocky precipices almost impassable, and in many of which issue hot springs. Mount Milery, which seems to be a decayed volcano, whose head is hid in the clouds, is the highest of all these mountains, its perpendicular height being 3711 feet; at a certain distance it bears some resemblance to a man who carries another on his back, and this appearance, true or false, engaged Christopher Columbus to give the island the name of St. Christopher's, in memory of the legendary tale which supposes this saint to have carried the child Jesus on his shoulders over a great river, or even an arm of the sea. The assemblage of these mountains makes St. Kitt's appear, to those who approach by sea, like one huge mountain covered with wood, but they find, as they come nearer, that the coast grows easier, as well as the ascent of the mountains, which, rising one above another, are cultivated as high as possible. The climate is hot, tho' from the height of the country much less than ought to be expected, the air pure and healthy, but unluckily the island is subject to frequent storms, hurricanes, and earthquakes.

The soil in general is light and sandy, but very fruitful, and well watered by several rivulets which run down both sides of the mountains; it produces plenty of manioc, a quantity of eatable roots, vegetables, fruits, &c. We find here also some excellent timber. The whole island is covered with plantations, well managed, whose owners, noted for the softness of their manners, live in agreeable, clean, and convenient habitations, adorned with fountains and groves: most of their houses are built of cedar, and the lands hedged with orange and lemon trees. The whole of their plantations take up 44,000 acres; it is affirmed that only 24,000 are fit for canes, but their sugar passes for the best in the islands.

They have two principal towns in the island, the most considerable is Baffetere, formerly the Capital of the French part. The other is called Sandy Point, and always belonged to the English. There is no harbour, nor any thing that has the appearance of any; on the contrary, the surf is continually beating on the sandy shore.
at the few places fit to land, which not only prevents the building any key or wharf, but renders the landing or shipping of goods always inconvenient and very often dangerous; they have been, therefore, obliged to adopt a particular method to embark or put the heavy goods, such as hogheads of sugar or rum, on board. For this purpose they use a small boat of a peculiar construction called a "Moses;" this boat sets off from the ship with some very active and expert rowers; when they see what they call a "Lull," that is, an abatement in the violence of the surge, they push to land, and lay the sides of the Moses on the strand; the hoghead is rolled into it, and the same precautions are used to carry it to the ship: it is in this inconvenient and very hazardous manner that the sugars are conveyed on board by single hogheads. Rum, cotton, and other goods that will bear the water, are generally floated to the ship both in going and coming. They make use of the same expedient in the islands of Montserrat and Nevis, and for the same reason.

The public affairs at St. Christopher's are administered by a Governor, a Council, and an Assembly chosen from the nine parishes into which the island is divided, and which have each a large handsome church.

Calculators differ very much in their accounts of the population of St. Christopher's; some make the whole number of its inhabitants only amount to 7000 Whites, and 20,000 Blacks; others make them 10,000 Whites, and 30,000 Blacks; what appears certain, is, that it is one of the islands belonging to the English where there is the least disproportion between the number of masters and slaves. In 1770, the exportation of this island amounted to above 419,000l. sterling for sugar, molasses, and rum, and near 8000l. for cotton.

To the South of St. Christopher's is the little island of Nevis (a name corrupted from the Spanish "Nieves"), separated from it by a narrow strait about three quarters of a league broad: it is only a vast mountain rising to a very great height, and whose foot is cultivated all-round, as well as a part of the declivity; all the rest is covered with fine trees. The island is about two leagues long, and one broad. At the foot of the mountain the soil, very fine and fruitful, takes up in some places near half a league in breadth; it decreases in goodness, as well as extent, as one approaches the top. Nevis was formerly more flourishing than at present; and, before the Revolution, contained 30,000 inhabitants; the invasion of the French about that time, and some epidemic disorders, have strangely diminished the number, since they only reckon at present 2 or 3000 Whites, and 6 or 7000 Negroes. Their productions are the same as at St. Christopher's; and they perhaps surpass those of that isle in activity and industry, as well as in the neatness of their houses, for which they are distinguished in the West-Indies. They have three tolerable roads or bays on which are as many little towns, Newcastle, Littleborough on Moreton-Bay, and Charlestown, the Capital, with a fort called Great Port that defends the anchoring-place, where the Governor, Council, and Assembly meet; the last is composed of five members for each of the three parishes into which the island is divided. The trade
trade of Nevis employs annually about 20 vessels; their exportations to Great Britain, in 1770, in cotton and sugar, amounted to near 44,000l. those to North America, where they send a great deal of molasses, rum, and a prodigious quantity of lemons, exceed 14,000l.

At 10 leagues to the South-East of Nevis is the little island of Monserrat, so called by Christopher Columbus from its resemblance to a mountain of Catalonia, known by the name of our Lady of Monserrat. It is more than three leagues long, and about two broad, and is supposed to contain 40 or 50,000 acres. It was settled in 1632 by Sir Thomas Warner, and taken in the beginning of the reign of Charles II. by the French, who restored it to England at the peace of Breda. The first settlers were Irishmen, and the present inhabitants are principally composed either of their descendants or of natives of Ireland, so that the use of the Irish language is preferred in this island, even among the Negroes. According to the best accounts the number of inhabitants is about 14,000, among whom are 14 or 1500 Whites. Their government is composed of a Lieutenant-Governor, a Council, and an Assembly of eight representatives, two for each of the four districts which divide the island. The climate of Monserrat is very hot; however, not so bad as at Antigua, and it passes for being very healthy. The land is mountainous, but the high grounds produce cedars and other fine trees, and the valleys, almost all well watered, are very fruitful; we find there, besides, all the animals, vegetables, and fruits of the other islands, to which they do not yield either in quality or abundance. The settlers formerly made a good deal of indigo, but not very good, which they cut four times in a year; at present, their culture is confined to sugar-canes and a little cotton, and by industry they have carried this culture as far as it could go; their exports in 1770, amounted to 90,000l. to Great Britain and Ireland, and 12,000 to North America. One of the greatest disadvantages of Monserrat is to have no harbour, only three roads at Plymouth, Old Harbour, and Ker's Bay, where, as we have already observed in speaking of St. Christopher's, the shipping and landing of goods is attended with many inconveniences.

The islands in this division which remain to be described are Redondo, Barbuda, Anguilla, and Sombrero. Redondo, between Monserrat and Nevis, is a rock about a league in circuit, of a round form, as its Spanish name imports, where there is neither culture nor inhabitants.

Barbuda, nine leagues to the North of Antigua, is about two or three leagues long, and half a league broad. Soon after the settling of St. Kitt's and Nevis, the new planters conceived so advantageous an opinion of Barbuda that they resolved to cultivate it; they sent there some inhabitants, who, charmed with the mildness and fertility of its climate, called it "Dulcina," this name lasted no longer than their colony; they soon perceived that the coasts of Barbuda were full of rocks, that the island had little water, and its soil had no depth, which, joined to the frequent incursions of the Caribbs, determined them to give up their settlement.
and to return to St. Christopher's. Some years after General Codrington obtained
the property of it by a grant from the crown; his project was to bring up provisions
there, and to cultivate cinnamon; the first part has succeeded admirably well, but
the other has had no success, notwithstanding repeated trials and experiments.

Barbuda, the only proprietary government of the West-Indies, produces about
4 or 5000l. a year to the descendant of the General. There are some hundred inhabi-
tants, living very happily and much at their ease; they cultivate corn, and breed
cattle, fowls, and other provisions, which they always sell to advantage in the neigh-
bouring islands.

Anguilla, the third island, is 25 leagues to the North-West of Barbuda, and 15
leagues to the North of St. Christopher’s. Its very long and narrow shape induced
the Spaniards to give it the name of Anguilla, or “Eel.” It is so low and flat that
the French, who were there the first, did not think it worth cultivating or even
keeping; we adopted the same opinion when we took possession of it, and the island
was a long time in our hands before we perceived the contrary. Within a few
years, industry and the indefatigable labours of the planters of Anguilla have con-
vinced us that their island produces not only all the necessaries of life, but, besides,
many provisions which they sell to their neighbours, as well as sugar and cotton.
The climate is very healthy, the inhabitants strong and vigorous. Their exporta-
tions, which promise to become more considerable, amounted, in sugar, rum, and
cotton, in 1770, to near 6000l. 3800l. of which were for Great Britain, the rest for
North America.

