

SIXTEEN YEARS

IN THE

WEST INDIES.

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CAPADOSE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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SIXTEEN YEARS
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BARBADOS.

CHAPTER I.

IN the year 1600, more than a century after the discovery of the New World, the Portuguese visited Barbados; and about five years subsequent to that event, it was taken possession of, in the name of our King James, by Captain Cataline; but it was Captain

Powell who laid the foundation of James Town, twenty years after the visit of the former gentleman ; since which it has continued in the possession of the English, and is generally allowed to be the most ancient of our Western colonies.

This island, though less beautiful in its localities than Grenada, Trinidad, and others, has many claims to our admiration ; and it is here that voyagers from Britain, are generally first greeted by the sight of creoles, palm trees, and the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics. Carlisle Bay is not comparable to the Gulf of Paria, nor is Bridgetown any thing like Port of Spain ; but in sailing into the former, many pleasing objects attract the attention ; and the traveller through the island, which perhaps I ought to state is about twenty miles in length, and fourteen in breadth, may be pleased with a variety of picturesque scenes. There is but little land uncultivated, and though perhaps not as fertile as formerly, when it was considered the most productive of the colonies, bears not

the appearance of neglect visible in the beautiful valleys of Trinidad.

One thing greatly in favour of Barbados is, that its climate being more temperate, it is less fatal to Europeans than Jamaica.

That some idea may be formed of its general appearance in the year 1700, I quote the following description from the work of the Rev. Father Labat.

“ I left Martinique the 2nd of September in a bark called *la Trompeuse*, handsome, large, and a very good sailer, that was to touch at Barbados, the most considerable of the English Antilles, and unquestionably the richest and the best peopled. The 3rd we saw the *Pitons* of St. Lucie. These are two large, round and pointed mountains, sufficiently near to one another, which render this island very easy to recognise. We gained in tacking and on the 4th at seven o'clock in the morning anchored in Carlisle Bay, opposite Bridgetown, that is the capital of Barbados. We anchored at a hundred paces or thereabouts from the little Western Fort at eight fathoms

depth of water. Scarce had we saluted the shore with five guns, when the Harbour Master came on board of our vessel. He examined our passports, enquired into the object of our voyage, and offered us all of which we stood in need.

“ He was with a clergyman, who had been a prisoner at Martinique during the last war, and to whom we had rendered service : he recognised me, embraced, and shewed me much kindness. The English merchant, for whom we made the voyage, appeared, and spoke to the harbour master and to the clergyman, and after we had given them plenty to drink and little to eat, they went on shore with the master of the bark, and promised to come back and fetch me, to shew me the town. They gave them a salute of five guns. The parson and the merchant returned on board at four o'clock in the afternoon. I was dressed in a manner, that without masking myself entirely, I did not appear quite what I was ; less from necessity, than to avoid being followed by children and the rabble,

who do not often see birds of my plumage. These gentlemen conducted me to the residence of the Governor, whom we did not find; the Major, who received us very politely, asked me if I had any private affairs in the Island, and offered me very obligingly his interest, and that of the Governor. I told him that I was going to Grenada, but that I was overjoyed to find this opportunity of seeing an island like Barbados, the inhabitants of which were esteemed every where, and that I was persuaded by the manner in which he received me, that what I had heard say, was far below what it was in reality.

“Thereupon they brought beer, pipes, and different sorts of wine. I could easily perceive, that the Major made use of an interpreter in speaking to me, only from stateliness or ceremony, and that he understood French perfectly well; that obliged me to be upon my guard, and it is a caution that I feel obliged to give to all my countrymen when they are among foreigners, in order that their vivacity and indiscretion, may not lead them

to commit faults that are often attended with unpleasant consequences. I took the pipe that was presented to me, tho' I never smoked, it would be an unpoliteness to refuse it; and I put it to my mouth from time to time.

“The clergyman related to the company what we had done for him, when he was a prisoner; that procured me a great many compliments; at last, he begged me to go and spend some days with him at Spikestown, where was his residence and his family. We went out late with the Major. Our Merchant conducted us to his house where we supped, and where he obliged me to take a room during my stay in the island.

“I remained almost all the next day, which was Sunday, in the house; the curiosity of seeing a white friar attracted many people there, and I had the complaisance to shew myself in my entire ordinary dress, that is to say, with my black and white clothes. In the evening we went to the promenade.

“Monday the 6th they gave me an officer

to conduct me and shew me the town, for our merchant was occupied in the unloading of the bark. The town is handsome and sufficiently large, its streets are straight, clean, and well traced. The houses are well built, in the taste of those in England, with a good many glass windows, and are magnificently furnished ; in a word, all has there an air of neatness, of politeness, and opulence, that one does not find at all in the other islands, and that it would be difficult to meet elsewhere.

“The Guildhall is very handsome, and very well ornamented. The shops and the merchants’ stores are filled with all that one can wish from every part of the world. One sees numbers of Goldsmiths, of Jewellers, of Watchmakers, and other artisans who work a great deal, and who appear much at their ease, therefore is carried on there the most considerable trade of America. They maintain that the air of the town is not good, and that the swamp that is near it, renders the place unhealthy ; it is what however I

did not remark in the complexion of the inhabitants, which is fine, and especially that of the women; every part swarms with children; for every body is married, and the women are very prolific. It is true that the yellow fever carries off a great many people, but that is common to them as with the French, the Dutch, Portuguese, and other Europeans who inhabit America.

“Tuesday 7th Sept. we mounted on horseback at ten o'clock, the Major, the merchant, the officer who accompanied me the day before, and myself, and we went to salute the Governor, who was at his country house, two short leagues from the town. He received me very politely, and retained me to dinner with the Major; the two others returned home. I have forgotten his name. They called him my Lord. I believe that means Monseigneur. He had studied in Paris, spoke French very correctly, he was extremely polite, altho' he was sufficiently reserved, and sustained his character with haughtiness. He had a dinner like that of a Prince, we

were eight at table, they directed to attend upon me a negro who spoke French, and besides that, an interpreter stood by my side.

“The dinner was of long duration, but they had the goodness not to press me to drink. They talked a great deal of the preceding war, of our colonies, and of our manufactures. Mr. Stapelton was at this repast, he has since been Governor of Nevis, and was killed by drunkards in that island. I made acquaintance with him, he spoke French very well, and he had had time to learn the language, having been five or six years a prisoner in the Bastille, he availed himself of that time to study mathematics, in which he had made considerable progress. I passed the day very agreeably, and the Major conducted me back to town in the evening.

“The Government house is about three hundred paces from the seashore, it is magnificent, and very well furnished, there is a cabinet of books upon every kind of subject, very well selected, and in good order. The landing place, which is opposite, is defended

by a battery of six guns, with a guard house and an intrenchment. I found at our merchant's, the clergyman of Spikestown. He conducted me to his house the next day with our merchant, and another of their friends. He had a horse brought for me.

“ We set off at eight o'clock, after having taken chocolate with milk ; we dined at a merchant's in Jamestown. It is a handsome town, before which is a bay sufficiently deep, that is defended by two batteries, that to the eastward, which is a masked one, consists of twenty six pieces of heavy ordinance, and that to the westward of six pieces. Half way from Government house to Jamestown, there is a very long intrenchment on the sea-shore, it is of masonry, and very needful in that place, because the rocks are covered with sufficient depth of water, to be navigable for boats and other flat bottomed vessels, of which people might make use to effect a descent. One finds also a creek or small bay, about half way from Jamestown to Spikestown, the anchorage of which is com-

modious enough for barges and other small vessels, defended by a battery of three guns, with an intrenchment on each side. People reckon two leagues and a half from Jamestown to Spikestown. It is a very pretty little town, the houses of which are well built, the streets straight and broad, and where there are a good many Stores and public houses. The bay appeared to me a good half league in breadth, and a good deal more in profundity. Ships may anchor there in twelve, ten, eight, and six fathoms, and are sufficiently sheltered from the winds, except those that blow from the westward. The two points which form it are defended by two masked batteries, that of the east consists of sixteen, and that to the west of twelve guns. We were perfectly well received by the clergyman's wife and family, which consisted of three children, two boys and a girl, the eldest son was twelve or thirteen years of age, and the daughter who was the youngest nine years old. All these children spoke French, their mother is of

Normandy, and their father, son of a Frenchman.

“ We remained all Thursday at Spikestown ; Friday we went to dine at a *town*, three leagues distance, at a French refugee's, who received me perfectly well. It seemed to me that they called it Saint Jean, there is a small bay formed by breakers, which advance far into the sea, barks and other small vessels may anchor there in two or three fathoms. There is a battery of eight guns. I observed on our return to Spikestown in the evening, a small bight, about half way, that is defended by a battery of three guns. The town of St. Jean is at the extremity of *Basseterre*. I should have been very glad to make the tour of the island, and to return by *Cabesterre* to Bridgetown, but the thing was not possible.

“ I wished to return to Bridgetown on Saturday with our merchant, who departed long before daylight, to go and complete the lading of our bark ; but our host prayed me so earnestly to remain till Sunday afternoon,

that I could not refuse him ; so I passed all Saturday in the environs of Spikestown, in paying visits, and in walking with the clergyman.

“ Sunday the 12th he was occupied all the morning at his church, and after we had dined, it was found too late to depart. This delay did not give me much concern ; besides being in good company, I had the pleasure of seeing in the afternoon, the review of the Cavalry and Infantry of the district, that is to say, if I mistake not, of the quarter ; for all the island is divided into districts ; but I know not their limits, nor their extent. There were four troops of cavalry, from a hundred to a hundred and twenty *masters* each, all well mounted and well armed, with kettle drums and trumpets. The officers were in red uniform, with large gold lace, and white plumes. The infantry was also in four companies, which made together a little more than two hundred men, well armed enough, but who appeared only like the servants of the cavalry men ; therefore

they were composed but of overseers, laborers, and poor inhabitants ; for all the rich, who are in great numbers, get themselves into the cavalry. One easily perceives without my saying it, that these troops are but militia. They are all enrolled. The rank of the officer always precedes their names ; thus they say, Colonel such a one, Major so and so, &c, People told me that there were in the island, six regiments of cavalry, which formed nearly three thousand men ; and ten of infantry that amounted to five thousand men or thereabouts.

“ The number of negro slaves in this island, is very considerable ; they told me that there were more than sixty thousand of them. I doubt it ; however according to what I saw between Bridgetown and St. John's, and supposing there may be in proportion at Cabesterre, where I have not been, I believe there may well be forty thousand or thereabout, which is an exorbitant number for an island like Barbados, which is no more al-

together than from twenty five to twenty eight leagues in circumference.

“ People maintain that the English discovered Barbados, and that they were established there from the year 1627, that one of their ships returning from Brasil, where according to appearances, it went to make an incursion, was driven by a storm on the coast of this island, which having made report to its masters of the discovery, they immediately sent out a colony, that made the establishment that one sees at the present day, but I can hardly believe that it is so ancient, for it is certain that one of the French and the English at St. Christopher is unquestionably the first that these two nations have had in the Gulf of Mexico, and yet it was only formed in 1627.

“ Be that as it may, for the time of the establishment of the English in Barbados, it is certain that their colony is very rich, and very flourishing, that all the island is discovered, cleared and cultivated, that the forests with which it was covered have been

long cut down and consumed. They grew there formerly a great deal of tobacco. They afterwards cultivated Ginger and Indigo. They still plant cotton in some places, but Sugar is now almost the sole object to which they adhere. The sugar that they make at Barbados is very fine.

“ They have wind mills and cattle mills. As for watermills, we must not speak of them at Barbados, there are no rivers to turn them, and water is sometimes more scarce and dearer than wine and beer. I have often seen at Guadaloupe English Barks from Antigua and other places that came to load with water from our river, for private persons who were in want of it, or for ships which were to return to Europe. This defect of water is common to all the English islands except St. Christopher, and causes them great inconvenience, especially at Barbados, where they are reduced to the necessity of preserving rain water in pools and ponds, some of which are natural, and others artificial, but of whatever kind they may be, the

water in them is soon corrupted by the heat of the sun, by the crabs that are drowned in them, by the cattle that drink there, by the Negros who never miss bathing in them as often as they can, and by the clothes that they wash in them. There are others of them who preserve the rain water in casks, in large earthen utensils of the country, or jars that come from Europe; for they use every means to procure water and to preserve it. It is a pity that an island so fine, and so populous, and well cultivated, has this inconvenience.

“ The estates or plantations, as they are called, are much smaller in proportion than they are in the French islands; and one ought not to be surprised at that; the island is not large, and has a good many inhabitants; ground is required for every body, that's the reason of their having little of it, and that it is very dear. The houses that are on the plantations are yet better built than those in the towns; they are large, well laid out, have glass windows, the dis-

tribution of the apartments is convenient and well understood. They are almost all accompanied with handsome avenues of tamarind, or large orange, that we call Shaddock trees, or other trees that give a cool air, and render the houses quite cheerful. One observes the opulence and the good taste of the inhabitants in their furnitures, which are magnificent, and in their plate, of which they have all considerable quantities, so that if an enemy took this island, that article alone would be as good as the prize of their Galleons and something more, and this enterprise is not so difficult as people may imagine ; but for an unfortunate vessel that put into Martinique at the time that M. de Chateaurenault was ready to leave it with his squadron and our Buccaneers, and Creoles, in 1702, for the purpose of going to Barbados, it is certain that this island would have changed its master, the aim was sure, and the measures they had taken were infallible ; but he deemed it his duty to go in search of the Galleons ; nevertheless he will permit

me to say that he would have done much better to take Barbados, than to go and conduct Galleons to Vigo, where they became the prey of our enemies ; but patience, what is deferred is perhaps not lost.

“ The English take usually but one meal a day, unless they have foreigners in their house, they do not even think of supping, and that for two reasons ; the first, because they are accustomed to the direct contrary ; and the second, because they begin their dinner very late, that is to say, towards two o'clock, and if they are ever so few in company, this meal lasts always till very late at night ; so that it is not possible to drink and to eat, after one has performed that exercise during four or five hours continuance.

“ They eat a great deal of meat and little bread, their tables are very well supplied, they have good cooks, very handsome table linen, much arrangement and neatness. Persons of distinction have live partridges brought from Europe, and preserve them in aviaries, as we do in our Islands in regard to

turtle doves ; one may say, that on this article there are no people who enter into greater expense, or who carry further, care and attention, to procure what there is of the best and most rare in foreign countries, even the most remote. One always finds at their houses wines and liquors of every sort, and they feel it a pleasure that those to whom they have given dinner, may not easily be able to find their way home again. It is to prevent the accidents that might happen to them, if the roads were bad, that they take most particular care to keep them in good repair. Those of Leogane in the western part of St. Domingo, which assuredly are very fine, do not come near to those of Barbados.

“Their sugar houses are large, well laid out, and extremely clean. They take care to have the huts of the negros laid out quite straight and uniform, that costs nothing, and has a very good effect, which added to the beauty of the houses, and to the great number which there are of them, from the sea

shore to the buildings nearest to the centre of the island, forms a perspective with which the eye is enchanted, when one is on the sea at a reasonable distance for distinguishing objects easily.

“Some of the inhabitants of Barbados employ their slaves in spinning cotton, and in making hammocks. Those beds are made with four weavings or with five, if one requires them in that manner. The cloth is perfectly well crossed, even, strong, and handsome. That which they make at Martinique does not come near to it. Notwithstanding, the Carib hammocks are more comfortable than those, because being all of one piece, the cloth of which they are composed gives equally throughout, instead of which, those formed of many weavings cannot do so, because the seams are always stiffer than the rest of the cloth ; I bought two of them that I obtained cheap enough ; if I had been a merchant I could have made a considerable profit in purchasing a number

of these hammocks which are much sought, and very dear at our islands.

“ I purchased besides a deal of spice, that is to say, of cinnamon, of cloves, of pepper, and nutmeg, for the use of our houses ; they could not be better, or cheaper.

“ Monday 13th September I left Spikes-town, with the clergyman, well satisfied with my excursion, and overwhelmed with the civilities of his family and friends, who came to wish me a good voyage. We dined at Jamestown as we had done in coming, and we arrived very late at Bridgetown, having remained a long time at table, and rode very gently, in order that I might be able to contemplate more at leisure this fine country, that I felt a regret in quitting.

“ On arriving I learnt that they expected to complete the lading of our bark during the night, or early next morning, and that we might be able to sail in the evening, or early the following day. I sent for some French books that I had on board the bark,

which I presented to the Governor at taking leave of his Lordship. This little present gave him pleasure, he thanked me for it in very elegant and polite terms, and made me many offers of service.

“ I went afterwards to see the Major, some officers who had accompanied me, and the merchants to whom I had been directed. I also purchased some pieces of Ascot and white camlet, and printed calicos to make hangings and counterpanes for beds. I found that in spite of the abundance of money that is stirring in Barbados, all goods were much cheaper there, than in our islands.

“ At last having finished all our affairs, and thanked our friends, I embarked on Thursday, 15th September, at eight o'clock in the morning. I found that my Lord Governor had sent me a pipe of canary wine, with a small chest of very excellent chocolate and Curaçoa. Our merchants and the clergyman also made me presents of live poultry, with two pies and two hams, ready cooked, preserves,

fruits, Madeira wine, beer and cider in quantities.

“ We saluted our friends, who conducted us on board, with five guns, and the town with as many, when we set sail at three o'clock in the afternoon : for it may be well imagined that we did not separate without drinking. I remarked also two anchorages behind the Eastern Point, that forms the Bay of Carlisle, which are defended by two batteries. That most to the Eastward is of six guns *à Barbette*, and that which follows it is *à merlons*, and only of four guns.

“ The public will excuse me from saying in what manner I obtained the plan of Barbados that I give. It is certain that he who shewed it me, had no desire at all that I should take a copy of it ; but I managed so well that he left it with me in the evening on retiring, and I copied it during the night.

“ I have seen exactly all the Leeward Side, from Carlisle Point to the town of St. John, and I can assure that in 1700, in the mouth

of September, things were in the state that I have depicted them. There may have been changes since that time, the English may have augmented their batteries, and made intrenchments in places the weakest, and the most exposed, and it is what I am ignorant of. I did not see the windward side, therefore can say nothing of it.”*

This account, compared with its present state, leads to many serious reflections ; though we may indulge a smile at the writer's remarks on the possible, or probable, capture of Barbados ; his opinion that it was not so difficult to effect as might be imagined ; and his censure of the French Admiral for relinquishing an enterprise, the success of which appeared to *him* certain, inasmuch that, if undertaken at the time, Barbados would have changed masters ; but he adds, “ What is deferred, is, perhaps, not lost.” Were the good Father now living he would retract his

* This is a very literal translation, but designedly so in order to preserve the quaint style of the old French Author.

words, for, as I before observed, since the first settlement at Barbados it has only acknowledged the sway of Great Britain, whilst all the other of our West Indian colonies by treaties or otherwise, have passed under the domination of different European powers.

The awful and destructive hurricane, which occurred about eighty years after Labat's visit, devastated the whole colony, and then, when fifty more had elapsed, and the island had recovered from its destructive effects, another, in 1831, caused a renewal of the desolation, and subsequently, though the loss has been less extensive, in 1835 and 1837; the latter preceded by a dreadful conflagration, or more properly to explain, how severely the island was afflicted by public calamity, I should state that, in the short space of seventeen days, two hurricanes and a fire spread their resistless destruction over country and sea; for the ruin and loss sustained by the vessels in the bay, and on the coast, is almost incredible, and many years must elapse ere the remembrance of such scenes is effaced.

But enough of preliminary remarks, I fear I have been too prolix and will therefore entreat my readers to suppose me landed at Bridgetown, on the thirtieth of October, early in the morning, and hastening to obtain breakfast, after which, duty called me first to the Barracks, then to the Adjutant General's office. Then the Lieut. General, commanding the forces, had to be waited on, with whose family I dined ; thus finishing my first day at Barbados.

This island is divided into eleven parishes called

Christ Church,	St. George,
St. Andrew,	St. Joseph,
St. John,	St. Lucy,
St. James,	St. Michael.
St. Philip,	St. Peter,
St. Thomas.	

all of which I visited though not all which I shall describe at length ; but pursue the same plan of journalizing, as in my endeavour to paint sketches of the other islands,

and commence with the principal town near which I had my quarters allotted.

Bridgetown, which contains a population of 25,000, is about two miles in extent, though regarded from the bay it appears much more considerable, and to quote the words of the author of *Four Years' Residence in the West Indies*, "the beautiful clusters of palm and cocoa trees, which are seen, ever and anon rising amongst the houses, give it a very pretty and interesting appearance. The harbour, too, is one scene of life and bustle ;—a little fleet lying in the bay, and a frigate with its lofty masts o'ertopping those of the surrounding ships, and waving its long pennant in the sunbright air :—vessels lately arrived, with all their colours flying ; and one or two under full sail, tacking about the mouth of the harbour, and endeavouring to make good their entrance ; boats too in "number numberless ;" and sloops, and schooners, and canoes :—mingled sounds—the hallooing of sailors, the clanging of cable chains, the rattling of cordage,

and the merry song of the watermen, as they towed immense flats, laden with sugar, to the ships that were to take them in."

Such is the cheerful scene often presented to the voyager on his approach to Bridgetown, and, unless his imagination is very soaring, he will be satisfied. Having said thus much of its general appearance from the sea—we will enter the town, of which the like remarks may be made. If no splendid specimens of architecture are found in the buildings, but few faults are discernible ; and some of the streets are uniform and handsome. The cathedral is spacious, but is far surpassed in beauty by the two churches which have been erected within the last few years. Trafalgar Square, containing Nelson's monument, presents a neat appearance, and is a subject of great pride to the Barbadians, who declare, that though, perhaps not equal in extent, or beauty to the Trafalgar Square of London, the inhabitants of *little England* may pride themselves upon having a priority of thirty years in date ;

and in setting an example of honor to the memory of the illustrious naval hero. London must yield this credit to the colonies, and could the good people of Barbados read the remarks upon meagre fountains, pedestals without statues, &c. &c., they would exult still more over their own favorite spot.

That part called Fontabelle, combines the advantages of town and country, and is prettily ornamented with gardens, in which are seen the Mango, the Shaddock, the orange, the grape or forbidden fruit, with the grape vine, the bell apple, or water lemon vine, and the beautiful noyau vine, mingled with and illumined by sweet scented roses, fragrant Jasmin, and various shrubs and flowers. A similar combination of loveliness is enjoyed at Pilgrim House, the Governor's residence, whilst at the government secretary's office, and in an orchard opposite to Beccles' spring, were in 1843, Bread fruit trees in full bearing. A smile would relax the features of a Scotchman as he compared the houses of this little city, built princi-

pally of wood, and which are seldom raised above two stories, with the lofty ones of his own capital ; whilst the wooden balconies round most of them would cause *la maladie du pays*, to the inhabitant of Switzerland.

The public buildings are good ; the jail spacious, airy, and well regulated as to interior arrangements ; the prisoners being classified and properly attended to in every respect. Opposite to the jail is the Court, or House of Assembly, a fine and large building.

The Commissariat Office is in the Square, but nearly all the other Government establishments are situated in the neighbourhood of the Garrison of St. Ann, which may justly be styled the pride of Barbados. A good road, about two miles in length, leads to the Barracks, which are very commodious, both for officers and men, with galleries extending in front ; the mess-room is large and convenient, and the parade ground is not surpassed by any in the West Indies. This last is the Hyde Park of Little England,

and often presents quite as animated a scene as the one of which it is the humble prototype—in *Great England*. Next to St. Ann's comes, in beauty and interest, Codrington College, which stands on the borders of Scotland, near the sea. Its situation is, comparatively, low, but the buildings are handsome, the apartments spacious, and the gardens and premises exceedingly pretty, enlivened and refreshed by streams gliding through them. These streams produce water cresses in abundance. The episcopal palace stands upon the rock of Gibraltar; and the race course is situated near a small eminence, called Highgate. Where it not for the difference of scenery and inhabitants, an Englishman might almost fancy himself in his native country; for Hastings, Worthing, Bath, &c., &c., surround him; besides many other names, which constantly remind of him of home.

Bridgetown, besides the race course previously mentioned, can boast a theatre, which is often visited by comedians from America; and one recently constructed by private

subscription, at St. Ann's, where there is much amusement, not only for the garrison, but for many of the townspeople, who contribute their assistance. This building is large, the decorations handsome, and the performances reflect great credit on the company; the characters being, generally, more than creditably sustained. The commercial rooms command a beautiful view of Carlisle Bay, the shipping, the carenage, and the signal staff, at Fort Charles, the entrance of the bay. All the English and Colonial papers are taken, and officers of both army and navy have free admission.

The late general, Sir Lionel Smith, more than ten years since, established a library for the garrison at St. Ann's, to which many officers in other colonies subscribe. It contains a choice collection of books, maps, periodicals, and journals; which, with a billiard table, form a great source of amusement in a climate where, of necessity, much time must be passed within doors, or in some place shaded from the heat of the sun.

Besides the commercial rooms before mentioned, Bridgetown can boast of a literary association, and a church library, situated next the central school, and nearly opposite Queen's house; to which may be added the juvenile library.

