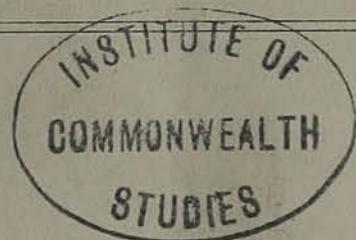


Price One Shilling, for the Brimstone Hill Restoration Fund.



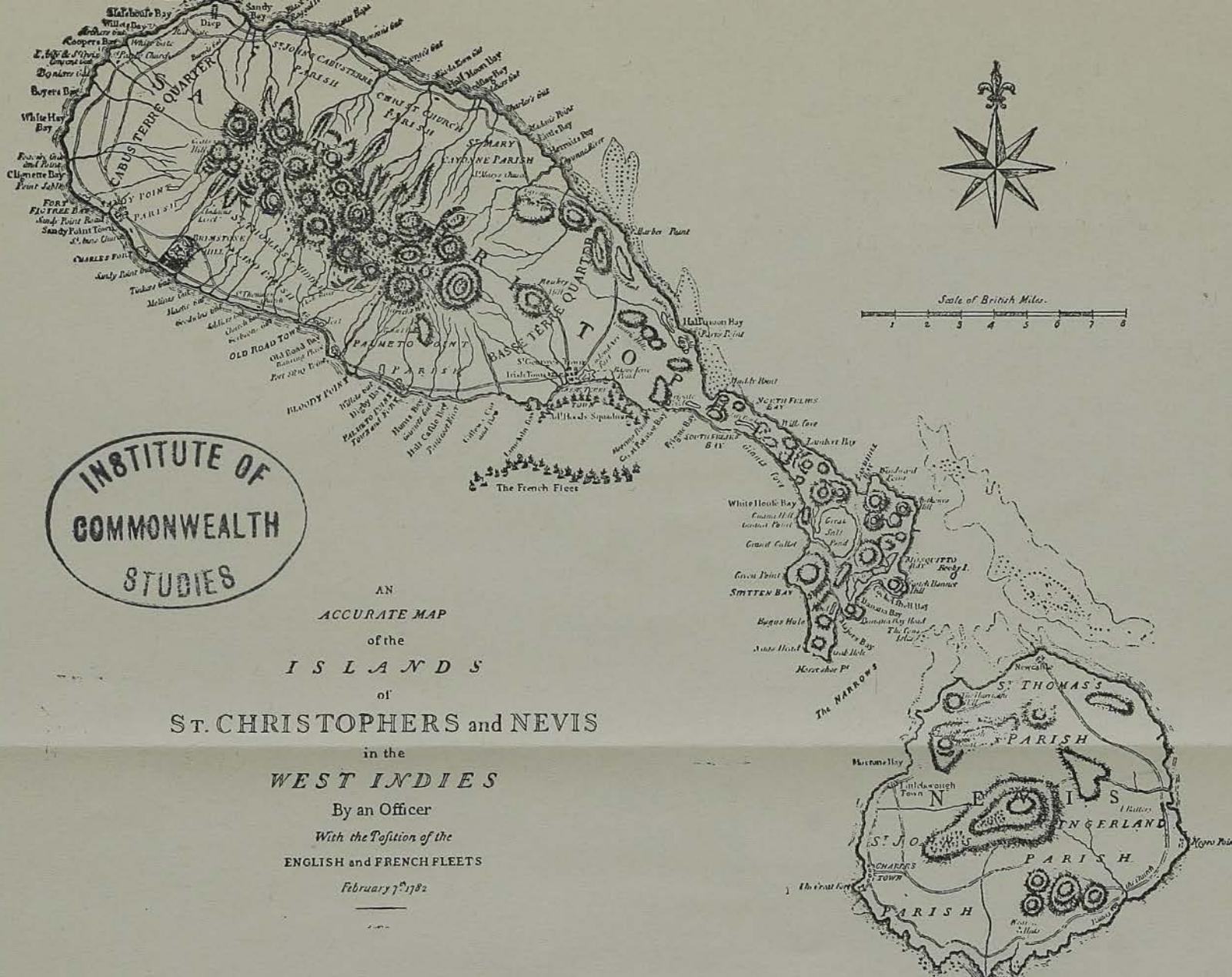
# THE FRENCH INVASIONS OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS



By

SIR REGINALD ST.-JOHNSTON, K.C.M.G.

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MAP SHOWING HOOD'S STRATEGY, 1782.

THE FRENCH INVASIONS OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

BY

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In 1623, when Sir Thomas Warner planted, at Old Road in St. Kitts, "the Mother colony of the West Indies," the Stuart dynasty had been friendly with France for a score or more of years, Agincourt and Calais had been long forgotten; and Englishmen, especially those of the cultured class, had on the whole a very friendly feeling for France. So that it is not surprising that the first French "invasion" of St. Kitts should have been a friendly one, or that Warner, a Courtier and the Captain of the King's Bodyguard, should have shown little or no objection to d'Esnambuc, badly mauled after an encounter with a Spanish galleon, establishing himself with a handful of men on a comparatively distant portion (now Basseterre) of this great and empty (except for "the Indians,") island of St. Kitts. They would be allies against the hated Spaniard, (whose beard it had become the traditional duty of every Englishman to singe); and, even more important, they would be allies against the Caribs, with whom Warner saw trouble inevitably looming in the near future. But when shortly afterwards d'Esnambuc went back to France, and, supported by the far-seeing Richelieu, was enabled to return to St. Kitts with a strong muster of colonizers under du Roissy, the first shadows of suspicion arose, and Warner and the two French leaders thought it advisable to make a regular partition of territory, and to draw up a definite "Treaty" arranging for neutrality between "the two nations," (as these far off exiles called themselves), in the event of a war at home between their respective countries, *except under a direct order from one of their Sovereigns.*

Unfortunately the individual settlers did not keep to the strict letter of "the partition," and one or other,

(generally the English, who felt they had the right of prior settlement) kept extending their boundaries, until at last d'Esnambuc privately sent to France and managed to get an expedition sent out under deCusack, with 6 "sail-of-the-line".

**The First** This arrived in June 1629, and forced the "War" English back within their boundaries, and may be described, comparatively bloodless as it was, as the first of the French wars in the Leeward Islands.