To the North of Barbuda, and dependant on it, are several small uninhabited
islands; the most remarkable of them lies at six leagues distance, and is about a
league long; it consists of an eminence, to which the Spanish discoverers, finding
some resemblance to a hat, gave the name of Sombrero, which it has always
preserved.

To the West of Barbuda and Sombrero, after having crossed a channel of eight
leagues, begins the Archipelago of THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, so called in me-

mory of the 11,000 virgins of the Legend; these take up a space, from East to
West, of about 24 leagues long, quite to the Eastern coast of Porto Rico, with a
breadth of about 16 leagues. They are composed of a great number of isles,
whose coasts, rent throughout and sprinkled with rocks, every where dangerous to
navigators, are famous for shipwrecks, and particularly of several galleons. Happi-
ly for the trade and navigation of these islands, Nature has placed in the middle
of them a large bay of three or four leagues broad, and six or seven long, the
finest that can be imagined, and in which ships may anchor landlocked and sheltered
from all winds. The Buccaneers called it “the Virgins Gangway,” but its true
name is “the Bay of Sir Francis Drake,” who first entered it in 1580, when he
made his expedition against St. Domingo.
The possession of the Virgin Isles is parted between the English and Danes, but the Spaniards claim all those which are adjacent to Porto Rico. These islands, as we have just observed, being very numerous, it will be, perhaps, better to give a general catalogue of them, before we enter into their description respectively to the different possessors.

The English possess, 1st, **Virgin Gorda**, on which depend Anegada, Nicker, Prickly-Pear, and Mosquito Islands, Camanoe, Dog Islands, The Fallen City, with the Round Rock, Ginger, Cooper's, Salt Island, Peter's Island, and the Dead Chest; 2dly, **Tortola**, to which belong Josh Van Dykes, and Little Van Dykes, Guana Island, with Beef and Thatch Islands. All these islands within a few years have been put under a regular form of government.


The Spaniards claim "Serpents Island," which the English call Green Island, "The Tropic Keys," "Great and Little Passage Island," but especially Crab Island. We shall observe on this last that it is besides called "Bieque Island," and formerly bore the name of "Boriquen:" that it is only two leagues from Porto Rico, about six leagues long, and two broad. The English have settled there twice, and have been twice driven away by the Spaniards, whose interest it is for it to remain desolate, as its soil is rich, and it has a tolerable good road on the South side.

The Tropic Keys, on the North of Crab Island, are so called from the astonishing quantity of Tropic birds which breed there. These birds are about the size of a pigeon, but round and plump like a partridge, and very good to eat; their plumage is quite white, except two or three feathers in each wing of a clear grey; their beaks are short, thick, and of a pale yellow; they have a long feather, or rather quill, about seven inches long, which comes out of their rump, and is all the tail they have; their name has been given them because they are never seen but between the Tropics.

**Tortola** is the principal of the English islands, and that where almost all the trade is carried on; it is near five leagues long, and two broad, but badly watered, and has the name of being unhealthy; the cotton which they cultivate there is very much esteemed by the manufacturers.

**Virgin Gorda** (that is, the Great Virgin), or "Peniston," and, by a corruption generally adopted, "Spanish Town," lies four leagues to the East of Tortola, of a very irregular figure, whose greatest length from West to East is about six leagues, still worse watered than Tortola, and having fewer inhabitants; it is asserted, that the mountain which rises in its center contains a silver mine. To the North of Virgin Gorda is Anegada, or the "Drowned Isle," about as big as the first; this island is very low, and almost entirely covered by the sea at the highest tides. As
it projects out of the cluster of the Virgins, the rocks and shoals which surround it become so much more dangerous to ships in the offing. The Buccaneers have given the name of "Treasure Point" to a promontory on the South side, that has often been dug to discover the gold and silver which they supposed the Spaniards had buried there after the shipwreck of one of their galleons. The other Virgin Isles, though for the most part inhabited, are too inconsiderable to deserve a description; they were considered a long time as inhospitable rocks, where some wretches, driven out of the other islands by their bad fortune, lived poor and free, with much pain and labour: industry, patience, and culture, have at last got the better; and, at present, the inhabitants of the English Virgin Isles amount to 1000 or 1200 Whites, and more than 10,000 Negroes. The exportations of Tortola, with the other islands, to Great Britain and North America, in sugar, rum, cotton, and some skins which they bring from Porto Rico, produced, in 1770, near 72,000l. we must observe that in this sum the exports of the other isles were only 2000l. and that cotton alone formed an object of 16 or 17,000l.

The last division of the islands under the English dominion comprehends the ISLES of BAHAMA, called by the Spaniards Lucayos, taking in, under this denomination, all the islands in general which are to the North of Cuba and St. Domingo. The first discovery of the New World begun at Guanahani, one of them; they were then full of people, and the inhabitants, simple and mild, lived happy in the midst of plenty. As they produced no gold, the Spaniards made no settlement there, but they soon transported their inhabitants to the mines of St. Domingo, which they had almost depopulated; and, at the end of 14 years, there did not remain a single man in the Lucayos. Then, whoever chose it, might occupy what island he pleased, and the English came there. Charles II. granted all the Bahama Isles to the proprietors of Carolina, who still claim them; they sent several Governors, and built the town of Nassau, which is now the seat of the Government, in the island of PROVIDENCE. This last island, then called "Abacoa," received afterwards the name of Providence from an Englishman, who had been twice shipwrecked on its coasts. The English were at different times driven out by the French and Spaniards, and, at last, entirely deserted their settlement in 1708. After the peace of Utrecht, several American privateers having become pirates, took refuge in the harbour of Providence, which was still abandoned; they fortified it; and built themselves a village of huts round it. England sent them a Governor in 1718, with a pardon; they left off their pirating, and soon became a regulated colony. Their descendants at present occupy these islands, the possession of which has never been contested to Great Britain.

The number of the Bahama Isles is very considerable, and amounts to many hundreds, which, as we have just observed, hardly emerge out of an immense sand-bank, but, excepting 12 or 15, are all, in general, very long and narrow; the others, for the most
most part, are only small rocks, or little spots of sand, even with the water's edge.
The principal, which has given its name to the whole Archipelago, is Great Bahama, in the Northern bank called "the Little Bank of Bahama," at about 20 leagues from the coast of Florida: its curved shape lengthens to 28 leagues, and has two or three, and sometimes more, in breadth. At a little distance to the East is the island Lucayoneque, as long and as narrow; and to the North of both is that Lucayo which has only half their dimensions, but whose name has been given to the whole range.

A channel of 8 or 10 leagues separates the Little Bank from the "Great Bank of Bahama, in this is Providence, with the great island of Alabaster or Eleuthera, which has Harbour Island on the North Cape. The Isles of Andros are to the South-West of Providence; these, which the Spaniards call "Ylas del Espiritu Santo," take up a space of 30 leagues long, and four or five broad, intersected by a number of very narrow passages. In descending towards the South-East, we meet with Stocking, Exuma, and Yuma or Long Island. The Isle of Guanahani, to which Columbus gave the name of "St. Salvador," on the 11th of October, 1492, is now called Cat Island, and lies in a particular bank to the East of the Great Bank, from which it is parted by a narrow channel, called "Exuma Sound."

The climate of the Bahama Isles is very temperate, the land in general fruitful, and the air very healthy. Their great disadvantage is the want of water, as well as their situation amongst innumerable shoals and rocks, in a tempestuous sea full of currents, that renders them inaccessible to great ships. There are only three which have inhabitants: Providence, Eleuthera, called for shortness "Euthera," and Harbour Island appearing like a point in comparison with the two others. The people of Providence make salt, cut Braziletto wood, and gather maize or peafe; their soil is hard, dry, and stony; it, however, appears capable of producing cotton; and this culture has been attempted with a good prospect of success; besides, there grow a great plenty of limes, which form their most considerable article of exportation to North America: the principal harbour of this island has a bar with only 16 feet of water. The soil of Eleuthera and Harbour Island is better than that of Providence, and produces the greater part of the pine-apples which are exported likewise to America. The climate of Eleuthera is so healthy, that it is not uncommon to see persons there above 100 years old. Exuma, still uninhabited, is certainly the best of all these islands, not only for the fertility of the ground, but likewise for the excellence of its anchoring-place: in Exuma Sound, where the whole British navy could easily ride. The only sugar plantation which has been attempted there, was abandoned at the beginning of the last war.