For the comfort of travellers and the luxurious, there are several good hotels and a constant supply of ice; which last is brought from America. Ice creams, and water ices may be procured at the establishment in High street, as reasonably as in London, or Paris. In such a climate this is a great luxury, and one in which Barbados possesses a superiority over every other colony; for though Trinidad and English Guiana are occasionally supplied, Bridgetown alone has an establishment. Nor is this the only luxury this island can boast for the epicure. The flying fish, one of the most delicate of the finny tribe, is abundant during the season; but at no other of the windward or leeward colonies can it be procured; though it is natural to suppose it is near the coasts.

One was found in the mouth of a man of war bird, shot at Tobago.

A well organized police force ensures perfect order and tranquillity throughout the island; the redundant population of which renders the utmost vigilance essential; though the inhabitants, generally, including the families of the emancipated slaves, appear peaceably and well disposed.

It has been observed that Barbados is more densely peopled than any part of the world in proportion to its size and extent, China, perhaps, alone excepted: and as no emigration takes place this population may be expected to increase from year to year. If, occasionally, a few of the labouring class remove to Demerara, Trinidad or elsewhere, it is but to earn a little money, which aim accomplished, they return to their cherished home. Perhaps it is surprising that the lower orders should be so attached to this colony, where all the lands are occupied, considering that in others there is much waste, only requiring a little industry to

render them, in many respects, better off; whilst there exists so much competition for employment at Barbados, that wages must be comparatively low.

In speaking of the garrison of St. Ann's Mr. Coleridge is rather severe upon what he styles the farce of reading the prayers in the open air, on the parade ground, and he says his opinion was shared by many. How the beautiful liturgy of the church, read by a clergyman, to a congregation of attentive soldiers, or a hymn of thanksgiving, poured forth under the canopy of the Heavens whose maker they worshipped, could be a farce, I will not attempt to decide, but that practice has long ceased, and a barrack room fitted with a pulpit for the minister, benches for the soldiers, and chairs for the ladies and their families, serves for the temple of worship, till a church can be erected. Another room is, in like manner, appropriated for the Roman Catholics amongst the military, who attend and join in the service performed by a priest of their own church.

For comfort and health every convenience is afforded, sea bathing, jetties, and wooden houses being placed at convenient distances over the sea, extending to Fontabelle, the villages of Hastings and Worthing, and all open to the public. These bathing houses form a great source of comfort and health to the town, and it is to be hoped an establishment for fresh, warm, or tepid baths, similar to those in Guadaloupe and Martinique, will soon be formed, as an addition to the luxury above named.

But all the comforts and amusements of Barbados must sink into insignificance before the Ladies' Association for the relief of the indigent, sick, and infirm; an institution that has been productive of infinite good; and banished, or at least prevented, mendicancy. It is entirely conducted by ladies who fill the various offices of secretary, treasurer, &c. and who, like the *sœurs de charité*, devote their time and resources to the alleviation of suffering humanity. The funds of this fine institution are supported by volun-

tary donations from the inhabitants, the Governor, and all the general officers and their families; and by an annual bazaar, which never fails to be highly productive. By these funds the poor, who are unable to work, are provided with an asylum and well maintained; whilst persons out of employment are assisted to procure it, and relieved from immediate distress. A visit to this institution, and a sight of the comforts dispensed in the meals and lodging, is a most gratifying sight, serving to rouse feelings which render us better in the sight of God, and happier in ourselves. *

If other colonies in the West Indies have not adopted the same method of providing for their helpless poor, it is presumed some different measures are pursued to effect such a no less salutary, than benevolent object, be-

* This charitable establishment has now continued improving for twenty one years, and must therefore have been commenced under the government of the late General Sir Henry Warde, and should be recorded as one of the most important and happy events of his administration.

cause, neither before nor since slave emancipation, have beggars been seen publicly asking charity, at least not in the Windward or Leeward British islands. That there was no mendicity during the time of slavery can easily be imagined, for the greater part of the poor, being slaves, were supported by their masters whether fit or unfit for employment, but subsequent to that event when all being free, none of them could claim gratuitous support, the indigent, sick, and infirm, have been and still are kept from want. This reflects the greatest credit on the West India population generally.

Intelligence of all kinds is disseminated through the whole of the colonies and parts of the united kingdom, by means of six newspapers, which are published every week in Barbados, and from its geographical position information, from North and South America is easily obtained by the editors. Were it not for this circumstance we might be puzzled to conceive how materials for six journals could be found in a place of such

small extent. These papers are distinguished by the names of The Barbadian, Barbados Globe, Barbados Mercury, The Liberal, The Standard, the West Indian, which may be seen in different parts of the world, and in London may be procured of Mr. Simmonds, 18 Cornhill.

Recently two banks have been established, one called the Colonial, and the other the West Indian Bank, these are, in a commercial point of view, great acquisitions to the island.

To some of my readers an estimate of the products for several years may not be uninteresting, therefore I will give one for 1839—1841—1843

1839. Sugar, 27,231 hogsheads, 1,396 tierces, 1,224 barrels.

Molasses, 198 puncheons, 664 hogsheads
197 barrels.

Arrow root, 510 packages.

Ginger, 2,610 ditto.

Cotton, 549 bales.

Aloes, 1082 Gourds.

1841. Sugar, 16,711 hogsheads, 1,461 tierces, 1013
and a quarter barrels.
Molasses, 221 puncheons, 154 hogsheads, 75
barrels.
Arrow root, 403 packages.
Ginger, 192 ditto.
Cotton, 414 bales.
Aloes, 1,360 gourds.
1843. Sugar, 23,548 hogsheads, 1404 tierces, 805
and a half barrels.
Molasses, 5096 puncheons, 337 and a half
hogsheads, 37 barrels.
Arrow root, 316 packages.
Ginger, 17 ditto.
Cotton, 254 bales.
Aloes, 4478 gourds.†

* The Gourd is from fifty to sixty pounds weight.

CHAPTER II.

I SHALL pass over the space between the 30th of October 1840, and the 2nd of March, because, keeping closely to my quarters at St. Ann's, or attending regimental duties elsewhere, my attention was only devoted to Bridgetown, which I have, I hope, sketched clearly enough to make my readers at a distance look on it, not with the eyes of strangers. Well then to resume, on the second of March I accompanied a party of ladies and

gentlemen to the porous spring, a place I had visited in the previous November, but, when there, was obliged to shelter from the rain, for hours, in a house near, and then return to St. Ann's without satisfying my curiosity. This morning, however, the sun shone with rays of bright promise, and the eight miles riding through the island was pleasant.

The water at this spring is clear and abundant; and flows through pipes to the road, where a pool is formed to receive it from a height of twelve or fourteen feet. Thus it looks pretty, and is at the same time is useful; as the pool is used for washing. An extensive and delightful garden, well stocked with fruit as well as ornamental trees; and these further adorned with flowers of various colors, encompass this spring; so that visitors may enjoy a cool retreat from the sun under the waving foliage of the former; whilst the delicate as well as the bright colors of the latter delight their eyes. There are numerous estates in the vici-

nity, and at the police station, situated on one of them, we dined ; and early in the evening returned to town.

On the seventh of March, I rose early, and rode from the barracks, through Bridgetown, to Holetown, famous as being the place where the English formed their first settlement. A gigantic tree, with the date of that memorable event, 1625, and about eighty names of the enterprising adventurers carved on its trunk, on the beach, near this town, formerly designated the spot where the landing was first effected ; but within the last sixty years it has been felled and carried away for fuel. The want of that article must have been very great to induce any one to commit such an atrocious depredation.

My ride from Hole Town led me some miles farther to Speightstown, next to Bridgetown in size and consequence. In its neighbourhood are beautiful views, and at a short distance is Dover hill, on which is a small fort and signal post.

Accompanied by Mr. Richard Morris and

Mr. Harpur Morris, I rode to cherry tree hill ; whence is a commanding view of the beautiful district named Scotland ; a sight, perhaps, to leave a more pleasing impression on the mind, than many possessed of bolder outlines ; pleasing from the fertility, the cheerfulness spread around. I dined and spent the night with Mr. Richard Morris ; and the next morning, before breakfast, rode to my quarters in St. Ann's barracks. Twelve miles riding gives a good appetite, and my repast was highly relished. After resting a few hours, I again rode forth for a visit to a country house, called Goslins.

March the thirteenth, re-visited Speights-town, to be present at a bazaar, held by the the ladies in aid of the funds of the association. 'Twas a pretty sight to see the many persons assembled, all animated by one feeling, of the purest kind ; one which brings blessings on the giver, and one which the Saviour has declared to be the greatest of all virtues. My mite was freely bestowed ; and after a day of much quiet enjoyment,

I again claimed the hospitality of Mr. R. Morris for the night, in order to go with him the next morning to Turner's hall wood, and the burning spring.

This singular spring is situated in a ravine, almost concealed by large trees at the commencement of the wood ; and at first sight appears only an ordinary pool of cold water ; over which, when emptied with a calabash, a kind of reversed funnel is placed, and the under part closed, so as to exclude air ; then a copper tube, the size of half a gun barrel, which it resembles, is fixed on the funnel ; and a lighted piece of straw applied to the top of the tube. This causes the gas to rise and on some occasions to ignite ; but now, when the light was applied, the gas rose slowly, first in smoke, and then followed by rather a faint, though clear flame ; over which we suspended a saucepan, containing cold water and two eggs. In about twenty five minutes, the eggs were quite hard. Mr. Morris assured me he had seen them boiled in one third of that

time; but the flame was weaker this morning than he had ever known it. The truth of this statement I can attest; for in the November previous, I partook of some which were hard in ten minutes. This difference is occasioned by the weather. In the rainy season, the blaze is always more vivid than during dry weather; as was fully proved to me, on my first visit, by the man who shews the spring.

After extinguishing the flame, and removing the apparatus, he simply touched the edge of the pool with a lighted straw, on which it instantly became encircled with a bright fire, and occasioned much trouble to extinguish. It had been raining heavily the whole of the previous day, which most likely produced the prompt ignition. The light is put out by means of large boughs, as it would continue to burn if not forcibly extinguished, and would be dangerous. When the apparatus is removed, the pool, which has commenced to refill by the water quite

cold oozing from below, resumes its natural appearance.

Close to this spring, in the same ravine, flows another of clear fresh water, which I tasted, and enjoyed, it is so totally different from the water in the pool, which is muddy and nasty in appearance. Various are the names and inscriptions cut on the large locust trees at the entrance of the wood, which extends over fifty acres, replete with the trees just named as well as cedar, and many other valuable kinds, which have withstood the devastating hurricanes, the awful shocks of earthquakes, and the storms so destructive to this colony. This is in all probability the result of its situation, for though on high land, it is sheltered by comparatively higher, lying in a sort of hollow between mountains.

There are many estates in the vicinity besides the one of which it forms a part.

After resting on a rock above the spring and enjoying our eggs, we returned through the district of Scotland, passing many fine

estates, and a tar hole, which, I believe, resembles a pool of water with a substance on the surface said to possess the properties of tar. Of these tar holes there are several in the island, to which they are said to be peculiar, though surely the pitch pools in Trinidad are similar. After inspecting this, we ascended to Grenada Hall signal post, whence is an extensive view over the island.

From this eminence, nearly all round you, the sea is visible, which, with the bright sun sparkling on its waves, and the white sails, scattered upon its surface, some appearing just on the edge of the horizon—others steering majestically into port, contributes greatly to the beauty of the picture.

Again I trespassed on the hospitality of Mr. R. Morris for the night, and in the morning, enjoyed an early ride with him through an interesting part of the island to the estate of Mr. Harpur Morris, called Bright's Hall, in the parish of St. Lucy.

To really enjoy riding in the West Indies, the morning, just at sunrise, should be the

time selected, when the dew drops glisten upon every spray, the air is refreshing, and the feathery foliage of the mountain cabbage, and palms, wave in the early breeze ; nor do the flowers, though the midday sun may add to the brilliancy of their colours, look less lovely, when just opening their bright blossoms to receive its first rays.

Mr. H. Morris offered me a place in his carriage, and to drive me to a spot called Cove, through Pye corner, and under a Peak called Teneriffe ; but let no one suppose from the name, that it bears any great resemblance to the far famed peak of that name.

After this drive we proceeded on horseback towards the animal flower cave. Dismounting and walking over the rocks, we approached the cave, but the sea was too high, too boisterous, to admit of penetrating far, or of discerning animal flowers, which are only visible in calm weather, and at low water ; thus I was disappointed in my wish of inspecting this natural curiosity, but for the amusement of my readers I extract a few

lines I have since met with, which appear to me to give a clear and graphic description. *

One part of this cave is styled the horse ; and one of the rocks is designated, from its shape, the cauldron, with another in its centre resembling a round of beef.

We also descended into the bachelors' cave, which is certainly worth trouble to inspect ; but here also I was disappointed, for the sea was beating in with such violence, that our efforts to examine its wonders were all fruitless.

A cheerful family party and a good din-

* The animal flower caves are well worthy the notice of travellers ; these beautiful animalculi have all the rich and varied tints of the rainbow ; when undisturbed in the clear silvery waters of their caves they have a novel, enchanting appearance, ever influencing the beholder, on his first visit, with a strong desire of making himself, if possible, the proud possessor of one of them. But no sooner does an intruding hand, even a drop of water create a circle on the sleeping surface, and disturb the unbroken plain, than they instantaneously disappear, most probably for safety, 'midst the numerous interstices of the rocks.

ner, dispelled my chagrin at my curiosity having been baffled, after which I rode back to my quarters, at the residence of Mr. R. Morris.

16th. I set out alone and took a circuitous route through a great part of the district Scotland, which I have frequently heard called the most pleasing portion of Barbados ; upon such points I never attempt to decide ; certainly it will stand a comparison with any ; and passing as I did, this morning, through Turner's Hall wood, Warren's, &c. just after which is seen the Moravian church, which forms one of the prettiest objects from the road, thence on to Wessen Hall, and the Porous Spring, where I stopped to indulge my horse with a draught of pure water from

* From the summit of Mount Hillaby, the sea is visible all round the island, which then appears as represented in the maps ; but neither of the towns can be discerned though the eye wanders over estates in various directions, looking down upon Hackleton cliff and other elevations, which gazing at them from a height of 1147 feet above Carlisle Bay, appear low.

the limpid stream ; and then proceeded to Dunscomb, Farmers, (the lower part of Mount Hillaby)* into Bridgetown, formed a delightful excursion, occupying a space of six hours tolerably fast riding.

In the evening I dined with General Maister and his lady in company with a gay party, and retired to my barrack at night refreshed, rather than fatigued ; in anticipation of a ride to Gun Hill, and Hackleton cliff, the next morning.

Eighteenth March, we started, a party of us in carriages, to breakfast at Gun hill ; and then went to St, John's church, ; thence to enjoy the beautiful view from Hackleton cliff, over the district I had rambled the previous day ; and presenting an opposite view to that obtained from cherry tree hill. A dinner, and an increase to our party, awaited our return to Gun hill ; which is well situated ; serving, as well as the signal post of Moncreiff, as convalescent posts for the soldiers of the garrison ; the air being considered salubrious on these heights.

On the twenty fifth of March, I rode from St. Ann's early in the morning, and took breakfast with the family of the Diamond estate ; after which I rode, with Mr. Watts, to St. Philip's church, and leaving him there; proceeded alone, past Moncreiff signal post, to the abode of his brother, who first took me to the society chapel ; and thence to Codrington college.

To the kindness of Mr. Jones, the principal, I am indebted for the pleasure I felt in inspecting this institution ; but which has so often been the subject of eulogium from visitors to Barbados, that I shall not venture a repetition. I was delighted with the situation and with the order and comfort of every thing I saw.

The Rev. Mr. Watts kindly gave me dinner and a bed for the night, that I might be earlier with his brother the next morning, with whom I had arranged to visit the Crane, Dawlish, and other spots facing the Cobbler's rocks, which I had passed at sea in December 1839.

26th. The Crane, Cobbler's rocks, and Dawlish are indeed curious places. The first consists of caves in rocks, with baths, either natural or hewn, into which the sea washes at high water. There are three of these caves, or baths, bearing the singular appellations of the horse, the mare, and the colt; differing in size, and separated from each other; but certainly bearing no resemblance to the animals they are named from.

The rocks in which these cavities are situated project completely over the sea, and form a natural curiosity and beauty, no one would visit Barbados and not inspect,*

* Over one of the baths at the Crane the following lines are inscribed.

In this remote, hoarse, resounding place
 Which billows wash and craggy cliffs embrace;
 These bubbling springs amid these horrors rise,
 But armed with virtue horrors we despise,
 Bathe undismayed, not dread the impending rock,
 'Tis virtue shields us from each adverse shock.

Genio loci sacrum possuit.

J. R.

Martes Mense 1769.

Dawlish, which is at some little distance from the Crane, contains a kind of cavern, into which you descend by a flight of steps, which conducts you to two large baths, one on the land side, replenished by a spring of cold, fresh water ; the other by the sea flowing into it ; but at high tide, the waves rush in with such impetuosity, as to overflow the division that exists between the baths, and mingling with the fresh water, form only one, till the sea retiring leaves the two distinct again ; the one, calm and unruffled, but the other still agitated by the ever restless waves.

The coral reef, called by mariners the Cobbler's Rocks, whether seen from the sea or shore, is terrific to behold. At some distance from the shore, the raging billows rush over them with a thundering sound, and throw up constantly a foaming serf. 'Tis beautiful to see the white foam flying over these dark masses, and watch it falling in light, feathery showers, sparkling in the sun ; whilst the roaring of waters almost inspires

a feeling of awe in the minds of the listeners, which is changed into that of horror at the sight of large spars and fragments of vessels floating between these rocks, telling sad tales of wrecks, and loss of life ; of the destruction of many a gallant barque, the grave of many a hapless sailor. Strange it is that, though such misery often attends ships, from Europe, making towards land on this coast, and so many times as it has been projected, this dangerous reef is still without a lighthouse.

No one can wonder, after so much exploring, that I hastened with alacrity to accept the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Howard, at the River estate, to dine ; nor that I highly enjoyed a dish of sea eggs, which amongst other delicacies, was provided, and which appeared to me of superior excellence. The River estate, is a few miles distant from Cobbler's Rocks, and is a fine property ; but unlike the place of similar name in the valley of Diego Martin, in Trinidad, offers not the smallest stream to refresh the sight.

29th. March. I parted from Mr. Watts and family, and returned to St. Ann's, being drenched with rain during my ride.

I rested quietly in my quarters till the third of April; and then I went with Mr. Bradfield to Mr. Grant's residence, in the parish of St. Thomas for the purpose of visiting Cole's Cave, which is about nine miles from Bridgetown, inland, and almost in the centre of the island.

Passing on the high road, near which it is situated, a stranger would imagine that he saw only a small copse, in a hollow. The descent to it is almost perpendicular; by a cable, fastened to large stumps of trees above, and to rocks at the entrance of the cave, the visiter is enabled to descend. The darkness enforces the necessity of torches, by the light of which you advance about a hundred yards to a spring and rivulet of cold, fresh water. Many visiters have waded along this stream to a considerable distance; but not one, that I could hear of, ever reached the end of the cave. Marvellous are the

tales told of this subterranean rivulet and cave, which no doubt extends a considerable distance ; for, though no outlet has been discovered in any part of the island, a tale is told of a duck having been put in its waters, and afterwards found at a distant part of the coast, stripped of its plumage, as if it had encountered difficulties in its transit.

Time, which brings every thing to light, will no doubt solve this mystery ; I cannot, for I only penetrated to the spring, and then returned to the carriage, to breakfast with Mr. Grant.

It is remarked that little fruit is produced at Barbados ; but that little is certainly very good, particularly the pines and melons, which are superior in flavour to those of the neighbouring colonies.

Many persons suppose, that during the tremendous hurricane of August 1831, the island was entirely stripped of trees ; but this is an exaggeration of that awful visitation ; for, though a great part of them were blown down, and many more uprooted,

a considerable number withstood the shock. Among the rest, a very large silk cotton tree, in a street branching off towards Fontabelle, just past a broad central street, adorned with a large, well-formed image of the roebuck, from which it derives its name.

Of this identical tree the Barbadians are wont to say "When that tree is blown down or rooted up, we shall be attacked, not before" ; alluding to the fact, that the colony has never been invaded by a hostile force, excepting the invasion of the parliamentary army, in 1651 ; and the slight attack of the Dutch, in 1664.

Long may this tree flourish to protect the place it embellishes ! But, besides this, there were to be seen in July, 1843, avenues of mahogany, and other trees, leading up to many of the houses in the country, and cocoa nut trees in various directions, particularly on the road between St. Ann's and the small town of Oistins ; and surely some of these must have escaped the fury of the hurricane ; or, quick as vegetation is in

this clime they could not have attained their present size, in so short a space.

There is always a delightful feeling engendered by a return to Barbados, however much we may have been pleased with other places ; it is a feeling of home, and that sensation has come so strongly over me at times, that I doubt whether the first sight of old England would produce greater. In these days of railroads and steam vessels, with the rage for travelling endemical amongst my countrymen, a return to England is a common occurrence ; but an absence of sixteen years will excuse a little sentiment on such an occasion : even distance is nothing now, for if the thought come of being three or four thousand miles from home, the next instant brings the knowledge, that that distance can be accomplished in twenty one days.

VENEZUELA.

CHAPTER III.

THE north eastern part of South America appertains to the torrid zone, and is situated between the 1st and 8th, the 12th and 16th degrees of north latitude, and $60^{\circ} 36'$ and $75^{\circ} 38'$ Longitude, west from Paris. In the north and east the territory of the Republic is bounded, by the ocean, from Cabo de Chichebacao, to Cabo de Paria or Punta de la Penna ; on the Caribbean sea and thence, to the limits of British Guiana, by the Atlantic.

The Punta de la Penna is the most north eastern point of South America, and forms, with the opposite western point of Trinidad, the Punta de Monos. In the west, Venezuela borders on the territory of the republic of New Grenada ; in the south on British Guiana, and through unknown lands extends to the boundaries of Brazil, thus comprising the great plain to the east of the Andes and bordering on the sea.

At the dissolution of the Republic of Colombia in 1830, that vast extent of country was separated into three great parts ; that of Venezuela, comprising the establishment of a new province, called Barquisimeto, was divided into thirteen provinces, comprising eighty eight municipal districts, and these again into five hundred and twenty three parishes.

Guayana and Margarita preserve the original names of their respective territories ; the province of Apure is named after the river forming its boundary ; and that of Carobo after the field of battle on which the

decisive victory, that secured the independence of the country, was achieved. The others are called after their respective principal cities.

The province of Caraccas has nearly the form of an irregular octagon, extending from north to south sixty, and from east to west sixty two leagues, and contains 2829 square leagues of surface, with a population of 242,888 souls. The limits are, in the north, the Caribbean sea from the mouth of the river Unare to the point Aroa, between Cuyagua and Chrononi ; in the east, the district of Barcelona ; in the south Apure and Guayana ; and in the west Carabobo and Barinas. This province is divided into sixteen cantons called after their principal towns ; the chief is Caraccas, including seventeen parishes, which is also the capital of the republic of Venezuela ; the seat of the executive power ; and of the highest court of justice ; the residence of the Archbishops ; and there the annual three months assembly and national congress are held. It contains sixteen

churches, including six monasteries, of which three are inhabited by nuns ; a university, an ecclesiastical seminary, a military, drawing, and music academy, and several public and private schools ; amongst them, the colleges of Independence and Peace.

The names of the other cantons are,

La Guayra,	containing eight parishes.
Petare,	. . . three ditto.
Guarenas,	. . . two ditto.
Santa Lucia,	. . . two ditto.
Ocumara,	. . . five ditto.
Caucagua.	. . . five ditto.
Rio Chico,	. . . nine ditto.
Orituco,	. . . four ditto.
Chaguaramos,	. . . ten ditto.
Vittoria,	. . . three ditto.
Maracai,	. . . two ditto.
Turmiro,	. . . three ditto.
Cura,	. . . five ditto.
San Sebastian,	. . . seven ditto.
Calabozo,	. . . ten ditto.

The province of Carabobo is about $47\frac{1}{2}$ leagues from north to south ; and $21\frac{1}{2}$ from east to west ; contains 679 square leagues, without counting the seventeen square leagues

of which the lake of Valencia consists, with a population of 96,967. On the north it extends along Punta de Aroa, to the mouth of Yaracui six leagues west of Puerto Cabello, on the Caribbean sea ; joins the province of Caraccas in the east ; that of Barinas to the south ; and in the west a small part of Coro, Barquisimeto, and Barinas. Carabobo includes thirty four parishes divided into seven cantons.

Valencia, which contains nine parishes.	
Puerto Cabello . . .	five ditto
Ocumara . . .	four ditto
Nigua . . .	four ditto.
Montalban . . .	three ditto
San Carlos . . .	seven ditto
Pao, a small town, includes only one.	

Valencia, the capital of the province, is a well built city, with good broad streets, and an excellent market place, and contains a college and several schools ; reckons about sixteen thousand inhabitants, who enjoy a healthy and delightful climate.

This city is most advantageously situated

for commerce, forming as it do these high road over which all the merchandize, sent from the interior to Puerto Cabello passes. The lake of Valencia, which, according to Humboldt, is 222 toises above the level of the sea, and from two hundred to two hundred and fifty feet deep, contributes, by its evaporation, to the fertility of the valleys of Aragua.

Puerto Cabello was formerly strongly fortified, but all the fortifications, excepting a battery at the entrance of the harbour, have been demolished since 1825 ; and the castle of San Fernando, or the Liberator, is at present without artillery, or garrison. During the war of independence the port suffered severely, and the number of its inhabitants was reduced from nine to six thousand.