A few months later a large Spanish fleet of 35 Galleons and 14 armed merchantmen under Don Fredric de Toledo easily captured the whole island (on the pretext that all "America" belonged to the Pope) and cleared out both French and English. D'Esnambuc was then in charge of the Capisterre section, and sent his nephew Du Parquet to the assistance of du Roissy at Basseterre. Edward Warner, acting Governor for his absent father, also came with 700-800 English, but on the death of Du Parquet the French fled in confusion, and the English had to give way also. The English were scattered to other islands, such as Tortuga, and many of them became Buccaneers.

But gradually most of the settlers returned to St. Kitts, and in November the Treaty between England and Spain put an end to further fear of Spanish reprisals.

In 1639 Warner and de Poincy combined to restrict the growing of Tobacco, owing to "overproduction,"—a policy much to the fore in the present generation,—and this probably accounted for the starting of the Sugar industry (learnt from the Dutch in Brazil) in this part of the world.

From 1629 to 1666 the English and French lived together in comparative friendship on the island. Great progress was made during this era of peace, and both colonies increased enormously in the numbers of settlers—St. Kitts had no less than 12,000 English, and Nevis 4,000, so

that it was no wonder that fresh territories were sought for the overflow. Nevis and Montserrat were colonized from St. Kitts about 1620, Antigua in 1632, Anguilla in 1650, while Martinique was colonized by d'Esnambuc in 1635. Each of the two St. Kitts nations had their own internal political upheavals, such as in 1652 when Sir George Ascue arrived on behalf of Cromwell, and made English St. Kitts declare for the Protector; and when in 1653 the King of France tried in vain to get the Knights of Malta to hand over to him part of their claims on French St. Kitts. And in 1657 the Knights of Malta sent out two "Governors," St. Juré and de Salles, to take over the Government from de Poincy, the benevolent despot who lived at Fountains,\* but he utterly defied them, and it was not until his death in 1660 that de Salles was able to assume the official Governorship, but still on behalf of the Knights of Malta. In 1665 a French West Indian Company purchased the territory from the Knights of Malta, and in 1674 a Royal Edict dissolved the Company, and all French rights were annexed to the French Crown.

**French drive  
English from  
St. Kitts,  
1666.** Meanwhile in 1666, the war with the Dutch gave France her opportunity against England, and out in St. Kitts de Salles sent his "declaration of war" to Col. Wat, the English Governor. Wat sent a messenger to say he was too busy getting ready to fight to send a written answer, and then, accompanied by Col. Morgan, Governor of St. Eustatius, (who was the uncle and father-in-law of the famous buccaneer and Governor of Jamaica, Sir Henry Morgan),

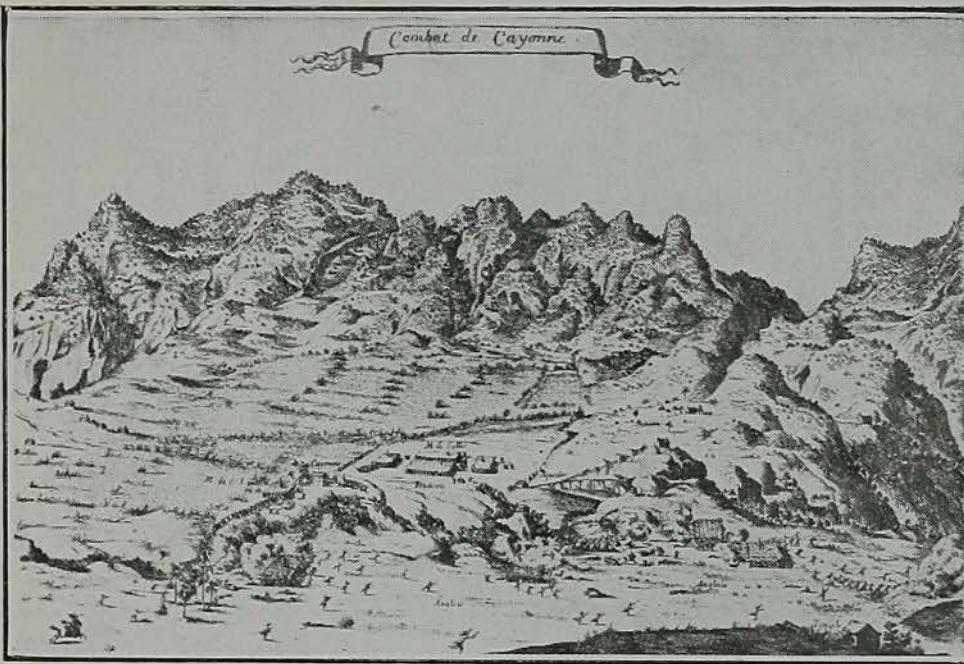
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\*The gorgeous scarlet tropical Poinciana is named after dePoincy, and it was he, too, who gorgeously lived in the "castle" or "palace" at Fountains (La Fontaine), a vast building three stories in height and covering, including its inner court, a large area of ground. The historian Rochefort describes it in some detail, and also pictures a typical scene after a victory—"On the occasion of public rejoicings on news of the victory of His Most Christian Majesty's armies bonfires are lit; likewise horns and hautbois sounded with such force from the terraced heights that the neighbouring mountains and wooded hills reverberate with the penetrating noise, creating an echo which is audible throughout the island and far out to sea, while from the terrace and from the highest windows float the Fleur de Lis, together with the flags and standards captured by the Governor from the enemy . . ."

