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A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
SPANISH  
ISLANDS and SETTLEMENTS

10738

On the Coast of the

WEST INDIES,

*Compiled from authentic Memoirs,*

Revised by Gentlemen who have resided many Years in the  
SPANISH Settlements;

AND ILLUSTRATED

With Thirty-two MAPS and PLANS,  
Chiefly from original Drawings taken from the SPANIARDS in the last War

And Engraved by

THOMAS JEFFERYS, Geographer to HIS MAJESTY.

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. JEFFERYS, in *St. Martin's Lane*, near *Charing-Cross*. 1762,

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OF THE  
ISLANDS AND SETTLEMENTS

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On the Coast of the

WEST INDIES

Compiled from authentic sources

by the late Captain James Cook, R.N. and other  
British Sea-officers

AND ILLUSTRATED

WITH FIFTY-TWO MAPS AND PLANS

Chiefly from original Drawings taken from the Journals in the West

Indies

BY JAMES COOK, R.N. Captain of the Endeavour

AND JAMES COOK, R.N.

Printed by W. Johnston, in the Strand, near Old St. Pauls

To the Right Honourable

GEORGE DUNK, Earl of HALIFAX,

Viscount SUNBURY and Baron of HALIFAX;

One of the Lords of his MAJESTY's most Honourable Privy Council ;

Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of NORTHAMPTON ;

Lieutenant General of his MAJESTY's Forces ;

Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of the Kingdom of IRELAND ;

A N D

First Lord Commissioner for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of GREAT BRITAIN ;

*This Description of the Spanish Islands and Settlements on the Coast of the West-Indies,*

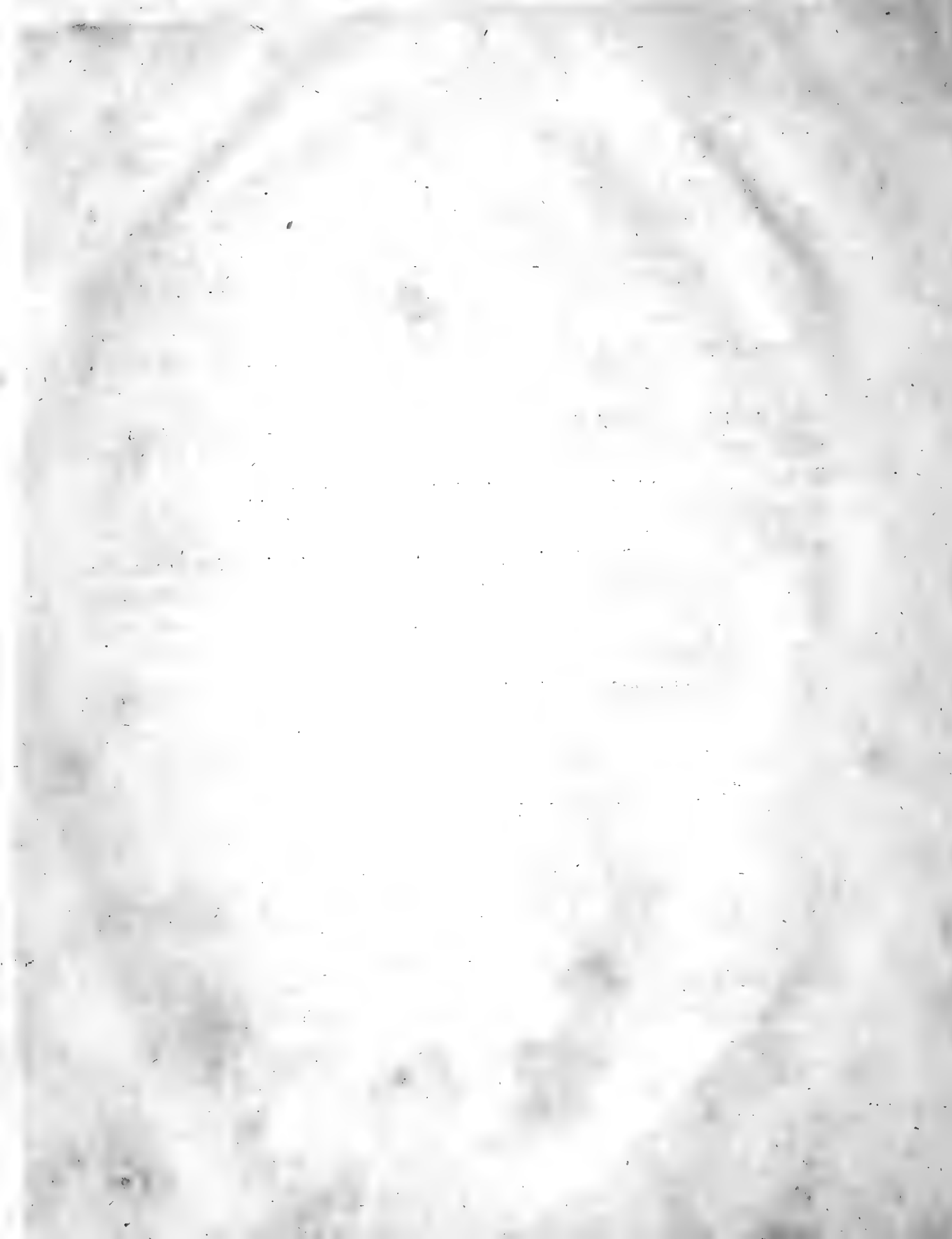
Is, with the utmost respect, inscribed by

His Lordship's most obedient,

And most obliged

Humble Servant,

THOMAS JEFFERYS.





# ADVERTISEMENT.

*SEVERAL of the principal Officers in the BRITISH Navy, during the Course of the last War with SPAIN, having found on board their respective Prizes, many curious Draughts and Surveys of the SPANISH Settlements in the WEST-INDIES, with a most disinterested public Spirit, have communicated them to the Editor for the Service of BRITISH Navigators; these, together with a Variety of new Materials, with which he has been favoured by several Gentlemen, who have resided many Years, both in the SPANISH and ENGLISH Settlements, in the WEST-INDIES, encourage him to hope, that this Work will not only be found extremely useful, but also entertaining; and he further thinks it a Duty incumbent on him to inform the Public, that he has not only availed himself of their Use in this Work, but that he is likewise far advanced in drawing and engraving of*

A

L A R G E C H A R T

O F T H E

W E S T - I N D I E S,

*In Twenty Sheets; in which are laid down, all the Capes, Rocks, Shoals and Soundings, compiled from the aforesaid Materials, which will be published with all the Expedition that a Work of this kind will permit.*

A L I S T of the P L A T E S.

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**T**HE Plans of *Santa Martha, Puerto Velo, Chagré, Matanzas, Nipe, Xagua, Bahía Honda, Mariel, and Cavaños*, with the *Aguada Nueva de Puerto Rico*, (which last was taken by order of Admiral *Terres* in 1740) are all copied from *Spanish* surveys made by *Francisco Mathias Celi*, Chief Pilot to his Catholic Majesty's Royal Armada in 1740.

The harbour of *Carthagena*, and bay of *Zifapata*, from surveys made by *Don Juan de Herrera*, chief Engineer at *Carthagena*.

The isthmus of *Darien, Logwood Creeks, St. Augustin*, with the *Colorados*, from other *Spanish* drawings.

*Vera Cruz*, city and harbour, with that of *San Juan de Puerto Rico*, from drawings of the *Sieur Bully*, Pilot of *Marseilles*.

The cities of *Carthagena* and *San Domingo*, with the harbour of *Penfacola*, and map of the island of *San Domingo*, from *French* authors.

*La Guiana*, and *Puerto Cavello*, from Drawings made by *English* officers last war.

*Guantanamo*, with the entrance into the harbour of *Santiago de Cuba*, from surveys taken by Admiral *Durel* in 1740.

The island of *Cuba*, with the city of the *Havana*, are compiled from many *Spanish* and *English* surveys, draughts and journals, corrected from late remarks made by several of our officers and merchants upon the spot, and adjusted by astronomical observations.

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# I N T R O D U C T I O N .

**T**HE *British* nation being forced by the crown of *Spain* into a war with that country, much against both interest and inclination, after having reduced the *French* to the lowest extremity, by the assistance of providence, and the valour and wise disposition of our fleets and armies, under the auspices of a good cause, our eyes of course turn towards those parts of *Spanish America*, where it is most likely the *English* will principally aim their attacks.