The province of Barquisimeto is bounded on the north, by the Caribbean sea, to the mouth of the river Yaracui, and by the province of Coro ; on the east, by the province of Carabobo ; on the south by those

Barinas, and Truxillo ; and on the west by Truxillo and Maracaibo. It is forty leagues from north to south, and the same distance from east to west. The chief productions are wheat, coffee, cocoa, indigo, maize, and all European vegetables. The town of Barquisimeto, formerly new Segovia, was constituted, in the year 1830, capital of the province under its present name, stands in the midst of a very fertile region ; and is well situated for commerce with Yaritagua, San Felipe, Aroa, the plains of Carabobo, and Barinas. This town was destroyed by the earthquake of 1812 ; but has been handsomely rebuilt, and boasts its college and schools, and from ten to twelve thousand inhabitants.

Besides Barquisimeto, there are the cantons of

Quibor, containing two parishes,	
Tocuyo . . .	eight ditto
Carora . . .	eight ditto
San Felipe . . .	six ditto
Yaritagua . . .	four ditto

Tocuyo lies on a fine, mountain level, on the banks of a river of the same name ; the inhabitants are very active and industrious, and cultivate corn and vegetables of every description ; besides feeding large herds of cattle, a species of trade introduced into the province by Christobal Rodriguez, in 1548.

San Felipe is steadily progressing in population, and, from the nature of its situation, will become of importance. The town is handsome.

Coro suffered greatly in the struggle for independence, and, though it has in some degree recovered, is not to be compared to the other towns of Venezuela ; no pavement is to be seen in its streets, and the houses are very poor. The public buildings consist of only two churches ; added to which, it stands in the midst of a sterile plain, half a league from the sea, and two from the harbour, La Vela ; so that the inhabitants have no water to drink, but what is conveyed, from a league distance, on mules. Verily I have no wish to live in Coro.

The other districts of the province are

Paraguana,	containing	six	parishes.
San Luis	.	.	six ditto
Cumare	.	.	three ditto
Costa Ariba	.	.	five ditto
Casigua	.	.	six ditto

And all these, with the capital, included in in a space of 941 leagues, with 40,476 inhabitants, bordering on the Caribbean sea, on the north ; the province of Maracaibo to the west ; and that of Barquisimeto, and the ocean, south and east.

The greatest extent of the province of Maracaibo, from north to south, is 87 leagues ; from east to west 58 ; the number of its inhabitants is computed at 42,830 ; it comprises nineteen parishes, divided into the provinces of Maracaibo, Alta, Gracia, Perija, Gibraltar, and Zulia. The principal town is built on a sandy, arid soil, partly on an islet, and has a poor appearance ; the houses being constructed of very slight materials, and roofed with rushes ; a pretty church, a convent, hospital, and chapel, are the only buildings worthy naming. Like Coro, it

suffered much during the war, and remained the longest in the possession of the Spaniards ; during which period, its population dwindled, from 20,000, down to 10,000. The fortifications, which defend the entrance of the lake, and consequently protect also the provinces of Coro, Truxillo, Barquisimeto and Merida, are preserved, and the present Government has established a college, several public schools, and a maritime school. The low situated provinces, near the lake, are very insalubrious, but the other portions, though arid and sterile, are considered healthy.

The lake of Maracaybo has a surface of seven hundred square leagues, forming a kind of inland sea of fresh water, and communicating with the gulf of the same name, the most considerable of the Republic.

The Caribbean sea borders this province on the north ; the gulf of Maracaybo, with the districts of Coro, Barquisimeto and Truxillo on the east ; to the south Truxillo and Merida ; and on the west are New Grenada,

Pampelona, Santo Martha, and Rico Hacha.

Truxillo, the smallest province of the Republic, contains 362 square leagues, on which reside 44,788 persons, being 123 to a square league and comprises within its narrow limits, all climates and a soil yielding all the productions of the different zones, exporting however only sugar, coffee, cocoa and indigo.

The cantons of Truxillo, Carache, Escuque, and Bocono, comprise twenty three parishes. The city is very ancient, with a delightful climate and a population of four thousand ; but in Truxillo I would not live, for there the eye is assailed by the melancholy sight of the Goitre, which is attributed to the water.

Merida is surrounded by Truxillo and Maracaybo on the north ; the Grenada province, and Pampelona towards the west ; and Apure, Barinas, and Truxillo south and east. It is divided into the following municipal Districts.

Merida, including eight parishes.

Mucuchies, . . . seven ditto.

Egido,	.	.	six ditto.
Bailadores,	.	.	three ditto.
La Grita,	.	.	three ditto.
San Christobal	.	.	four ditto.
Lobatera,	.	.	three ditto.
San Antonio,	.	.	one ditto.

The capital, Merida, remained for some time in ruins after its destruction in 1812 ; and all traces of the visitation have passed ; a busy, industrious population now fill its well planned streets, throng the markets, and enjoy a climate of perpetual spring. It is the see of a Bishop and has a college, and a convent celebrated for the beauty of the fancy work done by the nuns.

La Grita is the most advantageously situated for commerce , but the small town of Mucuchies is the most beautifully situated perhaps of any in the Republic. Here the traveller might fancy himself among the mountains of Europe, such a resemblance does the vicinity bear to many lovely spots amongst the Appennines ; and up the mountains round Mucuchies the corn waves as

luxuriantly as before an English harvest. Here, were I not an Englishman, I would gladly dwell.

Barinas covers an extent of 1994 square leagues, on which reside a population of 109,497 souls, engaged principally in agriculture and the breeding of cattle.

The principal commerce of the province is carried on with Angostura by means of the rivers Apure and the Orinoco ; though it is intersected by the Portuguese, Bocono, Guanare, Suripa, and the Santo Domingo, all of which are navigable. This district is mostly comprised of plains fertilized by rivers, and capable of carrying on important commercial transactions. The principal places,

Barinas, comprising	twelve	parishes
Obispos,	.	thirteen ditto.
Guanare,	.	eight ditto.
Ospino,	.	two ditto.
Araura,	.	seven ditto.
Pedraza,	.	eight ditto.
Nutrias,	.	nine ditto.
Guanarito,	.	three ditto.

Barinas, in 1787, had a population of 1200 now reduced to about 4000, which reduction tells a sad tale of the horrors of war. The present town has only just risen from the

ashes of the former, but has nothing beyond respectability to attract the traveller, and is far surpassed by Guanare in appearance and importance ; this is owing to its favorable position, and the wealth of its inhabitants, whose chief occupation is the breed of cattle, of which they export vast numbers, as well as mules, over Coro and Puerto Cabello. Guanare is beautifully constructed, and possesses a handsome and richly decorated church.

Nutrias may be regarded as the principal haven of the rich province of Barinas, and the chief trading place of the Upper Apure.

Four cantons, containing twenty-four parishes, form the province of Apure ; situated south of Merida, Barinas, and Caraccas ; whence it is separated by the river Apure ; towards the east and south it borders Guayna on the Grenada provinces of Casanare and Pamplona. It is the most level, lowest, and least wooded of the Republic, therefore the most appropriate for herds and flocks, which seem to exist there without the care of man ;

particularly mules. The climate is usually healthy, but in 1832 an epidemical fever suddenly broke out, and continued raging, at times, till 1838, during which period nine thousand persons perished.

San Fernando, the chief place for the trade of the lower Apure, has been twice destroyed by fire. Owing to its advantageous position it has both times been speedily rebuilt; but it contains not more than three thousand inhabitants, who, the greater part of the year, are subjected to most oppressive heat.

With an extent of territory covering 1155 leagues, and divided into eight cantons, Barcelona is inhabited by a population of 52,103. The extent from north to south comprises 45 leagues; and from east to west, in the southern part along the Orinoco, it is 55, whilst in the north it extends only 28 leagues.

The town of Barcelona, situated at the commencement of the vast plains that reach to the Orinoco, is poorly built, but is in a

most favorable situation for trade with the West Indies ; many of the productions of the extensive and fertile valleys being exported thither. The river Neveri is navigable for coasting vessels from the town, and serves for communication with Santomas, Curazao, Trinidad, La Guaira, and Cumana ; whilst large vessels anchor in the bay of Barcelona, considered as the principal port in the province. Soledad, on the banks of the Orinoco opposite to Angostura, is also situated favorably for the produce of the southern part of the district.

The Cantons of Barcelona are

Barcelona, containing	eleven	parishes
Piritu, . . .	four	ditto.
Onoto, . . .	three	ditto.
Aragua, . . .	six	ditto.
San Matteo, . . .	five	ditto.
San Diego, . . .	seven	ditto.
Pao, . . .	four	ditto.
Soledad, . . .	eight	ditto.

Cumana is bounded on the north by the Caribbean sea ; north east by the gulf of

Paria ; on the south by the chief stream of the Orinoco ; on the west by Barcelona ; and east by the Canno Vagre. Its greatest extent is in the direction of south east, between San Rafael de Barrancas on the Orinoco, and the Punta Escarsero on the peninsula of Araya, reaching 64 leagues ; its whole surface being 1463 square leagues, with a population of 50,671.

The chief productions of the province are salt, maize, cotton, fish, cocoa, tobacco, and cocoa-nut oil, which principally pass by the harbours of Cumana, Carupano, Rio Cariba, Gurria, and on the river Guarapiche towards the ports of the Republic.

The island of Trinidad is a great source of profit and advantage to Cumana, the nine Cantons of which are

Cumana,	containing	six	parishes.
Cumanacoa,	.	six	ditto.
Cariaco,	.	seven	ditto.
Rio Caribe,	.	two	ditto.
Carupano,	.	nine	ditto.
Guiria,	.	four	ditto.

Aragua,	.	.	six	ditto.
Maturin,	.	.	six	ditto.
Barrancas,	.	.	three	ditto.

Cumana is the most ancient town in *Costa Firme*, and the capital of a province formerly called *New Andalusia*; it lies on an eminence, on an arid plain about a mile from the entrance of the bay of *Cariaco*, from which it is separated by a sandy level. This place was totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1766, and has so repeatedly suffered, that it possesses no fine buildings, and only on the banks of the *Manzanares*, which divides the town, is vegetation seen.

Cumanacoa is a small town containing 2300 inhabitants, situated on a spot where scarcely any rain ever falls; though only about seven leagues from *Cumana* it produces very superior tobacco, preferable to that grown at *Barinas*, and but little inferior to that of *Caribe*.

The province of *Guayana* is larger than the other twelve provinces of the Republic put together; extending over 20,149 square

leagues, bordering to the north on Barinas, Caraccas, Barcelona, and Cumana; to the east on the Gulf of Paria, the Atlantic Ocean, and British Guayana; towards the south on Brazil; and towards the west on new Grenada and Apure. It is divided into five cantons: viz. Angostura, Low Orinoco, Upata, Caicara and Rio Negro; of which the principal places are Angostura, Piacoa, Upata, Caicara, and San Fernando de Atabapo. Notwithstanding the superiority of Guyana in point of size it is very inferior in population, not containing as many civilized persons as any one of the other provinces: the total number of its inhabitants, according to Codazzi, scarcely exceeding 56,500, the greater part of which consists of independent tribes scattered over a territory of 16,000 square leagues; the remaining 4,149, having a population of 15,431, half of which consists of civilized native Indians.

For centuries past, Guyana has been the land of fable, and is yet for the most part a *terra incognita*; though latterly some im-

portant information has been obtained by the Chevalier Schomburg, in his adventurous researches on the borders of the Orinoco.

Angostura is the residence of the Bishop of Guayana, and possesses also a college with several public schools. A new cathedral was completed in 1841.

The island of Margarita, which constitutes the chief portion of the province of that name, is situated between $10^{\circ} 12'$ of north latitude, and 67° and $69'$ west longitude, and comprises a surface of 32 square leagues. The smaller islands, which are principally uninhabited, contain, collectively, about five; the whole province being inhabited by 18,305 souls.

Margarita was discovered by Columbus, in 1498, and soon obtained celebrity, for the pearls found on its coasts; a source of wealth which failed at the commencement of the seventeenth century. The island is six leagues from the continent and has three ports; the most important being Pampatar, on the south

eastern coast containing a fort that defends the entrance to a spacious, well sheltered Bay.

The coast is generally rocky and sterile ; but in the interior there are fertile lands yielding sufficient for home consumption though nothing for exportation, that principally consisting in the fish abounding on the coast, turtle, tortoise-shell, and a little poultry. The highest mountain, Cerro Macanao, is about 4890 feet above the sea, and is situated on the western part, which is almost totally uninhabited.

This province is divided into two cantons: 1st. that of Asuncion, including six parishes with the town of the same name, situated on a fruitful plain, watered by the rivulet Asuncion, and about two leagues from Pampatar. It is the residence of the Governor and contains a college and a school for pilots.

2nd. The Canton del Norte, with its chief town Norte nearly seven hundred feet above the sea ; but inclining, with a gentle slope of about two miles, to the second port San

Griego. To this canton, which includes six parishes, belong the islet of Blanquillo, and the group called Hermanos ; whilst the other islets of the province of Margarita, among which the largest are those of Coche and Cubagua, appertain to the municipal district of Asuncion.

The population of the thirteen provinces, collectively, may at this period, 1844, be estimated at about nine hundred and fifty souls.

Venezuela was constituted an independent Republic on the 11th of May, 1830 ; when the great Republic of Columbus was formally dissolved and divided into three, the others being named New Grenada, and Quito, or the Equator.

On the 14th of October, in the same year, in congress, in the city of Caraccas, it was decreed, that children born of slaves, from that date, should, on entering their eighteenth year, become free ; which law, having effect throughout the whole of Venezuela, may be regarded as an amendment of the decree promulgated by Bolivar, *el Libertador*,

CHAPTER IV.

In September, 1841, the minds of the inhabitants at Caraccas were much excited by intelligence, that the Chevalier Schomberg, accompanied by a military force, had hoisted the British standard at Barisna, taken possession of that place, and Amacuro, forming the entrance or mouths of the Orinoco, in the name of her majesty, the Queen of Great Britain; the ferment was very great, if not general, at least among the politicians, or political observers; and the government of the Republic so far attended to the report, as to send a commission

of two of the most respectable gentlemen of the country to the governor of Demerara, with a view to obtain explicit information on so momentous a subject. This, however, by the zealous patriots, was not considered sufficient, according to whom, more energetic measures should have been adopted ; they became more and more exasperated ; the journals took it up ; the one called *El Venezolano*" inveighed furiously against the supposed act of Aggression on the part of another power ; censured the proceedings of Government ; and urged, as expedient, the immediate employment of a strong force to repel the invasion of their territory.

This declamation was opposed by "*La Gaeeta*," which warmly defended the moderation of the executive power, and criticised severely the violent language of the other journalist ; who retorted with bitter remarks on his opponent ; this last, retorting with still more vehemence ; and thus "*El Venezolano*" and "*La Gaeeta*" waged a war of pens, on the important affair, till dispatches were received from the gentlemen, deputed by the

Governor of Demerara, announcing that all was satisfactorily explained, that the Chevalier's visit to Barisna was simply to make researches relative to his mission ; that he was *not* accompanied by a military party ; neither did he hoist any standard ; but only placed some land marks to determine, or assist his observations ; the gentlemen added " that the question as to limits of territory would be decided by the two cabinets." This declaration, in great measure, allayed the agitation, which certainly had not tended to injure the professional interests of the Venezuelan newspaper editors or proprietors ; in as much as the Chevalier Schomberg's visit to the mouths of the Orinoco, afforded them ample means of filling their papers, for several weeks ; during which period the subject was the universal topic of conversation in Caraccas, and probably throughout the Republic of Venezuela.

It appears yet doubtful to which of the two powers, the mouths of the Orinoco properly belong. In some old maps, they are

placed within the limits of the Dutch possessions ; when that which is now " British Guiana," formed part of them ; and what appertained, formerly, to the Dutch on that side, should surely belong to us now ; but the Venezueleans maintain that the mouths of the Orinoco were formerly comprised in the territories of the Spaniards, whose successors in that part of the world they have constituted themselves ; they therefore claim Barisna and Amacuro, and are said to have establishments there, whereas we certainly have not.

It was during this excitement I arrived at La Guayra, and took up my quarters for a few days, at the Hotel del Vapor. The weather was fine, and I looked forward with pleasure to seeing a little of this promising Republic ; traversing scenes, so greatly differing from those of home ; amongst people so opposite ; and I may say, who have made for themselves a name amongst nations, who have struggled for, and obtained freedom.

To me, La Guayra offered nothing remarka-

ble, either in situation, houses, or public buildings; yet it is flanked by mountains and ravines, that ought to be romantic, if not sublime. The heat is excessive! and that perpendicular cliff, Mr. Hawkshaw describes, with its naked, parched appearance, seems to make one hotter. I know not if that gentleman gave me the idea, but certainly I never looked at that cliff, without thinking of the sides of a brick oven, and turning to the sea to breathe more freely.

The day after my arrival, I dined with the vice-consul; and the next morning, started, on a hired mule, for Caraccas; at once commencing a winding path through the valley of Marquetas, and over lofty mountains; The journey over these heights is less fatiguing than crossing some of the mountains of Trinidad; but must cause great astonishment to a novice in travelling, particularly when he is told the ascent up which his mule is plodding its laborious way, is the high road to the capital; then the manner in which the merchandise is carried is amu-

sing, the appearance of the caleteros, carrying their fish upon long poles placed across the shoulders, then perhaps a herd of asses driven furiously by an arriero, half clothed, singing a kind of wild chorus whilst the animals he drives rush on as if frightened at the noise behind them. All this is novel, the scenery picturesque, and the path adorned by a profusion of wild flowers. About half way up the acclivity, there are two ventas, or posadas, close to each other, where it is requisite for the traveller to take refreshment, ere he proceeds farther ; and not only does he require some of the good things of this life, after his ride from La Guayra, but his mule needs rest and food also ! so here I remained, enjoying the converse of my host, whilst my mule ate his *malojo*, which is nothing more than green maize, or Indian corn, grown to a certain height, and cut down before it comes to maturity.

When circumstances will permit, it is advisable to start for this route early in the

morning, before the sun has dried up the dew drops from the branches, or made the flowrets droop beneath its scorching rays ; by doing this you breakfast at the venta and have time to enjoy the splendid views such an excursion affords : but all the beauty on the side of la Guayra, with the festoons of foliage, hanging, like a graceful curtain, around, and through which you gaze down on the sea, whilst the only idea to be formed is, that you are suspended in mid air over the town, is nothing to the magnificence of the view as you catch the first sight of the beautifully situated city of Caraccas. That lovely valley girdling the city, which is in turn girdled by towering mountains, the Silla rising high above the rest, like a parent watching over tenderly beloved children. Nothing can surpass the splendour of such a panorama. The wayfarer, when first the city, in its beauty, bursts to view, is more than five-thousand feet above the sea, and the valley, into which he gazes with such

wonder and delight, lies nearly 2,000 feet below him.

Ere I reached the plain, rain came on, and I entered the city wet through, observing nothing, and only anxious to reach the Hotel del Vapor. Such was my journey from La Guayra to Caraccas in 1841 ; but a friend, who left in 1842, told me that a carriage road over the mountains was almost completed ; he had passed over it, on horseback, and observed its rapid progress. The formation of this road had been planned by students from the college of Caraccas, and shows the stride of improvement making in this Republic.

Surely, in this speculative age, when every island must be crossed by a railroad, when England, to say nothing of the other nations of Europe, has a prospect of becoming something like a gridiron in appearance, a plan will soon be laid to cut a tunnel through the mountains, and a railroad transport future travellers, in an hour, a distance it took me

four of laborious riding to accomplish.

The city of Caraccas is very extensive, many of the streets being a mile and half in length ; but there is rather a sombre look pervading them, owing, in my opinion, to the houses which have a gloomy monastic appearance with barred windows and large doorways, resembling, in some respects, the *portes cochéres* seen in the mansions of the rich and great in Europe ; though here they look like the entrances to prisons. The churches are handsome and numerous, the cathedral still shews the same dial as it possessed in 1812 and the hand still denotes the hour, 4 o'clock p. m., at which that awful catastrophe occurred. Thus pointing out to the constant passers by the uncertainty of life, and how soon " even in the twinkling of an eye," they may be called to their doom ; but this is not the only thing we are reminded of by that mute monitor ; it tells us to be thankful that, 'midst the devastation and ruin then caused, we were spared, spared to enjoy the beauties of this beautiful

world, and bless that Almighty Power who watches over us, whose eye never sleeps, and who visits us with such calamities only in mercy, to teach us, self-depending mortals, as we are, how futile is our power, how omnipotent His.

One ornamental luxury is required in Caraccas ; a public garden for the general inhabitants, for though some private individuals have parterres abounding in all the beautiful trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers, of that region and others, in the greatest perfection and profusion, and amongst the most luxuriant are those of General Paez, and Madame Rivas, no place of the kind has yet been projected for the people ; neither is there a bathing establishment.

But the thing most required, in a state just struggling into intelligence, is wanted ; no public library opens its doors to satisfy the appetite for knowledge just beginning to be felt. In the colleges reside professors of the different European languages ; but something, surely, is required for others. Learning

must not be confined to a college. It is, therefore, a pity, that in a large city like this, more than one public library is not formed.

The market is well supplied with all the European fruits and vegetables ; besides those peculiar to the country and the tropics ; which are far superior to those seen in the colonies : the Cristophine, generally so rare, is here seen in immense heaps. But the plaza is not sheltered ; and there, hour after hour, the vendors sit exposed to the scorching mid-day sun, or the pelting rain.

As a residence, few places possess more advantages than Caraccas ; the climate agrees with persons of all nations ; private residences and living of every description are cheap ; or should an hotel be preferred, the daily expenses at the principal, including wine, &c., is only fourteen rials*. As a proof of its salubrity my hostess told me that invalids frequently came there in a

* A rial is half a franc or five pence English.

state of great languor and exhaustion, but after a few days their appetites returned, and they regained their wonted health.

A small theatre offers amusement for the lovers of the drama ; and a Tertulia at the Bolsa (Exchange) provides chess, billiards, dominos, cards, &c., or conversation ; but when I was in the city, this club was held at the hotel del Vapor.

The ladies of Caraccas seldom appear in the streets except on Sundays or religious festivals, when they are seen elegantly attired. Perhaps the want of carriages and the rugged, badly paved streets, are the reasons why they confine themselves within the precincts of their gardens ; but a good public promenade would add greatly to enliven the city. General Paez, who was President in 1841 possesses a handsome house, and a beautifully arranged garden, containing rare fruits, trees and flowers, but no guard or sentry at his door denoted it as the abode of any important functionary. General Loublotte has

since succeeded to his office of President of the Republic.

The inland trade of Venezuela is very considerable ; on the different roads large droves of mules laden with merchandize are constantly to be met, and the coming of these droves creates no little excitement ; for the muleteers drive them at full speed down hill so that travellers must be on the alert, and either rapidly precede the party or draw aside at a broad part of the path to allow them to pass.

The peons, peasants, or labourers are strong, active, and industrious ; but want of population is a great drawback to the advancement of commerce in this country ; to increase which the Government holds out great encouragement to emigrants, by grants of land, to settle there. In the afternoon of the day after my arrival, I proceeded, attended by a guide on foot, to Las Ajuntas, and was four hours on my journey.

Between las Ajuntas and Caraccas, at a place called La Rinosas, a short distance

from the road, two large trees were shewn to me, as that extraordinary kind, named "Palo de Vacca"; the owner of them gave me some of their sap, which had the same creamy semblance, the same flavor, as the sap of the tree, in the forest of Santa Cruz, described by Sir R. K. Porter; but on my mentioning that to General Paez, he said it was probably a mistake; and the trees at Rimosas were the "Caoutchoue", which yields a sap something similar to that of the Palo de Vacca.

I had some difficulty in conversing with General Paez, who would speak only Spanish, assuring me that he knew neither English or French; but I afterwards heard that he understood both languages, but was diffident in speaking them. His son speaks English and French perfectly well.

Baron Humboldt says, in his narrative, that, between Antemano Las and Ajuntas, he crossed the Rio Guayra, seventeen times; but at this period there were only three fords to pass through: perhaps the course of the river has been changed, or, as he advised a

new road, formed. He also describes the peach trees in the orchards, around Antemano, as full of blossoms in February, 1800. I saw these same orchards with the fruit not quite ripe, though, a part of it had been gathered.

At this little village I remained the night, and the next morning started early, passing through San Pedro, a place completely encircled by mountains, and Las Lajas, to Coquixas, a distance that took me ten hours to accomplish; but then it was through a charming scenery; sometimes I wended my way along a fertile valley, then over mountains, and into other hollows, if possible more luxuriant than the former; fording perhaps a river dashing on its rapid course to the sea. Bridges are so unusual in Venezuela that travelling in carriages is almost impossible. I passed along a good bridle road, but met no vehicle of any description.

September 15, I was journeying from Coquixas to Vittoria, traversing Consejo, and many villages and hamlets where,

if tired and faint, you may rest and obtain a simple repast, composed of chocolate, eggs, milk, cakes made of maize or Indian corn, and in places of somewhat more importance, at the *Pulperias*, good bread, biscuit, and rice are added.

In the neighbourhood of Vittoria are many cocoa and coffee plantations; it is hence the Vittoria wheat was brought, and no doubt yielded the four crops a year so much talked of: certainly in no climate chequered with frost or snow can that be the case.