The inhabitants of the Bahama Isles, mostly descended from pirates brought to order and obedience, seem to retain some of the habits of their ancestors. In time of war their favourite employment is privateering, in which, it is asserted, that they
are not over scrupulous on the neutrality of the ships they meet with. In time of peace many follow the wrecking business; their little vessels go to search for the remains of ships wrecked on the rocks and shoals of Florida, or on those which surround their own islands; they have been even accused of not wanting ways to procure shipwrecks when they find an occasion: but the greater number, more honestly industrious, employ themselves in fishing on their banks for green turtle, most of which at present are brought to London; they likewise after great tempests gather ambergris. Their islands furnish dyeing woods, particularly a kind of red wood very useful, lignum vitæ, and an inferior sort of mahogany, which also grows on the Keys of Florida, and with which they make their principal returns to England. Their exports, in 1769, amounted to 6000l. in 1770, there were entered inwards 81 sloops or ships, and cleared outwards 84.

The space contained between Long Island, the most Easterly of the Great Bank of Bahama, and the extremity of St. Domingo, is sprinkled with uninhabited islands, some single, others clustered in particular banks. The English claim principally Crooked Island, and all those which are in the bank to which its name is given, at the going out of the Windward Passage; they are also in possession of Turk’s Islands, situated at 60 leagues to the South-East of Crooked Island; and at 35 leagues towards the North-East of Cape Francois, the capital of St. Domingo, in the middle of a bank about 10 leagues long, there are three principal ones, low, small, and barren, where the Bermudians come to make, or, according to their expression, to rake salt. The ships which fall from St. Domingo to Europe passing very often in sight of Turk’s Islands, the French, soon after the last peace, erected a light-house on one of them for the use of their navigation, which they were obliged to demolish as soon almost as it was built.

Of the French Islands.

SINCE the French have given up Louisiana to the Spaniards, they have no longer any settlement on the Continent of the West-Indies, and their possessions are reduced to the West part of the Island of ST. DOMINGO, the Island of GUADALOUPE with the adjacent isles, the Island of MARTINICO, and the Island of ST. LUCIA, territories so considerable and interesting, that they would have each a right to a particular section, if, in this abridgement, we could dilate in proportion to their importance.

In speaking before of St. Domingo, we have only given a sketch of this island proportionable to the inactivity and want of industry of its Spanish possessors, who leave all the part they occupy untill'd; it seemed more proper to reserve the details to the article designed for its active and laborious possessors.
The discovery of St. Domingo, the conquest, the depopulation, are already known as well as its dimensions; we shall add here that the island is cut throughout the whole length by a ridge of woody mountains, which, rising in an amphitheatre, afford one of the finest prospects in the world: most of them are divided by dales of a delicious temperature; but the plains, to which Nature has given fertility, exhale a burning air, that becomes almost intolerable in these places, especially where the coast, straightened by the backs of the mountains, receives from the waves and rocks a double reflection of the sun.

The settling of the French at ST. DOMINGO goes as far back as 1630, when the English, driven with them out of St. Christopher's, took refuge at La Tortue, ("Turtle Island," called also "Tortudas" or "Tortugas"), a little island, three leagues from the North coast towards the West end: a crowd of adventurers joined them; they were called "Buccaneers" from their hunting the wild bulls in the Island of St. Domingo to sell their hides to the Dutch; and "Freebooters" from their cruising at sea against the Spaniards. In this little island, six leagues long and two broad, without any river, was formed and increased this race of intrepid men, so famous in the history of the New World. The Spaniards slaughtered the first colony. The Buccaneers, who had escaped from the carnage, having chosen for their chief Willis, an Englishman distinguished for his bravery, retook their island in 1638. Several Englishmen came to join Willis, and the two nations soon quarrelled. Poinci, who then commanded in the French Windward Islands, sent a reinforcement to his countrymen, who obliged the English to retire without bloodshed. After that time, the French, sole masters of La Tortue, were driven out three times by the Spaniards, retook it as often, and, at last, in 1659, remained undisturbed in its possession. Their plunders continued by sea and land, and nobody thought of them in France till 1665, when D'Ogeron, their first Governor, tried to make planters of these adventurers, on the coasts of St. Domingo. He succeeded in part, since he collected about 1660, and he may be regarded as the founder of this colony, whose progress was a long time interrupted by monopolies of trade, successively granted to exclusive companies. Tobacco and cacao, at the beginning, were the principal articles of their culture; all the cacao-trees that D'Ogeron had first planted perished in 1715; they had so prodigiously increased, that there were some plantations with 20,000 of these trees. This culture has never been resumed with any degree of consequence; but that of canes and indigo, begun towards the end of the last century, was pursued with a new activity; and, after 1722, when all the monopolies were suppressed, no colony moved towards prosperity so rapidly as St. Domingo.

The French colony in this island comprehends 215 leagues of coast, (reckoning from Cape to Cape) situated on the North, West, and South, that form three natural divisions, of which the two last are separated from that of the North by inaccessible mountains. Their boundaries towards the Spanish territories are very uncertain; but, if we take the most inland places the French have cultivated, we shall see that their
their territory takes a narrow crooked band, sometimes only six or seven leagues broad, and never reaching more than ten leagues.

The South part extends from Cape Beata to Cape Tiburon, which makes 75 leagues of coast, closed up more or less by the mountains. Upon this coast is the Isle a Vache (Cow Island), one of the rendezvous of the Buccaneers, who began a settlement there in 1673. This settlement owed its progress to the English of Jamaica, and the Dutch of Curacao, who, having found means to carry on the whole of the slave trade, took away in return all the productions of a country of which they alone promoted the culture. It was not till 1740 that the French merchants began to frequent this distant part of the colony, where the winds often render the outward passage long and difficult.

The principal settlements on this side are Jaquemel, St. Louis, and Les Cayes (The Keys). Jaquemel, the most Easterly of the three, is much more considerable for its situation, which, in time of war, makes it fit to receive troops and stores of all kinds from the mother-country, than for the number of its houses, which are not 42. St. Louis contains not a greater number, tho' it is the seat of Government; it was a long time in want of good water to drink; but some Jews, who had plantations near the gates, at last undertook to make, at their expense, an aqueduct, that is now completed. The Port of St. Louis, seated on a very safe bay, receives the ships of war which come on these shores, and by that means protects the riches and trade of Les Cayes, situated nine leagues lower. This last town, placed at the bottom of a shallow and dangerous road, has 280 houses built on a marshy land, mostly surrounded with a standing water. This unhealthy situation is recompenced by the advantages accruing to the planters from the circumjacent plain, whose length is about six leagues, and the breadth four and a half; the ground close and level, of a prodigious fertility, and every where fit for the planting of sugar, is watered in several places, and might be throughout: the number of its slaves increases every day, and they will soon be multiplied in a proportion agreeable to the measure of possible fruitfulness.

The South district terminates at Cape Tiburon, and the small settlement founded there has only an open road continually agitated, but which is a shelter for men of war, and may protect merchant-ships by its fortifications.

The Western part of the colony reaches from Cape Tiburon to the Mole of St. Nicolas, and comprehends about 92 leagues of coast. Its Capital, where the Superior Council and the Intendant have resided since 1750, is the town of Port au Prince, at the bottom of a bay divided in two by La Gonave, a desolate and barren island; it contains 558 houses, dispersed in 29 streets. They have no good water, and the harbour is but middling; add to which, that the place, commanded on the land side, is every where accessible towards the sea.

The principal settlements on this coast are L'Anse Jeremie, which affords a quantity of cotton and cacao; Le Petit Goave, so famous in the time of the Buccaneers; Leogane,
Leogane, a town of 317 houses, formerly the capital of the district; this stands about half a league from the sea, in a narrow but fruitful plain, well cultivated and watered by a great number of brooks. To the North of Port au Prince is St. Mark, a town of 154 houses, all built of free-stone, as good as any of Europe, which is found in plenty on the coast and in the neighbouring mountains. It is a very trading town, whose opulence will increase in an astonishing manner, if the French succeed in watering the dry plain of Artibonite, a country whose name is that of a river which parts it in two throughout the whole length, and which is the most considerable in the island.