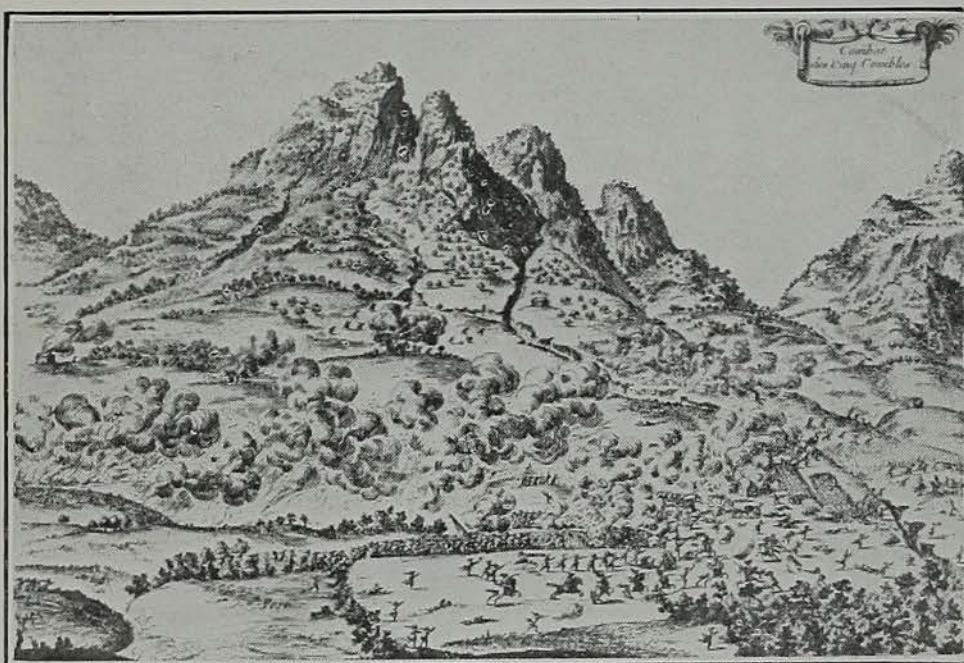
he proceeded with 360 Buccaneers and some other troops to attack at Riviere de la Pentecote, (Hart's Gut in modern maps). de Salles left a few men there on guard, and with his main body attacked the English at Cayon, driving them back to Nichola town. But de Salles himself was killed in an ambuscade at Cinq Combles, and de St. Laurent took command. The French were too strong, and Col. Wat and 500 of the St. Kitts English were killed, while Col. Morgan and 343 of his Buccaneers also fell. The body of Wat was thrown into a ravine by the victors, and no less than twenty-two wagon loads of corpses were thrown on the top of it. The English retreated to Fort Charles at Old Road, but had to capitulate, and there was a general exodus of 8000 of them to Virginia, Jamaica, Nevis, and other places.

**English  
restored  
by Treaty  
of Breda,  
1667.**

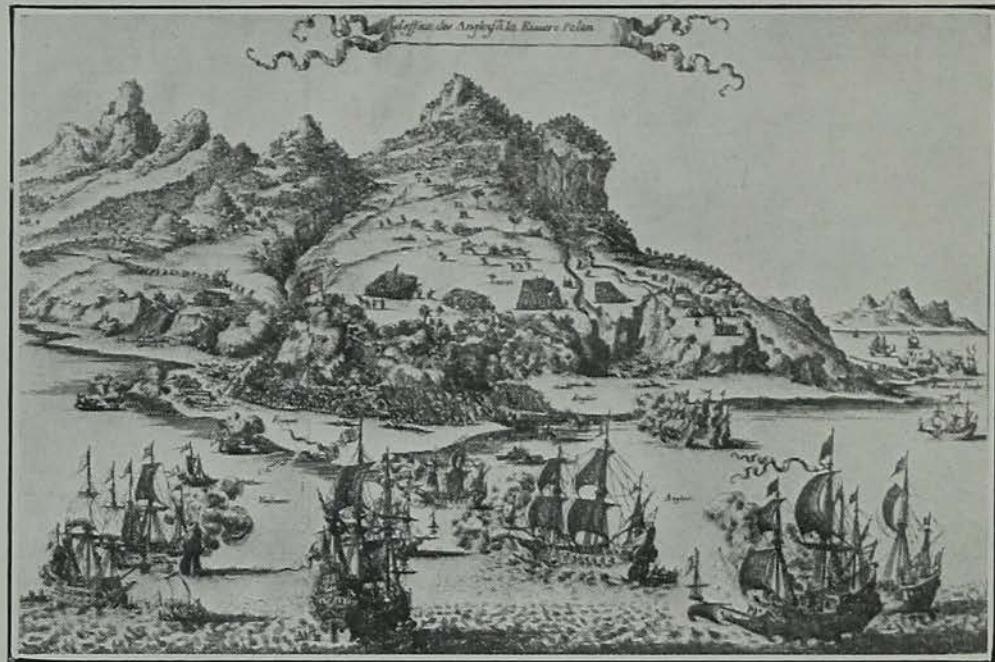
A few months later, in 1667, an English fleet under Admiral Harman beat the French after a four-hour action off Nevis. The remainder of the French fleet fled and were lost sight of, and it is said that the English Admiral left orders at Nevis that a bonfire should be lit to let him know if the French were seen returning towards St. Kitts, so that he could intercept them. Unfortunately, an accidental sugar-cane fire occurred, and in consequence he sailed in one direction while the French were really proceeding towards Guadeloupe, which place they reached in safety. Soon after, the English fleet anchoring at Basseterre landed a large body of troops near Pelham River under General Henry Willoughby, but they got into difficulties through bad strategy and were repulsed with a loss of 700. Later on in the same year the Treaty of Breda restored the English to their territory in St. Kitts, but a sadly different picture greeted them after the months of pillage, and it took them years to recover their old prosperity. It was this defeat, coupled with the capture of Antigua in the same year, that caused the agitation from the Leeward Islands to establish a separate "Government or Colony" apart from Barbados, whence help was always so slow in coming. The request was acceded to in 1669, and put into effect in 1671.



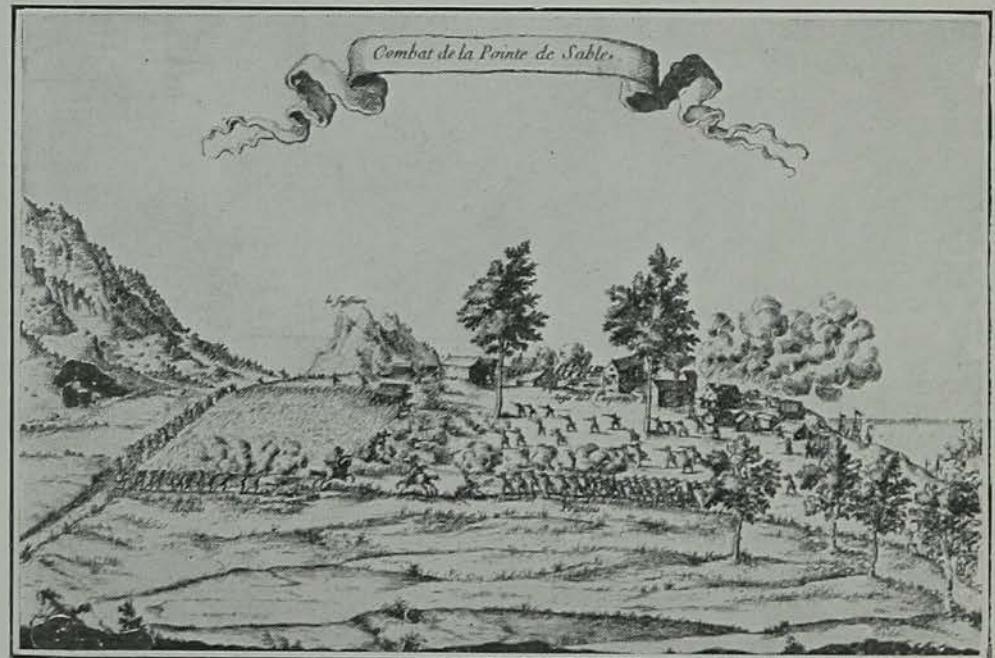
THE BATTLE OF CAYON, 1666.