To contribute somewhat toward gratifying this curiosity so natural at a season when such large and powerful armaments from our own country, are abroad, hovering as it were about their coasts and territories in the new world; and while we are in doubtful expectation where next the fury of war will fall, and for the consequences of it in those parts; this brief description makes its appearance to the Public. In the execution of our design, it is intended to confine the pen chiefly to an account of the sea-coasts, harbours, and towns adjacent to them, of the *Spanish* acquisitions in the *West-Indies*; beginning from the eastern part of the south coast of the *Tierra Firma*, thence along the shore to *Vera Cruz*, round to *Florida*, and so to the islands of *Cuba*, &c. Two reasons more especially induce us to limit our work in this manner; the

one, because the internal part of these vast regions cannot be so accurately treated of, from a deficiency of intelligence so minute and well attested as is to be wished for, the *Spaniard* being rather cautious in this particular ; the other, from considering the sea-ports and places bordering upon, or not far removed from the shores, as the main and most convenient objects of naval expeditions, and consequently, most likely to become the theatre of *British* enterprize. The *Spanish* empire in *America*, as likewise the whole southern continent, connected by the isthmus of *Panama*, together with all the islands below the tropic of *Cancer* thereto belonging, are commonly called the *West-Indies*, which appellation is said to have arisen from a mistake of *Columbus*, the first discoverer of the new world ; who, concluding the *Indies* which the *Portuguese* had a little before discovered in the east, to be some great continent, balancing those parts of the universe already known, imagined that whoever sailed westward, must at length arrive at the most eastward bounds of that continent, and in consequence of this supposition, called the islands he discovered, the *West-Indies*. Under his conduct one of the *Lucaios* islands, named *Guanabani*, or *Cat Island*, was the part of *America* first descried by the *Europeans*, on the 11th of *October*, 1492, from which place he proceeded to *Haitu*, now *Hispaniola* ; and having fixed a settlement upon that island, returned to *Spain*. Soon after this, he made a second voyage, when the first land he fell in with was the island of *Desseada* ; hence he sailed again to *Hispaniola*, where  
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at his arrival, he found affairs in the utmost confusion, caused by the ill behaviour of the *Spaniards* he had left behind him, towards the natives of the country. *Columbus* being a man of strict discipline and severity of manners, his proceeding hereupon so much disgusted the licentious crew he had to deal with, as to inflame matters to such a height, that appeals were sent from both parties into *Spain*. A person was deputed to enquire concerning these grievances, who carried it with that partiality against *Columbus*, as to send him, at the instigation of the opposite party, into *Spain* loaden with chains. He was, however, at his arrival, set at liberty, and had the satisfaction of seeing King *Ferdinand* and Queen *Isabella*, who was truly his friend, much concerned at his misfortunes, but it was with difficulty, nevertheless, that he could procure a new Governor to be sent to *Hispaniola*. This great man made four voyages to the *West-Indies*; and at the end of the last, seeing many disorders and disputes arising among the new settlers, he determined to return to *Spain*, to give their Majesties the best account he could of those parts; where, at his first landing, he was shocked with the news of Queen *Isabella's* death, which, together with the ill usage he thenceforward met with from the *Spanish* courtiers, and the cold behaviour of the King, broke his heart after a few months illness, in the year 1506. The chief discoveries of *Columbus* were the *Lucaios* islands, *Hispaniola*, *Deseada*, *Puerto Rico*, and the *Spanish Main*, north of the river of the *Amazons*; it is true he saw the isthmus of

*Panama*, but the demonstration of its being only a narrow neck of land, connecting the two great continents of northern and southern *America*, having the vast pacific ocean behind it, was reserved for another, which was *Basco Nuncs de Balboa*, who, after a harassing march over the mountains near *Porto Bello*, was the first *European* that ever saw the *South Seas*, and acquired at the same time an imperfect account of the empire of *Peru*. In the year 1512, *John Ponce de Leon*, a *Spanish* gentleman of courage and fortune, being upon his voyage to *Porto Rico*, was driven by hard weather upon a part of the continent, which he took possession of, calling it *Florida*, but why, is uncertain. *Yucatan* was discovered in the year 1517, by *Hernandez de Cordova*, a very gallant man, who landed with some force upon it, but was obliged, by the bravery of the natives, to embark again for *Cuba*: nevertheless, *Francis de Monteyo* found means afterwards to settle in the same country, and to cultivate a friendship with the *Indians* by inter-marriages among his own and their people. No great progress beyond the discoveries of a few coasts and islands, had been made hitherto by the *Spaniards* in *America*, till the great *Cortez* began upon his enterprizes. *Ferdinando Cortez* was born at *Medellin*, a small town of *Estremadura* in *Spain*, in the year 1485; his father's name was *Martin Cortez de Monroy*, his mother's *Catharino Pizarro Almarino*, both noble, but not in affluent circumstances; when, with some difficulty they had reared their son to the age of fourteen years, finding him then strong and healthy, they sent him to the university

city of *Salamanca*, with an intention that he should apply himself to the study of the law; but having no kind of inclination to this profession, after some difficulties that occurred in determining his choice, he fixed upon a resolution of going to the *West-Indies*, and was accordingly sent with recommendatory letters to the then Governor of *Hispaniola*. He embarked at *Seville* in 1504, and was kindly received at his arrival in the *West Indies*. *Cortez* was now in the bloom of youth, very handsome in his person, engaging in his behaviour, and amiable in his manner; he spoke with elegance, was very prudent, yet quick to resolve, and ready to execute, of great presence and steadiness of mind, joined to invincible courage and fortitude; a generous contempt of money, and a facility of obliging all, exempt from mercenary motives. These great qualities induced *James Valasques*, on his being appointed Governor of *Cuba*, to make *Cortez* his Secretary; in discharging which office some accidents happened, that caused much disagreement between him and the Governor, and brought *Cortez* more than once in great danger of life: he, however, found means not only to be reconciled to, but gained such an ascendant over the Governor, that he was appointed Admiral of a very large fleet fitted out at the expence of the former, in order to make discoveries; but even now he was upon the point of being set aside, by the unlucky expression of a fool that was kept by *Valasques*, which struck him so deeply with suspicion in regard to *Cortez*, that he had nearly resolved to change his Admiral; this the latter perceiving, took a  
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very bold step, and making use of the love he possessed in the hearts of both soldiers and sailors, put to sea with the fleet without waiting for either leave or orders. He sailed to *Vera Cruz*, where, hearing of the prodigious wealth of *Mexico*, he set forward towards that country, with a body of troops consisting of about 300 foot, 15 horse, and 1300 *Indians* to carry the baggage; and, after various conflicts and difficulties, subdued this vast country for the king of *Spain*. In 1528 *Cortez* returned home, where he was received with great honour by that monarch, presented with a large estate by him, created a Marquis, and married to a lady of very high rank. The next year he returned to *Mexico*, whence he sent parties to discover the more northern regions of this empire. His people were kindly received there, and a friendly peace concluded between them and the *Spaniards*. Some troubles that happened in relation to his discoveries, wherein the viceroy interfered, inclined him to return once more into *Spain* in the year 1542, where he was received with as much distinction as before, but obtained no satisfaction with regard to his complaint. This however did not cool his zeal for his prince, whom he served gallantly in the calamitous expedition against *Algiers*. From this time *Cortez* led a private life, and died near *Seville*, in the year 1554; his corpse, by his own desire, was carried into *New Spain*. While the conquest of *Mexico* took up the attention of *Cortez*, that of *Peru* was carried on by *Francis Pizarro*, and *Diego de Almagro* in conjunction. They made a  
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considerable progress herein, and acquired much wealth, but not without great danger and difficulties in their struggles against the natives, rendered still heavier by their own broils and dissensions; which at last produced a battle between them, wherein *Almagro* was taken, and soon afterwards slain. *Pizarro* fell, in return for this violent proceeding, by the hands of *Almagro's* friends. The king of *Spain*, to quell those tumults, sent over one *Vaca de Castro*; between whom and *Almagro*, the son of the former of that name, a bloody battle was fought, wherein the latter was defeated, and soon after taken prisoner and put to death. Mean while *Gonsalo Pizarro*, brother of the above *Francis*, set himself up for viceroy, in opposition to *Blasca Nunex Vela*, appointed in 1544: which, after many conflicts, ended in a total defeat of the latter, who was wounded, taken and beheaded. These disturbances justly alarming the *Spanish* monarch with apprehensions of losing the extensive territories of *Peru*, he sent over *Peter de la Gasca*, one in whose integrity and abilities he reposed the highest confidence, with a commission so ample, as almost in effect to equal regal authority: he was a man of great intrepidity, deep prudence, mild behaviour, unblemished probity, and absolutely disinterested. By his wisdom and courage he gradually quelled the several tumults and insurrections of the rebels: and having defeated *Pizarro* and his adherents, condemned him and thirteen more to death; among whom was *Francis Carjaval*, the chief

chief promoter of troubles in these parts. *Garza* contrived a method to soften the yoke of the *Indians*, and to reduce them to the Christian faith; when having settled all to his satisfaction, though he came without money and acted upon credit, he paid his debts, and carried with him into *Europe*, for the King's use, near two millions, reserving not a penny for himself; the first in authority that ever did the like.