The Northern part of the French colony takes in about 47 leagues of the coast, separated at the end from that of the West by the Mole of St. Nicolas, which parts both coasts, and terminating on the East in the environs of "Monte Cristo," famous for the smuggling trade carried on there by foreign ships with the Spaniards. At the extremity of Cape St. Nicolas is a harbour, equally fine, safe, and convenient, about 2900 yards broad at the entrance; ships of any burden may ride at anchor in the basin perfectly safe, even during a hurricane. Nature, by placing this harbour opposite to Point Maizi in the Island of Cuba, seems to have designed it for the most interesting port of North America, with respect to navigation. It was a long time neglected by the inhabitants of St. Domingo; but the advantages which the English procured themselves from its situation, during the last war, have made it rise, as it were, out of nothing, since the peace. The French began by bringing 4 or 5000 Acadians, and 2 or 300 Germans, most of whom are dead; some years after, they declared the Mole a free port; in consequence of this step, the inhabitants have received a subsistence which the adjacent country could not supply them with; their houses, which were very mean and poor, have been all, within these three years, rebuilt with materials brought from North America. At present, the town is divided into several fine streets, all traversed by artificial rills of running water; it consists of 400 good houses, besides a large storehouse for the navy, an hospital, and several public buildings. Four hundred and fifty Negroes, who belong to the King, are constantly employed on the fortifications; and, when those of the town and adjoining batteries are completed, they are to begin a citadel on the North point, that will be mounted with 100 pieces of cannon.

For the convenience of the trade established in this port, a very good carriage-road has been made between the Mole of St. Nicolas and Le Cap Francois, the Capital of the Colony. The importation of North American lumber, as well as the export of molasses, are permitted at all times; and, at particular conjunctures, the port is open for all the commodities of North America, such as, flour, biscuit, silt, etc., which affords occasions for a contraband trade, very advantageous to both nations. In 1772, the number of vessels cleared outwards amounted to between two and three hundred, mostly consisting of brigs and snows, all from different parts of North America: adding to these the other foreign ships, the French coaling.
coasting vessels, and the merchantmen from Europe, the whole is hardly less than
400.

The Mole of St. Nicolas, with all these natural advantages, having besides that
of commanding the Windward Passage, will infallibly become "the Dunkirk of Amer-
ica," to use the expression of an author very experienced in the affairs of the West
Indies. This same author, with reason, supposes, that we have no other method to
act with efficacy against this project of the French, but by making a harbour for our
ships of war at Port Antonio, in Jamaica, which is so happily circumstanced, that it
would curb the French fortifications, as well as protect our homeward-bound ships
in time of war.

The principal settlement between the Mole of St. Nicolas and Cape Francois is
Port Paix, whose environs produce little sugar, but plenty of indigo, cotton, and
coffee.

Cap Francois (the French Cape) is situated at the edge of a large plain, twenty
leagues long, and, on an average, about four broad, between the sea and the moun-
tains. There are few lands better watered, but there is not a river where a floop can
go up above three miles. All this large space is cut through by straight roads, forty
feet broad, constantly lined with hedges of lemon-trees, and intermixed with long
avenues of lofty trees, which lead to several plantations. It produces a greater quan-
tity of sugar than any country in the world. The Cape-town, placed in the most
unhealthy place of this wonderful plain, consists of twenty-nine straight, narrow, and
dirty streets, divided into 226 allotments, which comprehend 810 houses. The
General's House, the Barracks, and the King's Magazine, are the only public build-
ings which attract the looks of the curious; but those that deserve to be considered
by a friend to mankind, are the two hospitals, named "the Houses of Providence,"
-founded by the Colony for those Europeans who come there without money or trade.
The men and women receive separately all the affluence that their situation requires,
still they have got places. This establishment, so humane, and so political at the
same time, has not its parallel in all the West Indies, except at Carthagena; and,
certainly, it is a consequence of this happy institution, that fewer people die at the
Cape than in the other towns which stand on the sea-shore. The Harbour of Cape
Francois, admirably well situated for ships which come from Europe, is only open
to the North, from whence it can receive no damage, its entrance being sprinkled
over with reefs, that break the force of the waves. One easily sails out, and the
going out of these seas is performed in a very short time.

Twelve leagues to the windward of the Cape is Port Dauphin, formerly Bayaha,
the nearest settlement to Monte Cristo. This port is very fine and safe, and the sur-
rounding plain very fertile; but the town, too near to that of the Cape to enjoy ex-
clusively these advantages, has not yet above ninety houses.

The commodities of the whole colony of St. Domingo amounted, in 1764, to 80
millions weight of rough or Muscovado sugar, 35 millions weight of white sugar,
and 1,880,000 pounds of indigo; at the same time, they gathered 7 millions weight of coffee, and a million and a half weight of cotton. Above half these riches were furnished by the North coast alone; the rest came as well from the West as the South. There was, besides, this difference, that the indigo and cotton were the chief productions in the exports of the South and West, the sugar and coffee in those of the North.

In 1764, St. Domingo had 8786 Whites able to bear arms; 4306 inhabited on the North, 3470 on the West, and 1010 on the South: from hence, according to the method of calculating generally received, the whole of the Whites will be above 35,000. These forces are increased by 5817 Mulattoes, or free Negroes, who are also enrolled: there are 497 of them in the South, 2250 in the West, and 1370 in the North district. The number of slaves was 206,000, of every age and sex distributed in the following manner: 12,000 in the nine great towns, some of them workmen, others employed in the household business; 4000 employed in the country-towns, at the brick-kilns, potters work-houses, lime-kilns, &c. 1000 destined to raise provisions and other vegetables, and 180,000 to the culture which produces the commodities for exportation. After this enumeration, to the end of 1767, 51,567 Negroes were brought to St. Domingo, in 171 French ships. They have not replaced those who have died, the vacancy having been more than filled up by the slaves introduced in a clandestine manner; neither have they served for the luxury of the towns, where the number of all sorts of menial servants has even decreased: these newly-transported slaves have been all applied to planting; so that now the whole of the Negroes at St. Domingo is above 250,000. The culture is increased in this proportion. In the room of indigo, which the lands worn out began to yield in less plenty, 40 new sugar-plantations have been erected; they reckon at present 260 in the North district, 197 in the West, and 84 in the South. The sugar-refineries are still increased in a greater proportion than the plantations, and the quantity of white sugar made is nearly doubled. Cotton has made immense progress in the valleys of the West, as well as coffee in those of the North. There are even some plantations of cacao raised in the woods of the Grande Anf. A.

One may assert, after very faithful authorities, that, in the year 1767, there was carried out of St. Domingo 72,718,781 pounds weight of rough sugar, 51,562,013 pounds of white sugar; in the whole more than 12,4 millions weight of sugar; 1,769,562 pounds of indigo, 150,000 pounds of cacao, 12,197,977 pounds of coffee, 2,965,520 pounds of cotton, 8,470 packets of raw hides, 10,350 hides of tanned hides, 4180 hogsheads of rum, and 21,104 hogsheads of molasses. Such is the mass of the productions registered at the custom-houses of St. Domingo in 1767, and exported in 347 ships, which arrived from France. The lading made when the vessels were under sail, the overplus of the declared weights, and the payments for Negroes clandestinely introduced, cannot have taken away less than a sixth part of the goods of the colony, which ought to be added to the known enumeration of its riches. Add still to this, that...
that persons the most versed in the knowledge of this island, and the most moderate in their calculations, assert, that its culture might be increased more than a third.

To the North of St. Domingo the French claim several uninhabited islands, which do not deserve a description, such as, INAGUA, MOCANE, or MAYAGUANA, LES CAYQUES, &c.

To finish our account of the French Islands, we are obliged, from St. Domingo, to return to the chain of the Caribbees, which we have already run through, where Guadaloupe and its dependencies are the first that offer themselves to our consideration.

GUADELOUPE, or GUADALOUE, has more than 60 leagues of coasts, whose navigation is generally difficult, and on which are found only some middling roads; it is cut into two by a little arm of the sea, only a league and a quarter long, and from thirty to eighty yards broad. This channel, known by the name of "Riviere Salée" (Salt River), is navigable for barges of 50 tons.