I only remained at Vittoria sufficient time to take refreshment, and then, a mule being kindly lent to me by a friend, (Senor Barutiu for my guide) went on to San Matteo, and, after fording three rivers, arrived at Turnero, where I resolved to sleep; but started at dawn next day and went to Maracai to breakfast.

Over the village of San Matteo, on an eminence stands a house once the residence *El Libertador*. Of course every one would

pay a visit there, for though in every place you meet something made sacred as connected with him, still you seem to feel double interest when on a spot sacred to his domestic moments.

Maracai is about the same size as Vittoria, and looking, as Mr. Hawkshaw says, "dull and silent," inhabited almost entirely by natives, who are principally engaged in the cultivation of cotton, with a little sugar and coffee.

The ride from Maracai to San Joaquim took me seven hours, during which time I forded six rivers. Oh how I longed to see them spanned by a graceful suspension bridge, a kind I always think most suited to lovely scenery.

To ride from San Joaquim to Guacara, occupied only two hours; and thence another three leagues brought me to Valencia, which is quite as handsome, though not as large as Caraccas.

The entrance to the town is over a fine bridge, the second I had crossed that day. This city stands on a plain forming the com-

mencement to the valley of Aragua, and encircled or nearly so by hills : some rugged and naked, others clothed with foliage. From the summit of the old Fort of Cabrera, situated just over the road, between Maracai and San Joaquim, you catch the finest view of the lake of Valencia shining like an immense sheet of molten silver.

In the city is a good hotel kept by an Englishman : remember this, my fellow countrymen, and should fate send you, or inclination lead you to Valencia, patronise him as I did ; and pray do not forget to visit the fine residence of General Paez which contains pictures of an immense size, representing the different battles between the Spanish and Columbian forces during the war of Independence ; to every picture is appended a narrative of each action, that terminated in favor of the latter, under Bolivar, whose name is revered and cherished throughout the republic. Nothing shews this reverence more than the manner in which his name as *El Libertador* is spoken ; it comes with a voice of pride and

a flash of the dark eyes, whenever occasion offers. No wonder the Venezueleans feel thus ; and, as I passed before the pictures, I experienced for him the same admiration ; but were I a painter, another picture should be added. I would do honor to one deserving of as much reverence as Bolivar. I would represent that meeting where a hint was thrown out, that sovereign power ought to be bestowed on *El Libertador* and the moment chosen should be, when General Paez rose, dagger in hand, and threatened death to any one, he thought capable of forming the wish to enslave his just liberated country.

On my return to Caraccas I turned from my road to visit Macunda and here I caught a beautiful glimpse of the lake of Valencia.

Before daylight the next morning I left Macunda, and passing through Guacara to San Joaquim, breakfasted, and then went to see a warm spring on the Mariara estate ; like most of these sort of springs it is of no use to the inhabitants of the country, though capable I should suppose of being

made as useful as those of Guadaloupe and Martinique.

It issues from the ground forming a small pool, but too small to bathe in, and thence oozes off in a stream that is lost in the adjoining fields.

Twelve hours riding at length brought me to La Trinidad, an estate belonging to General Paez, which is only about a tenth part of it cultivated, for want of sufficient labourers, but the proceeds of that small part produce a revenue of five thousand pounds sterling yearly.

The situation of this residence is beautiful, commanding a view over a wide extended plain and the town of Maracai, beyond which glitter the still waters of the lake, its shores bounded by rising lands and mountains, the highest of which is lost in the clouds.

Altogether it is a spot well suited for a soldier to rest on his laurels, and forget the turmoils of war and rapine.

Leaving La Trinidad the following morning, I commenced my return to Caraccas ;

passed the first night at San Matteo. the next at San Pedro, and at three o'clock on the third day was again at Caraccas.

The epithet, obstinate as a mule, certainly does not apply to those of Venezuela, for they are strong, active, easily guided, and capable of good speed, requiring nothing but the *malojo* to eat, which is to be procured in all places and is very cheap ; many of them after the most fatiguing journey preferring it to any corn offered.

Every thing in this country is cheap but the mules, and either in purchasing or hiring you must pay dearly for them.

A short visit to La Guayra and walking about the city, occupied my next three days ; but on the 27th I accompanied two gentlemen to Pitari to dinner.

This was a delightful ride, leading past the base of the saddle mountain reaching nine thousand feet above the sea ; a friend told me he had ascended to the summit, but that it took him two days, and as my time was limited I was compelled to wait till I

could again visit this country ; all I could now do was to gaze in admiration at its towering grandeur.

My next peregrination was to the estates of Fundacion, and Santa Cruz belonging to M. Rivas ; the former highly cultivated in coffee and cocoa, the latter in sugar.

The road to these estates is pretty good in fine weather, but from Santa Cruz to the spot in the woods where the Cow trees are found, it is impossible for any animal, larger than a dog, to penetrate. How we scrambled through I know not, for it was a toilsome task. But when reached the *Galactodendron* of botanists, the Palo de Vacca of the Caraccas, and by which we understand the Cow tree, is not particularly pleasing in appearance ; it grows from forty to fifty feet high, and has leaves something like the laurel but thicker and more tough. I was told there was only one of these trees in this wood but my friend with his *couteau de chasse* discovered five others considerably smaller than the celebrated one I first saw,

and which was described by Sir Robert Kerr Porter, though yielding the same kind of sap and is in reality something like cream, can never I think be used as a substitute if I can judge by what I then tasted it being clammy and adhesive to the lips.

The day after, visiting the Palo de Vacca I rode to Petaguira, with Colonel Brand, and an English officer who served under Bolivar, and lost his hearing from the firing of Artillery during the war.

This gentleman was so deaf that he carried a small slate in his pocket to hand to me when he observed me about to speak. Upon that I wrote my observations, and he gave a verbal reply. The Venezuelan government has bestowed a pension of twelve hundred dollars per annum on him, for his services, with the rank of colonel, and he resides in Caraccas.

It was very obliging of him to accompany me this morning, for it was a terrible road we had to pass along ; but I wished to inspect the dormant gold mine, which had the

semblance of a common cave of little depth, the sides, in many places, glittering with a kind of ore, but not of any value.

The gold is contained in veins of deep black mud which the Colonel convinced me of by scraping off a small quantity of it and causing it to be dried, when the precious dust appeared shining amidst the dross. the Peons, or peasants, in the vicinity collect this sort of mud, wash it in the river below, dry it in the sun, and then, separating the gold dust, sell it. By these means they earn about four rials per diem, though, as is natural, much to the displeasure of the proprietors who would have the mine explored could they form an association for the purpose.

What pleased me most at Petaguira, was a garden containing peach, apple, quince, chirimoya, and other fruit trees, with flowers, and vegetables, I have never seen surpassed, excepting on the mountainous estate, Gallipan, where I feasted on a kind of wood strawberry, growing on each side the border.

How strange it is, that beautiful as the fruit of Caraccas really is, in the markets you never see a good peach or sweet, juicy apple. They are gathered before they are ripe, and in consequence lose their flavor; But the preserves made of them are in some measure a recompense. I never saw in any country a greater quantity of sweets.

We slept the night before inspecting this mine in a wretched cottage at Palo Negro, a small hamlet, in a dreary situation.

On the ninth of October, I left Caraccas for La Guayra, whence, on the seventeenth, I accompanied a friend to the Hacienda, Gallipan, situated, one would suppose when there, up mountains, on a level with the Silla, and commanding a most beautiful view of the city of Caraccas.

I never saw any thing more lovely than this spot, surrounded with coffee and cocoa plantations, peach, apple, quince, and many other fruit trees.

* If the height of the Silla be, in reality, 9,000 feet, it is considerably above Galipan.

Venezuela is entirely free from mendicity ; the only instance I witnessed at all approaching it, was one day, when returning from Valencia, my guide suddenly called to me on the road "*Senor, el Ciego!*"—"Sir, the blind man." On looking towards the place he indicated I saw *one*, at the corner of a hut, a little off the road—this convinced me that it was customary for travellers to give to the indigent blind.

The people are uncommonly mild and peaceable ; it is easy to gain their good will ; and they appear particularly partial to the English, probably because they are much indebted to the efforts of those among our countrymen, who assisted so powerfully to obtain independence for them. It is affirmed that, towards the close of the contest, called in Venezuela the War of Independence, Bolivar reckoned ten thousand British volunteers, under his standard.

In all inhabited parts of the country, the produce is considerable and varied ; consisting of sugar, cocoa, coffee, rice, indigo, tobacco,

cotton, Indian corn, vannailla, Guinea corn, fruits, and vegetables, in abundance ; among the fruits, peaches, apples, quinces, together with those of the tropics and the West India Colonies, with a peculiarly fine one called ‘chimoyá,” or a name similar in sound, for I never saw it in print—it is of a delicious flavour and extremely nutritious, something like the custard, or sugar apple, but vastly superior ; it grows too on a fine, large, shady, evergreen tree. There are immense herds of cattle, *beef*, consequently very plentiful, being sold, to the best of my recollection, at about an English shilling the arroba, twenty five pounds weight, but every particle of fat is cut away, and the purchaser gets only the *lean*, unless otherwise bespoke, or agreed for, when the price is higher ; the fat generally is converted into tallow, greater part of which, if not all, is consumed in the country.

At Aroa, about sixty miles from the sea, and eighty in a straight line from Puerto Cabello, according to Mr. Hawkshaw’s Reminiscences of South America, there are valu-

able copper mines, which yielded, as he states, in his geological description of them, a considerable quantity of ore, about the year 1833.

There was a small theatre at Caraccas, but not open.

A friend having recently favored me with the following information, it is, with his permission, inserted in his own words.

“Venezuela 1842.—“ As regards Venezuela, or rather Caraccas, of which I only can speak, although I believe it may be taken as a fair sample of the Republic in general—there seems to be much ignorance, indeed few people in this county have ever heard of such a place, and those who have imagine, because it has been revolutionized, that it is still unsettled, and indeed that it is dangerous to reside or invest capital there. All I can say is that I resided there upwards of a year, holding an appointment which perhaps gave me a greater opportunity of judging of the stability and integrity of the people, as well as hearing *vivâ voce* from the most in-

fluent merchants there of the immense field open to the capitalist in almost every branch of trade; indeed the climate and soil, as you are aware, is not to be surpassed in the world—where I have seen cotton, cocoa, coffee, indigo, and sugar grow to perfection. I think I say enough when the Planters can pay 12 per cent. for money; their profits must be great to enable them to do so, and yet that is almost the lowest interest for it.

“The Colonial Bank has a branch at Caraccas, with agencies at La Guayra, Porto Cabello, &c., and can discount the best paper, and almost to any amount, with unexceptionable security, at 12 per cent. and I am informed that their losses have been most trifling; nothing to be compared to their branches in the West India colonies, and although the government have lately opened a bank (1841) and discount at eight, the Colonial still retain the preference at the unchanged rate, 12 per cent., but this will not surprise you when I say that many per-

sons are still discounting with private individuals at one and a half to 2 per cent. per month for accommodation for twelve months, as the bank only profess for three or six months, which is inconvenient to the planters who wish to realize their crops, which generally are sold to the merchants, in Caraccas, to enable them the better to meet their liabilities, and which they seldom or never fail to do.* As to their honesty and the security, I can vouch for, having, a mere stranger, scarcely speaking any of their language, chartered a small schooner at La Guayra, with a mixed and poor set of mariners, not speaking a word of English, embarked alone for Porto Cabello, for the purpose of returning with a large amount of specie. The

* The "*Colonial Bank*" being under the direction of a manager only, persons prefer dealing with it in preference to having their monetary affairs pryed into by a board of six or eight directors, of which the National is composed.

dollars, some forty thousand, were rolled down the wharf in the middle of the day, in sixteen or twenty kegs ; and of course their weight and jingling, told pretty well their contents ; nevertheless, I returned alone, feeling perfectly secure, (by the bye there are few other countries where I should have felt as easy in mind), and on arrival at La Guayra, they were carried over the mountains, on mules' backs, to the capital, under the guidance of a Peon, without any kind of escort ; indeed I did not accompany them myself from La Guayra, and I (Europeans should blush when they doubt the honesty of the people who could safely conduct such tangible temptation with a very small pecuniary reward) have such implicit faith, I would trust untold treasure exposed, to people like them, without an idea of losing a farthing by theft.

On the 19th of October, I embarked on board the Firefly and took my leave of Venezuela ; but before I quit the subject let me give a hint or two to future travellers.

To see every thing properly, to acquire all the information the intelligent wayfarer would wish, a knowledge of the Spanish language is indispensable ; and as a kind of guide I recommend a work written by Colonel Codazzi, which contains a luminous and comprehensive history, and description of the country. This work was published in 1841, but I think it is scarcely known to the British public.

I have frequently quoted from Hawkshaw's work which is but little inferior to the above and which I regret much not having had with me during my excursion.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

CHAPTER I.

NOTWITHSTANDING the pressure of the times, and a series of awful calamities, during past years, this beautiful island retains its pristine attractions, or, rather, is more lovely than when I last viewed its richness.

Never could it have shone more glowingly than on the 24th of January in the present year, the rain of the early part of the day

and of the two or three preceding, had imparted a more than usual brightness to the verdure, and cooled the air, whilst a brilliant tropical sun spread a blush of splendor over forest, mountain, sea and valley.

There is something in the softness of the vale of Basseterre and the cultivated sides of Monkey Hill, behind which rise other mountains higher and higher, till they are crowned by the gigantic Mount Misery which seems to stand the frowning guardian of the loveliness beneath.

This island is situated in $17^{\circ} 18'$ North Latitude and $62^{\circ} 40'$ West Longitude, is about fourteen leagues in circuit, seven in length, two in breadth, and contains sixty-three square miles divided into nine parishes.

Christ Church,	containing	twelve	estates.
St. Ann's,	. . .	fourteen	ditto.
St. George's,	. . .	nineteen	ditto.
St. John's,	. . .	nineteen	ditto.
St. Mary's,	. . .	thirteen	ditto.
St. Paul's,	. . .	sixteen	ditto.
St. Peter's,	. . .	twenty-two	ditto.

St Thomas's,	fifteen	ditto.
Trinity,	thirteen	ditto.

Total of Parishes 143

The following is the quantity of produce shipped from this Island from the 11th October, 1843, to the 10th October, 1844—to which I annex the quantity shipped during the corresponding period in the previous year; and heartily congratulate the proprietary body on the increase during the past:—

		1844.	1843.	<i>Add.</i>
Sugar.	Hhds.	6,851	4,375	2,476
	Tierces	354	161	193
	Barrels	3,374½	2,460½	914
Rum.	Puns.	759	403	356
	Hhds.	50	18	32
	Barrels	12		12
Molasses.	Puns.	3,585	2,440	1,145
	Hhds.	24	10	14
	Tanks	56	42	14
	Barrels	20		20

The following articles have also been ex-

ported, for the year ending the 10th of October last :—

Arrow root, 14 barrels, 21 boxes, 1 jar.
 Cassada, 1 box.
 Cayenne Pepper, 1 box.
 Cocoanuts, 23,938.
 Nuts, 13 barrels.
 Ox Hides, 371.
 Peppers, 2 kegs.
 Pickles, 2 puns., 22 hhds., 78 casks, 68 barrels,
 8 jars, 1 box, 7 kegs.
 Plants and seeds, 4 packages.
 Potatoes, 120 barrels 24 bags.
 Preserves, 47 boxes, 3 jars, 6 casks.
 Salt, 5,528 barrels.
 Shrub, 1 cask, 1 jug.
 Succades, 11 boxes.
 Tamarinds, 135 casks, 13 barrels, 52 kegs,
 19 jars,
 Tous les Mois, 3 casks, 2 puns., 54 bbls., 377
 boxes, 4 kegs, 1 canister. *
 Turtle, 23.
 Yams, 8 barrels.

* Recently a plant called *tous les mois* has been introduced into the colony, and rivals the arrow root

The population of the island according to the census of 3rd of June 1844, was males 10,523. Females 12,654, making a total of 23,177.

The following is an abstract of the revenue of this Colony, for the year commencing 1st January, 1844, and ending 31st ultimo :

<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>
Balance in favor of the Public	£2535 18 6½
Net proceeds of duties under } 5 and 6 Vict. c. 49 }	2588 17 3½
Tonnage Act	1093 5 10
Import Act	7667 15 3
Hawkers and Pedlers Act	28 6 8
Fines and Fees	467 9 3
Classical Seminary	33 5 0
Game Licenses	16 3 0
	—————
	£14,431 0 10

in quality ; whilst its appearance is infinitely more ornamental. The stalk resembles that of Indian Corn, the leaf that of the tulip, and a beautiful red blossom rises to the top, and expanding forms a pleasing contrast to the bright green leaf.

The powder is formed by a similar process as arrow root, the younger fibres serving for vegetables in lieu of Yams, Tanners, or Heddoes.

<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>
Public servants	£2086 11 2
Public Buildings	575 6 1½
Police	1947 14 2
Miscellaneous Civil Services	3449 5 0½
Prisoner's Diet and Clothing	299 11 5½
Medical Attendance on Prisoners	46 5 8
Forts and Armourer	17 12 8
Printing	185 11 6½
Census	509 1 4½
Coroners' and Medical Attendance on } Inquests	110 15 10
Roads	1482 10 0
Immigration	500 0 0
Drawback on duties	112 18 9
Stationary	4 12 6
Balance in favor of the Public	3103 4 7
	<hr/>
	£ 14,431 0 10

The inhabitants of St. Christopher may well boast of their island beauties; and in good truth, if the loveliness of nature can create happiness they are blessed indeed; but their town is not in accordance with the surrounding objects, though much improved since my former visit.

The houses being built of wood have an unprepossessing appearance though internally they combine comfort with elegance. The Government House has been much embellished, and Pall Mall square is now a pretty place adorned with some large, shady, sand-box trees. Still Basseterre might be a much prettier place ; *mais nous attendons*, Victoria road, and another leading to Canada Hill, have been formed ; therefore a spirit of improvement has visited the Christophians.

The Fountain estate, about a mile from the town, is of great antiquity and described in a French work of 1650, as a magnificent Chateau with a chapel, a vast garden, adorned by fountains, many fine stables, servants and other offices ; provision stores, cool cellars, and a town, inhabited principally by slaves, called Angola. At that period the island was divided between the two great nations, and the inhabitants of both sides are represented in the work above mentioned as living on terms of reciprocal harmony and even friendship.

La Fontaine, being the residence of the French Governor the Chevalier de Poincy ; and Middle island the abode of the English ; the former still retains traces of its ancient splendor, but the latter, an island no longer, is interesting from containing the grave of Sir Thomas Warner, the first English settler, and afterwards governor, who died, as denoted by the inscription on his tomb, close to the church of St. Thomas, Middle Island, on the tenth of March, 1648.

Each parish has its little church ; and in them the spirit of the settlers is displayed. It is true they boast no architectural beauty, or Gothic ornament, but the prettiest and most picturesque spots were chosen for their sites.

There are four fortresses ; that of Brimstone Hill being the principal, and occupied by a garrison of her Majesty's troops ; Fort Charles which is dismantled ; Stone Fort also abandoned, except by a few poor families ; and Fort Thomas which is but slightly fortified.

Now, kind reader though Mount Misery first attracts our attention, and Brimstone Hill looks smilingly ; though the dancing waves glitter joyously before our eyes, we will leave Basseterre and take the bridle road to Sandy Point, arrogating to itself the title of town, and which really is worthy a visit if only to pass through the half mile of sea-side grape, the golden fruit hanging in large clusters amongst the large, round leaves.

Dieppe, too, rejoices in the name of town, though in reality only composed of an estate of that name, and a few houses. It is a pity to have your pleasure, at the sight of these pretty, rural hamlets, destroyed by a word that to most persons brings an association of large, dusty looking houses, streets, with perchance wood pavement, flag stones, shops and a busy, active population.

Nichola town—a few houses embosomed in trees surrounded by the bright green cane, and the brightest, gayest flowers.

Cayon must not be forgotten, where there

is a Moravian Mission and a pretty chapel ; and here is crossed one of the four rivulets that intersect the island. On the north side, if the atmosphere be clear, the Islands of St. Eustatia, Saba, St. Bartholomew, and St. Martin are seen, looking like emeralds set in brilliants.

In this ride, or nearly so, round the island, the best views of Mount Misery are obtained from the north and south ; through every where it forms a conspicuous object, rising as it does 3,711 feet in perpendicular height, making Brimstone Hill look but a hillock in comparison.

This latter is on the western coast, extending gradually from the sea to an elevation of 750 feet. The sloping sides of the mountain are covered with verdure, up which a circling carriage road conducts as far as the parade ground beneath the citadel, which forms a most imposing object. Belonging to the fortress are seven large tanks, one capable of containing ninety thousand gallons, besides smaller within the walls. It is

a most formidable fortification, and a lovely spot ; for in some parts the foliage hangs in festoons from tree to tree, forming a canopy kings might have envied. I speak only of one side of the mountain ; the others are inaccessible, and flanked by rocky heights.

Whilst at Brimstone Hill I felt a great wish to see the crater under the summit of Mount Misery ; and having prevailed upon a few gentlemen to join me in my excursion, on the sixth of February, 1845, I left the fortress, descending towards Fort Charles, which we left on our right, proceeded to the village of Sandy Point ; then ascending to an estate called the Farm, rested awhile, before commencing the difficulties of our way. At a hut, some distance from the farm, we left our horses, and walked to a forest still more elevated ; through this we scrambled, still ascending, over ground obstructed by trees, coarse, long grass, noxious weeds, some parts steep and rocky ; others humid and slippery ; others, again, nothing but deep ruts of thick

mud; the density of the wood, on either side, leaving us no choice.

In some places, where terrific precipices, with only narrow, sloping pathways to climb over them.

At length, after a fatiguing ascent of three quarters of an hour from entering the forest, we emerged upon rather a level space shewing some few remains of cultivation. Coffee shrubs, bearing large green berries, were seen surrounded by brushwood, fallen trunks of trees, and weeds. Amongst all these was a gigantic looking tree of the silk cotton species, containing, within the cavity of its enormous trunk, refreshing, pure, cold water, about two feet in depth, which certainly was supplied by a spring under the tree, for, though we all drank heartily, we did not diminish the quantity. Rain water it could not be, the branches were too large and shady to admit of any penetrating to the trunk.

Leaving this table land, which is called Blake's Level, we continued our route, alter-

nately ascending and descending for a space of two hours and a half, by which time we had attained to a considerable height, separated by an awful looking precipice, from Mount Misery, which was frowning full in view many hundred feet above us.

This precipice is by most persons considered as a crater, formed by a volcanic eruption in past ages; but not even a tradition of such an event remains.

From this spot, generally termed the "Top of the Crater", no view could be obtained; we were surrounded by an almost impenetrable wilderness; and when we climbed some of the tallest trees, in the hope of an extended panorama, the mists hanging upon the surrounding heights prevented our seeing any thing clearly.

We were a large party, including our followers, but not a merry one, for there was something so solemn in the grand solitariness around, that we became thoughtful; still curiosity led us on, and we prepared, by an abrupt and precipitous descent, to visit the bottom of the crater.

This passage is not unaptly styled Jacob's Ladder ; but no one can describe the difficulties of such a task, nay the impracticability, were it not for the trees, brushwood, and gnarled runks, growing on the side of the precipice. Occasionally arched, fibrous roots, seemed formed into rude handles, and these must be sought for and firmly grasped at each movement of the feet ; for there is scarcely a level spot to place them on ; in some parts they rest on roots and the next step leads to oblique slippery ground, then to scraggy rock or smooth, round stone. In some spots a spring from one tree to another, nervous work when such a cavern of rocks yawns beneath into which one false step, or missing your hold of the supporting branch, would hurl you.

As the bottom is approached, vegetation disappears for a space, and ere it again appears, sloping, shelving rocks must be surmounted.

Thus the traveller toils on till he comes to a more level space, and a lake of cool

clear water, about four acres in extent. Opposite the lake, on the acclivity of the mountain, are scattered small, slanting hillocks emitting smoke and a clay-like material mixed with sulphur, lumps of which lie round, some adhering to stones of different sizes and shapes. I much wished to have taken a specimen, but the trouble of the ascent prevented.

In one part there is a spring of muddy, clay-colored water, bubbling up with a hissing noise and much smoke. This spring forms a pool much too hot to touch, but around it were smaller ones of clear water, less hot, and in the largest of which our followers amused themselves by bathing their feet. These waters have a strong sulphureous taste and smell, almost as nauseous as some more distant springs of cold, clear water.

To arrive at these pools and springs, called collectively, "the Sulphur" is as laborious a task as the descent to the lake; scrambling from one spot to the other, first to a hot pool

into which you nearly tumble, then into a cold, the taste of which is too nauseous to think of, though they shine like molten silver.

I have forborne to say anything of the ravages caused by the late earthquake, because I fancy my readers would prefer hearing of the present state of the island ; but as I am now upon the subject of Mount Misery, I think it right to mention, that a spiral cloud of white smoke was seen to ascend, and the sulphureous spring is said to have bubbled up and overspread the space around. I was also told that the appearance of the crater is changed and the difficulties of the descent much increased. There is a strange mixture of curiosity and awe in the feeling with which the wanderer finds himself in such a situation ; the former feeling leads him on to explore fresh places, to pierce farther into these wonders of nature ; but standing amidst such a wild scene, looking into the lake beneath, or up to the rugged mountain bending over it, at a height

of a thousand feet *plus ou moins* and in a manner buried in the depth of a volcanic region, the latter prevailed ; and we prepared to re-ascend the precipice.