This is a succinct account of the manner in which the *Spanish* nation have gotten possession of far the best and largest part of the continent of *America*, extending from the north of *California* to the streights of *Magellan*; a space of between 6 and 7000 miles. The reader may imagine that in this amazing tract of territory, the productions must be as various as the climates; let it suffice to say, that scarcely any thing is wanted, were it properly managed, that can conduce both to the convenience, and even luxury of life; the soil of these countries being in general exceeding rich and fertile, so as to require but little pains of cultivation; yet after all, however just and well-founded our panegyric upon the soil and productions may be, the riches upon the surface fall far short of those within the bowels of the earth, wherein lie the fountains of those immense treasures which have supplied *Europe* for almost three centuries past with such profusion of gold and silver, not to mention the pearls and gems of various sorts, with which the new world abounds. To preserve the sole commerce with those regions to themselves, and the crown of *Spain*, the *Spaniards* have

have been always particularly attentive, and the better to compass this scheme, have carefully restrained strangers from traveling through their dominions: and though there are some instances of foreigners having passed through them, they are yet so rare, and those researches attended with so much difficulty and hazard, that it is not wonderful our accounts concerning the internal parts of those countries should be both imperfect and uncertain, so that all the lawful trade between *Europe* and *Spanish America* is entirely confined to the *Spaniards* themselves, and under the absolute direction of the crown.

The established plan upon which they carry on this trade is pretty well known in general, but few people carry their enquiries far enough into its particulars: to give therefore as clear an account of this matter as possible, the *Galleons*, *Flota*, *Flotilla*, *Register-ships*, and *Guarda-costas* shall be all separately and distinctly described.

GALLEONS are, in fact, very large men of war, of a construction now altogether difused except in *Spain*, and built after such a manner there only because it affords ampler room for the stowage of merchandize, with which commonly they are so encumbered as to be rendered incapable of defence. The fleet which we call the galleons consists of eight such men of war; three of them are very large, and are stiled *la Capitana*, *la Admirante*, and *il Governo*. The rest are all considerably less; among which there is an advice-frigate of forty guns. It costs the merchantmen

chantmen that sail in company with this fleet a large sum of money for their licences: they are in number from twelve to sixteen, and carry at least one third part more of burden than their respective schedules express. The business of these ships is to carry all the merchandize and warlike stores to *Peru*, which are wanted in that country. During the time of Peace the galleons sail once a year regularly, though at no set time, but according to the pleasure of the king, and the convenience of the merchant. They steer away from *Cadix*, right for the *Canaries*; where, if the flota sails in company with them, they both anchor together in the harbour of *Gomera*; thence they make for the *Antilles*; in which longitude the flota leaves them, and the galleons bear away for *Cartagena*. As soon as they come in sight before the mouth of *Rio de la Hacha*, after having doubled cape *de la Vela*, advice of their arrival is sent to all parts, that every thing may be prepared for their reception. They remain a whole month in the harbour of *Cartagena*, and land there whatever is designed for the audience of *Tierra Firma*. They then sail to *Puerto Velo*, where having stayed during the fair, (which lasts five or six weeks) landed the merchandize intended for *Peru*, and received the treasures and rich commodities sent from thence on board, they sail back to *Cartagena*, and remain there till they return to *Spain*, which usually happens within the space of two years. When orders for returning home arrive, they sail first to the *Havana*: having there

there joined the flota, and what other ships are bound to *Europe*, they steer northward as high as *Carolina*, and there taking the westerly winds, they shape their course to the *Azore*, where having watered and victualled afresh at *Tercera*, they thence continue their voyage to *Cadix*.

The *FLOTA* consists, like the galleons, of a certain number of men of war and merchant-ships. There are seldom more than three of the former in this fleet, called *la Capitana*, *la Admirante*, and *la Patacha*; and usually about sixteen of the latter. They set sail sometime in the month of *August*, in order to obtain the benefit of the winds that blow in *November*, for the more easily pursuing their voyage to *Vera Cruz*. They call at *Puerto Rico* in their way, to refresh, pass in sight of *Hispaniola*, *Jamaica*, and *Cuba*, and, according to the winds and season, sail either by the coast of *Jucatan*, or higher through the gulph to *Vera Cruz*, which lies at the bottom of it. The run of this fleet, according to the abovementioned cruize, has been thus computed; they allow ten days for the passage from *Cadix* to the *Canaries*, 250 leagues; twenty days to sail from hence to the *Antilles*, 800 leagues; twenty days likewise from thence to the most western extremity of *Cuba*, 500 leagues; and twelve or thirteen days more for their arrival at *Vera Cruz*, about 260 leagues; in the whole about 1810 leagues in sixty-two days. The flota being intended to furnish not only *Mexico*, but the *Philippine* islands also, with the goods of *Europe*,

is obliged to remain there a considerable time, and sometimes finds it necessary to winter in that port; they return with a cargo not altogether so rich as that of the galleons, but it is said by some to encrease annually in value. This fleet usually sails from *Vera Cruz* in the month of *May*, but sometimes detained so late as *August*; it then makes for the *Havana*, and generally returns with the galleons, though they seldom leave *Spain* together. When they are assembled at the *Havana*, a few of the lightest and cleanest ships are immediately sent off for *Europe*, who carry with them an exact account of the lading of both the galleons and flota, as well as of their own. These vessels the *Spaniards* properly enough stile the *FLOTILLA*, or little fleet. Two reasons may be assigned for their detaching them in this manner; the one, in order that the government may be the better enabled to judge what convoy may be suitable, in case of any change of affairs, to protect the grand fleet; the other, for the better regulation of the indulto to be levied on the merchants, in proportion to their interest in the galleons and flota. Two causes likewise may be assigned for the great fleet's remaining so long at the *Havana*; the expectation of a wind, and of the register ships, which they are to convoy home.

A REGISTER SHIP is so called from its being registered, with all the effects embarked in *Spain*, in books kept for that end at *Seville*: but as a more explanatory account may be desired by the reader, this matter shall be particularly stated. Supposing

a number of merchants to have conceived, as they think, just grounds for believing they shall meet with a good market for *European* goods at some port or other in the *West Indies*, they draw up a petition in the clearest and strongest manner they are able, setting forth their reasons thereupon, and lay it before the council of the *Indies*. The purport of the petition is to this effect: That they may obtain leave to send a ship of three hundred tons burthen, or less, to the port therein specified: this permission is granted, upon payment of a large sum to the crown, generally not less than 30000 pieces of eight, not to mention presents to all the king's officers without exception. But to obviate any suspicions that might arise herefrom, they register their ships and cargo, in order to preserve a consistency between their petition and licence: but alas! what possibility is there of guarding against custom-house venality? The ship entered as of only 300 tons burthen, not only carries above 300 tons more, but likewise affords accommodation for passengers beside. The governor and officers at the port whereunto the register ship is bound, receive copies from the register, relative to the affair; and notwithstanding all the diligence and integrity of the said gentlemen, and though they make a most minute enquiry into the circumstances, very seldom any fraud is discovered, and the vessel of 6 or 700 tons returns back to *Europe* with a certificate, authenticated by all the king's officers, that she scarcely carries 300, together with a bill of lading in the same accurate stile

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of computation. The merchants sometimes gain two or three hundred *per cent.* by these register ships, which enables them to pay so bountifully for cheating the king, after having first robbed his subjects in order to do it.