The part of the island which gives its name to the whole colony is filled in the center with frightful rocks, where a continual cold suffurs nothing to grow but ferns, and some useless trees covered with moss. The aspect of these rocks, like to those of "Our Lady of Guadaloupe," in Old Spain, has given to the island the name it bears at present. Towards the South point, at the summit of them, rises so high as to be lost out of sight, in the middle region of the air, a mountain called "La Souffriere," which exhalas, out of an opening 100 feet wide, a thick and black smoke, mixed with sparks, which are visible in the night. Out of all these mountains run a great many streams that carry fruitfulness into the plains which they water, and temper the burning air of the climate. The other part of the island, commonly called Grande-Terre, has not been so well treated by Nature; indeed, it is less rough, and more level, but it wants springs and rivers; the soil more sandy is not so fertile, nor is its climate so healthy and agreeable.

The whole island is divided into twenty-two parishes, fourteen in Guadeloupe, and eight in Grande-Terre; the seat of government is at Bass-Terre, on the South of the island. This town, which consists of a long street along the sea-shore is defended by Fort Royal, a small fort, badly built, and very irregular. The capital of Grande-Terre is Fort St. Louis, another small fort, three leagues to the South-East of the Salt River. Since the peace they have laid out the site of a regular town, to be called "Le Bourg," which will be the handsomest of any in the colony.

The French having settled at Guadeloupe, in 1635, began by attacking the Caribbees who possessed the island. This war was followed, during three years, by a horrible famine, that almost destroyed the infant colony; the inhabitants were reduced to eat grafs, and to dig up the dead corps to live on. After the famine came the incursions of enemies, disputes among the chiefs and planters, and some other disasters, which brought them more than once to the brink of ruin. If Guadeloupe did not sink
link under so many misfortunes, its progress was so confined and so slow, that, at the end of sixty years, the mother-country hardly perceived the existence of this colony. The beginning of its success and prosperity cannot be dated before the peace of Utrecht. At the end of 1755, Guadeloupe contained 9643 Whites, and 41,140 slaves of every age and sex. The amount of its salable goods was produced by 334 sugar-plantations, 15 square fields of indigo, 46,940 cacao-trees, 11,700 tobacco-plants, 2,257,725 of coffee, and 12,748,447 of cotton. For its provisions they cultivated 29 squares of rice, or maize, and 1219 of potatoes and yams, 2,028,520 bananas, and 32,577,950 holes of manioc. The cattle of Guadeloupe consisted of 4946 horses, 2024 mules, 125 asses, 13,716 horned beasts, 11,162 sheep, or goats, and 2455 swine. The principal article of this account is that of the holes of manioc; and it is, perhaps, requisite, before we continue our description, to give some account of so interesting a production.

The Manioc, or Manihot, as the French call it, is known to the English by the name of Cassava; its Indian name is Yuca. It is a shrub, which grows about five feet high; it loves an open and mixed soil, and requires a very careful culture. The root comes to perfection in eight months time, and is often of the thickness of a man's thigh. They use it for food, after a very fatiguing preparation. They must scrape off the first skin, wash it, rasp it, and press it, to extract the watery parts, which are a cold poison, against which there is no known remedy. The dressing is finished by evaporating what remains of the deadly principle it contains. Repeated experiments have proved, that it is almost as dangerous to eat it hot as to eat it raw. The Manioc so prepared will keep a long time, is very nourishing, though a little difficult to digest. The French call this bread "Cassave," and sometimes "Madagascar bread;" the old Indians call it "Cazzavi." Although the Cassava seems at first insipid, there are a great number of white inhabitants in the islands who prefer it to the best wheaten bread; all the Spaniards in general make a constant use of it; the French feed their slaves with it, only they add every week three pounds of dried cod or two pounds of salt beef; that they may be able to support the hard labour with which they are loaded. The English islands, which receive their principal subsistence from North America, cultivate but little Manioc in comparison of the French; and one may affirm that there is more of this plant cultivated at Guadeloupe alone than in all the English islands taken together.

The enumeration, which has occasioned this digression, shews us Guadeloupe as it was when conquered by the English in April, 1759; they kept it till July, 1763. In the short interval of their possession they introduced a prodigious quantity of European merchandizes, and, what was still more necessary, 18,721 Negroes. The flourishing state into which they had raised this colony in so short a time struck every body when they restored it at the peace. The mother-country, led by that idea of consideration which is produced by opulence, viewed it with a kind of respect. Till then Guadeloupe had been subordinate to Martinico; they delivered it from this
this dependence by appointing its own Governor and Intendant: but the French impatience produced some inconveniences which have cost very dear to the inhabitants of Guadeloupe and its dependencies. By these we understand several small islands, which, being comprised in the district of its Government, fell with it under the yoke of the English: such is La Desirade, to the North of Grande-terre, from which it is separated by a channel of about three leagues; it is a kind of rock of the same length, and about a league broad, having no water except in a few ponds, and producing nothing but cotton. The Government of the isles sometimes banishes there the incorrigible vagabonds, who call it among themselves "La Defrèrède."

Mariegalante, possessed by the French since 1648, is separated from the Pointe des Châteaux, the extremity of Grande-terre, by a channel of five or six leagues broad; it is a kind of oval, whose greater diameter is above four leagues long from North to South, and it is covered with barren mountains over above half its surface; there are only two parishes, the principal to the South is defended by a small fort, and called Batische-terre. This island, indifferently watered, produces, however, 800,000 pounds of coffee, 100,000 of cotton, and a million pounds of sugar.

Between Mariegalante and Guadeloupe, about two leagues distance from this, and five from the other, are the Saintes; these are two very small islands, each about a league long, and half a league broad, which, with some other islands still smaller, form a triangle whose height is tolerable a good road; the Northern island, which is the most craggy, is called Terre d'en haut, the Southern Terre d'en bas; they produce 50,000 pounds of coffee, and 90,000 pounds of cotton.

The dependencies of Guadeloupe were all discovered by Columbus, in his second voyage in 1493; he called the first "Defrèrède," because it was the first land he saw after he had long been at sea. The name of his ship, "Maria Galanta," was given to the second island, and "the Saintes" were so called from the holiday of All Saints, which had been that of their discovery.

For a particular detail of the riches of Guadeloupe we must recur to the enumeration made in 1767: by this account the island, taking in the little settlements we have just mentioned, contains 11,863 white inhabitants of every age and sex; 752 free Blacks or Mulattoes; 72,761 slaves; the whole making 85,376 persons. Its cattle consists of 5060 horses; 4854 mules; 111 assers; 17,378 horned beasts; 14,895 sheep and goats; and 2669 swine. For its provisions it has 30,476,218 holes of Manioc; 2,819,262 bananas; 2118 squares of land planted with yams and potatoes. Among its plantations are counted 72 anartas, 327 cassia-trees, 134,294 cacao-trees, 5,881,176 coffee-trees, 12,156,769 plants of cotton, 21,474 squares of land planted with sugar-canes.

The woods take up 22,097 squares of land; there are 20,247 of pasture or savannas, and 6405 uncultivated or abandoned; 1582 plantations raise cotton, coffee, cacao, and provisions, &c. and 401 sugar-canes; these last employ 140 water-mills, 263 moved by oxen, and 11 by wind.

The productions of Guadeloupe and its dependencies amount annually to 46 millions
ions weight of sugar; 21 millions of coffee; 320,000 pounds of cotton; and 8000 pounds of cacao. Some assert, that this produce might be increased by a fifth part; but other observers as intelligent, who believe there is no hope of an increase of culture in this island, affirm that the part known by the name of Guadeloupe has been for a long time cultivated to the highest degree, and that Grande-terre, which at present is all newly cleared, and consequently the land quite fresh, furnishes very near three-fifths of the productions of the whole settlement.

Twenty-two leagues to the South of Guadeloupe, is the island of LA MARTINIQUE, called by the English MARTINICO. This island is above 18 leagues long, and five or six broad in the middle; its circuit containing near 60 leagues of coast. It has the most happy situation of any of the French settlements, with respect to the winds which blow in these seas, and its harbours have the great advantage of affording a shelter against the hurricanes, so destructive in this part of the West-Indies. Martinico was settled, in 1635, by a detachment of 100 planters, brought there by D'Enambuc from St. Christopher's; they suffered a good deal from the Caribbs, whom they totally drove out in 1658. Being in peace after this expulsion, which, like all others of the same kind, can only be justified by the horrid right of the stronger sword, they gave themselves up to the planting of tobacco and cotton, and soon followed that of anatta and indigo. Benjamin Dacosta, a Jew, who took refuge in their settlement, taught them ten years afterwards that of cacao, which, however, was not common till 1684, when it became the resource of the greater part of the planters who had not a sufficient stock to attempt the culture of sugar. All the cacao trees having perished in 1718, the desolation was general among the inhabitants of Martinico, the coffee-tree was offered to them as a plank after a shipwreck.