Not many years since, Lieutenant Dacres of the 67th Regiment, missing his hold in this passage, fell to such a distance and was so dreadfully injured, that his companions with great difficulty succeeded in rescuing him, but he died a few days afterwards, much regretted.

On reaching the top of Jacob's Ladder we found that the day was so far advanced that the utmost expedition must be used to clear, if possible, the wood, before darkness came on, but notwithstanding our efforts the obstructions and impediments were so numerous we could not succeed ; and our path through that gloomy forest was in complete obscurity.

Not a star was perceptible through the thickly twined branches of the tall trees above our heads ; no moon shed a cheering light to point out to us which way to bend our steps. Thus uncertain as to whether we

were right or wrong we toiled on and fortunately escaped all dangers.

The wood was cleared, the hut reached, our horses mounted, and at about ten o'clock we arrived at Brimstone Hill in safety.

Let me however advise all future tourists who may visit the crater and its "Sulphurs," to start by the dawn, for it is impossible to calculate the time required for such a journey, when the impediments you are likely to meet are unknown.

The 8th of February was kept with religious solemnity, being the anniversary of such a dreadful visitation ; and on the following morning I again rode from Brimstone Hill to the village of Old Road ; turning to Wingfield Manor the sea is behind ; but nothing can be more beautiful than the way you are traversing, particularly from a height looking down on the Manor and Romney estates. Fruit trees border your path and are scattered in every direction. The Mammee Apple, or Apricot de Saint Dominique, the Mango, the Cocoa-nut, the Cedar, the Cus-

tard Apple, all here present their beauties to the gaze of the admiring equestrian.

Leaving Wingfield and ascending to a wood, we entered upon a narrow, precipitous tract, becoming more narrow as you advance obstructed by trees and weeds and winding past frightful precipices on one side, with banks on the other, which, in many places, are fallen down so as to oblige the traveller to clamber over the fragments; then again we encountered rocks, stones, mud, and all the disagreeables of the wood path we had traversed in our visit to the crater, attended with heavy rain which lasted two hours; so that when we came to Spooner's Level we were wet through all our clothes.

The Level consists of a vast tract of pasture lands, having two lakelets or ponds on them, containing good water. From the more elevated portion of this plain there is a fine view of the opposite side of the island Cayon, the mountains, valley, trees, &c., with the sea beyond. The rich appearance of the verdure and soil evinces that for the

purposes of agriculture this part is greatly adapted, and at a slight glance, the imaginative visiter will plan a residence, commanding interesting scenery with a mixture of the lovely and sublime not often met ; luxuriant gardens, avenues, parterres, &c., with cane fields lying beyond, and cattle grazing on the pasture. Oh ! it might rival any place in the whole cluster of the Antilles, were it not for the rain which falls there daily and hourly throughout the year, and this circumstance, together with the remains of a forsaken residence, and the difficulties of the approach, tells why this fine space remains in almost its primitive state.

The rain having abated, the return through the wood was more agreeable, and we noticed vestiges of gardens, with fruit trees, shrubs, and many beautiful flowers, perhaps planted by the slaves of the possessor of the once proprietor of the forsaken Level.

In Tobago, on approaching a wood, the ear is assailed by the cries or calls of different birds, but here, we neither saw any thing to

allow us to suppose St. Christopher is favored with those beautiful creatures, which form so striking a feature in the scenery of the West Indies generally. In the southern part, however, the emerald humming bird is seen amongst the blossoms of the fields and gardens in all its radiancy.

From Brimstone Hill there is a commanding view of the greater part of this island, and the neighbouring Dutch Possessions of Saint Eustatia and Saba, which appear, at times, almost to join Sandy Point. In clear weather the more distant islands of Saint Bartholomew and Saint Martin are perceptible. Nevis is plainly seen by day, and seems to form a component part of Saint Christopher, but a narrow channel separating the two islands; their capitals, Basseterre and Charlestown, are ten miles from each other: boats and canoes frequently passing between them.

On the windward side, at an agreeable part of the island, called Cayonne, is a long

established Moravian Mission, and another in Basseterre.

At the Brigade Office is deposited a journal of occurrences during the siege of Brimstone Hill, by a considerable French force, in the year 1782, when it was not so strongly fortified as at present : since that event the citadel has been built.

There is also a narrative of the French fleet under Admiral Villeneuve, appearing in 1805, before Basseterre, and levying a large contribution ; it being there stated that the Admiral demanded forty thousand pounds as a ransom, to spare a bombardment of the town ; that sixteen thousand pounds, all that could be collected, were delivered over to him, with which he departed peaceably, expressing an intention of paying a visit to Brimstone Hill ; but that the French fleet stood out to sea, and did not approach within range of the guns of the fortress : at that period the garrison was too weak to afford the slightest relief, or assistance to Basseterre and could only remain on the defensive.

A little to the southward of Basseterre is an estate, of which large salt ponds constitute a part ; and it is related, that, formerly, when the American vessels came there for salt, such was the active sale of that article, the doubloons, with which coin it was paid for, were taken up in wheelbarrows from the sea shore, for the sake of expedition, to the Proprietor's house ; but as the American merchants subsequently procured their supplies of salt from Turk's Island, that important branch of commerce has been in some degree lost to the property above mentioned.

How often 'mid the cares and troubles of his after life must Columbus have dwelt on the remembrance of this island ! which, no doubt, appeared to him as lovely as it now does to all others, or he would not have bestowed his own name upon it.

Verily, for that, if for nothing else, fair island, I honor you.

S A I N T V I N C E N T .

CHAPTER I.

Who that ever sailed along the leeward shore of Saint Vincent, and seeing all look so beautiful, so inviting, could imagine that any thing like insalubrity prevails there; or, who could stand upon the deck of a vessel gliding from Kingstown bay by day, when, a bright sunshine shone on Fort Charlotte sparkled on the various bays, and glittered

on the trees and cane fields of the estates near the coast of the northernmost part of the island, and gaze up to the Morne Soufriere, and fancy that to be the spot, whence issued such an awful conflagration, such appalling thunder, and devastation, in 1812.

This island is between 18 and 19 miles long, and between 11 and 12 broad; situated 21 miles S. W. of Saint Lucia, in $13^{\circ} 10'$ north latitude, and $60^{\circ} 37'$ west longitude, contains 84,286 acres, and 22 rivers capable of turning mills.

The produce of St. Vincent appears to have decreased greatly, between the years 1839 and 1842; in the former, the exportation was:—

Sugar, 8,828 Hogsheads, 299 Tierces, 143 Barrels.

Rum, 4,571 Puncheons, 4 ditto, 47 ditto.

Molasses. 937 ditto

Cotton 137 Bales

Cocoa, 12 Bags

Arrow Root, 2,173 Boxes, 67 Barrels

IN 1842.

Sugar, 8,504 Hogsheads

Rum, 95 Puncheons, 19 Hogsheads

Molasses, 3,312 puncheons, 78 hogsheads.
Cotton, 280 Bales
Arrow Root, 1,287 Boxes, 28 Puncheons, 692
Barrels.

The population, according to the census taken June 3rd, 1844, amounted to 27,248.

Kingstown is so like the other principal towns, that are not remarkable for any thing peculiar, either in situation or buildings, that a description is superfluous. A winding road leads up an acclivity, a distance of two miles, to Fort Charlotte ; a little below which is Old Woman's Point, and lower still, New Edinburgh.

At the opposite end of the town is Dorchester Hill, with remains of barracks on its summit, shewing, that formerly it was garrisoned. There is still a large tank of excellent water. Mount Sion, also on this side, with its signal staff, is a pretty object from the town, and serves for a cheerful walk before breakfast, or a ride in the evening.

The Botanic Garden and Government

House are on a level spot, about a mile from Kingstown : amongst the many flowers and trees, by which the former is adorned, are large nutmeg, clove, and cinnamon trees in great perfection.

Undoubtedly, the Soufriere is the first curiosity a stranger would visit in St. Vincent, to ascend which there are two roads from the capital ; one a good bridle path, leading through a small seaport town, or village, called Calliquaw, past many large estates, and over several fordable rivers ; the other by the windward, or leeward side of the island.

The ascent is not attended with any great fatigue, as a steady mule will take you to the summit, which is about eight miles from the base, and twenty four from Kingstown.

I should recommend ascending by one road and descending by the other.

The height of the mountain is 3,700 feet above the level of the sea, and the Soufriere is on the top ; by the eruption of 1812 a second crater was formed, near the original,

but separated by a narrow, sloping ridge of land. The old crater contains a vast depth of water, ascertained, from sounding, to be ninety six fathoms ; and its diameter measuring seven furlongs ; from the lip, as it is called, or top of the bank, to the level, or commencement of water, the depth is six hundred feet.

The new crater is almost dry, at least was so on the 27th August, 1841 ; not a vestige of fire was to be seen, or any warm water near ; consequently the volcano may be considered extinct, although on that day, between three and four o'clock, a loud rumbling noise was heard, at the sloping, narrow ridge which separates the two craters.

For some years after the dreadful explosion the water was hot and smoking, now it is quite cold.

On the Grand Sable estate there are three tunnels which, after crossing the river Byera, form the pass into the Carib country. There is also a tunnel, called Mount Young tunnel, 360 feet in length, more than one hundred

of which are blasted out of solid rock ; a work that took many years to complete, and cost upwards of £. 3000 sterling.

It opens a communication, under a promontory of Mount Young, with Byera Bay, where all the sugars from Grand Sable estate are shipped, and all supplies landed.

In that part of the mountain facing the Bay ample excavations are made to serve as warehouses, for the reception of the produce ready for shipping, and to receive the merchandize imported, from a commodious wharf to which are attached many ingenious contrivances to protect boats from the force of the waves, to raise them out of the water and convey them on rollers to a place of shelter until again required for use.

In the interior of the tunnel is a copious stream, of clear, fresh water, gushing from the rock, and flowing down a channel into the sea. Within twenty yards of the entrance, which is strongly secured, a watchman resides, and a small excavation, used as a powder magazine, comes under his surveillance.

Amongst the many lovely spots visible from Mount Young is one, more beautiful than all, called Maxwell's valley, abruptly terminated by a ledge of rocks, above which are scattered the provision grounds of the labourers.

Down these rocks, which are overhung with woods, dashes a sparkling stream flowing into a basin beneath, and thence, winding through the centre of the valley overshadowed, on either side, by fine bread fruit and other trees; its course terminating at the foot of a Mango, where it falls into a canal.

Proceeding down to the valley, romantic woods on one side, precipitous rocks on the other, a perpendicular mass of rock bursts on the sight, of most beautiful and varied forms, resembling shell work; and growing from its side, about midway, rises a tree of large dimensions, extending majestically to the surface of the rock, and its roots descending in parallel columns from thirty to forty feet to the base, where they form a circular kind of arbour, with a narrow entrance,

through which a streamlet glides into a rude basin formed by nature from the rock.

This singular and attractive spot is designated as the dropping well, and is as inviting a place as can well be imagined to linger in.

Another pretty ride from Kingstown is to the Belair estate, on which there is a spa, the water of which issues from a low bank, and as it bubbles up has a white appearance ; but when poured into a glass is perfectly clear, and tastes agreeably, though the flavour is rather peculiar ; there is another spring of the same kind on the Gomier estate, and both are supposed to possess medicinal qualities, but I am not aware that an analysis of the waters has been made.

The Maniaquaw valley, a fine, cultivated plain, is on the road to the upper Vigie, whence is an extensive view of the windward coast. A ride to this spot is particularly recommended to the tourist ; it extends from Kingstown about fifteen miles, and in such an excursion he will be able to judge

of the general appearance of the whole island.

To the kindness of many I was indebted during my short residence in St. Vincent ; to Lieutenant Minty and his lady, whom I saw almost daily, to Mr. Mc Donald, Mr. James Porter, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Sackville Taylor, and several others, I tender my my warmest thanks for the smiles which ever welcomed my approach, and the kind regrets expressed at my departure.

On the sixth of September, 1841, I left the island, in the steam vessel, Tartarus, which sailed from Kingstown bay about nine o'clock, a. m.

SAINT LUCIA.

CHAPTER I.

THOUGH the scenery on the coast of St. Lucia is not to be compared to that of the leeward side of St. Vincent, yet a sail between the two islands is one of the prettiest in the West Indies, comprehending, at a glance, the islands of Martinique, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Lucia, with the southernmost point of Guadaloupe; and I am ready to confess to the picturesque appearance of the

Pitons which stand as sentinels on either side the entrance to a bay ; whilst the mountains certainly tower above each other in majestic grandeur. In Trinidad they are as majestic but then it is a smiling sublimity ; Grenada and St. Vincent are all softness ; but St. Lucia to me always looked frowning ; then Castries is dirty, dull and miserable, and never seems to look to advantage excepting when seen from the summit of Morne Fortuné, which is two miles and a half distant, and eight hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea : here too you see the batteries at Tapion, and the Vigie (commanding its entrance) Pigeon island, many plantations, and in clear weather, the shores of Martinique ; behind, the view is shut in by higher mountains, the formidable Trace more lofty than all.

On the tenth of August, 1841, I started for my first tour, during that visit, accompanied by Messrs. Cox and Trotman, to explore the valley of Grand cul de Sac ; vallée des Roseaux ; vallée de l'Ance Galtet ; vallée and village de l'Ance à la Raye ; vallée de

la baie de Canaries, to the town, or village, of Soufriere, a distance of about thirty miles, over an intricate, though pretty good bridle road and through interesting and picturesque scenery ; we only stopped once at the village de l'ance a la Raye to rest and refresh our selves, yet we were benighted and rode for about two hours, in darkness, over woody mountains, not knowing whether we pursued the right path, and stumbling every now and then against trunks of trees. What a relief it was when the lights of Soufriere guided us to our resting place. Whilst at Soufriere I almost felt inclined to change my mind and fancy a great deal of cheerfulness in St. Lucia, for its valley looks smiling and though the Pitons rise frowning close to it, the one between three and four thousand feet, the other quite three, they are covered to their very summits with forest trees, round which the vapours cling in darkening masses or in light gossamer festoons. On almost every house in this little town there is a vine producing some of the finest grapes

which induces a wonder that fruit is not more generally cultivated in the islands.

Whilst making Soufriere my head quarters, I rode through the valley, Fond St. Jacques, and to the Belle Plaine estate which affords full proof of the capability of Europeans for the culture of cocoa and coffee in tropical climates.

Here it was cultivated in perfection and scarcely a native employed; sixteen Germans, most of them married, are located there, each possessing a pretty cottage to reside in, with a garden attached filled with fruits and flowers; all wore the look of content and comfort, and more than all of health—the air on the height suiting their constitutions; for, notwithstanding its name. Belle Plaine is situated on a lofty eminence about ten miles from Soufriere.

In the valley leading to the above estate is another, called La Perle, which also affords proof of what the land in the islands might be made to produce: as you approach the dwelling house, you pass under the shade of six large

date trees, the seeds of which were brought there and planted by a gentleman, a few years since. They now look as flourishing as if their parent tree had come to maturity in St. Lucia, instead of Africa.

On the Diamond estate in the same valley there was formerly a bathing establishment supplied by a warm spring issuing from the ground, which, when the grass and long weeds are cleared away, is still to be seen ; remains of the bath lie scattered around, and should the house belonging to the estate be once more inhabited, perhaps will be restored to use.

On returning from Belle Plaine we visited the Soufre about a mile from the town, and very easy of access ; no fire or flame was perceptible, but many pools of boiling water, of a thick, forbidding colour, were foaming with great noise ; from some of these pools, a dense smoke arose, and sulphur in different sized masses was scattered all around. The volcano is of some extent, on an eminence not very lofty, but visible from the higher grounds to a distance.

On the 13th of August I returned with my friends to Castries.

I know not why this is such a cheerless place, for some of the buildings are good, and the Government House stands beautifully, overlooking the carenage, and the town ; ascending to this edifice I saw a magnificent locust tree, the branches laden with fruit drooping over the road.

Then Morne Fortuné is always a delightful ride, though steep, the view from it magnificent and in its vicinity is excellent pasturage for cows, therefore Castries is one of the few places in the West Indies where you can procure fresh butter.

One evening, just after my return from the Morne, where I had been dining, a shock of an earthquake was felt and caused great alarm ; the houses shook violently as if about to fall, and the inhabitants rushed into the streets in great dismay.

The Commissariat establishment, its dependencies and stores bordering on the Carenage, enlivens that end of the town,

and adds to the picturesque scenery, viewed from a vessel when entering within Fort Tapion and the Vigie, and as it glides under the Government House above the Carenage, midway towards Morne Fortuné,

From the Commissariat buildings to Fort Tapion the road conducts by the village Banane and the Half Moon Battery, which is advantageously situated and in excellent order. On that line of coast are Mangrove trees similar to those of Trinidad with oysters adhering to the branches and stems.

South of Tapion is an abandoned Fort called Ciceron, and in its vicinity, rich lands without any apparent owners : but inhabited by a number of labouring people who have built cottages and cultivated some acres of ground for their own support, and are supposed to be runaway slaves from the French islands of Guadaloupe and Martinique and style themselves, or are styled, *Passe par terre* people.

About eight miles from Castries is the village of Grosilet, on the sea shore, and op-

posite to Pigeon island, which, seen from this place, has the appearance of a lion recumbent; the channel which separates it from St. Lucia is nearly a mile broad.

This little island, about three quarters of a mile in length, contains buildings for a considerable hospital, supposed to have been intended for the reception of convalescents, from all the West Indian colonies; and occasionally sick soldiers have been sent there from Dominica and Castries.

Its position seems well adapted for the recovery of health, open as it is to the sea breezes, and offering the advantages of bathing, with sufficient level ground for walking: two small mountains, and a hillock, on which a signal post is fixed, give to this islet, when regarded from a distance, the appearance above mentioned.

The river, *Grand cul de Sac*, on the route from Castries to Soufriere, flows past the valley of the same name; it is only a narrow stream, and fordable in dry weather, but in the rainy season impassable; as well as the

other rivers intersecting the Vallée des Roseaux, and de l'Ance Galtet : this last is generally selected as a resting place on the road to Soufriere, because a small village there affords refreshment and forage for horses.

Few colonies have undergone such vicissitudes as St. Lucia, since the first settlement of the island by Europeans. Devastating hurricanes, and earthquakes, have caused such wretchedness and ruin that it is surprising how it has ever attained its present state.

The slave population, liberated at the height of the French revolution, during the Reign of Terror, were subsequently again reduced to slavery, and remained in that state, till finally emancipated on the 1st of August. Since that period it has been, comparatively, but little disturbed.

An earthquake on the 11th of January 1839 created alarm and was at the moment very awful. The strong iron barracks at Morne Fortuné waved to and fro like reeds

before the blast and had every appearance, to those who saw them, of falling, but, in reality, the injury they sustained was very slight.

The whole length of St. Lucia is forty-two miles, and its greatest breadth twenty-one ; it is divided into five districts including eighty-eight principal estates.

The Castries	district	containing	twelve	estates.
Gros Islet	ditto.	ditto.	ten	ditto.
Vieux Fort	ditto.	ditto.	twenty	ditto. all
sugar estates				
Micoud	ditto.	ditto.	twelve	ditto.
Soufriere	ditto.	ditto.	twentyeight	ditto.

The uninhabited parts of the island and the almost inaccessible woods, are supposed to be infested with serpents of a deadly description ; and the death of the sailors, who climbed one of the Pitons, is attributed to their fatal influence.

For me to enlarge much upon this subject would be superfluous, for St. Lucia and the Lucians have so recently been brought before the British public, and so eloquently des-

cribed, nothing remains for an humble individual like myself to tell. My visits have always been agreeable, and if I have found less novelty and less amusement there, it certainly was not the fault of the persons amongst whom I visited and dwelt.

GUADALOUPE.

CHAPTER I.

Who, that reads the name of Guadaloupe, does not think with terror of the awful calamity it has lately suffered. In 1841, on the seventh of July, I arrived at Pointe à Pitre, which was then a remarkably handsome town; and, regarded from the sea, of imposing appearance: the streets, regular and broad, containing fine houses and buildings. The residences of the merchants, the *Société de*

Commerce then stood in all their beauty ; and a busy population thronged the public walks and theatres ; gaiety of every sort went on, (for Guadaloupe, like Martinique, is essentially French), without an idea of the Etna on which they moved.

On the 8th of February, 1843, what was the fate of this gay population ? totally destroyed by an earthquake, and those buildings which might have been spared by the shock, consumed by fire, occasioned, probably, by the combustible materials falling on the kitchen fires, and lighted forges, in operation, when the awful catastrophe occurred between ten and eleven in the morning; though in some accounts, published soon afterwards, it was related, that the earth was seen to open, and flames issue from many places under ground ; the number of lives lost must have been very considerable, and the loss of property immense : the following are some of the particulars of that most deplorable event:—

“The earthquake commenced at half past ten o’clock, in the morning, and lasted 70

seconds ; at *Basseterre* several buildings fell down, and a number of houses were so injured as to be no longer habitable ; fortunately no life, *there*, was lost. At the *Saintes* all houses built of mason work were overturned : the quarters to leeward suffered much ; some persons there were killed and wounded. *Pointe à Pitre* was entirely destroyed ; what was spared by the earthquake, perished by fire, which burst out a few minutes after the houses fell. All the quarters of the colony suffered.

The *town* of *Moule* was destroyed, and thirty persons killed *therein*. The small towns, *St. Francis*, *St. Anne*, *Port Louis*, *Bertrand*, and *St. Rose*, were overturned, and persons in all of them were killed and wounded. *Petit Bourg* was destroyed, *Joinville* suffered much, and nearly all the mills of the colonies were destroyed. The best built, and consequently the richest quarter of *Pointe á Pitre* suffered most, and the *élite* of the inhabitants are supposed to have perished.

It is said that at the moment of the earthquake, upwards of two hundred people were assembled at the Café Americain, to witness the drawing of a lottery, and none escaped. The wooden buildings withstood the shock of earthquake, but immediately after, fires broke out in two or three hundred places together and totally consumed the houses, with the exception of about ten that remained, but even those not all inhabitable. Accounts vary as to the number who perished at Pointe à Pitre, some state it at two others at three thousand, and others at one third of the population of the city, which was before the catastrophe 16,000 inhabitants."

By the foregoing account it will be seen that the town of Moule, and the smaller ones of St. Francis, St. Anne, and Port Louis, were also destroyed; why therefore describe their former beauty. Verily my note book, in which I had minuted down all their various localities, makes me melancholy to peruse: but I will not dwell on such misery; Pointe à Pitre is to be passed over

and I will hasten in a boat up the river Salée to the village of Lamentin ; a very easy manner of transit, for the boats are much more comfortable than those of Martinique, and the gliding up the smooth river past the islet St. Christophe interesting and agreeable enough.

The village of Lamentin I found bore a very melancholy, dirty aspect ; and the road through it, after the rain, dreadfully muddy ; but there is a pretty estate about a mile distant, and, as you advance into the interior, others of much more importance meet the sight.

La grande riviere à Goyaves, about nine miles from Lamentin, offers an impediment to the traveller not easily conquered. It is wide, and deep, and after heavy rain impassable ; whilst the rush of the water is so impetuous that no boat can venture on its angry waves. This morning the water rose to the girths of my horse, and the large round stones at the bottom made it a dangerous and difficult passage.

After crossing the river, an hour's ride brought me to *La Ravine Chaude* where a spring of natural warm water in a hollow supplies two baths of large dimensions ; one for ladies, the other for gentlemen, both of sufficient size to plunge in ; the water is limpid and pleasant to taste, and I can imagine nothing more delightful to bathe in ; its warmth being only tepid ; at least such I found it, though the recent rains might have had an effect, as the usual heat ascribed to the water is 28 of Raumur. Numberless are the virtues attributed to this spring, but nothing whatever of medicinal quality is perceptible.

On a gentle eminence are some pretty cottages, generally inhabited by invalids. The Pitons at Fort Royal are more picturesque, but certainly not so well adapted for invalids as this pretty little locality ; though the difficulty of procuring provisions is as great. Excepting fruit and vegetables, which grow here in profusion, every thing must be brought from Lamentin, no easy task if the

Grande rivière à Goyaves is overflowing its banks or impassable. There are no estates in the neighbourhood, which, considering the fertility of the soil and beauty of the scenery, is rather strange.

At Lamentin provisions and fruit are very cheap, pineapples can be bought for a *sous* each. At Pointe à Pitre the price is double.

On the tenth of July, taking leave of Monsieur Lemoyne, at whose residence, within a mile of Lamentin, I had passed the two previous nights, I proceeded by boat to Pointe à Pitre to breakfast, and then visited Houebourg.

The following morning, I joined a gentleman named Savarin, and crossed in a boat to Petit Bourg, where we hired saddle horses and proceeded to the estate Grande Rivière, near Capesterre; then rode through many considerable estates to Dolé, where we were kindly received by Mrs. S. and family, and breakfast placed before us, which, after our long morning ride, proved very acceptable.

Two or three days is not too long to re-

main at Dolé to enjoy its scenery, its warm springs, baths, &c. The air is salubrious, and invalids crowd thither to enjoy its purity ; and who can fail to feel the better in one of those quiet cottages, with its gay little garden, surrounded by fertile estates and shady trees, with the sea in the distance beyond.