AMBUSCADE AT CINQ COMBLES, 1666.



ENGLISH DEFEAT AT PELHAM RIVER, 1667.



BATTLE OF SANDY POINT (POINT DE SABLE) 1666.

In 1670 the King's "regular" troops in the West Indies, namely Sir Tobias Bridges' Regiment, were disbanded, but two companies were allowed to remain on in St. Kitts for one year, and land was allotted to them to encourage them to stay on altogether, in the following proportions

a Captain	400 acres
a Lieutenant	200 ,,
an Ensign	160 ,,
a Sergeant	79 ,,
a Corporal or Drummer	50 ,,
a Private	35 ,,

In 1671 Sir Chas. Wheler, the first Governor of the newly formed "Leeward Islands," tried to persuade the French to evacuate St. Kitts, according to the terms of the Treaty of Breda, but he was unsuccessful in his attempts, to the annoyance of the King, and this probably resulted in his being superseded by Col. Wm. Stapleton. In 1672 there were only 496 English settlers in St. Kitts capable of bearing arms, and the two companies of "regulars," who ought to have been drawing £2778 p.a., had neither pay nor uniform from 1671 to 1675. With reluctance a sum £375 was granted by the Home Government to build a fort, named after the King, near Sandy Point; and another fort, about a hundred yards up East River, was built not long afterwards, but money was not easily forthcoming for the defence of the colonies in Stuart times. The best the King could do (which cost him nothing) was to order that, in 1667, 300 malefactors should be sent to St. Kitts, which considerably helped the labour situation.

**St. Kitts taken by Comte de Blenac, 1689.** The Revolution in England of 1688 against the Stuarts gave the French another opportunity to harass, with greater confidence, in these waters the English, and an attack by them upon St. Kitts was one of the reasons why William III declared war in 1689 against France. Col. Christopher Codrington had just been appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, and St. Kitts fell to the Comte

de Blenac, with troops from Guadeloupe and Martinique, and largely assisted by the Irish from Montserrat, only a week before he took the oaths of office. £15,000 worth of damage was done. The Governor of Nevis reported to Antigua that St. Kitts had fallen after a fourteen day siege, 500 English fighting against 2000 French, and having only two rounds of ammunition left when they capitulated. Capt. James Phipps was among the killed. Sir Timothy Thornhill, a Barbadian Baronet, had come with full speed to assist with 700 men, but on reaching Antigua he learnt that it was too late. He was only able to proceed to Nevis, and from thence to send expeditions against St. Martins and St. Bartholemews.

**Codrington** But in June, 1690, an English fleet with  
**re-captures** 3000 men arrived, and Thornhill in com-  
**St. Kitts,** mand of 550 of them landed at South  
**1690.**

Friars Bay, and after a plucky clamber over the heights, (still known as Sir Timothy's Hill), was able to attack the French left. He was shot in the leg, but his troops were victorious in that section, and the main body under the Duke of Bolton, which would otherwise have had a bad time against the better placed French troops, were able to save the day, and the French were routed. Codrington had the general direction of operations. By the end of June Sir Timothy's troops had planted 6 cannon on Brimstone Hill (the first on record) and the French in Charles Fort were subjected to a cross fire from both the hill and from the besieging fleet, and capitulated on July 12th.

By July 14th the main body of troops were able to depart with the fleet, leaving a small number behind in charge of Lt.-Col. Nott. 1800 French were deported to Martinique and Hispaniola (Haiti). And now it was the English turn to become the aggressor, and in 1691 Codrington made an attack on Guadeloupe, but had to retire through lack of support from the fleet. In 1693 he took a thousand troops from the Leeward Islands to join in Sir Francis Wheeler's great expedition against Martinique, but this also was not a success.

**French restored in St. Kitts by Treaty of Ryswick, 1697.** In 1697, by the Treaty of Ryswick, the French portion of St. Kitts was restored to them, but in 1702 Queen Anne, on coming to the throne, declared war again with France.

**French capitulate to General Hamilton, 1702.** General Hamilton, with troops from Antigua and Nevis, sailed to Basseterre with 20 Sail-of-the-line and informed de Gennes, the French Governor, that General Codrington had received orders from England to demand the complete surrender of the French portions. De Gennes in the face of vastly superior numbers capitulated, "with the honours of war", but was subsequently court-martialled at Martinique and degraded, although the King of France posthumously restored his honours.

**De Chavanac devastates St. Kitts, 1706.** The French were not for long satisfied with this condition of affairs, and in February, 1706, de Chavanac with 7 men-of-war and 23 Brigantines attacked and devastated the whole island, except Brimstone Hill; but hearing of a big English fleet in the neighbourhood they abruptly fled again.

**Nevis also suffers, 1706.** In the following month another French fleet devasted Nevis, doing damage to the extent of half a million pounds, although we know that at this time Nevis had 23 large guns placed at various strong points, and was said to have been one of the best fortified islands in the Colony. £103,000 was voted by the Imperial Parliament in relief of the damage done. It must be remembered that these figures, in terms of modern values, would be immensely greater. Sugar was a most valuable commodity in those days, and probably the machinery of most windmills was destroyed, in addition to the razing of the "great houses" and the burning of the fields. Colonel John Johnson, who had started life as a brick-layer, then became a Sergeant in the army,

and finally Lieut. Governor of Nevis, survived this attack, but in September of the same year was killed by a Captain John Pogson in a quarrel.

The French did not remain at Nevis after its surrender, as there were too many English warships in the neighbouring waters, but by the terms of capitulation the English in the island were to be considered as prisoners of war, to be exchanged for French as occasion should arise.

**Nevis Forts.** It was probably as a result of this invasion that the battery protecting Charlestown, known as Charles's Fort, on a point at the south of the town, was eventually strengthened and converted into the large and well laid out fortress whose ruins show even today how important it had been. There was also a battery at the western extremity of Nevis, and another built in later years, on Saddle Hill to the East. (It was from this latter that Nelson was stated to have searched the horizon daily for signs of an approaching French fleet.)