The coffee-plant, an evergreen shrub, comes originally from Upper Ethiopia, where it has been known from time immemorial, and where it is still cultivated with success: its fruit or berry in this climate is a little longer, less green, and almost as much scented as that which began to be gathered in Arabia towards the end of the 16th century. It is supposed that a Mollah, named-Chadely, was the first Arabian who introduced the use of coffee, with an intention to deliver himself from a continual drowsiness, which hindered him from attending to his nightly prayers. His Dervises imitated him. Their example was followed by the lawyers, and one soon perceived that this drink purified the blood by a mild agitation, dissipate heaviness, and raised the spirits. Its sale was insensibly spread over the principal cities of Arabia, especially at Mecca, from whence the pilgrims carried it to all the Mahometan nations. They soon contrived in these countries, where society is more difficult than in Europe, to set up public houses where they made coffee. This custom was not confined to Asia, for, in 1652, an English merchant, named Edwards, who returned from the Levant, opened at London the first coffee-house that ever was in Europe, where they have so much multiplied since. The ministry of France had received a present from the Dutch of two coffee-trees, which were preferred with much care in
the Royal garden of plants at Paris. They took two suckers from them, which an officer, named Defelieux, was charged to carry to Martinico, after the destruction of the cacao-trees in this colony. There was such a scarcity of water aboard the ship he was in, that they were reduced to distribute only a very small measure to each man. Defelieux parted the little share he received for his drink with his little trees, and by this generous sacrifice, he faved the precious deposit he was trusted with, and revived this important colony, by enriching its settlers with a new branch of industry. In 1736, they had 11,953,232 coffee-trees, and by some calculations made concerning the populousness, as well as the articles of culture and trade, the island was then in a state of prosperity much superior to what it is at present.

Martinico is crossed throughout its whole length by a ridge of high mountains passable in several places, though their center is only a heap of craggy rocks. This ridge is such that it makes the island appear to the navigators like three distinct mountains; from hence run above 40 rivers, and a great many lesser streams. The soil is very unequal; some grounds alternately suffer by dryness and rain; there are some marshy, and almost entirely drowned by the sea; others are so stony as to baffle all attempts of the planters; but the greatest quantity of land between the shore and the mountains is capable of being successfully cultivated, and there wants nothing but means for the inhabitants to render it as fruitful as possible.

Martinico is divided into 28 parishes, which contain about the same number of towns or villages, and two principal towns, Fort Royal and St. Pierre. The first is the seat of Government; its streets are regular, the houses agreeable, and the inhabitants very much given to all kinds of luxury; they are the Parisians of the West-Indies. To the East of the town on a neck of land is an irregular fort, badly built and worse designed, which gives name to the town it poorly defends. Fort Royal, as well as the rest of the island, fell under the power of the English in the last war; they restored it at the peace. The French have since built a citadel upon Morne Garnier, an eminence higher than the most elevated points of Mornes Patate, Tartanfon, and Cartouches, which all command Fort Royal. This citadel has cost more than 325,000l. sterling, and so considerable an expense appears thrown away to those who believe that the navy alone ought to defend the colonies.

The harbour of Port-Royal, where the men of war anchor and winter, is one of the best of the Windward Isles, and its security against the hurricanes generally acknowledged: it is supposed that the inner part has been spoilt by sinking the hulks of several ships to make a fence against the English in the last war.

The Fort of St. Pierre is five leagues to the leeward of Fort Royal, in a round bay of the Western coast. This town, the first built in the island, is the place of communication between the colony and mother-country; it is the residence of the merchants, and the center of business. Notwithstanding the fires which have reduced it four times to ashes, it still contains 1748 houses: a part, situated along the sea-side on the strand itself, is called Le Mouillage (the anchoring-place), a very un-
healthy place of abode; the other part, separated from this by a river, is built upon
a low hill; they call it the Fort, from a small fortress which defends the road. This
road is very good for the loading and unloading the ships, and the facility of com-
ing in or going out; but they are obliged in winter-time to take shelter at Fort-Royal.

According to an account, taken July the 25th, 1767, Martinico contained
12,450 white inhabitants of every age and sex; 1814 free Blacks or Mulattoes;
70,553 slaves; 443 Marons or fugitive Negroes; and in the whole 84,817 souls.
The number of births in 1767 was a thirtieth part among the Whites, and a twen-
tieth among the Blacks.

The cattle of the colony are composed of 3776 horses, 4214 mules, 293 ass,
12,736 horned beasts, 975 swine, and 13,544 sheep and goats.

For its provisions it has 17,930,596 holes of Manioc, 3,509,048 bananas, 456
squares and a half of yams and potatoes.

The plantations consist of 11,444 squares of land planted with canes, 6,638,757
plants of coffee, 871,043 of cacao, 1,764,807 of cotton, 59,966 of caffia, and 61
of anatta.

The pastures or savannas take up 10,972 squares of land, there are 11,966 of
wood, and 8,483 uncultivated or abandoned.

The number of plantations for coffee, cotton, cacao, and other less important ob-
jects, is 1515; there are only 286 where they make sugar. All these plantations em-
ploy 116 water-mills, 12 wind-mills, and 184 cattle-mills. Before the hurricane on
the 13th of August, 1766, they reckoned 302 of the smaller habitations and 15 su-
gar-works more than in 1767.

This enumeration confirms what we have already said, that Martinico has lost much
of the splendour it had 40 years ago. The two wars carried on in this space of time
have proved very fatal to its inhabitants; and, after having been taken in the laft, the
peace restored it to France quite naked, and bereaved of the additional means which
had given her colony so much lustre. Before this laft war, Martinico had entirely
lost its lucrative contraband trade with the Spaniards; the cession of Cape Breton and
Canada, from which came annually 60 or 70 ships, deprived it of a very advantageous
commerce; the productions of Grenada, St. Vincent, and Dominica, were no more
sent into its port; and, by the ministerial arrangement with regard to Guadeloupe,
nothing was to be expected from this island; in short, debts had been imprudently
contracted. All these things reducing Martinico to itself, have necessarily diminifhed
its trade and riches.

The products of this colony at present are limited to 28 million weight of sugar,
three million weight of coffee, 600,000 pounds of cotton, and 40,000 pounds of ca-
cao. Foreigners carry off privately about a twelfth part of the goods of the island,
the rest goes to the mother-country. For this exportation, the merchants of France
fitted out, in 1766, 143 vessels, of which 101 landed at the town of St. Pierre, 35
at Fort-Royal, five at La Trinité, and two at Cul de Sac François.

About
About ten leagues to the South of Martinico is the Island of ST. LUCIA. It is a kind of long square, above nine leagues from North to South, and four in breadth from West to East, whose circuit is near 30 leagues. The English and the French, who possessed it successively after 1639, were massacred by the Caribbes, or murdered one another, at different times, till 1666. Then there was no longer any culture attended to, or any regular colony at St. Lucia; it was only frequented by the inhabitants of Martinico, to cut wood, and build canoes. Some French deserters, both sailors and soldiers, having taken refuge in this desolate place, after the peace of Utrecht, the Marechal d'Éstrées applied to his court for the property of the island; he obtained it, and sent there some troops and planters in 1718. The court of London complained immediately of this step; the Marechal abandoned his new settlement; and, in 1722, the Duke of Montague took possession of the island, as being granted to him under the Great Seal of England. The court of Versailles, as you may imagine, complained in their turn. After many negotiations, it was decided, in 1731, that, till the respective rights were cleared up, the two nations should evacuate St. Lucia, but with liberty to both to wood and water there. This precarious determination became very favourable to the private interest of merchants and planters. The English did not disturb the French in the enjoyment of their plantations, but made use of their channel to form contraband connections with the richer colonies, that the subjects of both governments found equally advantageous. This intercourse lasted, with more or less vigour, till the treaty of 1763, which affords to France the property of St. Lucia, so long and so obstinately disputed.

The soil of St. Lucia is tolerably good near the sea-shore, and becomes better as one advances within land: except some high and steep mountains, on which one may easily observe the marks of ancient volcanoes, the whole may be cleared with profit. We do not, indeed, find any very large plains, but several small ones, where one might carry the culture of sugar so far as to produce fifteen million pounds weight. The long and narrow shape of the island renders the carriage easy from any place where the canes shall be planted.