The register ships go to *Buenos Ayres, Puerto Cavello, Santa Martha,* and places where the galleons and flota never come; but generally arrive with the latter, and sometimes set out with them, and part company in a certain latitude. People of quality in *Spain* frequently use their interest in procuring the abovementioned licences, and are supposed to be impelled to it by something besides mere good nature. But it is not to the *Spaniard* alone that the management of such illegal practices hath been confined; other *European* nations have pushed their improvement in these mysteries even beyond them; and by extraordinary donations to *Spanish* governors, comptrollers, inspectors, &c. made them ample amends for their integrity to their king, and kindness to strangers. The accumulation of great wealth, the natural consequence of this sort of commerce, has tempted the *English, French* and *Dutch* in the *West Indies*, people of no delicate stomachs in point of manners, to endeavour at dealing in the same way, without the previous ceremony of a licence; and, partly by the connivance of *Spanish* governors, and partly by using force, have succeeded to their wish: but the court of *Spain*, provoked by the flagrancy of this evil, resolved to put a stop to it, and sent over new governors, with very determi-

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nate orders on this head, requiring them to be carried into rigorous execution.

The GUARDA COSTA, or guard ships, took their rise from these instructions; and because they have made much noise in the world, it may not be improper to speak more particularly of them. It must be allowed that the *English*, *French* and *Dutch* had run such lengths as to give real occasion for the equipping an armament strong enough to oppose the violent measures of all of them. The *Dutch* vessels mounted from 20 to 36 guns, and defied all the governor of *Cartagena* could do; but as soon as the guard ships began to act, they put a stop to these illicit proceedings, and took and destroyed more than to the value of 100,000 pounds, hanging at the same time sixteen *Spanish* merchants, whom they found trading on board these ships, without ceremony. The bewitching desire of gain carried the *Spanish* captains by degrees beyond all bounds of justice; and under colour of seizing contraband goods, they stopt and made captures of every *English* vessel they could, at first under slight pretences, and at last without any pretence at all: the governors sharing in the profit of the prizes made in this manner, were induced to send false relations to the court of *Madrid*, and thereby raised that spirit of obstinacy, which drew upon them the late war and its bad consequences. After having given a detail of the manner in which the *Spaniards* carry on their trade, the reader may possibly expect to be informed as to the value of the money and effects annually transported

ported from their *American* dominions into *Spain*; though this cannot be done with all the exactness that the nature of the thing makes desirable, yet by the nearest and nicest computation we have been able to procure, it may amount, one year with another, to about 38,000,000 of pieces of eight, or more than 9,000,000 of pounds sterling. One would imagine that with this vast yearly influx of wealth, the *Spanish* monarchy should be the richest, and, consequently, one of the most powerful kingdoms upon the face of the earth; but the fact is quite otherwise, and *Spain* seems to be no more than the common coffer or treasury, into which all the nations of *Europe* thrust their hands, and draw out as much as their situation and abilities for commerce enable them to take. Many reasons concur to shew why *Spain*, though furnished with such immense riches, has been ever since, so far from growing more powerful, and extending her dominion in *Europe*, (though she has often attempted to do it) that she is perhaps at this time more feeble, in comparison, than she was, even before the discovery of *America*: There are four things that chiefly contribute to render a nation powerful, respectable, and formidable in the eyes of its neighbours; the wealth, the number, the virtue, and the industry of its inhabitants. The two latter of those requisites support and augment the two former; for wealth, destitute of virtue and industry, only leaves the possessors an open and defenceless prey to perpetual ravages and inroads from without, and numbers in the same condition cannot be esteemed  
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any thing more than a riotous indisciplined mob, and must necessarily dwindle and waste away from want of order and regularity within themselves. The more these qualifications of virtue and industry preponderate and flourish in any nation, the happier is that people in itself, and the dreadfuller to its enemies. How far *Spain* may be deficient in, or deviate from them, shall be the subject of our present enquiry. If the *Spaniards*, as soon as they had acquired such extensive dominion in the new world, had diligently applied to the cultivation of trade and manufacture, it would necessarily have given them the supreme direction of the affairs of *Europe*; for the subjects of all their various territories trading without restraint among themselves, for almost every commodity, that wants either natural or acquired demand, would have created a maritime force too potent for any other power to have opposed: nay, even under the present restrictions, were these same subjects to carry on a combined barter among each other, those prodigious sums now diffused all over *Europe* would have centered and fixed in *Spain*, as their principal receptacle, which would of consequence have enabled their kings to give law to their poorer neighbours; but instead of encouraging this sound policy, and thus sapping the strength of foreigners, by withdrawing gradually from them the props which their own indolence have furnished, the monarchs of *Spain* squandered and lavished away the vast treasures they received from their new dominions, in a vain pursuit after universal monarchy, at a time when,

for want of a due attention to what might cause any part of it to revert to them and their people again, they left themselves poor and destitute, like a spendthrift that still lives upon the principal, and after swimming for a season in high gaiety and delight, finds himself on a sudden sunk into penury and desolation. Instead of considering the *West Indies* as an estate they were to improve and receive an annual profit always from, they regarded them only as a farm, out of which they endeavoured to raise all they could at once: and in this respect we must own they acted with much vigour, drawing thence immense treasure, which was squandered in schemes to destroy the peace of others in *Europe*, and which at the same time furnished their antagonists with the sinews of war against themselves: whereas had they turned the strength of their riches inwards, and made use of it as a spur and incitement to improve the ingenuity and industry of their own people, the whole world could scarcely have withstood them; and according to the natural constitution of things, had their activity in these particulars been at all proportioned to the vastness of their wealth, so as to have produced and continued a circulation of it chiefly among themselves, they must have held the principal sway in *Europe*, for the very same reasons that we see those do, who in private life are possessed of most wealth and industry. By this mismanagement, *Spain*, instead of being the richest, is, in reality, one of the poorest states in *Europe*. The continual supply they stand in need of from other countries, renders their merchants no more  
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in general, than factors, and they do but negotiate for foreigners the larger part of the returns they receive from the *West-Indies*: What avail then all those founding titles their monarch assumes, while strangers enjoy the real fruits of what he only is nominal sovereign? surely this is truly to be *vox et præterea nihil*.

As to the second article, number of inhabitants, we shall find the *Spaniards* miserably deficient herein. Many capital errors in policy, and indeed some partly unavoidable, or very difficult to be cured, as arising from the customs and institutions of the country, concur to be the causes of this paucity. The *Spaniards* are a people bigotted in the last degree to the prejudices and absurdities of the church of *Rome*: the consequence of which superstition must end of course in being over-run with a vast multitude of priests, who are, according to the laws of their church, forbidden to marry, by which means a great part of the community die without descendency. A strange tenet in religion, to imagine that a hateful force imposed upon the will by another, and what we are compelled to only by violence from without, can plead any merit as a virtue, or leave us more at liberty for pious avocations. Their early marriages may be another prevention of fertility, as well as perhaps frequently the cause of a weakly and infirm complexion of body to their children: but nothing can contribute more to this thinness of people, than their indolence and sloth, by which they are not only disabled from providing for greater numbers, but are far from supporting those they have, by the culture and produce of their own lands: in