**A long Peace.** In 1712 Queen Anne, feeling now in a strong position owing to Marlborough's victories, demanded from the French King the absolute cession to her of all the French portion of St. Kitts. There was a truce while negotiations were going on, but probably the news of it had not reached the Leeward Islands when H.M.S. *Scarborough* captured a French brigantine in these waters. On ascertaining the facts, however, the Governor and Council petitioned for the restoration of the brigantine, on the ground that the action might prejudice the negotiations. In 1713 the Treaty of Utrecht confirmed that St. Kitts should be entirely British, and from that year, and during the reign of the three Georges until the great historical year of Brimstone Hill, the flag of England proudly flew over this battle-scarred Island. It was not that the wars with France had ceased, for there were several during this long seventy years, but St. Kitts increased in strength, in prosperity, and in population, and the invaders evidently thought twice before taking the risk of defeat.

**St. Kitts** In 1724 there were 4000 whites in St. Kitts, **Forts.** and 1100 in Nevis, while the fortifications, owing to increasing wealth to pay for them, were as strong as anywhere in the Caribbean. In 1727 on the accession of George II, the Capital was moved from Old Road to Basseterre, while the Brimstone Hill fortress, steadily improved since its commencement in 1690, together with Fort Charles, guarded the vulnerable portion of the island lately vacated. In 1728 a new Fort at the East of Basseterre was built, called Fort Londonderry after the Governor of the time, the Earl of Londonderry who arrived from England during a hurricane, and died a short twelve months afterwards. In later years there was also built a strong battery at Rawlings Point, while others were at Palmetto Point and on the small cliff to the south-east of Old Road Bay.

In 1731 the magazine at Brimstone Hill was blown up, as it had been once before in 1706, but this time, tradition says, the accident was due to a stroke of lightning.

**Anguilla Fighting** In 1744 Mr. Hodge, deputy Governor for Anguilla, went on a marauding expedition, with three hundred volunteers and two privateers, and captured St. Martins island; but about a year later the French, in reprisal, came with two Frigates and six to seven hundred men in various small craft under M. de la Touche; and landing at Crocus Bay made a determined effort for the capture of Anguilla. Governor Hodge with his Militia gallantly resisted them, and finally drove them from the island with heavy losses. This is known as "the first Anguilla war". The second, and last, took place just about half a century later.

In 1746 H.M.S. *Fitzroy* and *Knowles*, which were really two Antigua Privateers, captured the French island of St. Bartholemew, and thus these little thorns in the side of the British islands were removed for the time being.

And so St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla continued to prosper and flourish. Nevis became, owing to its medicinal

hot baths, a popular resort and a centre of fashion for the well-to-do of the West Indies, and in 1757 there was born on that island the man who ultimately drafted the American Constitution, Alexander Hamilton.

**American Influence** But the wings of the future American eagle were already casting a shadow, not yet realised, over the islands. The colonists did not see, in these times of peace, why they should contribute a part of their revenues to the English treasury, and they objected to methods of taxation which helped to this end.\* Partly as a protest the residents of St. Kitts burned "the stamped papers" in 1765, and then a number of them went over to Nevis to assist their friends in that island to do the same. The sympathies from that time of many of the settlers were with those in a similar frame of mind in the American colonies; and when the American War of Independence started in 1776 there were many who, through blood-relationship, trade, and other causes, would have been willing to throw in their lot with the revolting colonies had they been strong enough to do so. In 1778 Sir Gillies Payne, one of the most prominent planters, was reported in a despatch as "having strong North American tendencies." In that year France again was at war with England, and the first local event was that the Anguillans, ever ready for the chance, seized St. Martins, while the following month English troops captured St. Bartholemews.

**The St. Eustatius Auction Sale.** In February 1781, on war being declared with Holland, Rodney, who had been waiting for this, proceeded in H.M.S. *Sandwich*, with General Vaughn and troops on board, and accompanied by the sloop *Childers*, to St. Eustatius, which he summoned to surrender within an hour. He was supported by a squadron under Hood, and all plans had been carefully made beforehand. de Graaff, the Governor, was ignorant that war had been declared, but had to surrender to superior force, and Rodney at once

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\*The payment of "the 4½ per cents" to the English Treasury actually continued until 1838.

arranged for an auction sale of all the vast stores of merchandise and munitions that were accumulated there. 250 fully laden vessels were also captured, and the Dutch 38-guns Frigate *Mars*. Much treasonable correspondence was found, and there is no doubt that a good many of the planters and merchants in the neighbouring British island had been doing a good trade with the rebel American colonies. The sale fetched three million pounds, an enormous sum even for these days; and a large portion of this was divided, possibly as overdue back pay, among the Navy and Army, while much of the booty was sent to England under Commodore Hotham and a small squadron. The war stores were sent to the Dockyard at English Harbour.

St. Martins and Saba next surrendered, (and subsequently Essequibo and Demerara, which were given better terms). But in November of the same year a French fleet, under the Marquis de Bouillé and Count Dillon, easily recaptured St. Eustatius; and Colonel Cockburn, who had been left in charge, was court-martialled for negligence.

In the meantime Burke, the great orator, had attacked the action of Rodney and Vaughn, in Parliament, Lord Germain defending them. The motion was easily rejected by 163 to 89.

**Siege of Brimstone Hill.** England at this time was being harassed by French, Dutch, and American activities, to say nothing of the Irish feeling, and the English possessions were being lost one by one, whereas the French were rapidly increasing in strength. At the time of the battle of the "Saints," the only British islands left in the Caribbean were Jamaica, Antigua, and Barbados.