The ten miles between Dolé and Basseterre must always appear very short to any one passing over it for the first time ; it is like riding through a garden terminated by the *Rivière des Gallions*, spanned by a handsome bridge, that forms the entrance to Basseterre.

This town is not altogether so prepossessing in appearance as Pointe á Pitre was then ; though it contains fine edifices, being the seat of government, and head quarters of the military force throughout the colonies.

The Governor's residence, the barracks, the hospital, the arsenal, the principal church, the hotel, and *Société de Commerce*, are very handsome ; the last is elegantly furnished, and resorted to by gentlemen, who

meet there in the evenings to amuse themselves with cards, billiards, books, &c.

This edifice stands in the *Grande Place*, which is shaded by trees, with benches under them. At night presenting a very animated scene, being brilliantly illuminated, and filled by the *élite* of the town.

As Basseterre did not suffer in so great a degree as Pointe à Pitre, it may be supposed its present appearance is not so greatly changed.

One of the greatest natural curiosities of Guadeloupe is, unquestionably, *La Fontaine bouillante*, marked in the Maps as La Bouillante ; situated between Anse a la Barque and Pointe á Lezard. It is in fact a boiling spring in the sea, though close to the shore ; and may be regarded as a submarine volcano : after visiting it we walked to bathe in a natural spring above the village.

A pleasing excursion from Basseterre is to Matouba, passing by Pont Rosieres. The government house there is worth inspecting ; the apartments, furniture, gardens, and dependences,

are all *comme il faut*. The barracks repay a walk ; and a coffee estate, I went through to La Rouge Rivière, pleased me much ; where, if in July, the visiter will see raspberries, strawberries, asparagus, artichokes, green peas, tropical fruits, and vegetables, with a splendid collection culled from Flora's kingdom.

To regain Basseterre we had to descend Morne Savon, and I must own no name could be so proper, for I seldom rode over a more slippery road.

Having visited the Soufrieres of St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, I determined to ascend that of Guadeloupe ; and, accordingly, left Basseterre on the sixteenth of July ; but in consequence of the heavy rain, I only got as far on my journey as *Les Bains jaunes*, where I gladly took shelter in a cottage for the night ; bespattered with mud, hungry, and fatigued, having had to walk a great part of the way. The next morning the rain was falling in torrents when I awoke ; but about seven, ceasing awhile, I started for the

Soufriere. The sides are awfully steep, and that renders the ascending a task of toil and danger.

On attaining the summit, a large chasm to the right, called *La Grande Fente*, is first perceptible—this aperture divides a considerable range of mountains, and volumes of dense smoke continually issue from it, accompanied, at times, my guides asserted, with sparks and flakes of fire. The breadth and depth of this cleft cannot be ascertained, because the abrupt, precipitous slope of the ground will not admit of a sufficiently near approach, neither is there any height from which to look down on it.

Proceeding further on the Morne, a number of small volcanos are seen to blaze on the surface like brilliant stars ; some looking not larger than a Spanish dollar, and round ; whilst others appeared the size of a quarto volume, and square. With the flame issued a sound similar to that of a farrier's forge in operation. The better to ascertain the degree of heat, I extended my

hand over the largest *furnace* when that part of my wrist exposed, above the glove, was instantly burnt by the sparks—quickly as I withdrew it the marks remained for some days.

There is a large platform of a soft kind of flat stone on one part of the Morne covered with names and inscriptions; but to copy any was an utter impossibility, for notwithstanding my thick gloves my hands were icy cold; the air being as keen as on a severe frosty day in England.

I saw many pools of cold water with fragments of brimstone around. The great earthquake much affected the Morne: one of the peaks was severed in two; parts of one of which, in falling, drew away much land. Father Labat says, in 1696, he saw “three pools of very hot water, one full of deep brown water smelt of iron, or rather water in which locksmiths and farriers cool their iron; that the water of the second was whitish and tasted of alum; and that the other contained blue water and tasted of vitriol.”

I enquired particularly for such pools, but was assured by the guides that no warm water was to be found on the Morne, or nearer than *Les Bains Jaunes*; one, an intelligent man, added that there were many changes; what was fire one day, perhaps, the next, by a sudden shock, became water; that the pools of cold water now before us had been small volcanos or furnaces; that about three years preceding, in 1838, a tremendous explosion caused great dismay; immense fragments of rocks were ejected to a considerable distance, even into the sea beyond Basseterre, though fortunately in a direction clear of the town. This explosion had greatly changed the appearance of the Morne, but the guide had never known of any warm water on its summit. This Soufriere is 5500 feet above the level of the sea.

Whilst I stood contemplating these volcanos an almost overwhelming shower of rain fell, accompanied by such stormy gusts of wind that we could scarcely withstand its

violence ; in an instant we were drenched with rain and benumbed, or rather frozen by the cold, keen air ; shelter there was none, and we had no alternative but to descend the slippery and rocky sides of the mountain as we best could ; in doing this I fell repeatedly, though the guides conducted me by a path somewhat less difficult than that chosen for ascending.

They pointed out to me a cave a little below the summit, where they said it would not be safe to continue long, as it was subject to frequent changes, and had, in fact, been formed by an explosion. The sulphur on the Morne is of superior quality, but, from its position, cannot be collected without great expense and difficulty ; therefore little advantage is derived from what might otherwise be a source of wealth. Looking up from Basseterre, Morne Soufriere does not appear far off, but it occupies six hours to make the excursion. I had slept at Les Bains Jaunes and therefore was about two hours and a half in attaining the summit.

At noon I again reached Les Bains, stripped off my wet clothes and plunged into the nearest bath ; after which I took refreshment and examined the warm springs around me ; at the bottom of some were large masses of a yellow hue resembling brimstone, which circumstance gives rise to the name. At the sources of the springs the water is clear, and glides over shelving rocks. The baths differ in temperature from 28 to 50 degrees of Raumur.

After viewing all these I bade farewell to my kind host and retraversed the wood on foot, which was almost as bad as the wood in Trinidad leading to Marouga, but I went safely through, and at Messrs. Cunvier and Michaud's* remounted my horse and rode to Basseterre.

Nearly three years have elapsed since Guadeloupe was so stricken, so overwhelmed with misery ; and, no doubt, the effects are

* At the house of Messrs Cunvier and Michaud every polite attention is shewn, horses taken care of, guides provided, &c.

diminishing, the evidences gradually fading ; but many years must pass ere it is forgotten. Pointe à Pitre may rise from its former ruins and appear as gay and animated as formerly, with a bustling population ; but many a sudden recollection of that terrible blow, will check the gay laugh or sprightly repartee rising to the lips of that class, who have obtained for their island the title of the Circassia of the West Indies.*

* So called from the beauty of its females.

D U T C H G U I A N A

CHAPTER I.

Guiana, which forms that part of South America, in the north east between the rivers Orinoco and Amazon, having the Atlantic to the north and east, part of Brazil on the south, and Colombia on the west, is divided between the powers of Britain, Spain, Portugal, France, and Holland.

Though the term Guiana is now generally understood to be applied to the English, French and Dutch possessions, the latter

called Surinam from the name of its capital. Though now under the dominion of Holland, the town of Paramaribo was built in 1650 by Francis lord Willoughby of Parham, who at his own expense sent a vessel with emigrants, to colonize Surinam ; that a short time after, he despatched thither three more vessels with colonists, and two years subsequently went himself, and having established good, salutary, regulations for government and defence, he returned to England ; but continued to supply the settlement with men, arms, and ammunition, till on the 2nd of June, 1662, Paramaribo was granted by a charter of Charles the second to Francis lord Willoughby of Parham, to be divided at his own request with Lawrence Hyde second son of Edward earl of Clarendon : the account further states that in 1665, Surinam was successfully cultivated, mostly by planting tobacco. After many vicissitudes the colony was ceded to the Dutch in 1669.

Previously to the settlement by Lord Parham's colonists, there was only a small village

in the little fort of Thorarica. According to most authorities the town derived its name from his lordship, though Hartsinck asserts that the Indians called the country Paramorbo (flowery park) which may certainly very easily have been corrupted into its present designation.

Paramaribo, the only town of the colony, stands on the wide river Surinam, within four hours' journey of Bramspoint at the mouth of the river; on the left bank and on an ascent in the district of Para. It is situated on a bend of the river like Amsterdam; forming a crescent, although, on the land side it assumes the shape of a parallelogram; its breadth being but half its length.

Captain Steadman who resided there from 1772 to 1777, describes it as being in the form of an oblong square, about a mile and half in length and its breadth half that distance. He says that all the streets were lined with orange, shaddock, tamarind, and lemon trees; and mentions, what he calls

Marawina diamonds ; or a sort of brilliant stone, resembling diamonds, found in the Marawina river, and converted into ornaments. He gave it likewise, as his opinion, that the Province contained both gold and silver mines, and asserted that, at Magdenberg, iron was common. Of these diamonds, mines, or iron, I could hear nothing, nor does it appear that tobacco is now cultivated in Dutch Guiana.

On the arrival of Governor Van Sommels Dÿck in 1683, Paramaribo did not contain more than twenty-seven, or twenty-eight houses, which were mostly inns. The first enlargement extended from the Joden Breestraat and the hospital as far as the Steenbakkersgracht to the Dramsbrandersgracht : at a later period were erected outbuildings and more houses, the greater part of which were consumed by fire in 1821, or have since fallen into decay. That dreadful conflagration left many clear spaces in Paramaribo, now filled by rubbish and brambles, and these evidences of disaster make a gloomy

impression on the mind of a person first visiting the city.

Cattle, horses, asses, sheep, and goats are seen grazing at the corners of streets in these open spaces, while the goats are sporting on the walls, and running between cellars full of water. E.N.E. of the town stands Fort Zelandia, near the salient angle of the river, and N.E. the suburb of Zelandia generally called Combé. The most remarkable buildings are the Government House, the Hospital, the Barracks in the Fort of Zelandia, the Churches and the Town Hall.

The streets of Paramaribo are level, broad, and well arranged with avenues of trees in many of them, and adorned with some well constructed buildings; the Government House is especially more entitled to the name of palace, with a fine esplanade in front for the troops to parade on.

Opposite the Government House, on the river, is a stone staircase leading up to a landing place, cut in the rock; on the west side of the parade terrace is a stone building

called the Black Court, this edifice, covered over with an Italian roof, was built in 1774, it was at a later period entirely renewed, some parts having been spared during the conflagration.

The present Town House is near the Hospital, the original building which had been enlarged by Van Caril de Cheusses, fell a prey to the flames in 1821, the present, formerly a private house belonging to Mr. P. Heijdoorn, was, after his decease, purchased by the local Government. East of the Town House, in the Heeren Straat, is a large empty space where stood, before the conflagration, the Reformed Church, which had been built ten years earlier; this church had eight handsome pillars, upon which the roof rested, it also possessed an excellent organ.

On the first of October, 1840, I was off Bramspoint, on board the "Lady of the Night" full of anticipation of the pleasure to be derived from a visit to Dutch Guiana; and very impatient to reach Fort Amsterdam to shew my passport, and proceed to the capital.

Fort Amsterdam is about seven miles up

the river, and, when we anchored, presented a scene of lively bustle. Officers in full dress thronged the landing place, and artillery men were loading guns, in order to fire a salute on the appearance of a steam vessel, hourly expected to arrive, with the Governor General on board.

Our passports delivered, and permission given us to proceed, we resailed; and, soon after, the steamboat, gaily decorated with flags, and music playing on its deck, appeared in view, and darted past our small craft; but sufficiently close to allow us a full view of his Excellency and staff, seated under a beautiful tented canopy.

The evening was serene, the river calm; and the effect of the superb vessel gliding over the smooth water, colours flying, music playing, while the echo of the salute from the Fort, resounded on all sides, formed a very animated, spirit stirring scene.

I like thus to enter a fresh country; it seems an augury of pleasure to come.

As you approach Paramaribo, the scenery

on either side of the river improves ; estates with their cane fields stretching to the very brink, tall palm trees, and verdure clad hills, attract the attention ; pastures on which cattle are grazing, with the different habitations, assist to make the sail seem short.

We anchored about eight o'clock, too late to take our luggage on shore, so I slept on board ; but the next morning, early, hastened to the only hotel in the city to secure quarters ; and, in good truth, for cheerfulness of situation, that one hotel has no equal. A commodious gallery, or verandah, extends in front, hanging almost over the river, which is here rather more than a mile across ; and on this gallery one might wile away a day without a feeling of *ennui*.

The Governor General having left on a tour of inspection, I delivered my letters of introduction, from the Governor of Demerara, to M. de Veer, *Gouvernement Secretaris*, who gave me a very kind reception ; and after expressing his regret at the absence of the Governor, and introducing me to his collea-

gues in office, M. Leers, *Administrateur van Financien*, and M. Fiers Smeding, Procureur General, assured me he would do all he could to render my stay amongst them agreeable ; to confirm which, he engaged to introduce me to the Governor's family the next morning.

Mr. Samo, her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner, accompanied us on this visit of ceremony, and shewed me the gardens, which are beautiful, as all those places are in the colonies ; containing a number of pretty alcoves, and flowers in profusion. The urbanity of the ladies was very great, and, as they all conversed in French, the visit was a pleasant one.

This ceremony over, M. Samo accompanied me to his residence, where, in company with an English gentleman, Mr. Gordon, I took my second breakfast : in Surinam it is the fashion to breakfast twice. My new acquaintance then carried me home to dinner, and introduced me to Mrs. Gordon.

Monday, October fourth, I accompanied Mr. Gordon to the Moravian Church, a spaci-

ous, well-built edifice, filled by a numerous congregation, chiefly coloured and black people ; among whom were many slaves, but all neatly dressed. The service was performed in the Dutch language, and, as far as my imperfect knowledge allowed me to judge, was admirably suited to the auditors.

The whole service occupied about an hour, and on leaving the Church Mr. G. assisted me with his knowledge of the city to pay a few return visits, and then again made me breakfast with him.

This day I was introduced to the etiquette of the Surinam dinner parties. It was at the residence of M. de Veer, who sent his carriage for me. On my arrival I found a large party assembled, but Madame de Veer was the only lady present. I had the honor of sitting next her at table, but she could only speak Dutch, of which I knew but little, so our conversation was chiefly in short sentences or monosyllables.

The dinner consisted of two courses, the first comprised of a variety of dishes served

up in French, Dutch, English, and West Indian fashion. After we had regaled ou these to our hearts' content, I was surprised to see every one rise from table. The lady disappeared, and the gentlemen dispersed in different directions ; some strolled into the gardens and enjoyed a cigar ; others retired to the saloon to converse ; whilst one or two lounged in the verandah.

Sometime having passed thus, a servant announced "*qu'on est servie*" the hostess reentered, took the arm of the gentleman who had previously taken her to the table, and resumed her place, each following her example.

The second course was placed before us, the dessert being blended, decorated with the choicest flowers and fruits ; the champagne sparkled, and the conversation became more animated. Madame did not again leaves us till she led the way to the saloon for coffee or tea.

Such was the etiquette observed at all the hospitable entertainments given to me, the

the only difference being that the ladies did not always retire, but remained chatting or walking, with the gentlemen.

I admired the custom, and only regretted that the fair ones of Surinam would not learn other languages, or that I was better skilled in Dutch phraseology.

The estates of Dutch Guiana amount to one thousand and fifty one, of which many produce, besides sugar, cocoa, coffee, indigo, cotton, &c., most valuable wood.

As to tropical fruits, they are no less abundant than good : the avenues of many of the streets in Paramaribo are formed of fruit trees. The Cayenne Banana growing there is small and so delicate that many persons having once tasted it never touch any other.

To see these estates in the easiest and best manner possible, is to take a tent boat* and glide down the river. Do not imagine, kind reader, that in one of these boats you

* A model of this kind of boat may be seen in the United Service Museum.

are luxuriously seated upon Turkish cushions under a splendid canopy ; no, you can recline upon sofas and enjoy every comfort, but it is in a small wooden apartment erected at the stern.

Some of these boats have six or eight rowers, besides a head man, who stands at the stern and directs, by speech or a pole in his hand, the course of the boat, which has no rudder. Distances are computed by tides ; it being always with the tide voyagers proceed up the rivers in Dutch Guiana ; thus, enquiring the distance from place to place, the usual answer is, one, two, or more tides, as the case may be.

On the tide becoming unfavourable, the boatmen make for the shore, fasten the boat and wait for a change. It is generally so regulated as to arrive at some estate by the change of tide, there to land and repose, or take refreshment, awaiting another change favourable for proceeding. The houses attached to the different estates are generally situated near the river's banks, and each has

a good landing place, with a quay, steps and boat house into which the water flows and wafts the boat with facility ; a level walk, shaded by an avenue of tall trees, leads to the residence, where travellers are sure to be hospitably received.

In this manner do the *élite* of Dutch Guiana generally travel, and if it so happens that they cannot arrive at a landing place in time, or that the intention is not to stop ; provisions are taken on board and enjoyed greatly.

I never took a more pleasant excursion, and only regretted time would not allow me to reach Bergendaal, or Blueberg, on the west side of the river, and about a hundred miles from Surinam.

During the fifteen days I passed in Paramaribo the weather was uncommonly beautiful, but very hot ; particularly in the town, which is certainly handsome, but did not please me so well as Georgetown, Demerara. The Theatre is really a nice building, and very superior to those places

of amusement in most of the county towns of England. It stands in an enclosed space, planted with trees in the background, and separated from the street, in front, by handsome palisades. It was not open during my visit.

Yet not to be particularly pleased with Paramaribo, seems very ungrateful, in me, on whom so much attention and hospitality was showered. Every where I was invited to dine, and each person seemed anxious to shew me kindness and promote my wish of seeing every place. On one of my excursions, with Messrs. Gordon, Samo, and Binks, up the Komewina river, where we first visited an indigo plantation belonging to Mr. Wildboer, the sugar estate of Mr. Hoase, and sleeping at Vertrouwen, the abode of Mr. Ritter ; I went to an estate no one names without a smile, *Nyd en Spyt*, Envy and Vexation. Who could ever have bestowed such an appellation upon such a valuable coffee plantation. This excursion also took me to Alkamaar Vischenezorg, &c.

On the eleventh the Governor returned from his tour of inspection, and on the following morning I hastened to pay my respects.

Notwithstanding his high station, the most noble and highly born Julius Constantine Rijk, Knight of the order of the Netherland Lion, of the order of Danabrog, of Denmark, of the Legion of Honor of France, of the second class of the order of St. Anna, of Russia ; of the third class of the order of St. Stanislaus, and of the order of the White Falcon, of Saxe Weimar Eisenach ; Rear Admiral in the service of his Majesty the king of the Netherlands, Governor General of the Netherland West India Possessions, Commander-in-chief of the land and sea forces in the same, &c., &c., &c. (so runs the Surinam Almanac), received me in the kindest and most affable manner, expressing his regret at having been absent, so that I had been obliged to go to the hotel, but hoping I would instantly transfer myself to his house.

Such an invitation as this I should have

been delighted to accept, but my stay was now nearly at an end, so, with thanks, I declined, but accepted an invite to join his dinner table the following day.

The next morning was devoted, first to ascending a tower over some new public buildings, to enjoy a view of the city, and up and down the river, then we went to Fort Zelandia, to inspect the barracks, which are airy and comfortable. The cooking department and bake office superior to any I ever saw. Fort Zelandia I should suppose retains the name given, it is said, to the whole province by sailors from New Zealand.

It was a large party I met at the Governor's and a gay one. His Excellency is possessed of all those qualities necessary for his office ; with elegant manners and great affability, he unites considerable powers of conversation and knowledge of languages. Here I met officers of the Dutch army and navy, with the son-in-law of the Governor, who at that period was captain of the ship of war bearing the Admiral's flag, then at anchor at Fort Zelandia.

I also this day met with one of those trifles, which often give such a pleasing zest to enjoyment. I was introduced to a Mr Bent, who formerly resided in Demerara ; upon my name being pronounced he met me with a smile, said he had received letters from a mutual friend respecting me, and regretted his absence had prevented a meeting sooner. Having mutual friends, all the formality of strangers was banished from our intercourse, we met as

“ Brothers meet in foreign lands,”

and parted, engaged to pass the next day in each other's society.

The same etiquette was observed at this dinner as at all the parties I had joined, but the ladies did not leave us ; Madam Ryk is a native of Brussels and speaks French with great purity, therefore the conversation was very animated. His Excellency addressed me several times, and dwelt particularly on the subject of Slave Emancipation, commending the noble example of

Great Britain, and assuring me that it was the anxious wish of the Dutch Government to follow it*, but that the means were wanting; the finances of the country would not admit of compensation, to the proprietors, for the immense pecuniary losses they would sustain by the freedom of their slaves, but that measures were taken to render the state of slavery as mild as possible; that if in any remote, isolated part of the extensive colony under his administration acts of oppression, unknown to the authorities, were committed, he could affirm nothing like severity was practised in any place where he had access, or means of exercising control.

I passed a long and pleasant day with Mr. Bent, our tête-à-tête enlivened by the addition of Mr. Samo.

* The government of Holland, according to public intelligence, appointed a commission, in 1842, to consider on the best means of extinguishing slavery in the Colonies of that country.

Estates I visited, October 1840, up the Rivers Surinam and Hommewijne.

Names.	Number of Slaves.	Acres.	Productions.	Where situated.	Names of gentlemen residing.
à la Bonneheure,	44	500	Indigo	River Commewÿne	Mr. Wildeboer.
Alkmaar,	499	1496	Sugar	Ditto Ditto.	Mr. Parry.
Browuer's Lust,	159	726	Coffee	Ditto. Ditto.	Mr. Haase.
Meerzorg,	346	2840	Sugar	Ditto. Surinam	Mr. Niefeld.
Nÿd en Spÿt	147	1000	Coffee	Ditto Commewÿne	
Pepperpot,	12	902	Coffee and vegetables	Ditto. Surinam	Mr. Deveer.
Vertrouwen,	285	2175	Sugar	Ditto Commewÿne	Mr. Ritter.
Visserzorg,	278	1000	Sugar	Ditto. Ditto.	Mr. Claver,
Voerburg,	165	1500	Sugar	Ditto. Surinam	

Exported produce and wood merchandise,
or timber, from Surinam to the Netherlands,
during the year 1839.

Ships or vessels,	82
lbs of sugar	32,591,389
lbs of coffee	2,362,579
lbs of cotton	1,575,250
lbs of indigo	1752
Chests of arrow root	44
lbs of rice	530
Barrels of rum	242
Pieces, or logs of wood	415
Bundles, Cwassie wood	750
lbs of cocoa	54,765

Exported from Surinam to North America,
during the year 1839.

37 ships or vessels 705,447 gallons of molasses

Produce exported from Dutch Guiana,
during the year 1840.

lbs of sugar	3,4313,897
lbs of coffee	3,479,302
lbs of cotton	2003,246
lbs of cocoa	182,984
lbs of indigo	1526
Gallons of mollasses	937,120

Gallons of rum	65,350
Wood, feet	50,000
lbs of rice	21,307
lbs of arrow root and starch	2,600
Barrels of Guinea corn . .	615
lbs of Cwassia wood	3,800
Pieces of inland wood	1293

Produce exported from Dutch Guiana,
during the year 1841.

lbs of sugar	31,386,646
lbs of coffee	1,958,840
lbs of cotton	1,467,070
lbs of cocoa	86,445
lbs of indigo	658
Gallons of molasses	1,020,258
Gallons of rum	82,374
Square feet of wood	55,000
lbs of rice	16,990
lbs of arrow root	3566
Barrels of Guinea corn	424
lbs of Cwassie wood	3965

Population of Colony at the end of the
year 1840.

Free persons, males	4,437
Females	5,039

Of slaves, males	23,208
Females	23,700
Of friendly bush Negroes	6,300
Total.	<u>62,684</u>

Slaves employed on plantations, males	16,543
Females	16079
Slaves employed in town, males	6665
Females	7621
Total.	<u>46908</u>

On the 15th of October I left Paramaribo, a city fast improving, and the internal regulations of which render it delightful to dwell in. Perfect order pervades the streets at all times. Peace and good will to all men appearing to be the principle guiding rich and poor.

BRITISH GUIANA.

CHAPTER I.

OUR portion of Guiana, which extends from the Essequibo to the Corentyn, comprises three districts, named after the river by which each is watered, Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, collectively containing a population of 84,915.

On the 12th of December, 1839, at day-break, the coast of Demerara was in sight; the brigantine approached it rapidly, arrived

in the river about 10 o'clock, anchored, and, the troops landed that afternoon. Accompanied by the senior military officer, I waited on his Excellency the Governor, to whom a grand festival was given, that evening at the public buildings, by a considerable number of gentlemen of this colony.

Georgetown, December 13th. It was with indescribable interest that I again viewed this capital of British Guiana, a period of fifteen years having elapsed since my departure from its shores. This town, or city, formerly called Stabrock, appeared, in many respects, much improved; new edifices had arisen, of which the most conspicuous, as well as the most ornamental, are the Public Buildings, where the Legislature, under the denomination of the Court of Policy, the combined court, financial representatives, and all the courts of law assemble; and where all the public offices are held. It is a noble structure, and formed of more solid materials than the other buildings of the town, which are for the most part of wood

Fine, spacious barracks for the troops, at Eve Leary, have replaced the poor, confined ones formerly in use, when soldiers were crowded to an unmerciful degree, in hammocks, throughout the West India Colonies. The General Hospital too, facing the barracks, is a magnificent building, compared with that formerly appropriated for the reception of invalid soldiers.