a country, larger than *France*, and not by half so populous; and a soil too, which is allowed in itself to be sufficiently fruitful, where labour is not wanting, the common people are continually in a starving condition; nor is it to be admired that those should not be prolific, who subsist upon a diet spare in quantity, and meagre in quality. The next thing that falls under consideration is their virtue; and it is certainly acknowledged on every side, that the *Spaniards* are men of remarkable probity and honour in their dealings, beyond what is found in general among other nations; and were it not carried to the foppery and barbarity of superstition, we might say they are a people of devotion and piety: but then to counterbalance those good qualities, they are charged with unmeasurable arrogance and pride, as also with unbounded cruelty and revenge where opportunity happens of gratifying their spirit of avarice and resentment. Their immane and unparalleled inhumanity to the unhappy *Indian* nations they conquered, their extirpation of the inhabitants of whole kingdoms, and other horrid excesses among them, are too shocking to be dwelt upon. In what degree the little advantage they receive from these settlements, and that their riches, gained at the price of such effusion of innocent blood, make themselves wings, as the scripture has it, and fly away, may be accounted judicial, I shall not pretend to determine. There is likewise another circumstance in their behaviour that somewhat disqualifies them from that obliging and easy intercourse among men, which the nature of business and trade requires; it is the  
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profound reservedness and affected stiffness which so distinguishes the *Spaniard*. Men, whatever may be pretended, are in general better pleased with insincere civility and fraudulent urbanity, than with rigid, ungracious integrity; otherwise how could *France*, a nation so confessedly cunning and deceitful, or their language, whose phrase and idiom is so nicely adapted thereto, and which indeed seems to be good for little else, have so deeply insinuated themselves into the courts of *Europe*. With regard to industry, all the world knows that the *Spaniards* are utterly devoid of that; nor can there be pointed out a more lazy and slothful people upon the face of the earth. Of this, three causes may be principally assigned; the one arises from the heat of the climate, the other from their over-weening pride, which will scarcely allow them to do any labour; and the third from their superstition, which crowds the year so full of holidays, that if they were willing to work, they could hardly find opportunity; but from whatever it springs, it is without doubt one of the main producers of the reigning poverty of their country; for the luxuries and refinements of life, which are almost indispensibly created wherever money can be raised to support them; as likewise common conveniencies and necessities must be supplied, the *Spaniards* among themselves contributing but little towards the supplying of either; those wants are gratified by their more industrious neighbours; and as without doubt each holds up the price of his peculiar commodities to the greatest height he is able, the larger moiety of the treasures drawn from  
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the mines of *Peru* and *Mexico* fall immediately into the hands of other possessors than the proprietors of these countries. The *French* furnish them with all sorts of gold and silver stuffs, silk, and velvets, stockings, hats, linen, gloves, paper, cards, and toys. The *Dutch* send them spices of all kinds, linens, cloths, serges, camblets, shalloons, toys, hemp, tar, pitch, copper and iron ware, dried fish, &c. From the *English* they receive every sort of woollen goods, hats of all sorts, silk and worsted stockings, rich silks, copper, brass, and iron ware, clocks, watches, salt provisions, &c. And if we add to this what the *Spaniards* import from other countries, it will be found that upon the whole not less than fifteen millions of every such cargo from *America* may be reckoned to belong to foreigners who have interest in the goods exported thither. It is easy for one who has considered these native wants of *Spain* to suppose, after all the various expences of government are defrayed, out of what remains, and the many accidental demands and charges that arise from state intrigues carried on in various parts of *Europe* are answered, but little cash remains in the kingdom for the subjects use, and even that little is almost entirely spent, either upon small shopkeepers, generally *Frenchmen* or *Italians*, who retire with what they have acquired to their own countries in the decline of life, or else upon the labourers and reapers, and so forth, that come by thousands out of the provinces of *France* bordering upon *Spain*, and return back after their business is over, with their wages. The reader may hence conceive what



what terrible distress, and almost irremediable evil must accrue from a failure in the arrival of the supplies from *America*, by a stoppage of the galleons, which is liable to happen only in time of war, the time when their presence is most absolutely necessary: one cannot therefore sufficiently wonder at the folly of an enemy, that long has, and still might have continued to have enjoyed much advantage from a war between *England* and *France*; with the former of which too *Spain* at all times carried on the most beneficial part of her commerce, and can entertain the least suspicion of being injured by, if she rightly considered, and was not made the tool and dupe of *French* artifice, who has rashly thrown up such a happy opportunity, to embroil herself in war with a nation, only at present by far the most potent of any in the universe, and to fight the cause of a people, dispirited, beggared, and sunk into the utmost contempt. What can a *British* administration, firm and true to its own, that is to say, the interest of its country, fear from the junction of such despicable foes; the one in the prosecution of a war, unjustly commenced by them, contrary to common faith and solemn treaty, having lost all her most valuable possessions, like limbs severed from the bleeding body, and the other in the feeble, abject condition, above described.

The *Spanish* monarchs having not been unapprized of the great disadvantages their country laboured under, from being thus deprived by foreigners of the immense treasures they draw from their mines, for the better securing the commerce of their *American* dominions to the inhabitants of *Old Spain*, strictly forbid

forbid all traffic in the *West Indies* between their subjects and those of the colonies there, belonging to other nations! But vain is it to imagine that *Spaniards* or any else will suffer the natural right of providing themselves with conveniences to be taken from them; and that they will not endeavour to come at them by some clandestine means, while no care is taken to obtain a proper supply from the mother country. Much of the gold and silver therefore, that should have passed into *Spain* by the galleons, has made its escape in this manner, especially to *Jamaica*, from whence the *Spaniards* at *Carthagena*, *Porto Bello*, *Rio de la Hacha*, and other places, have been supplied with *European* commodities, notwithstanding the great hazard they run in the management of so dangerous a trade, the lives both of buyers and sellers being equally exposed, and often forfeited to what their government is pleased to call justice. It seems however to be our interest to put a stop to this contraband traffic, could we thereby effectually procure the friendship of *Spain*, and engage them to pay in return a grateful regard to our commerce in particular. There is a certain proportion of our goods and manufactures, that will be ever necessary to the inhabitants of *Spanish America*, and which they will have by some means or other: now it is certainly preferable in respect of ourselves, that they should purchase them in a fair and regular, rather than in a clandestine manner; which if it could be brought to bear, might settle a lasting, nay a perpetual good understanding and harmony between two nations, whose mutual interest it is never to be at variance.

A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
*Spanish* Islands and Settlements  
ON THE  
Coast of the *West-Indies*.



TIERRA FIRMA,

OR the province of *New Castile*, was discovered by *Christopher Columbus*, in his third voyage, and was so called by his sailors, who were most of them natives of *Old Castile*. It afterwards obtained the name of the *Castilla del Oro*, from the large quantities of gold found therein, particularly in the district of *Uraba*. It is a very large territory, bounded by the sea on the north; by *Caribana* and *Guiana* on the east; by *Peru* and the river of the *Amazons* on the south; and by the *Pacific Ocean* on the west. As to the climate, it cannot be called either wholesome or pleasant, since in one part of the year they are scorched with the burning rays of the sun, and in the other drowned with continual rains. The soil is very different; for in some

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places,

places, though there is a perpetual verdure, yet the trees produce little or no fruit, and in other parts there is a vast plenty of all things, infomuch that they have two harvests, and their meadows feed prodigious multitudes of cattle. The mountains abound with tygers, and various sorts of voracious animals. Rivers and rivulets there are in abundance; but some of them are so far from being wholesome, that their waters are dangerous, and not fit to be drunk. There were formerly very rich mines of gold in this province, but they are now in a manner exhausted, yet some remains there are, as well as silver and iron mines, which have been since opened. On the sea-coast there was once a very rich pearl fishery, but it is now in a great measure difused.

The natives of this part of *America* were never thoroughly conquered, and, in all human probability, never will; for on the one hand, they are a very warlike, gallant people, and on the other, they hate the *Spaniards* to a degree which words can hardly express. Our privateers have frequently made use of them in their expeditions, and have observed this averfion of theirs to the *Spaniards* extend so far as not to give or receive quarter from them. It is not, however, to be expected, that the *Indians* should do much towards making an entire conquest of these parts from the *Spaniards*; first, because they are not very numerous or powerful; and, fecondly, because they are of a fickle, inconstant difpofition, and in reality not cordially affected to any *Europeans*, as may be easily gathered from a comparifon of the many relations we have of the expeditions of the buccaneers into this province, which they have invaded more frequently than any other.

### THE ISLE OF LA TRINIDAD,

**I**S much larger than any other on this coast; the gulf of *Paria* divides it from the continent: between the most eastern point of this island and that of *Salinas* on the main land are the outlets called *Bocas del Drago*, or the mouths of the dragon, through which the gulf has a communication with the fea; these openings were so called by *Christopher Columbus*, on account

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of the swiftness of the current between them. The climate of *la Trinidad* is said to be insalubrious, the island being very often covered with thick fogs. Sir *Walter Raleigh*, who was there sometime in the year 1593, and examined it, says, that the northern part of it is high land; but that the soil is good, proper for planting of sugar-canes, tobacco, &c. Here are several sorts of animals, plenty of wild hogs, fish, fowl, and fruit. It also produces maize, cassava, and other roots; and, in general, all that is found in *America*. The *Spaniards* owned to Sir *Walter* that they found gold in the rivers of this island, but nothing in comparison of what the main land produces.