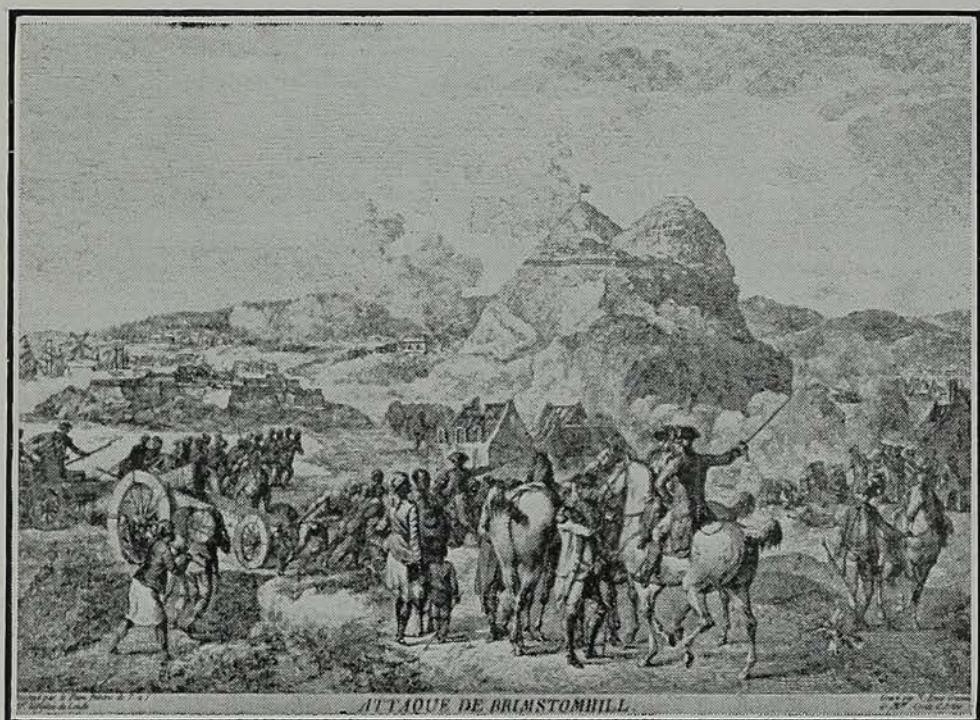
So on January 11th 1782 de Bouillé landed 8000 men near Sandy Point to attack General Fraser's garrison, re-inforced by Governor Sir Thomas Shirley, at Brimstone Hill.\* He was supported by Count de Grasse with 29 Sail-of-the-line. Hood heard of this movement and at once

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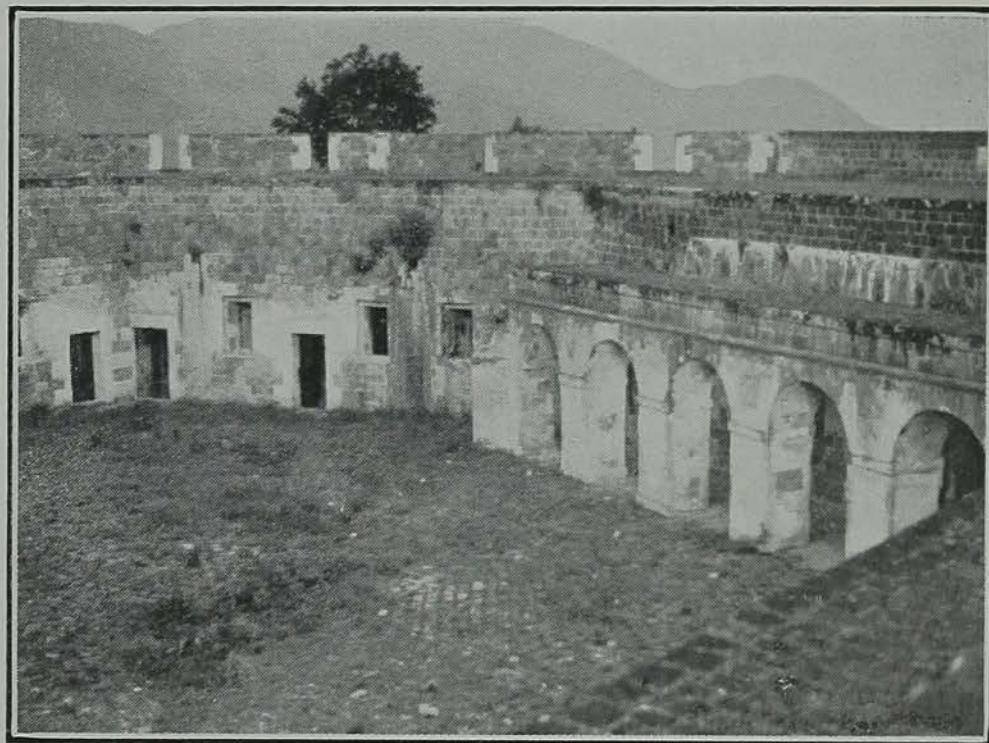
\* Called, from its shape and strength, "the Gibraltar of the West Indies."

sailed from Barbados, calling at Antigua for reinforcements. At St. John's he embarked General Prescott and 600 troops from the 13th and 28th Regiments. Proceeding to St. Kitts he made his famous feint at Basseterre, by enticing the fleet of de Grasse out and then seizing their anchorage. In a subsequent engagement ships on both sides were somewhat badly damaged, the *Ville de France* alone receiving no less than 84 shot. Prescott's troops were landed on January 29th, but were faced with 4000 troops under de Bouillé, and recognising the impossibility of getting past, Prescott re-embarked his men. Hood tried several times to get messages to the garrison to tell them to hold out and that help was at hand, but every messenger was captured or had to give it up. Lieut. Fahie, of H.M.S. *Russell*, particularly, made more than one gallant attempt.

The attack on the Hill was incessant, and the besieged in their turn did a lot of damage, among other things setting fire with red hot cannon balls to the French headquarters at Sandy Point. But the fortress was not only undermanned, (there were only 600 of the 1st and 15th Foot under Fraser and 350 Militia under Shirley) but had not even the full complement of guns which should have been there. Not long before the siege the Home Government had sent out some more much-needed cannon and munitions for the fort. These had been landed at the foot of the Hill, but the Planters had refused to send any labour to help get them up to the top, and consequently they at once fell into de Bouillé's hands, and were turned against the Hill. They consisted of eight brass cannon and two 15-inch Mortars, with a good many thousand cannon-ball and shells. Altogether, 23 heavy Cannon and 24 Mortars for a period of three weeks were concentrated on a space of about 200 feet of the fortress walls, and it is not surprising that a breach was made and the position rendered untenable. It is alleged that the Militia, whose local properties had been threatened with devastation and burning, urged the capitulation of an impossible position, and although, on January 24th Shirley had managed to notify Prescott that he thought he could



ATTACK ON BRIMSTONE HILL, FROM AN OLD FRENCH PRINT.



THE CITADEL, OR FORT GEORGE, BRIMSTONE HILL.

hold out without re-inforcements, by February 13th the situation had become so grave that surrender seemed inevitable, and a flag of truce was raised to discuss terms. deBouillé, knowing his own risk from the possible approach of Rodney's fleet, was only too anxious to get the business finished, and offered terms which were readily acceptable. (It subsequently transpired that he had no hope of remaining on at St Kitts, as shown by the fact that he started to destroy the fortifications of Basseterre). Among the terms of capitulation were that the garrison should march out with colours flying and drums playing, and that Shirley and Frazer should retain their swords, the former being allowed to return to his headquarters at Antigua to resume his Governorship. The next day the French fleet moved off to Nevis, which inevitably surrendered. Hood saw that it was useless for him to engage such a large fleet, and slipped off to join Rodney's fleet, calling en route at Antigua to drop his injured ships for repairs.