The air, in the inner part of St. Lucia, is just the same as it was in the other islands before they were inhabited, at first impure and unhealthy; but, as the wood is cut down, and the land laid open, it becomes less dangerous. Upon several parts of the leeward coast it is more deadly than anywhere else. These receive some sluggish rivers, which, coming from the foot of the mountains, have not descent enough to carry down with them the land; whose heaps, repelled by the tide, choke their mouths. This unsurmountable bar is the cause of many unhealthy marshes in the middle of the lands.

The excellence of St. Lucia, which made the French prefer it to the other neutral isles at the peace, is, however, on the leeward coast; it is its good harbour, called Le Carenage, at three leagues and a half from the North point of the island. This famous port has several united advantages; there is every where depth enough, and the
the quality of the bottom is excellent. Nature has formed there three careening-places, which do not want a key, and require nothing but a captain to turn the keel above ground. Thirty ships of the line might lie there, sheltered from hurricanes, without the trouble of being moored. The boats of the country, which have been kept a long time in this harbour, have never been eat by the worms; however, they do not expect that this advantage will last, whatever be the cause. For the rest, the winds are always good to go out with, and the largest squadron might be in the offing in less than an hour.

There are already nine parishes in the colony, eight to leeward, and only one to windward. This preference given to one part of the island more than another, does not proceed from the superiority of the soil, but from the greater or less convenience in sending out or receiving ships. A high road made round the island, and two others, which cross it from East to West, afford all manner of facilities to carry the commodities of the plantations to the barcaders.

On the 1st of January, 1769, the free inhabitants of St. Lucia amounted to 2,652 persons of every age and sex; the slaves to 10,270. It has in cattle 598 mules and horses, 1,819 horned beasts, and 2,373 sheep. Its plantations contain 1,279,680 plants of cacao, 2,463,880 of coffee, 681 squares of cotton, and 454 of canes. There were 16 sugar-works going on, and 18 nearly completed. The Government had already distributed 24,078 squares of land, which, in time, must produce a considerable revenue; since the most intelligent persons affirm, that they might employ 50,000 Negroes, and furnish the value of 500,000l. sterling of commodities in trade, which were not computed then at more than 112,000l. The era of its prosperity cannot be far off, since the activity of the planters is free from all the curbs which seem every where else to have slackened industry. Fifty men appointed to maintain public order are all the troops left at St. Lucia; it pays no tax either directly or indirectly; ships of all nations, without any duty of entrance or going out, and without any distinction, are received on its coasts; every one carries what merchandizes he pleases, and trades with what goods he thinks will fetch the highest price. Since Europe has acquired possession in the new world, none has been more favourably treated than St. Lucia.

Besides the islands we have been describing, France possesses another called St. Bartholomew, situated among the English leeward Caribbees, between Anguilla and St. Christopher's; but it is so trifling and poor, that it hardly sends any thing to the mother-country, which, in return, takes very little notice of it.

St. Bartholomew is about five or six leagues in circuit; the middle part is mountainous, the soil dry, except in some places on the coast, where they cultivate tobacco, provisions, and a little indigo of an inferior sort. Its shores are extremely dangerous, and the approaching them requires an experienced pilot; but it enjoys the advantage of having a very good harbour, of an excellent hold, in which ships of any size are perfectly sheltered from all winds. Half the inhabitants of St. Bartholomew...
mew are descendants of Irish Papists, who settled there in 1666, after their expulsion from St. Christopher's. These inhabitants are very few; their poverty is such, that the English privateers, who often put into their harbours during the last wars, always honestly paid for the few provisions they were supplied with, although the whole force of the island could not compel them to do it. But these poor settlers, hardened to labour, seem the most content of any in the French territories; as we have already observed those of the Caymans, as poor and as laborious as they, to be the happiest of the English islands.

To St. Bartholomew we might perhaps add the island of St. Martin's, possessed by the French jointly with the Dutch. St. Martin's is to the South of Anguilla, from which it is separated by a channel of about a league and a half broad. This island, in a circuit of 14 or 15 leagues, contains a great number of mountains, or rather huge rocks covered with heath. The sandy soil of its plains and valleys, barren of itself, can only be made fruitful by the rains, and they fall but very seldom in this place. The island, destitute of rivers, has fountains and cisterns, which afford good and drinkable water, in sufficient quantity for all the planters. The air is very healthy, the shore full of fish, the sea rarely disturbed, and anchoring safe every where about the island.

The Dutch and French, who met there in 1638, lived peaceably, but separate, till the Spaniards drove them away, to settle in their place. At the end of ten years these usurpers abandoned the island, after having destroyed all they could not carry away. The first inhabitants returned, as soon as they knew it was evacuated; they agreed never to disturb each others tranquility, and have always been faithful to an engagement whose utility was reciprocal. The quarrels of their mother-countries never altered this disposition. Peace constantly reigned in this happy asylum, till 1757, when the French were driven out of their quarter by an English privateer, whose name was Cook; but they returned after the end of the war.

The French enjoy about 35,000 acres, out of the 55,000 which the whole island contains. Through this large space are scattered about 100 White inhabitants, and 300 Blacks; though it might maintain 400 White families, and 10,000 slaves. The line of separation, lying from East to West, was agreed upon in 1684; the two nations signed their treaty on a mountain, which itself makes a natural division, and has been named since “the Mountain of Concord.” Their line, in assigning a less part to the Dutch, has sufficiently made them amends, by the possession of the only harbour in the island. These republicans have not, however, profited more from this advantage than the French, since their division contains no more than 60 families, and about 200 slaves. The two colonies breed poultry and sheep, which they sell to the other islands. They have always cultivated cotton, and lately planted coffee, with success. Perhaps this production will procure them, one day or other, an affluence that the French at present seem to enjoy a great deal less than the Dutch.
DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST-INDIES.

These last possess the whole of the island of St. Eustachia, ten leagues to the South of St. Martin's, and the island of Saba, four leagues to the leeward of St. Eustachia.

ST. EUSTACHIA, about five leagues in circuit, is properly a very steep mountain, which seems to rise out of the sea, in the shape of a sugar-loaf. It has no harbour, only an open road on the West side. Some Frenchmen, driven out of St. Christopher's, took refuge there, in 1629, and abandoned it soon after, because this dock had no other fresh water but the rain they gathered in cisterns. The exact time of this emigration is unknown; but it is certain the Dutch settlement goes as far back as 1639. The English, who took it, were, in their turn, driven out by Louis XIV. and, when the peace of Breda had assured the possession to this Prince, he generously restored it to the Dutch. St. Eustachia produces some tobacco, and near 600,000 pounds of sugar. The number of its people, as a plantation, amounts to 120 White inhabitants, and 1200 Blacks. As a trading colony, it has 300 Whites, and sometimes 1300 or 1500, when it has the good luck to be neuter in time of war.

During the last war, this island, which was rendered absolutely free, was the mart of all the goods of the French colonies, and the principal magazine for supplying them with provisions. The English and French met together on the coast, to form, under cover of its neutrality, regular partnerships of commerce. Its contraband trade in time of peace is most commonly confined to the exchange of English commodities, for the rum and molasses of the French islands.

The weakness of St. Eustachia has not hindered it from sending some of its inhabitants to the island of SABA. This is a steep rock, which is accessible only on one side, and one must climb almost to the top through a very craggy artificial path to find any earth. In several places of this narrow way, the inhabitants, for greater security, have heaped up great stones on a kind of stags, so disposed, that, by pulling a cord, the slide will fall down, and pour such a shower of rocks and stones as would crush a whole army. The island is very fit for gardens; the frequent rains, whose water never rests there, nourish plants of an exquisite tate, and among others cabbages of an extraordinary size. About 50 European families, with 130 slaves, cultivate cotton, and manufacture it into stockings, which are sold at 15 or 16 florins a pair; they make likewise a great many shoes, which they dispose of to advantage in the other islands. There is no where so handsome a race as the people of Saba, and their women preserve a fresh colour, which is not to be found in any other of the Antilles.

But the most considerable settlement of the Dutch in the West-Indies is at Curacao, on the coast of Terra Firma, under the 12th degree of latitude, and about 20 leagues from Cape St. Roman.