A new Protestant church, in progress, is to replace the principal one, named Saint George's Church, now falling into decay. A very beautiful Protestant church has been recently erected by private subscription in another part of the town, called Christ Church. There is also a respectable looking Catholic church, in which improvements and additions are almost daily perceptible. Near to the Public Buildings is a pretty looking Presbyterian church.

Georgetown covers a vast extent of ground in consequence of the houses, with the exception of a few commercial streets, being widely separated from each other ; many of

them indeed have the appearance of country houses, with their gardens, trees, flowers and shrubberies around them, forming as it were a rural city, in traversing which, gardens and orchards, luxuriant with the mountain cabbage, cocoa-nut, orange, shaddock, mango, bread fruit, sappodillo, Otaheita gooseberry, Tamarind, and various other trees, with shrubs, and flowers innumerable, amongst which the Rose, Oleanda, Queen of Flowers, Hibiscus, Barbados Pride, Jasmin, Lilac, and others abound.

There are many well built, elegant looking houses in this city, but at the same time somewhat dilapidated ones disfiguring the appearance of the best streets.

Strange to say, in the capital of so important a colony, there is no residence appropriated for the Governor. Formerly when the government of British Guiana was vested in a military officer, Camp House, properly then the quarter for the officer commanding H.M. troops, was, for that reason, the Governor's residence, and a very appropriate one,

but recently it has been converted into an ordnance store, and the officer commanding H.M. troops is simply lodged in Barracks, with his officers.

Georgetown still retains, what is found in but few of the colonies at this time—a ‘theatres’—there is also a colonial hospital for invalid sailors. The streets are good, and many of them broad enough for two, three, or more carriages abreast, in fact they are more like roads than streets, the commercial streets excepted. Carriages, landaus, and gigs, are frequently met in the town and suburbs, where the roads are kept dry, and in good order by drains that conduct to canals, over which are numerous bridges, as in Holland, which this country resembles in respect to low, level lands.

The Race Course is very handsome, it is called the D’Urban, having been made during the government of General Sir Benjamin D’Urban. Near the course is a fine coffee estate, called the lodge; plantain trees are there planted between the coffee shrubs.

A pretty ride for early morning is, to pass by the left of the public buildings, through Charles Town, skirting the estates Penitence and Runweld ; leaving which you ride along an avenue of mountain cabbage trees ; the proprietor's house and buildings at Houston looking to great advantage. Rome is another pleasing spot, opposite which is an enclosed space where you can inhale the fragrance of the sweet jasmin, whilst the morning sun makes the dew drops on its dark leaves glisten like diamonds ; here also is the Wakemaan Lilac with its splendid blossoms, besides many others.

This pretty spot is called the ring and has a carriage drive round it, whilst close by is another enclosed space, of triangular form, where three immense Mountain Cabbage trees spread their feathery branches over the gay flowers beneath.

On the twenty-first of December I started on an expedition into Berbice. Mr. Allt, a kind friend, drove me as far as his residence called Belfield, that night, and early next

day we arrived at Mahaica, passing through a succession of sugar estates. Mahaica is about twenty-five miles from Eve Leary barracks, and there, in December, under the shade of a wide spreading tree we made a breakfast *al fresco*.

I have been too long accustomed to this primitive mode of travelling for it to possess, what is generally the greatest charm, that of novelty, but when on a tour of pleasure, what can be so delightful as to stop where fancy wills, take the refreshment from the vehicle, spread it on the green grass, and then, with appetites stimulated by a ride, throw ourselves down, eat and enjoy it, our view not bounded by four walls, the blue heaven our canopy; cooled by the waving branches above our heads, our music the cries of the many birds around us: the tame *Qu'est ce qui dit*, this morning seeming as if it wished to share our meal. This bird, which it appears an understood thing is never to be molested, frequents dwellings and abounds in all parts of Demerara. It is nearly the

size of an English thrush, or blackbird ; its upper plumage brown ; the under light yellow or canary colour ; which by candle light appears beautifully white ; a little white on the throat, and a small tuft of black and straw color, around which, is a border of white plumage on the head.

We only reached Plantation Fowls that night, but next morning continued our route to the Berbice river which we crossed in a boat about three o'clock and went to Fort Canje, where Mr. Allt left me, as I intended paying a visit to New Amsterdam the following day.

The district of Berbice contains two hundred and thirteen estates ; some of which like a great part of Guiana consist of low, swampy savannahs ; the numerous rivers, emptying themselves on the coast, carrying with them large quantities of mud, which, being deposited on the shores, form a border or low ground covered with mangrove.

On christmas day 1839, I left Fort Canje, and embarkad on board the steam vessel

“Royal Victoria,” arrived in Demerara river at four o’clock, and hastened to the barracks, but left again next day for Capouy in the Shannon schooner.

I was absent only four days, took a long rest, and on the 22nd of Februrary, sailed for Essequibo, passed Leguan, Wackenaam, Hog, and Tiger islands ; spring gardens and other estates ; and landed at Airy Hall at seven in the evening.

During these six days that I was touring I explored many miles, saw many estates, and at Hunston Decree was particularly delighted with the number of mocking birds. Early in the morning, they were flying and hopping among the boughs of the tall Orinoque trees, or resting amidst the bright scarlet blossoms.

In Trinidad this species of bird is a pale ash colour ; but in Demerara it is of a variegated black, red and white with other shades, the black predominating. It is asserted these birds imitate the notes of all other kinds of the feathered tribe, and even of some animals, but though I saw them in

great numbers, in Capouy and other places, I never could distinguish more than one tone, that resembling the note of the thrush.

September 4th, I accompanied a friend on an excursion to the river Pomeroon; first going, by the Land of Plenty to a rivulet, where alighting and sending back our horses we went in a boat to the lake Quaco Boca, a fine piece of smooth water, rowed across it to a cottage belonging to Mr. Ridley, landed, and after breakfasting walked through a thick wood, and arrived at the lake Tappacooma, whence, taking another boat, to a house close to the river, down which we glided came to the Arrapeaca; then crossed over to the Pomeroon up which we proceeded till, towards sunset, we arrived at an estate belonging to Mr. Pickersgill, called Pomeaco.

The Pomeroon is navigable for canoes, to the Orinoco; and though narrow in some places, is of good depth; the water pure and fresh; there are a few habitations on its banks which are covered with thick wood

and shrubs, and vast quantities of a kind named, Froolies, which appear to be of the same nature as that called Carrat, in Trinidad, and used for the same purpose. Pomeaco is advantageously situated at a broad part of the stream ; the soil around good, and capable of yielding abundance of fruit, vegetables, &c. The approach to Maria's Hope is very beautiful ; the land then becomes more elevated and that estate is one of the few in the colony situated on an eminence The dwelling house is forty or fifty feet above the river ; in 1840, the lands at Maria's Hope were planted with arnotta shrubs ; and I saw the Indian men and women occupied in making the red paint from the pods ; at that period there was great demand for that article, but that demand has subsided and the cultivation of the arnotta has been discontinued.

I remained some days at Fort Island, which formerly was a place of importance, and the ancient capital of the colony, after the first settlement of the Dutch ; but it is

fast falling into decay. The appointment of Post Holder has been suppressed and the town almost abandoned, yet it is well situated at the mouth of the Essequibo, and very healthy. My excursion up this river was rather interesting, though we were poorly provided for, with only two small boats and three men; all we could prevail upon to go with us; and the first day only made Ithaca; where a widow lady kindly gave us shelter for the night. Leaving at an early hour next morning, we went up the river, touching at Amope and Palmer's Point, and came to the grove on Bartica Point to breakfast, and promised, on our return from Kykoveral, to dine there.

We took a canoe to convey us to Kykoveral, which is an extraordinary place, with the ruins of an old Dutch Fort, on a rocky eminence, in the centre of the Mazaroonny river. This small island, called in Dutch, Kykoveral, and, translated, means "Look every where", commands a view of the shore on all sides of the rivers Cayoony and

Essequibo, and of Cartobo Point ; so that no vessel or boat can pass the Fort without approaching nearly within pistol shot. The Fort was well built, with walls of great solidity, and embrasures for guns pointing in all directions.

Our curiosity satisfied, we next stopped at Palmer's Point to climb a block of granite, and look down on all the three rivers in Essequibo, Mazaroonny, and Cayoony.

At four o'clock we disembarked at the Grove.

We were delighted with this rural little village, and the order, the neatness, the regularity, and the high cultivation of the gardens around it. It contains only three houses, and about twenty cottages. In the evening we attended the daily prayers, with the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Bernau : there were present about a hundred persons, among whom were many Indian boys and girls, who are maintained and instructed by Mr. Bernau ; this was a most interesting sight, and one reflecting great credit on our host. The prayers

were first read, and then a ~~h~~hymn followed, in which Mrs. Bernau and the children united, their voices sounding very harmoniously.

After prayers we returned to Ampe where we had made arrangements to sleep. Our wanderings led us to stay at Tiger Creek only a little time next day, and then turn our steps, or rather our frail boats towards Fort Island ; though I did so with reluctance. Let future tourists who wish to make this voyage, or one up any of these rivers, provide themselves with a good Correal and four boatmen, hammocks with curtains, cloak and flannel gown, half a dozen changes of clothes, dressing apparatus, fowling piece, powder and shot, provisions to their taste, cooking utensils, plates, cups and saucers, knives and forks, lanterns, candles, and snuffers, wine, brandy, malt liquors, &c., which will suggest the necessity of a corkscrew. The island of Leguan, my next resting point, as well as that Wakenaam contains many fine estates, and would be highly productive were they properly cul-

tivated ; but this cannot be effected from a want of labourers.

On the eleventh of January, 1842, a detachment of the 1st W. I. regiment embarked for Pirara, near the Brazilian frontier, at a great distance from George town ; the troops were sent up the rivers, and the voyage was attended with toil, privation and danger.

This step of sending troops to Pirara caused great excitement in Brazil ; the authorities claiming that spot, such as it is, as a part of their territory. Orders, however, were soon given to withdraw the detachment, the expenses being greater than the utility ; and the right of possession must be decided by the two governments.

The twelfth was a day of great excitement in George town, an excitement caused by the arrival, for the first time, of one of the Royal Mail Steam Company's Packets.

The Clyde was crowded with visitors during its stay, amongst whom was the Governor, his lady, and family.

On the nineteenth I left Georgetown for my last excursion to visit the Sand Hills. These hills are about seventy feet above the level of the river, and from the whiteness of the sand, if you approach them, as I did, by moonlight, have the appearance of snow. They are not quite barren; the few inhabitants cultivate some small spots for gardens, and the shaddock, the orange, the rose apple and Cashew nut grow there nourished, no doubt, by the two springs issuing from the hills. But the object of great interest to me was the extensive forest behind them, with good pathways through it, and abounding in valuable wood.

Here are seen the Sewarry nut trees, which grow to a gigantic size, with enormous branches, broad leaves, and nuts enveloped in massive green pods—so large and hard as to require a hammer to break them; the kernel has the flavour of the walnut, when the oil has been extracted, by placing it in salt and water. Here also grow iron wood, purple heart, the wallaba, Mora, Goomara

mara, and locust trees, besides many others of great value, for the wood they furnish. At a short distance in the forest is a gully or large stream of fresh water.

The air at the Sand Hills is very salubrious, and the river is navigable for vessels of tolerable size as far as Christian Berg, the last place inhabited by Europeans, on that side of British Guiana.

My time was diminishing quickly, but I was determined to visit the waterfalls ; so again took a boat and went down the river. The Marechal and Kesterbreck did not meet my expectations, for they offered no impediment to the boats, the water flowing gently over, shelving rocks, of no great height. The Warroo Mamboo was much larger, and had a deeper fall.

We landed from the boat, and explored the rocks forming the bed, the greater part of which were dry ; nor was there any very considerable fall of water, though in the rainy season, it must be a splendid sight. The woodland and river scenery is very

beautiful, but no dwellings, not a single living being, to give it animation.

The river becomes less broad and more shallow towards the falls, and it is not safe for a vessel of any size. beyond a boat, to proceed much farther than Kykoveral in their direction.

In the broad part of the rivers fish abound the most remarkable being that called the Laulau, which grows to a great size, and is considered very delicate eating. *

The appearance of Point Zelandia on the approach from the river is exceedingly beautiful, and the view, gliding past Bartika Point, is beyond description ; comprising the Grove, Point Zelandia, Cartabo Point, and the distant lofty mountains. The appearance of the colony there ceases to bear the aspect of an almost monotonous flat.

* The Chevalier Schomberg has published a work exclusively on the various fishes of this Colony. He is now exploring, and continuing his researches, with a view to develop, still further, the vast resources of British Guiana.

Point Zelandia is now a penal settlement, and is most advantageously situated on an eminence of seventy or eighty feet above the river, which is there of good depth. Granite abounds on the banks, and the adjoining woods are filled with valuable trees, so that the efforts of the culprits sent there can be most usefully directed.

The year 1841 proved very unfavourable to the proprietors in British Guiana, the high rate of wages and other expenses occasioning serious loss on their produce, and the utmost despondency prevailed, but the next terminated more favourably.

Towards the middle of 1842, &c., the combined court, regulating the financial affairs of the colony passed a rigid, and by many deemed an unauthorised act against the affairs of Her Majesty's troops in the Garrison, depriving them of the Colonial allowance which had always been granted, as a means of enabling them to exist in such an inordinately expensive country. The combined Court of the present year has indeed re-

newed by another Act, that allowance, but its renewal taking effect only from the 1st January, 1843, so that officers who served in British Guiana during the last six months, (from 1st July to 31st December) of 1842, lose the allowance due to them for that period.

The allowance in itself is wretchedly small, and officers are badly off, who have not private fortunes, or resources, whilst serving in British Guiana. Indeed throughout the West India Colonies the pay of officers is inadequate to their support, their pay ought at least, to be doubled, more especially that of officers *actually* serving in the West India Regiments.

The present year, 1845, has fortunately been a productive one for British Guiana, and some other Transatlantic Colonies.

Produce of British Guiana during the year 1843.

Sugar,	54,674,009	pounds weight.
Molasses,	2,020,354	gallons.
Rum,	147,0,830	gallons.

Cotton,	3,008	pounds weight.
Coffee,	1,924,218	pounds weight.

The balance of money in the colonial chests of Demerara, and Berbice, 1st January 1843, amounted to 103,749 dollars, and 91 cents.

Total amount of receipts and expenditure of the colony chests of British Guiana from the 1st of January, to 31st December 1842.

Counties of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice.

Receipts		Expenditure	
* Dollars	Cents	Dollars	Cents
965,621.	71 $\frac{2}{3}$.	965,621.	71 $\frac{1}{3}$.

N. B. The above calculations are taken from the Royal, British Guiana, Gazette.

The cultivation of many estates since the emancipation has been abandoned, particularly of those situated on the road to

* Four shillings and two pence to the dollar, likewise a hundred cents (*ideal coin*) to the dollar.

† The estimate for the year 1843 amounted to 307,785 dollars—85 cents.

Berbice, several of them being converted into cattle farms, or grazing grounds. Cotton is almost entirely discontinued, and coffee but little cultivated. Great profits are derived from the valuable woods of the colony, the Indians will assist in felling trees, but will not engage in agricultural labor, they are excellent boatmen, and dexterous as paddlers. Vessels of good size some times sail up the Essequibo to Tiger Creek, and there load with valuable woods, for England.

On my last visit to Georgetown I found the work of improvement going on rapidly ; the Colonial Hospital is now completed, and, with that for the seamen, is one of the finest and most beneficial establishments that could have been projected. An agricultural society, a reading room, and an astronomical society, have been founded and are well supported. A very pretty and convenient new market on the banks of the river, is not the least useful addition to the public buildings, and all these have been planned and erected without in the least deteriorating

from the rural appearance of the streets, which is, in my eyes, such a beauty in Georgetown. The rose, oleander, hybiscus orinoque, Barbados' pride, scarlet concordia, king of flowers, lilac, and jasmin, are seen in all their gayest colours ; whilst fruit trees hang their laden branches over the heads of the pedestrians. At the Ring numerous additions have been made and the avenue of Mountain Cabbage looks as beautiful as ever. I think this avenue is one of the lions of the colony.

The race course, and adjoining plantation of the lodge is another charming ride or, should the water tempt you, go on board the Lady Flora Hastings, which has taken the place of my old friend the Royal Victoria, and sail from Georgetown to the river Berbice. It is but a cruise of nine hours and, though the "Rollers" off Mahaica and Mahacony may wash over the deck, will repay you. Some persons are inclined to fancy the Lady Flora not of sufficient size to contend with these angry waves, though well suited to

river navigation ; but sailors are the best judges of that.

I encountered the rolling and pitching and was well rewarded, for I again saw New Amsterdam ; greatly improved, indeed progressing as rapidly as Georgetown. Here is also a library, a reading room, a General asylum and hospital, and an agricultural society.

Hitherto I have refrained from writing upon one of the most revolting diseases, and one which I believe is common to most of the colonies, under the names " Barbados' leg," " Frambosia," and " Yaw," all being a species of Elephantiasis, and hitherto considered as incurable, but which now there is a prospect that the science of medicine can even touch and ameliorate if not cure.

Doctor Vries, a gentleman residing in Wellington Street Georgetown, has devoted all his energy and skill to this disease, and he now comes boldly forward and proffers remedy. I was present at a meeting held at his house on the 23rd of April, and saw

eleven candidates present themselves, some mere children, but all in a dreadful state. One was chosen for Doctor Vries to begin his experiments upon, and I can only say I pray earnestly for success.

“ In this dreadful disease, Frambosia, the tubercles, when the malady has for some time proceeded, begin to crack, and at length to ulcerate. Ulcerations also appear in the throat and nose, sometimes destroying the palate and cartilaginous septum, the nose falls and the breath becomes intolerably offensive. The thickened and tuberculated skin of the extremities becomes divided and ulcerates, or is corroded under dry, sordid scales, so that the fingers and toes gangrene and separate joint after joint. Arctoes and the ancients in general, consider this same disease, a universal cancer of the body, and speak of it with terror.

“ According to some this disease is called the Arabian's Iuzam and Iuzamlyk, from an Arabic word which implies EROSION, TRUNCA-

SION, EXCISION. From Arabia, the term, Iuzam, has no doubt passed into India, as it is there the common name for the same disease.

“Among the Caberajals or Hindoo physicians, who also occasionally demonstrate it Fisádi Khùn from its being supposed to infect the entire mass of blood, but more generally Kora. One peculiarity of this infection, is the apathy with which it is endured. The mind becomes sluggish and slow in apprehension, no pain, and seldom more than a pleasing itching of the parts. When the sanious discharge comes on, the muscle, pale and flabby, is in its turn destroyed, and the joint perforated, as by an auger, the extremity droops, and at length falls a victim to this cruel, tardy, but certain poison. The wounds now heal, and other joints are attacked in succession, whilst every revolving year bears with it a trophy of this dilatory march of death. Even at this stage, death comes not to the relief, nor is desired by the infected patient who, dying by inches, and a spectacle of horror to all who behold

him, still fondly cherishes the spark of life remaining, eats voraciously all he can procure, and will often crawl about with little more than the trunk remaining, until old age comes on, and at last he is carried off by diarrhoea or dysentery, which the enfeebled constitution has no stamina to resist."

Surely all who read the above description, will join in praise to Mr. Vries for his attempt, and a wish that his skill may be rewarded. I confess I look forward with great anxiety, to the report of the committee appointed to watch his progress.

The present state of the colony, is well pourtrayed in the following address of his Excellency the Governor, to the combined Court-gentlemen.

"The business of the session being now at an end, there remaineth nothing for me but to perform the pleasing duty of returning my cordial thanks for the diligence with which you have executed your important task ; for the perspicuous improved arrangement which the usual Tax Ordinance

has received at your hands, and for the due Provision which you have made for every branch of the public service ; and especially for your wise liberality in respect to the repair of ecclesiastical edifices. I also congratulate you on the record which your proceedings have supplied of the highly prosperous state of the finances of the country ; of the satisfactory condition, in respect to wages and food, of the mass of the people, and of the spirit of enterprise and local improvement which pervades the entire community.

“A steady augmentation of the population ;* the continuance, for some years to come, of the fostering care and protection of the mother country, and the blessing of Providence cannot fail ere long, to raise this magnificent colony to that high rank amongst the depen-

* According to a census, taken, in February 1843, the total population of British Guiana then consisted of 120,000, of which number, about nineteen thousand in Georgetown alone.

dences of the British crown, to which its extent, capabilities, and fertility, give it so just and natural a claim."

Signed, HENRY LIGHT,

April 14, 1845.

T O B A G O .

CHAPTER I.

IN the hope that I may be able to eradicate an unfavorable impression respecting Tobago I shall set about my description of it in good earnest, and endeavour to prove that such an idea is erroneous, for as the traveller penetrates into the interior he must become convinced of the importance of it as a colony.

Military men generally dislike being ordered to Tobago, and are always anxious to

quit ; but this proceeds from the very limited society and want of public amusement ; whilst the unprepossessing appearance of the northern coast, when passing at sea, or a short stay in the principal town may lead the traveller to pass from it with distaste. Throughout the whole island there is but little social intercourse, as the habitations are scattered, and the roads, the greater part of the year, in such a state as precludes visiting. But most of the estates are advantageously situated, and the scenery around them picturesque and attractive. The variety of its trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables must render it interesting to the botanist, whilst the naturalist may there find birds not to be met with in the other colonies. Of the former I am acquainted with one hundred and twenty three different kinds, and doubtless there are many others.

The dimensions of this island are variously stated, but according to Mc. Culloch's description " it is thirty-two miles long and twelve

broad." The length may be reckoned from Sandy Bay, Milford, to Charlotteville, Man of War Bay, thirty-two miles in a direct line, but, as the roads are traced, the distance between these two points extends to thirty-nine miles, being twenty-nine measured from the capital Scarborough, to Charlotteville, on the one side, and ten miles to Milford on the other. The breadth may be estimated at twelve miles between the extreme points of Englishman's and Mangrove Bays ; but direct communication is extremely difficult, from the grand ridge of mountains and many other impediments intervening. This island is situated sixteen miles north east of Trinidad, and eighty-two south east of Grenada, in latitude $11^{\circ} 15'$ north longitude $60^{\circ} 40'$ west.

The principal town, Scarborough, situated above the bay of that name, is small, and as a residence offers little that is inviting, but is surrounded by eminences each in itself a picture.

An early morning ride to Signal Hill, on

the estate Auchenskeoch, about six miles from Scarborough, will shew the district of Sandy Point, Milford Bay, Bucco Reef, and all the intermediate estates on one side ; whilst on the other are seen the town, the shipping and bay, Fort King George, &c. and on a fine day the coast of Trinidad.

Prospect estate, which includes all you look at from Signal Hill, takes in also the orange valley and little Courland Bay.

From the signal post, Amity Hope, how brightly the sun is seen gilding the bright waters of the bays and country round. At Mount Grace I could spend a day gazing on the other heights circling over the town, on Dunwegen, Providence, and Arnoes vale, les Coteaux, with the Government House, Harmony Hall, Cinnamon Hall, &c.

But ascend, and gaze from Concordia Estate, at the map beneath you, the panorama around, and acknowledge that it is fairer than any thing else.

'The Court House in Scarborough, is in an open space, and is a handsome building ; but

the Protestant, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan churches are only respectable ; the same remark is applicable to the Custom House and Commissariat Establishment ; but the Jail is well adapted to the colony, and its interior arrangements are admirable ; altogether great improvements have been made in the last few years, especially since the abolition of slavery. I only wish I could say the same of the country properties throughout the colony. It was natural to suppose such an event would cause a great change in affairs, and even cause calamity ; but let us hope that is past and, though the alteration has astonished, time will prove all is for the best.

I was in command of the troops in Tobago in August 1830, when this occurrence was observed with the utmost solemnity ; and I never felt a greater thrill of pleasure than when I saw the newly liberated negros, hasten to the different places of worship, dressed in their best attire, to offer up thanksgivings for the blessing of freedom.

Perfect tranquillity reigned throughout the island. A cessation of work, for a few days of course, took place, for idleness was a novelty and therefore a pleasure ; but gradually many entered into terms with their former masters or others, and resumed labor though not in numbers, indeed many commenced quite different employments. But for a time the merchants had a good market ; the various comestibles from the stores disappeared rapidly ; and finery of all kinds was eagerly sought, as if these poor creatures thought the first acts of freedom must be to eat and dress. Alas ! the merchants as well as proprietors have suffered and many been ruined. Being so near Trinidad it was thought numbers would have repaired thither, but very few left the island. Meetings had been held, and the amount of wages decided ; the rate was very low, but the people were indemnified, by being allowed provision grounds to cultivate for their own advantage.

Long before emancipation the negroes had the exclusive right of the sale of ground pro-

visions ; namely, yams, tanniers, sweet potatoes, cassava ; and they had that monopoly because no other people would cultivate them in Tobago, and consequently they affixed what price they pleased. The legislature in vain tried to control them in that respect ; even whilst slaves they answered the Decree of the House of Assembly, affixing a tariff, by withholding the supplies, and the markets were destitute of the necessary commodities till the decree was rescinded.