Notwithstanding what Sir *Walter* says, in regard to its fertility, *Herrera*, speaking of this island, looks upon it as not proper for any kind of production. The chief thing it abounds with is a kind of fossil pitch, or bitumen, which the *Spaniards* call *Tierra de Brea*; it is found in the eastern corner of this island, where there is such a quantity of it, that they may carry it away by ship loads, but the *Spaniards* pretend that it cannot be of any use, on account of its melting too easily by the heat of the sun. The chief town of the isle is *St. Joseph de Orunna*, situated on the eastern shore, upon a small river: it has a harbour for small vessels, a little fort, and a few men to defend it.

## ISLAND OF LA MARGARITA,

CALLLED by the *Spaniards* *Santa Margarita de las Caracas*, is separated from the Continent by a streight eight leagues broad, and was discovered by *Christopher Columbus* in the year 1498, in his third voyage; it is between 35 and 40 leagues in compass, and as it is always verdant, affords a very agreeable prospect. The native *Indians* were formerly very numerous, though there is hardly any fresh water, but what they are obliged to fetch from the main. The island is fertile, abounding with pastures, maize, and fruit. The Pearl fishery having rendered it very famous, the *Spaniards* built a castle called *Morpadre*, on the east cape of the island.

The chief town is in the middle of it, and not far from this the village, called *Macanao*. The island is under a particular governor. When it was in its greatest splendor, a prodigious number of boats were daily employed in fishing of pearl; for which purpose the *Spaniards* made use of Negroes brought hither from *Cape Verde*, *Guinea*, and *Angola*; but the pearl oysters being near exhausted, this fishery is much declined. The fifth of it belongs to the King of *Spain*, from whom the natives of this island obtained their liberty, because they received the *Spaniards* without resistance. The *Dutch* took this island in the year 1620, demolished the castle, plundered the town, and carried the cannon away, since which time the *Spaniards* are retired to the Main, and the island is inhabited only by the native *Indians* and a few *Mulattoes*.

### THE ISLE OF CUBAGUA,

**I**S four leagues to the south of *La Margarita*. The soil of this place is very nitrous, and full of salt: there is no fresh water, and very few trees. The island is entirely over-grown with a kind of thistle, covered with long black thorns, which renders it almost impassable. There are no other animals but rabbits, and some sea-fowls. *Oviedo* says, that near the eastern point, a great quantity of a certain aromatical rosin is found swimming upon the waters, which is of some use among the druggists.

The isle of *Cubagua* was very famous formerly, on account of its pearl fishery, and in those times the *Spaniards* had built there a little town, under the name of *New Cadiz*. It remained inhabited as long as pearls were to be found in the neighbouring sea; but it is now entirely destroyed, and not a single inhabitant to be found in the whole island.

SALT

## SALT TORTUGA ISLAND,

SO called, says Captain *Dampier*, to distinguish it from the Shoals of *Dry Tortugas* near *Cape Florida*; and from the Isle of *Tortuga* by *Hispaniola* is pretty large, uninhabited, and abounds with salt; is about 14 leagues distant, westerly from *Margarita*, and 20 from *Cape Blanco* on the Main. The east end of *Tortuga* is full of rugged, bare, broken rocks. At the south east is an indifferent good road for ships, much frequented in peaceable times by merchant-men that come hither to lade salt, during the months of *May*, *June*, *July*, and *August*. Near the west end of the island, on the south side, is a small harbour, and some fresh water. There are some goats on this island, but not many. The turtle or tortoise come upon the sandy bays to lay their eggs, and from hence the island has its name. There is no riding any where but in the road where the salt ponds are, or in the harbour.

## CUMANA,

WAS built fourteen leagues to the south of *Margarita*, on the continent, by the *Spaniards* in 1520, and called at first *Nueva Corduba*. It is defended by a strong castle, and the town stands near the entrance of a great gulph known by the name of *Golfo de Carriaco*, or of *Cumana*: to the northward of this gulph are the salt pans of *Araya*, near the cape of the same name. These pans produce a great quantity of salt, and are of great emolument to the inhabitants of these parts.

PUERTO

## ISLANDS ON THE COAST

### PUERTO DE LA GUAIRA,

**I**S above 60 leagues from *Cumana*, and 15 from *Cape Blanco* to the west, which cape is the eastermost boundary of the *Caracas*; this is the chief place on this coast, and is the sea-port to *Santiago de Leon de Caracas*; and tho' it has but a bad harbour, or rather an open road, yet it is much frequented by *Spanish* shipping, for the *Dutch* and *English* anchor in the sandy bays, that lie along the shore, in the mouths of several valleys, where there is very good riding. The town, which is situated at the foot of a very high hill, is open on the land side, but has two forts, and several batteries toward the sea. It was taken in the last century by Capt. *Wright* and his privateers.

This place was attacked in 1743, and the garrison commanded by *Don Matheo Gual*, defended it against a squadron of *British* ships of war, commanded by admiral *Knowles*, who bombarded the town, made some breaches in the fortifications, demolished their churches, and blew up a magazine; but there being only one landing-place, they did not attempt to disembark; and most of the ships being so much damaged as to be entirely disabled from continuing the attack, were ordered directly to *Curasso* to refit; when this came to be known by the garrison, many of the inhabitants who had fled to the woods on the first appearance of the *British* fleet, returned to their houses with great joy.

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### PUERTO CAVELLO,

**I**S a fortified town on the coast of *Caracas*, distant 20 leagues from *La Guaira*. We have not been able to get any account of the trade or commerce of this place, and it was but little known before 1743, when Commodore *Knowles*, after the repulse at *La Guaira*, having refitted the squadron under his command, came, on the 15th of *April*, before this place, which was extremely well supplied with a garrison of 1500 seamen and soldiers, 4000 *Indians*, Blacks, &c. which the governor of the *Caracas* had sent for the defence of the town. The Admiral having landed 1200 men under



Plan  
of  
**Puerto de la Guaira**  
on the  
Coast of the Caracas.