The essence of this prolonged resistance of Brimstone Hill was that if it had capitulated a month earlier de Grasse, with an intact fleet, could have gone off to join the Spanish fleet which had assembled at Cuba in order—with the French,—to attack Jamaica, and the combined fleet would have been too strong for anything that Rodney could bring against them. As it was, Rodney was able to force his great sea-fight on April 12th 1782 at the Saints, off Dominica; the glorious victory of which undoubtedly saved the British Empire, which has much therefore to be thankful for to the gallant defence of Brimstone Hill.\*

In 1783 St. Kitts was formally restored to the English by the Treaty of Versailles, in which, incidentally, England acknowledged the independence of the United States.

In 1793, on the fresh outbreak of war with France, the upper Citadel, or Fort George, was built on the highest

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\*Fuller details of the siege of Brimstone Hill may be found in a good account of it written by G. H. King, Esq.

point of the Hill, and the Fortress was then considered impregnable. It probably was, to the cannon of those days, and it remained a fortress in active use until its final evacuation, in 1854, for the troops to go to the Crimea.

A pleasing sidelight on the courtesies of those days is the fact that, in 1784, the West India merchants of London voted to the Marquis de Bouillé a piece of plate, in admiration of the humanity and justice he had displayed throughout recent events in the West Indies.

**Nelson.** And about the same time a young sea-captain named Nelson first steps upon the stage of the Caribbean, and in subsequently cruising in his ship, *Boreas*, to Nevis, meets and falls in love with Governor Herbert's niece, the young widow Nisbet. They were married at the Montpelier estate on March 11, 1787, Captain Prince William, R.N., afterwards Duke of Clarence and William IV of England, acting as "Best Man" to his friend and senior officer, Nelson.

**Anguilla Attacked.** In November, 1796 the notorious revolutionary, Victor Hugues,\* sent an expedition of three or four hundred men in two French Frigates, the *Valiant* (4 guns) and *Decius* (26 guns), to devastate Anguilla. They landed at Rendezvous Bay. The inhabitants made a determined resistance, using up all their ammunition and finally having to take to lead fish-net weights, but had at last to retreat into Sandy Hill fort. News, however, reached Captain Barton of H.M.S. *Lapwing* (26 guns), then at Basseterre, and he hastened to the rescue. The French heard of his approach, ceased their plundering and hastily re-embarked. In a brief but brilliant action Captain Barton forced the *Valiant* ashore at St. Martins

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\*Hugues went out from France to Guadeloupe as a boy apprentice to a hair-dresser. He then became an innkeeper there, made money and purchased and navigated a trading vessel. He next was transferred as a captain into the French navy, and when the Revolution came was one of its leading spirits. He was sent out by the French Convention as their special Commissioner in the West Indies, and was the cause of much bloodshed throughout the islands.

across the narrow channel, and riddled the *Decius* so much that she had to strike her colours. Whereupon Barton took off her troops and then set fire to her.

They were bloodthirsty days, and the Anguillans, somewhat naturally incensed at the French plundering, and particularly at the murder of a crippled man named Hodge, took the law into their own hands and shot down a number of prisoners through the loop-holes of a stone prison in which they had been confined at Crocus Bay. Captain Barton, on the other hand, received a well-deserved sword of honour, and an address, from the residents at the Basseterre Headquarters.

The next few years were comparatively peaceful in the West Indies although the Nations were nominally at war; but in 1801 the French evacuated St. Eustatius, and Mr. Thompson, President of the Legislative Council of St. Kitts, despatched Colonel Blunt and a hundred of the 3rd Foot to take it over, and also to take Saba at the same time. In 1802 the Treaty of Amiens brought a short peace between England and France, only to be broken again the following year.

**Basseterre & Charlstown held to ransom.** On March 8th 1805 the last big invasion of St. Kitts-Nevis took place, when the famous General La Grange arrived with a fleet of twelve Sail-of-the-line, which included a monster 120-gun ship, four "74s," and three "44s," all under Admiral Messery. Having captured Fort Thomas to the west of the Town, also Fort Smith or Rawlings Fort, to the east, they seized a helpless Basseterre; the Militia, recognising that the odds were too great, having fallen back into Brimstone Hill, to hold it at all costs. The French demanded £40,000 as an alternative to pillage. £18,000 was all that could be raised, however, and content with that they went on to Nevis, and held the Nevisians up for £4000 likewise. They seized one vessel laden with sugar at St. Kitts, and burnt all other ships at both St. Kitts and Nevis.

On May 1st Admiral Hood, by special command of the King, who had been delighted with the St. Kitts and Saints naval actions, was formally invested with the K.C.B. at Antigua, the headquarters of the naval command of the Leeward Islands, in which waters his famous victory had been gained. Lord Lavington, the Governor, made the Investiture with much ceremony, in the earlier St. John's Cathedral, or Church as it then was.

**The Final Action.** The following year, on July 3rd, there was another scare at St. Kitts, as Prince Jerome Buonaparte suddenly appeared with a squadron, and chased some English ships under the shelter of Brimstone Hill. The fort lustily bombarded the French vessels, though without damage, and the squadron then drew off. Admiral Cochrane, who had had so much fighting in recent years to his credit, was on the look out for the enemy and arrived in the neighbourhood on July 14th, but unfortunately just missed them.

In the same month he also was invested with the K.C.B. by Lord Lavington at Antigua.

Jerome Buonaparte's ships were the last enemy vessels in action in these waters, and for over a century and a quarter peace has reigned on the fertile lands of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. Long may it continue to do so.

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## APPENDIX I.

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### TREATIES BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE THAT CONCERN ST. KITTS.

- 1667. Treaty of Breda (The English restored to their portion of St. Kitts).
  - 1697. Treaty of Ryswick (The French restored to their portion of St. Kitts).
  - 1713. Treaty of Utrecht (St. Kitts becomes entirely British).
  - 1783. Treaty of Versailles (The English restored to St. Kitts).
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## APPENDIX II.