Emancipation, notwithstanding the liberal parliamentary grant, proved a severe calamity to the proprietors, though to the liberated it was of inestimable benefit, and that race called negroes is now the happiest of any corresponding class in the universe ; that is to say, the quondam slaves and their families are more comfortably provided for than any peasantry in Europe. Many maintain that they were happier as slaves ; and latterly their treatment was kind, in Tobago particularly so, but fetters remain fetters though decorated with sparkling gems.

Fort King George is on an eminence above Scarborough, the ascent to which is steep, though a good carriage road leads to the summit, which is just a mile from the Court House. From many miles round, in every direction, the eye rests upon this fort, and the view from it is extensive. It is small, but compact: contains good barracks, an hospital, magazines, stores, and seven large tanks supplied by rain water, of which they always contain a sufficient quantity for the use of the garrison, excepting in seasons of great drought.

Courland bay, with the small town over it, called Plymouth, is the second place of importance in the island; it is situated on the northern coast, about five miles from Scarborough, and a constant communication is carried on between them; but some part of the road is not good, and a river near Courland is, after a continuance of heavy rain, often impassable.

Tobago has twenty two bays on its coast; twelve rivers flow through the eighty-two

estates, and during the time the island was in possession of the French there were twenty-two fortifications.

It comprises seven divisions or parishes,

Barbados Bay, or parish of St. George.	
Courland Bay,	St. David.
Great river,	St. Mary.
North east,	St. John.
Queen's Bay,	St. Paul.
Rockley Bay,	St. Andrew.
Sandy Bay,	St. Patrick,

Little Tobago, near the north east extremity is an islet two miles long and one broad.

Milford, at the termination of Sandy Point, still stands marked on the maps as a town, though the visiter perceives only a few scattered houses which can only be named as a poor village.

In the days of the early settlers the capital of the island was Grandby Point, but on account of its insalubrity, it was abandoned, and the seat of government fixed at Scarborough. There are the ruins of a fort still to be seen nearly opposite Smith's islet, and

amongst them lay several dismantled guns, nearly hidden in the long grass.

To add to the melancholy that will steal over the mind in the midst of ruin here are several tomb stones, but the inscription of only one was visible, purporting it to have been erected to the memory of a Mr. Clark, who died in 1772.

Under the demolished fort, and along the beach, was a row of large seaside grape trees, the fruit of which had a strong taste of salt. The height of these trees varies from ten to twenty feet ; the leaves are broad, thick and always green ; the fruit grows in clusters, but otherwise more resembling plums than grapes : when ripe it is of a beautiful violet colour, of an agreeable, refreshing flavour, and containing large stones. It makes good preserves.

On the 13th of April 1837 I left Fort King George with the intention of making a tour of the island. I descended to the Adelphi estate and admired the coffee shrubs, which look beautiful when the clustering

berries are ripe. Mulberry trees have been planted on this property with the intention of breeding silk worms, and at this time there was every prospect of success

Leaving Adelphi, Nutmeg Grove and Indian Walk, I descended from Runnemedede to Mount Dillon, a long and steep path. Just before the decline commences I saw a large silk cotton-tree. In comparison Mount Dillon lies low, though situated on an elevation over the sea; the residence stands on a lovely spot.

I rode only eighteen miles the first day of my tour, sleeping at Englishman's Bay, which I left early in the morning, proceeding thro' the woods, via Patetuvier and Bloody Bays, crossing the river at the latter, where, in the deep part, the water was breast high (I mean to a pedestrian) and continuing my route passing by Anse Fourmis, to Hermitage, a distance from Englishman's Bay of eighteen miles over most difficult ground, and which consequently occupied five hours and a half to traverse; constantly was I obliged to dis-

mount and lead my horse over trunks of trees stretched across the narrow pathway.

Tired with the toilsome journey, the refreshments at Hermitage were very acceptable ; I rested till the cool of the evening, when I again started for Man of War bay, another five miles of riding through the forest ; but though steep and unpleasant it was a more agreeable ride than the early part. But irksome as was my journey it was attended with no feeling of solitariness, for these woods abound in game, namely peccaries, agootees, &c., and on the banks of the river wild cattle are plentiful, but of these I saw nothing. The woods were full of life ; the sound of cocricos, the call of the parrots, the mountain doves, king of the woods, and others re-echoed everywhere, sometimes seeming close to my ear ; but when I emerged from the thick trees and approached Hermitage, the small, beautifully variegated creatures were flying in every direction ; and the song of the wren was heard.

In the two bays were a vast number of

pelicans and other aquatic birds, darting their long bills into the sea at the shoals of small fish springing to the surface.

I rested at Charlotte Ville that night, and at early dawn rode to Telescope, overlooking Man of War bay, the Hermitage, and Saint Giles' Rocks, the rocks called the Brothers, those named the Sisters, Speyside, Tirrel's Bay, the islet Little Tobago, the Observatory, the beautiful estate of Merchison, with the ever changing sea on one side—the land, with a large extent of forest scenery, ever verdant, on the other.

The Observatory was formerly an estate of great value, but has been for years abandoned, and is consequently in ruins ; the ascent is tedious, but let no one go near and not achieve it. The view from the top is splendid.

Between Charlotteville and Telescope, before the ascent commences, a small creek intervenes, named Pirate Bay. Wonderful are the tales related of pirates who are supposed to have concealed great riches near that spot, and many the efforts made to discover

the treasure, but nothing has been found : that morning all was as tranquil as if no such beings as pirates ever existed. I seemed the only human being near, and I was intent on other things than plunder.

When I left Charlotteville, after enjoying a breakfast my previous ride had given me a zest for, I took a southerly direction by Speyside, Tirrel's Bay, Trois Rivières, Lambau Hill, Merchison, King's Bay, Betsy's Hope, Queen's Bay, and stopped at Roxborough ; departed thence early the following morning, passing Argyle, Invera, Kendal Place and Bel Garden, to Richmond, a very extensive property, with a river, navigable for boats and canoes a short distance, flowing through it. I took luncheon at Pembroke, returning to Richmond to dinner.

On the 17th I breakfasted at Pembroke, and then, passing rapidly by Goldsborough, Studley Park, Mount St. George, Hope and Bacolet, parted from my friend at the Lodge and ascended to the fort.

This excursion took me four days, but

they were four of pleasure ; and how often I wished that some of the grumblers against Tobago were with me, that I could point out the various beauties it possesses : only let an unprejudiced person visit the Runnime property, the rich, productive lands bordering on the Grand Ridge, and he will confess the woodland scenery surpasses all description ; the machinery, steam engine, and appurtenances prove the spirit of the possessors : the locust trees must please ; and the sloping lawn embraces sea, mountains, and valley. This estate consists of twelve hundred acres, including the beach about King Peter's Bay.

On the 12th October I went, with a party, to visit Robinson Crusoe's Cave, which lies on the south western coast, under Crown point, opposite to Trinidad ; the roads to it conduct, one near, the other along the beach, (take the former good reader should you visit Tobago,) to Sandy Point, then, leaving the estates of Cove, Friendship, and Kilgwin, to the left, and Bon Accord on the right, you ride about a mile and half farther to an

extensive pasture land, formerly a large estate called Cronstan.

Across this pasture and below the cliffs over the sea is the cave ; and to get to it you now require the use of your hands as well as feet to crawl down the craggy ridge ; after winding a little distance over uneven ground, adjoining the beach a slight ascent must be made ; holding on by hands, and grasping projecting rocks to attain the mouth of the cave, into which, the descent, though not deep, must be made with caution, the entrance being narrow, the ground within very craggy, and broken with rough masses of loose and fixed rock, or stone, whilst the roof is studded with long pointed spars, or knobs of a sharp kind of rock or stony substance, to avoid knocking the head against which, the explorer must stoop low in groping his way into the cave. These points some of which are thinner than the rest, resemble long icicles, and are supposed to have been formed by the rain, or the waves of the sea, during boisterous weather, break-

ing over the cave, oozing through the pores of the roof, becoming congealed, and thus forming petrefactions ; some are very brittle and yield to the force of the hand, others require a hatchet to disunite them ; externally they are dull, but when cut or broken sparkle brilliantly. This cave is about twenty feet long and ten broad, but the extreme end of the aperture is only large enough to admit a very small animal. The aperture in the opinion of many, leads to a considerable extent, but this is only conjecture. The height is sufficient for the tallest man to stand upright, though it is difficult to find footing, the ground being so rugged, and uneven, as to oblige visitors to cling by the large fragments of stone or rock. In one spot there is a natural banquette just admitting a single person to be seated.

It would be no very difficult matter to clear the floor, make an easy entrance, and cutting steps down the cliff enable visitors to resort to it.

Between the mouth of the cave and the

sea is a large cliff, which renders the cave very dark, though it in some degree protects it from the waves. For the purpose of exploring, it is requisite to be furnished with lights, and several fragments of rock are so formed, as to serve as sconces for the tapers ; when thus illuminated the effect is very grand. Our ride home, after this visit, was by moonlight, a light none but travellers in such a clime, can form an idea of.

I remember one day, during a short visit I made to Hermitage, going in a boat with some friends to Englishman's Bay. It was a lovely morning and we were enjoying our sail, when suddenly we heard a sound of lamentation or great pain ; we gazed around, no one was visible, nothing to lead us to guess whence it came, but one of the boatmen, with a half smile, said it was a whale asleep near us ; scarcely had he spoken, when one of those immense creatures leaped from the sea to a considerable height and fell, with an awful explosion, near our boat. We started with exclamations of thank-

fulness at our escape ; the boatmen rested on their oars as if paralysed, and it was only by the authoritative orders of their master, that they rallied and rowed on. The whale was of an enormous bulk, and appeared about seventy feet in length.

The wind, after this incident, became contrary, the sea rough, and the sun intensely hot. Mr. C. was very ill, and we had to console us, only the dreary part of the north coast bordered with impervious forests, or perpendicular, barren, rocks.

Slowly we passed the Brothers and Sisters, Ance Fourmi, Bloody and Patatuvier Bays, and reached our destination in the afternoon, but the surf was so high our boat could not approach the shore ; a skiff was sent to us in which we seated ourselves, and my companions stepped safely on shore, but when I prepared to follow, a tremendous wave washed over the skiff threw me down and carried me far from shore ; with difficulty I arose and grasped an oar ; but again I fell ; another wave came ; and this time hurled the skiff

to the beach ; the men siezed it firmly and I landed drenched with salt water.

Game is plentiful in Tobago, I mean such game as the islands produce, and occasionally partridges are met with, though I never shot but one ; my sport was generally with cocricos and Man of War birds, of the last I made many attempts to procure one, and at last succeeded ; the first I killed fell down the rocks and I lost it ; the next I succeeded in gaining possession of but could not get it stuffed. It measured seven feet across the expanded wings, and three feet from the beak to the tail ; when it fell it had in its throat, half swallowed, a Flying fish, eleven inches in length. The beak of this bird was sent, with other curiosities, to the United Service Institution.

I never really enjoy shooting in Tobago, the birds are so beautiful, and seem so domestic.

In 1839 I witnessed the ceremony of laying the first stone of a new chapel, at Mount Pleasant, Sandy Point, the Reverend Mr. Vincent, Rector of Scarborough, attended

upon this occasion, and passed an eloquent eulogium upon the gentlemen of the Moravian mission, who for a series of years had performed all the duties at Sandy Point.

Among the thickets at Mount Pleasant, formerly a valuable estate, I saw a tombstone to the memory of Governor Campbell, who died in the island in 1779.

During my ride this day I saw a silk mahot tree in full bearing, with seeds, or pods, like a hare's legs, with buds and straw colored blossoms, which contrasted beautifully with the large green leaves. This tree was nearly thirty feet high, a foot in diameter, and its bark a light grey colour. It always appears to me as if the bright and beautiful birds are attracted by the brilliant blossoms of the trees; see one of the bois immortel with its golden blossoms, and around it are a number of the little creatures fluttering as if they enjoyed its beauties. Once, riding between Providence and Franklyns, I saw an emerald humming bird reposing on its nest at the end of a bamboo twig bending low down; I stopped and gazed at the beauteous little

flutterer, which after a minute, flew to a branch above ; I took hold of the twig and looked into the nest, which contained two tiny eggs ; it would have been profanation to have touched them, the pretty creature looked at us so confidingly.

In the midst of a rural and beautiful country, not far from Les Coteaux, is the Highlands waterfall, rushing with velocity, over shelving rocks, from a height of eighty feet. The basin into which the water dashes is fifteen feet in circumference, and ten or twelve deep. The small fall is not more than ten feet. The rays of the sun reflecting through this falling sheet, which appears at least four feet broad, give it the semblance of a magnificent rainbow ; nothing can be more beautiful, for though nature in all its sublimity is around you it creates only feelings of pleasure. Midway up the rocks, there is a level space overlooking the basin, where visitors can recline under the shade of the graceful trees, and enjoy the scene beneath and above them : and here again 'midst the vivid yellow blossoms of the cogwood trees are birds of all hues. I verily

believe this is the prettiest spot in Tobago, unless it be a ride through Arnoes vale, where there are two trees more beautiful than all the others; perhaps, because seen no where else. Not very lofty, but with branches bending gracefully like those of the willow, these trees have blossoms in the form of a tulip, one white, one red, and about the size of a liqueur glass, the seeds are contained in pods hanging from the branches like French beans, whilst the leaves are green like the willow.

In this vale you see also the Spanish needle shrub, the large broad leaves of which, in skilful hands, make excellent Razor straps.

Reader there are many other lovely spots and many other islands I could write about, but it would only be to repeat what I have already mentioned. Many years of service and travelling have made the West Indies almost like a home, and I have learned to feel an interest in the colonies, I would fain make felt by others.

A P P E N D I X

MORE than five years have elapsed since the final emancipation of the slaves throughout the British Dominions. Even at the period of the apprenticeship, four years previous, great apprehensions were felt in the West Indies, that it might prove the signal for open insurrection and revolt, yet it was only followed by some symptoms of discontent at Trinidad and other colonies, on the part of negroes, on finding that they were subject to a life of constraint, though under a mild form, for six years more, instead of unconditional freedom as they had fully expected. When, at last, it was proposed to admit them to the privileges of free British subjects in 1838, many persons predicted that such a measure would be followed by all the disastrous consequences, that the most sombre imagination could suggest ; yet the memorable 1st of August passed off quietly,

and, with few exceptions, the conduct of the many hundred thousands liberated, has since been that of peaceable subjects, obedient to the laws. The question naturally arises—would this have been the case had they remained slaves?—Might not then some of the colonies have been devastated by intestine broils and civil wars, similar to those that frequently occurred during the period of slavery?

It is to be deeply deplored that the emancipated, and the people generally, in the colonies, are averse to agricultural labor, and that the comparative few, who do engage in it, are so unreasonable in their demands—it is equally to be lamented that the free-born rising generation seem absolutely disinclined to any pursuits of that nature, even to the cultivation of gardens.

Sanguine hopes had at one time been entertained of supplying the deficiency of field laborers by means of the emigration system, which unfortunately has met with severe checks and disappointment, but which

with proper management, might yet be accomplished. In that respect much good may be derived from the favorable reports of the Hill Coolies, who recently left British Guiana, on return to their far distant homes, in the East Indies. Similar reports might also be made by many returned, or returning to Africa. The Portuguese emigrants at Demerara appear to do well, and to be happy and contented ; but the colony that probably offers greater attractions for emigrants is Trinidad.

The culture of sugar canes alone may be considered injurious to the constitution of Europeans. Cocoa, coffee, arrow-root, aloes, tobacco, ginger, cotton, (rice as planted in the West Indies) yams, sweet potatoes, tanners, all kinds of vegetables and fruits can be cultivated by people of all nations in Europe, and elsewhere, without danger to their health, so far as regards such employment. The distinction of *rice* in the West Indies is here particularized, because *that* is planted on dry lands, whereas in the East

Indies rice is cultivated in swampy places, or grounds always irrigated, therefore not so safe for Europeans, or persons unaccustomed to them. Had the proprietors of estates some years prior to the slave emancipation, planted considerable numbers of bread fruit trees on their waste lands, as Mr. Robley did, at Tobago, they would now derive great benefit from that essential production, and according to the axiom, better late than never, the bread fruit tree rises from a slip, so as to produce in a few years; a finer article of nutritious food there cannot be, and once planted, no labor is required for its culture—then how much better to see such handsome trees on waste lands, than the thickets, rank grass and noxious weeds perceptible on many of the estates. In few of the West India Colonies, are the highly prized fruit trees “sappodillo,” cultivated in any number—it is a superlatively handsome tree, and its fruit eagerly sought; no sooner does it appear at the markets in Trinidad and elsewhere than it is disposed of—where-

fore then, it may be asked, are not more of those valuable trees planted? How well they would grace the present, worse than waste, lands in the West Indies. Many other productions of the sort might be found worthy of attention, now that sugar cannot be produced in the same quantity as formerly. One of the advantages, arising from the discovery of the Transatlantic countries, otherwise called, the new world, is the cocoa, or more properly the chocolate tree—it is pretty certain that such a production was unknown before in any other part of the world; it is related that the Spaniards found *cocoa* with the Indians, that *cocoa* and *chocolate* were so named by them, and remain so called to this day:—as an article of sustenance it is not to be surpassed, for persons of sedentary habits it may not answer, unless indeed such as do not take much animal food, of which, in point of substance, it may be deemed a substitute; but for those who take great exercise, or are subject to bodily exertion, it is invaluable—it would be well therefore if the laboring,

and the poorer classes could take cocoa or chocolate in place of tea, or other beverage, or as food with bread ; it is to be purchased at a moderate price, and in a prepared state—if its importation were allowed free of duty, it would be a further encouragement for its more general use, and Government probably more than compensated, by its increased consumption, and the consequent increased consumption of sugar.

It is affirmed that very few proprietors of lands in the West India Colonies now clear the expenses attendant on their cultivation, yet in some of them, such as Tobago, Dominica, Grenada, and others, the wages paid to laborers, amount to less than what the maintenance, in all probability, of a similar number of slaves, would have cost, before the emancipation—the loss to proprietors in those colonies, must then arise from the difference of labor performed—from its present insufficiency—whilst the laborers have an easy mode of indemnifying themselves for the lowness of wages, by the sale of their ground

provisions, on which they can put what price they please.

This sort of monopoly will continue, until a competition is established, by new arrivals of persons willing to undertake the culture of the ground provisions—therein consists the advantage of the Bread Fruit trees ; once planted and sufficiently grown, they yield their nutritious produce, with little or no trouble to the possessors, who could derive much benefit from them.

In British Guiana, and in the Island of Trinidad, the wages exacted by the laborers generally are very high, often unreasonable beyond measure, and still their work is pronounced inadequate. Many of the proprietors of cocoa, and coffee plantations, at Trinidad, have adopted a plan, which, under existing circumstances, may be considered very judicious, they agree with a class of peasants in that colony, called peons, to assist in, or undertake the culture of their lands, and gathering of their crops, for the half of their value, that is, half of the

cocoa and coffee produced, or, when sold, half the amount. The possessors of those plantations cannot by such means realize fortunes; but they can maintain themselves and their families, by that easy mode of cultivation, free from care and anxiety. Formerly there were a vast number of fine, valuable plantations of coffee in British Guiana, but of recent years most part of them have been neglected or abandoned, the proprietors preferring to give their attention exclusively to sugar cane cultivation; notwithstanding the frequent complaint of loss being sustained on that produce—now—it certainly appears more advisable to adhere to what could not be attended with anything like so great risk of loss, the culture of coffee. It must appear so, at least to those who are unacquainted with Colonial agriculture, and the mystery, with which at the present period it seems to be enveloped.

At Trinidad, the cocoa and coffee planters, for the most part of Spanish origin, do not trouble themselves with sending their pro-

duce to Europe, they dispose of it in the colony at once ; it is sold either at Arima, at St. Joseph, or in Port of Spain, as may be convenient to them.

A gentleman having disposed of his property in the West Indies, after the Slave Emancipation, wrote a memorandum, on the eve of his departure for Europe, to the following effect.

“ In 1832 I found on this Estate 223 slaves.

In 1838 I leave 234 free beings.

In 1832 were 51 head of cattle.

In 1838 there are 73 head of cattle, not one in the interval having been bought.

In 1832 were 14 mules.

In 1838 there are 19. Eight mules having been bought in the six years.

In 1832 I found some carrion sheep.

In 1838 I leave the best flock in the Colony.

The preservation of health in the West Indies mainly depends on early rising and taking exercise in the cool of the morning, say between daybreak and eight o'clock, which is a good hour for breakfast ; riding on horseback is the best exercise : some

persons object to taking the air before breakfast, from a notion, erroneous in my opinion, that what they call miasma is injurious until the sun has risen some time and purified the air, which always appeared to me the purest and the most refreshing between day dawn and sunrise, and that, consequently, exercise is then most conducive to health in that climate. When prevented going out from inclemency of weather, it is nevertheless, advisable to rise early and occupy the mind with some employment or pursuit. Many hope to ward off illness by extreme abstinence, but that is perhaps equally inimical to the constitution as intemperance; either excess is bad, and I am decidedly of opinion, that the constant, or frequent use of pepper, spices, hot dishes, such as curry and pepperpot, must be detrimental; an opinion that is indeed combated by numbers, who imagine, on the contrary, that those fiery ingredients and aliments are more salubrious than simple viands, that they are cooling, in lieu of being inflammatory,

yet they are apt to burn and excoriate, when taken by those unaccustomed to them, certainly no proof of their refrigerent qualities.

We lose a deplorable number of soldiers in the West Indies ; and the sad mortality is principally to be attributed to that most pernicious liquor New Rum : let us suppose a man to take of that spirit only a small quantity to mix with water, he is constrained, not having anything better, to drink, even observing such moderation, if his beverage be ever so weak, still the constant, daily use of *new* Rum (old rum now is not now to be purchased in the colonies) will undermine his constitution, and destroy his health. A soldier's pay in the West Indies cannot afford any other liquor than rum ; the late General Sir Lionel Smith, who was ever anxious to promote the comfort and welfare of the soldiers, made strenuous, but unsuccessful endeavours to procure for them, during his command in the Windward and Leeward colonies, malt liquor at the English

cost ; it follows, therefore, that either the soldier must drink water alone, which, in that climate, is enfeebling, or he must intermix it with *new* rum, which is deadly. A fine part of the soldier's ration, in the West Indies, is the cocoa and sugar ; the quantity allowed, of which, however, is small, could it be doubled, it would so tend to fortify his frame, as would counteract the poisonous effects of the rum ; this too, in consideration of the high price and scarcity of milk, which a soldier's pay cannot afford, more than malt or other nutritious liquid. The expense of doubling the proportion of cocoa and sugar would be infinitely more than reimbursed by the consequent saving on hospital expenditure, which must be immense, from the vast number of European soldiers, throughout the West Indies, patients in the hospitals, where, certainly, no expense is spared in their care and treatment ; it must be admitted, that the insalubrity and mortality among the troops there, proceed, in great measure, from the effect of climate ; yet if the above men-

tioned improvement in their diet was essayed it might lessen these serious evils.

During the last twenty years the condition of our soldiers, in the West Indies, has been considerably ameliorated, by the substitution of iron bedsteads for hammocks, by three days more fresh, in lieu of salt meat, per week, and by the use of dripstones in their barracks.

The situation of military officers in the West Indies is very disadvantageous, the pay of a captain will scarce enable him to keep a horse, and that of a Subaltern officer does not anything like suffice, in consequence of the excessive dearth of the country, for his ordinary, unavoidable expenses; and that in a climate, where all officers require horses, to enable them to take proper exercise. What conduces to health in that part of the world, is occasionally going to sea; and when officers formerly went on leave of absence, to take a short cruise among the Colonies, they received the local allowances for servants, for rations, and, those entitled to it, forage for horses, the

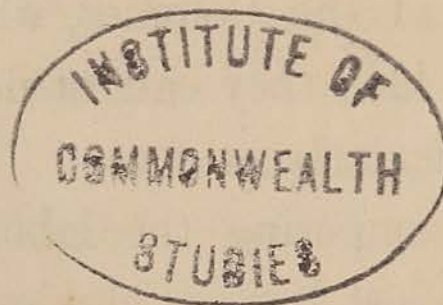
same as when doing duty with their Corps, or at their stations, but within the last twelve years, that indulgence has been discontinued.

Among the windward and leeward West India Colonies, British Guiana is by far the most expensive to reside in, Trinidad and Tobago, are the next in point of dearth ; the others somewhat less, but still too dear for a small income.

It might tend to the benefit of the public service for all officers to have the means of keeping horses in the West Indies, for the purpose of exploring and making themselves acquainted with the localities and various distant points of the Colonies, where they are stationed, which they cannot do, in such a climate, particularly on foot.

The people composing the laboring class in the British West India Colonies are now unquestionably the happiest peasantry in the universe ; they never can experience distress from want of employment—they can always, when in health, earn more than sufficient

for their maintenance, and in case of sickness or infirmity they are provided for by the charitable institutions—their necessities are infinitely fewer than those of corresponding classes in Europe—they require no heavy or expensive raiment—they need only as much firing as will serve to cook their meals, and bois de chauffage, or fuel wood, is easily procured almost everywhere, with the exception perhaps of Barbados, throughout the lands of the West Indies ; in fine, if the laborers of that part of the world choose to be industrious, they could not only maintain, but enrich themselves.



THE END.

