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DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND OF TRINIDAD.

Captured from the Spaniards, and ceded to Great-Britain by the Preliminary Articles of Peace.

The Island of Trinidad is ninety miles in length, and sixty in breadth; it is separated by the Boca Del Dragon and the Gulph de Pario, from the Spanish Main; and lies eighty miles N. W. of the River Oroonoko, abounding in the same kinds of produce as the other Islands in the same latitude.

The soil of the Island has always been found to be most peculiarly adapted to cotton, and the quality which it produces is of the finest sort, superior to any of the Leeward Islands growth.

Tobacco is also a very principal article of the produce of Trinidad; it is of a very superior quality, equal to the best of that of Porto Rico.

This Island also produces Cocoa, and from its vicinity to the Caraccas, would supply us with the best growth of that commodity from the Continent.

The neighbourhood too of Oroonoko and Comniana abound with hard wood, mules and cattle, and consequently furnishes us so great an export of hides, as offers considerable advantages to that branch of trade.

The importance of this possession did not impress itself upon the minds of the Spanish Ministers until the year 1783, when, by a Royal Cedula, issued at Madrid on the 24th of November, certain privileges and immunities, to encourage the settlement and cultivation of this island, were allowed to the inhabitants, and such other persons, (Roman Catholics) as might resort thither. By this Cedula the Island was to be parcelled out, in suitable allotments, and exemptions of taxes were granted for the first ten years, from the 1st of January, 1785; so that we obtain possession of the Island at the moment it was judged that its cultivation would be completed.

This conquest relieves us from a grievance, which at the first settling of the Island led to great inconveniences, and occasioned very serious complaints from many of our own islands; it arose from one of the clauses of the Spanish Cedula, whereby it was enacted, that free Negroes or Mulattoes, who should fix their residence in this island, were respectively to be entitled to an allotment, equal to one half of what was designed for each European, in proportion to the number of slaves each Negro or Mulatto should bring with him.

This encouragement to fugitive Negroes, added to the declaration of the Spanish Governor, that upon their arrival there from any of the Antilles they should be free, occasioned such abuses, that serious remonstrances were made by our Court to that of Spain, in the year 1790; in consequence of which a Royal Order, dated from Aranjuez, the 17th of May, of the same year, was transmitted to Don Joseph Maria Chacon, the Governor of Trinidad, enjoining him to put a stop to such abuses, and to promise to return all such fugitive Negroes as should be reclaimed, upon their property being regularly proved.

Another and a very pleasing advantage will result, from our possession of Trinidad, to his Majesty's other Islands, namely from that asylum which Trinidad afforded to fraudulent mortgagors, and other debtors, who sheltered themselves there, and by carrying off their slaves, deprived their creditors of the moveable part of their security, without which the remaining immoveable estate becomes comparatively of no value.

From the enterprising spirit of our merchants, and from the position of the island itself, adjoining to so rich a part of the Spanish Continent as the Caraccas, it may be foreseen that certain advantages are likely to result from their speculations, concurring at the same

time with the inclination of the Spaniards themselves to traffic with us. For this reason, it were to be wished, that in carrying on the present war with Spain, protection should be offered to such of the inhabitants of the coasts as would join in liberating their commerce, and to all Spanish vessels willing to engage with a direct trade in our colonies: All depredations for the sake of plunder should therefore be avoided, and such measures encourage as may tend to facilitate to the inhabitants of South America any disposition on their part to shake off those onerous restrictions to which their Commerce has so long been subjugated. Perhaps such measures would also contribute soon to relieve us from the present want of specie.

But to revert to the state of the Island, it will be evident, that in the first instances Great-Britain will reap every essential benefit, from this capture, even in raw materials. At the same time, when the second point of view opens, with a direct certainty of its affording a new Market to all our manufactured goods, for so great an extent of Continent, where they will most infallibly find their way, and be sought after, surely this circumstance must convey to every mind another considerable benefit; and a third advantage, if we mistake not, will occur by outward bound ships from England having an opportunity of carrying out large assortments of Dry goods from this intercourse, so that their cargoes will in future produce all the profits of full freight instead of half freight, with which they fail at present.

In this Island there are several English Planters, who went there to settle from many of the neighbouring British Islands, advantageous offers having been held out to them by the Spanish Government. On taking the oath of Allegiance to the Crown of Spain, each settler received a considerable grant of land near the coast, and in the most fertile parts of the country. This plan was adopted about six years ago; and between that period and the commencement of the war with Spain, a considerable number of English have established themselves in the island, which although remarkable for its fertility, was but little cultivated by the Spanish inhabitants, whose natural indolence prevented them from reaping the advantages which nature presented. Many of them led a life little removed from the savage state.

The British Island of Tobago is only about twenty miles distant from the N. E. end of Trinidad, and it can be distinguished from some parts of Grenada. Its vicinity to these two Colonies renders it a desirable acquisition to Great-Britain.

The following account of the state of the Island some years since, is extracted from the Philosophical and Political history of the East and West-Indies, by the Abbe Raynal;

'It was not till 1535, that the court of Madrid took possession of the Island of Trinidad, which is situated facing the mouth of the Oroonoko, as it were to moderate the rapidity of that river. It is said to comprehend three hundred and eighteen square leagues. It hath never experienced any hurricane, and its climate is wholesome. The rains are very abundant there from the middle of May to the end of October; and the dryness that prevails throughout the rest of the year is not attended with any inconvenience, because the country, though destitute of navigable rivers, is very well watered. The earthquakes are more frequent than dangerous. In the interior part of the Island there are four groups of mountains, which, together with some others formed by nature upon the shores of the ocean, occupy a third part of the territory. The rest is in general susceptible of the richest culture.