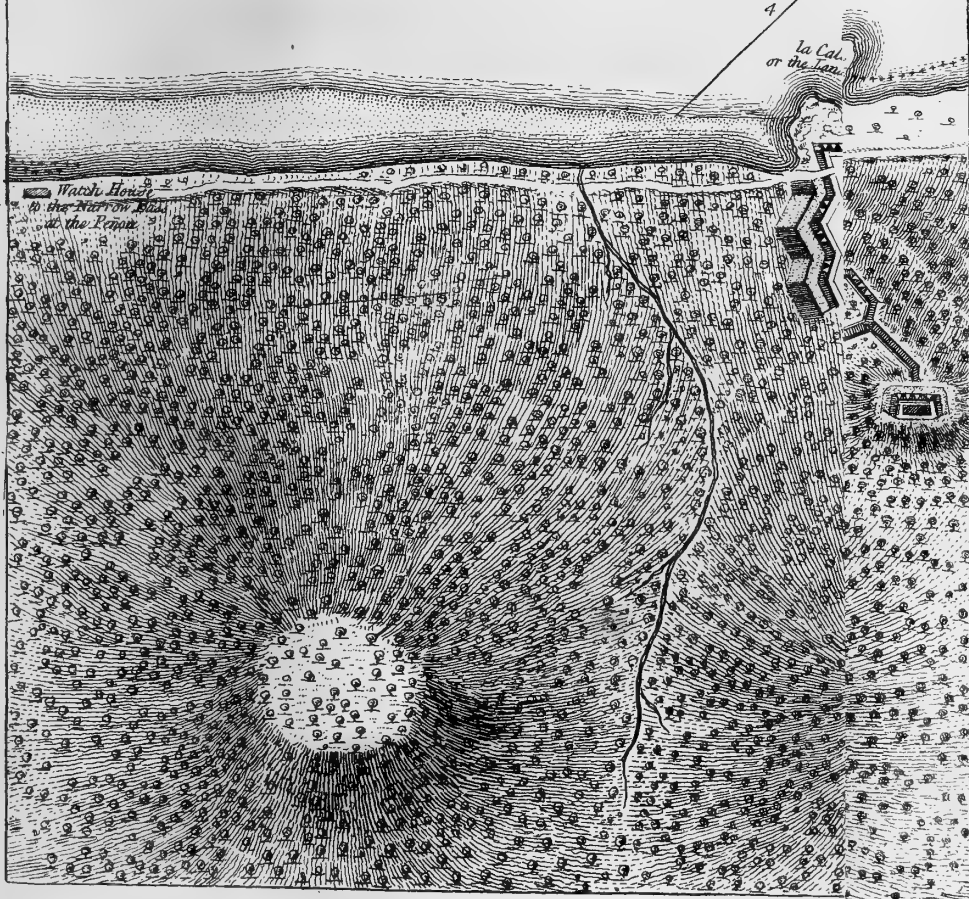
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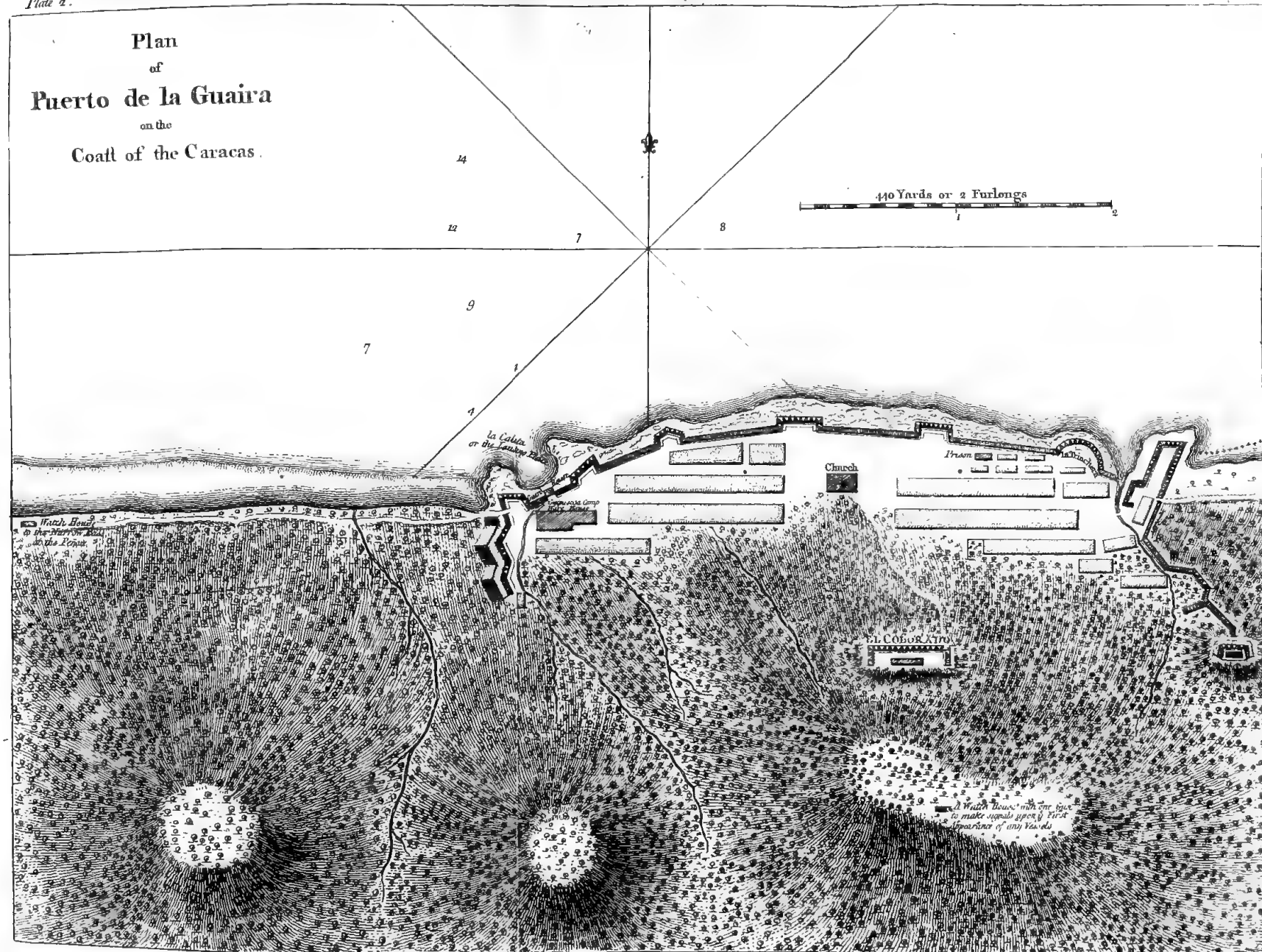
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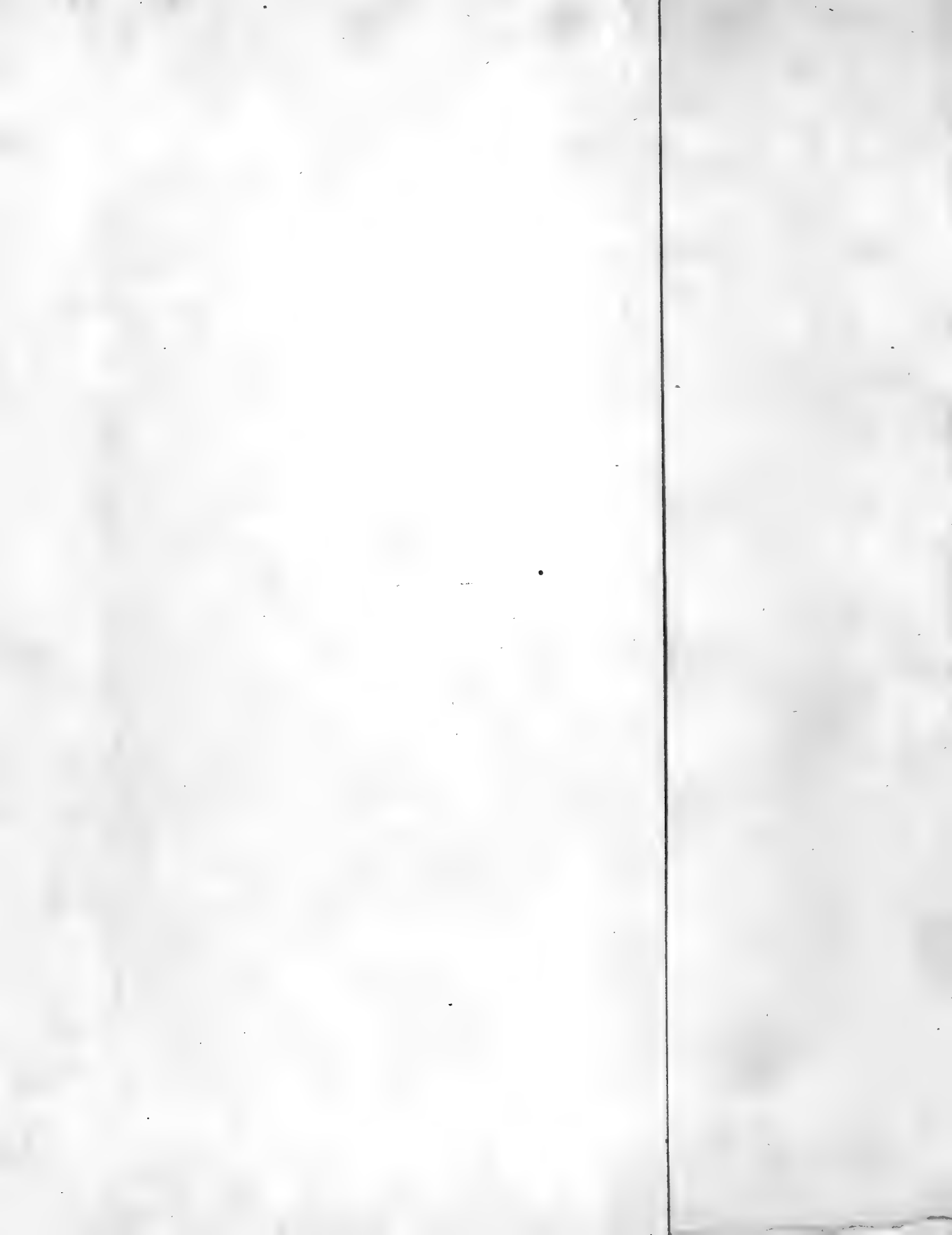