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### GOVERNORS OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLONY TO THE TIME OF THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

- 1669. Sir Chas. Wheeler.
- 1672. Sir Wm. Stapleton.
- 1686. Sir Nathaniel Johnson.
- 1689. General Codrington.

*(In 1696 the seat of Government was moved from Nevis to Antigua.)*

- 1699. Col. Christopher Codrington.
- 1704. Sir Wm. Matthew.
- 1706. Col. Daniel Parke.
- 1711. Walter Douglas, Esq.
- 1715. Walter Hamilton, Esq.
- 1721. John Hart, Esq.
- 1728. The Earl of Londonderry.
- 1729. Lord Forbes.
- 1731. Wm. Crosby, Esq.
- 1733. Wm. Matthews, Esq.
- 1753. Sir George Thomas.
- 1766. Wm. Woodley, Esq.
- 1771. Sir Ralph Payne.
- 1776. Sir Wm. M. Burt.
- 1781. Sir Thos. Shirley, Bart.
- 1794. Maj. Gen. Leigh.
- 1801. Lord Lavington (formerly Sir Ralph Payne).
- 1810. Hugh Elliott, Esq.
- 1814. Sir James Leith, G.C.B.

### APPENDIX III.

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#### LIEUT.-GOVERNORS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S.

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(*The King granted the Islands to the Earl of Carlisle as Governor. The Earl of Carlisle appointed a Lieutenant-Governor in each island. Subsequently Lord Francis Willoughby leased the grant from him with the rights of appointment. In 1664 the grant was re-purchased by the Crown.*)

- 1623. Sir Thomas Warner.
- 1648. Col. Roland Rich.
- 1651. Col. Edward Everard.
- 1660. Col. Wm. Watt.

(*In 1671 the Leeward Islands were placed under a separate "Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief" whose headquarters were at Nevis. The Lieut.-Governor of Nevis, being second-in-command, administering the Government of the Leeward Islands in the absence of the Governor-in-Chief. He was usually also the Lieutenant-General for military purposes.*)

- 1672. Abednego Matthew.
- 1681. Captain Thomas Hill.
- 1690. Lt. Col. Nott.

(*In 1696 the headquarters of the Leeward Islands were moved to Antigua. It is probable that at this time the Lieut.-Governor of St. Kitts became second-in-command for the Leeward Islands. In the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, the President of the Legislative Council acted in St. Kitts, or might thus even act as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands. The Lieut.-Governor had no salary until called upon to act for the Governor-in-Chief, consequently he seldom came out from England until actually required, and the President therefore frequently administered the Government of St. Kitts.*)

1697. Capt. Jas. Norton.  
 1709. Col. Lambert.  
 1715. Wm. Matthew.  
 1733. Gilbert Fleming.  
 1769. General R. H. Losack.  
 1775. Craister Greathead.  
 1788. John Nugent.  
 1796. John Smith Thomas.  
 1797. Robt. Thompson.  
 1809. James Tyson (died same year).  
 1809. John Julius.  
 1816. Stedman Rawlins.

(In 1816 St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands were formed into a separate colony under their own "Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief.")

1816. Thomas Probyn.  
 1821. Col. C. W. Maxwell  
 1832. General Sir Wm. Nicholay.

(In 1832 the "Leeward Islands" colony was re-established, with Dominica added to it.)

1834. Col. J. L. Nixon.  
 1836. Sir H. G. Macleod.  
 1839. C. J. Cunningham.  
 1847. R. J. Mackintosh.  
 1850. E. H. Drummond Hay.  
 1855. Hercules Robinson (afterwards Lord Rosmead).  
 1860. B. C. Pine.  
 1867. Capt. J. G. Mackenzie.  
 1869. W. W. Cairns.

(In 1871 the Leeward Islands colony was Federated.)

1873. A. W. Moir (styled "President")

(In 1882 Nevis was attached to St. Kitts.)

1882. C. M. Eldridge.  
 1889. Capt. John K. G. T. Churchill (styled Commissioner)  
 1895. T. Risely Griffith, C.M.G., (styled Administrator)  
 1899. C. T. Cox, C.M.G.                   "  
 1904. Sir Robt. Bromley, Bart.           "  
 1906. T. L. Roxburgh, C.M.G.           "  
 1916. Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G.       "  
 1925. Lt.-Col. T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G.   "  
 1929. T. C. Macnaghten, C.M.G., C.B.E.   "  
 1931. D. R. Stewart, C.M.G.              "

## APPENDIX IV.

### SOME OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S.

- |       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| 1730  | —.Estridge.        |
| 1755. | Jas. Verchild.     |
| 1780. | L. Brotherson.     |
| 1780. | Anthony Johnson.   |
| 1787. | Archibald Esdaile. |
| 1802. | Wm. Woodley.       |
| 1819. | J. W. Wilson.      |
| 1835. | W. C. Crooke.      |
| 1845. | Robt. Claxton.     |
| 1850. | J. T. Caines.      |
| 1856. | Thos. Price.       |
| 1862. | J. L. Tudor.       |
| 1863. | J. H. King.        |
| 1864. | J. R. Halligan.    |
| 1870. | F. S. Wigley.      |
| 1872. | J. S. Berridge.    |

## APPENDIX V.

### LIEUT.-GOVERNORS OF NEVIS.

- |       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 1628. | Capt. Anthony Hilton. |
| 1635. | Thos. Littleton.      |
| 1636. | Capt. Thos. Sparrow.  |
| 1640. | Major Henry Huncks.   |
| 1642. | Capt. John Kettleby.  |
| 16—.  | Capt. Jacob Lake.     |
| 1649. | Luke Stoakes          |
| 1659. | Col. Jas. Russell.    |
| 1671. | Col. Randal Russell.  |

## APPENDIX VI.

### FRENCH GOVERNORS OR LT.-GOVERNORS IN ST. CHRISTOPHER'S.

- 1625. P. Belain, Sieur d'Esnambuc.
- 1625. Du Roissu (Lieut.-Governor).
- 1629. d'Olive. "
- 1636. DeHalde.
- 1638. Chevalier de Poincey
- 1655. Ph. de Longvilliers (Lt.-Governor).
- 1656. de la Grange. "
- 1666. Chevalier de Salles.
- 1666. de la Barre.
- 1666. Chevalier de St. Laurente (Lt.-Governor).
- 1666. de Lion.
- 1678. Comte de Blenac.
- 1698. Comte de Gennes.

From 1712 to 1782 the island was entirely British.

1782-1783 Lt.-Col. C. C. de Fresne, Lt.-Governor under direction of Marquis de Bouillé and Count Dillon.