'The form of the island is square. To the north is a coast of twenty-two

leagues in extent, too much elevated, and too much divided, ever to be of any use. The eastern coast is only nineteen leagues in extent, but in all parts as convenient as one could wish it to be: The southern coast hath five and twenty leagues, is a little exalted, and adapted for the successful cultivation of coffee and cocoa. The land on the western side is separated from the rest of the colony, to the south by the Soldier's Canal, and to the north by the Dragon's Mouth, and forms, by means of a recess, a harbour of twenty leagues in breadth and thirty in depth. It offers, in all seasons, secure asylum to the navigators, who, during the greatest part of the year, would find it difficult to anchor any where else, except at the place called the Galiole.

'In this part are the Spanish settlements. They consist only of the Port of Spain, upon which there are seventy-eight thatched huts; and of St. Joseph situated three leagues further up the country, where eighty-eight families; still more wretched than the former are computed.

'The cocoa was formerly cultivated near these two villages. Its excellence made it be preferred to that of Caraccas. In order to secure it, the merchants used to pay for it beforehand. The tree that produced it perished all in 1727, and have not been replanted since. The monks attributed this disaster to the Colonists having refused to pay the tithes. Those who were not blinded by interest or superstition, ascribed it to the north winds, which too frequently occasioned the same kind of calamity in other parts. Since that period, Trinidad hath not been much more frequented than Cubagua.'

Character of the celebrated Black General. TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE.

This extraordinary man is a native of St. Domingo. He was born a slave, and as such remained till the troubles in that island gave an opportunity for the display of his talents. His master, a considerable planter, took him while very young to France, where he remained some time; and being a smart lad, attention was paid to his education, which is better than most negroes receive. But still he was only a negro slave, and returned to St. Domingo, where he lived in that character several years before the troubles broke out. Soon after the French Revolution, our readers know how the misrepresentation of the principles of liberty and equality desolated St. Domingo. The whites were destroyed, and after them the people of colour, the blacks remaining in fact masters of the island. In the dreadful scenes that occurred, Toussaint soon distinguished himself, and acquired a sovereign sway over his fellow negroes, amounting now to 100,000 men in arms, inured to the climate, and educated to war.

Toussaint, to the talents of a General and a Politician, adds those more amiable of gratitude and humanity. His master fled to the United States of America, and Toussaint remitted him, or endeavoured to remit, as much of the produce of his estate as was possible. When General Maitland evacuated Port au Prince, the treaty for that purpose was negotiated and concluded with Toussaint who executed every condition with the strictest fidelity and honour. But Toussaint did not treat as an independent prince, as some of the papers have said. All he did was in the name of the French Republic. For while he is absolute monarch over St. Domingo, he affects to be a subject of France, a fact, of which the following anecdote is a sufficient testimony.

When General Maitland evacuated Port au Prince, all the old French planters who had joined the British departed with him of course. In the harbour was the old master of Toussaint, who had come from the continent to

endeavour to retrieve his property, in which he had been unsuccessful; and he was about to fly with the English, in rage and wretchedness. General Maitland had too much wisdom to treat Toussaint as a brigand (robber), as he had hitherto been treated; and Toussaint's conduct repaid him for this civility.

Toussaint hearing of his master, sent a Message to General Maitland, saying he had a favour to ask. What was it? To send his master to him. The General did so; and then Toussaint restored his master to his estates, and gave him negroes for their cultivation. He behaved in the most affectionate and kind manner to him who had truly been his father.

General Maitland upon this sent a message, asking a favour of Toussaint. What is it? To restore a dozen of the principal Planters to their estates. Toussaint desired they might be sent to his care. They were so. He clapped them in prison.

Some days afterwards he had them brought into a church, before a large body of his fellow blacks; and he mounted the pulpit to preach a sermon; for his prowess at arms is but a small part of his distinction. Here he enforced the virtue of forgiveness to the Repentant, saying, 'We were for a while Spaniards (the blacks fled to the Spanish protection in the beginning of the troubles,) but we were misled. We were born Frenchmen, and now we are Frenchmen again. Those twelve men have also been misled. They were born Frenchmen. For a time they have been British; but now they have returned, and are Frenchmen again. Let us embrace.' Here Toussaint embraced them, and reconciled his followers. He restored them to their estates; and gave them negroes as servants.

It would be the disposition of a little mind, in Toussaint's situation, to hate and persecute the whites; but he knows well that the Island cannot flourish without them; that they are necessary to cultivation and good government, to the commerce and prosperity of the place. Therefore his chief aim is to restore the planters, and revive the trade. He fears that France will one day endeavour to punish him as a rebel, but this France will never be able to accomplish. Hedouville, the French Commissioner, is a fool, and a person of no influence: Toussaint disregards him; but all Toussaint's acts are in the name of the French Republic, for which alone he pretends to act: and his utmost wish is, that the Directory would name him their General.

ALL Persons who have legal demands against the Estate of JOHN BETTLE, late of King's County, deceased, are requested to send in their accounts duly attested to the Subscribers, within Six months from the date hereof—And all persons indebted to said Estate are desired to make immediate payment to

JOHN McLEOD,
JOHN WATERBURY,

Administrators.

St. John, 3d Nov. 1801.

FOR SALE,



A Valuable Farm of upwards of 500 acres, situate on the Little Kennebecasis or Hammond River about 16 miles from the

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If the Farm is not before disposed of at private Sale, it will be sold at Public Auction on Monday the 16th Feb. next at 11 o'clock at the Coffee-House St. John—by

ANDREW CROOKSHANK,
St. John, 15th Dec. 1801.