The island of CURACAO, which the sailors call "Curassow," or "Curacoa," is about 15 leagues long, and four or five broad in the middle. In 1634, the Dutch took it from the Spaniards, who had occupied it from the year 1627. The French in vain attempted to expel them in 1673 and in 1678; since these two fruitless attempts,
DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST-INDIES.

tempts, their possession has not been disturbed by any people. The island, almost every where rugged and stony, is barren and very badly watered; neither is its climate healthy or agreeable. There were formerly some tolerable good pastures where they bred a great number of cattle, but for a long time these have given place to the planting of sugar and tobacco, of which, however, they produce but a middling quantity. At present, it is asserted that the whole produce of the island would not maintain the inhabitants for 24 hours; but such is the regulation of the Dutch Government, that there is no place in the West-Indies where want is less felt than at Curacao. Towards the S. W. extremity is a very fine town, with an excellent harbour, but of a very difficult access; when a vessel has once entered, its spacious basin affords every kind of convenience and safety. A fortress, built with great skill, and constantly kept in order, defends this harbour; it is called Fort Amsterdam, and gives its name to the town.

Although Nature seems to have refused everything to this island, the Dutch have not only supplied by art all that it wanted, but have even converted several deficiencies into advantages: so that, where one would naturally expect to meet with a poor and necessitous people without hardly any communication with their neighbours, we really find a rich and well-peopled city, full of magazines of all kinds of merchandizes, and a harbour where ships not only anchor in perfect security, but where, by means of a variety of engines, they may be raised into convenient docks, careened with a surprising quickness, and furnished with rigging of every sort, stores of all kinds, and even artillery if they want it. When Admiral Knowles attacked La Guayra and Porto Caballo, as we have already mentioned under the article of the Spanish Territories, the Dutch of Curacao furnished the fleet with cables, ammunition, and even with men; so that the Admiral would have infallibly succeeded in his expedition, if the same motive, and the same mercantile principle, had not engaged them to furnish the Spaniards before-hand with a sufficient quantity of warlike stores to render our attempt abortive.

Curacao is become an immense magazine, where the Spaniards come in their boats to exchange their gold, silver, vanilla, cacao, cochineal, quinquina, hides, mules, &c. for Negroes, linnen, silk, India stuffs, spices, lace, ribbons, quicksilver, and iron and steel works. It is asserted, that the article of Negroes alone has yielded a million sterling a year. These voyages, though continual, have not hindered a multitude of Dutch ships from carrying on a contraband trade between their island and the bays of the Spanish main. The substituting register-ships to the galleons has of late checkened this double communication; but it cannot fail to recover its former vigour, as soon as the misfortune of a war hinders the Spanish Continent from being directly supplied with provisions and merchandizes.

The quarrels of the courts of London and Versailles opened some new branches of trade at Curacao; this island then supplied all the South coast of St. Domingo, and took off all its product. The French ships from the Leeward Islands came in crowds during
during the war to Curaçao, notwithstanding the length of the passage; they found all that was necessary for the fitting of their ships, often the merchandize of the Spanish coasts, and always those of Europe, which were universally in use.

Everything which enters at Curaçao pays indifferently a port-duty of one per cent. The merchandizes sent from Holland have the privilege of never being taxed more. Those which come from other ports of Europe pay, besides, nine per cent. The foreign coffee is subject to the same duty, because they want to encourage that of Surinam. All the other goods of America only pay three per cent. but are under an obligation to be carried directly to some of the ports of the Republic.

On the two sides of Curaçao are two small islands, both belonging to the Dutch; that of Aruba, 12 leagues to the West; and that of Buen-Aire or Bonaire, 14 leagues to the East: they are both uninhabited, and incapable of producing anything; though the Dutch have a small fort with a few soldiers in the isle of Bonaire.

To complete this abridgement there only remains to describe the three islands belonging to the Danes; we have already mentioned those of St. Thomas and St. John, with their dependencies, among the Virgin Isles; the third, which is the most considerable, is the island of Santa Cruz, to the South of the Virgins.

ST. THOMAS, 10 leagues to the East of Porto-Rico, is more than three leagues in length, and, on an average, one in breadth. Its soil, badly watered, is very sandy. The Danes, who have been settled there since 1670, found it quite deserted; they were, at first, disturbed by the English, under a pretence that some vagabonds of their nation had formerly begun to cultivate it; but the Court of London having loft the course of these vexations, the Danith colony formed successively the small number of sugar-plantations we see at present in this island. The principal advantage of St. Thomas consists in a very good harbour on the South side, where 50 ships may lie in safety; it is defended by a fort, whose batteries, at the same time, protect the small town built round the shore. This harbour, which the Buccaneers have rendered very famous, is much frequented by merchant-ships: when they are chased, in time of war, they find there a safe protection; and, in time of peace, a vent for their goods by the clandestine trade which the boats of St. Thomas continually carry on with the Spanish coasts.

ST. JOHN’s is only two leagues to the South of St. Thomas, and about the same size. The Danes did not begin to cultivate it till 1718, two years after the Spaniards had driven them from Crab Island. St. John’s is the best watered among the Virgins, and its harbour has not only the reputation of being better than that of St. Thomas, but passes also for the best to the Leeward of Antigua: the English give it the name of "Crawl Bay." Notwithstanding these advantages, there is so little good land in the island of St. John’s, that its planting and exportations form only a very trifling object.
SAINTE CROIX, or SANTA CRUZ, is the third and principal of the Danish islands; situated out of the group of the Virgins, five leagues to the South of St. John's, it extends from East to West in a triangular form, its length being more than eight leagues, and the greatest breadth two. It is a flat island, without mountains, and badly watered. It was occupied, in 1643, by the Dutch and English, who having soon quarrelled, the first were beaten and expelled, in 1646, after a very bloody engagement: 1200 Spaniards drove out the English in their turn; and, soon after, the French came, who expelled the Spaniards. The French, remaining masters of the island, set fire to the woods, and the conflagration, upon which they gazed from their ships, lasted several months; as soon as it was extinguished, they landed to establish their settlement.

The land was found of an amazing fertility; tobacco, cotton, anatta, indigo, and sugar, succeeded equally well, and the progress of this colony was such, that, 11 years after its foundation, it contained 822 white inhabitants, with a proportional number of slaves. It then belonged to the Order of Malta, who sold it, in 1664, to the French West-India Company. The regulations of this Company were so pernicious, that Sainte Croix quickly fell to decay; and there did not remain above 300 Whites with 600 Blacks, when they were carried to St. Domingo, in 1696. The island was left without planters and uncultivated till 1733, when France sold its property to Denmark for 164,000 rixdollars.

Denmark began very imprudently with establishing a company, and an exclusive right of trade; but, in 1754, Santa Cruz and all the other islands were open to all the Danish subjects, who, at the same time, obtained the liberty of importing Negroes; they only pay four rixdollars for every Negro brought into America. The plantations of their colonies already employ above 30,000 slaves of every age and sex, who pay each a capitation of one crown. The labours of these Negroes furnish the cargoes of 40 ships, whose burden is from 120 to 300 tons. The plantations, which yield annually to the treasury two Danish crowns for every 1000 square feet, afford to the nation a little coffee and ginger, some wood for inlaying work, 800 bales of cotton, most of which go to foreigners, and 12 million weight of rough sugar; four fifths of this last article are consumed in the mother-country, the rest is sold in the Baltic, or carried into Germany by way of Altena. Santa Cruz, though the most modern of the Danish settlements, furnishes five sevenths of these productions.

This island is divided into 350 plantations, by lines cutting each other at right angles, and which form seven quarters or general divisions. Each plantation contains 150 acres of 40,000 square feet each, so that it may take up a space of 1200 common paces in length, and 800 in breadth. Two thirds of the land are fit for sugar, and the proprietor might cultivate 80 acres at once, each of which would yield, one year with another, 1600 pounds of sugar, without including molasses; the remainder
mainder might be employed in productions of less value. When the whole of the island shall be cleared, which depends on time and circumstances, there may be several towns built on its shores; at present, it has only the town of Christianstæd, under the cannon of a fortress which defends the principal harbour on the North coast; and they have begun that of Friderickstæd on the West coast. The greatest part of the inhabitants of Santa Cruz consists of English from the islands of Nevis and Antigua, of Irish Papists, German Moravians, and a small number of Danes. The English and Dutch possess the best plantations in the island, and most of its riches pass into the hands of foreigners.

THE END.