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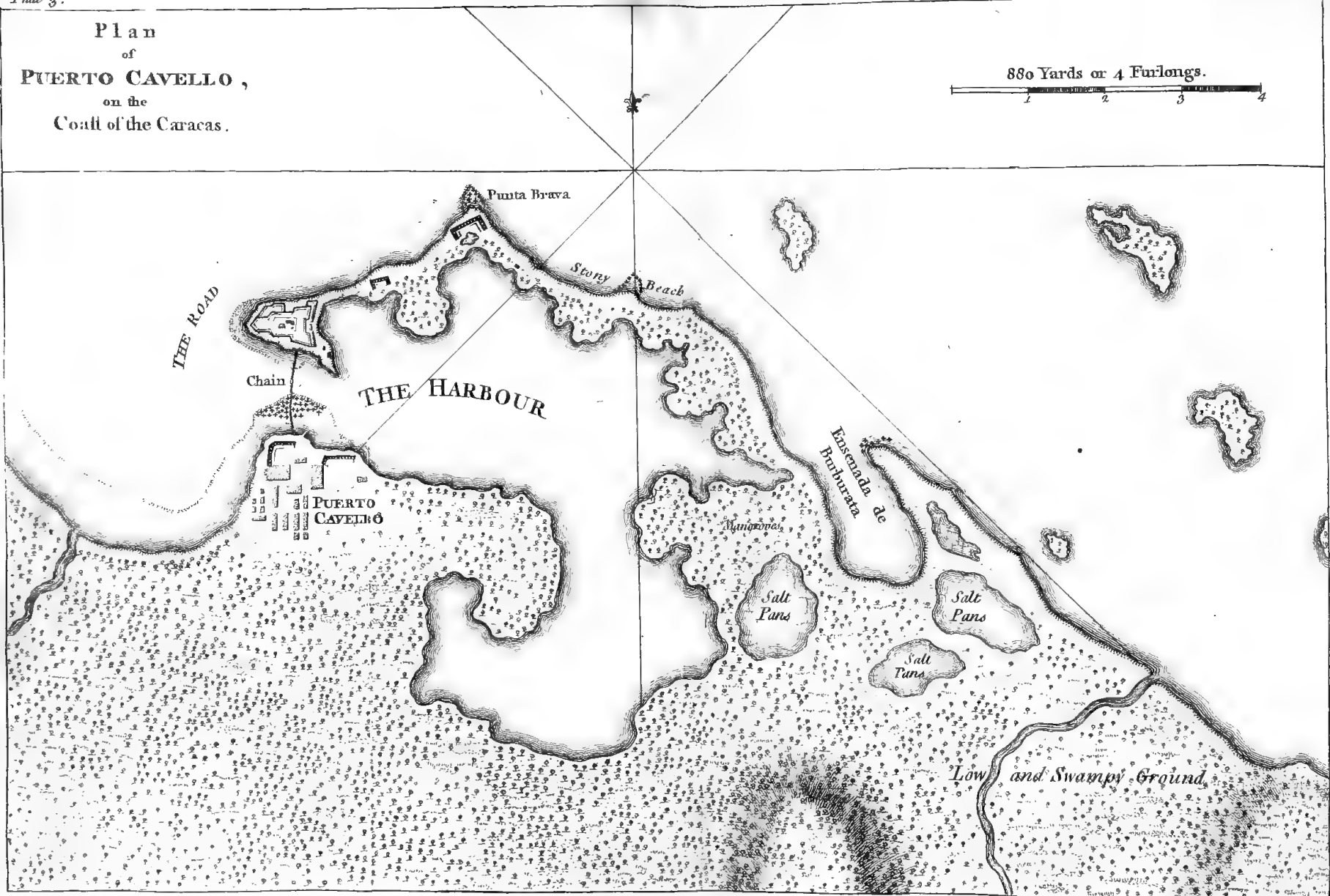
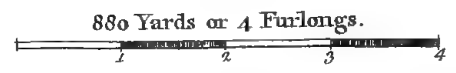
Plan  
of  
**Puerto de la Guaira**  
on the  
Coast of the Caracas.







Plan  
of  
**PUERTO CAVELLO,**  
on the  
Coast of the Caracas.

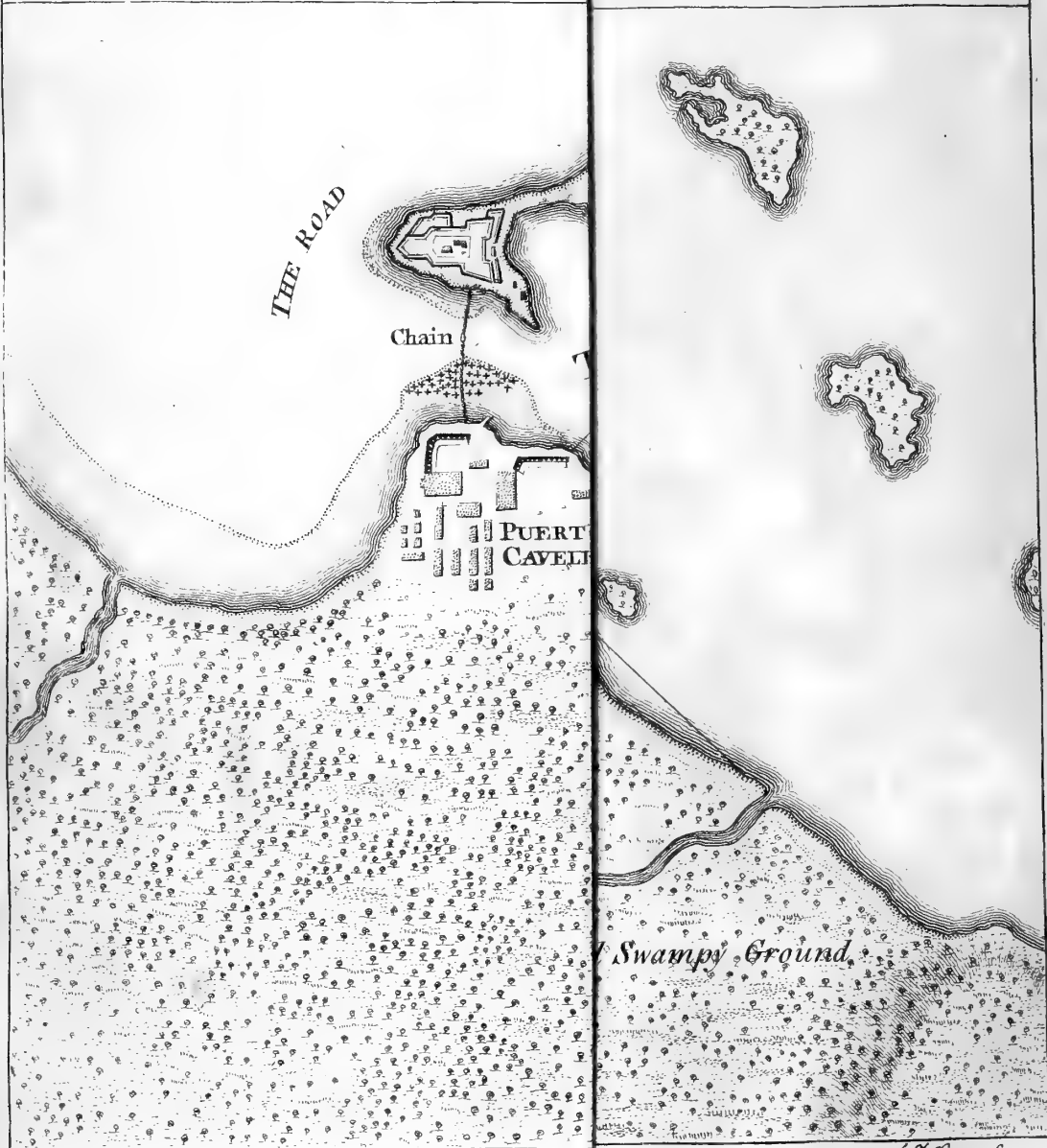




Plan  
of  
**PUERTO CAVELLO,**  
on the  
Coast of the Caracas.

Yards or 4 Furlongs.

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under the command of Major *Lucas*, on the sea-beach, they were attacked in the night from the fascine battery near *Punta Brava*, and being put into disorder, retreated in confusion, and re-imbarked; but on the 24th the Admiral made a general attack on the castle and fascine batteries, which lasted for ten hours with great obstinacy on both sides, and some of the ships having expended all their ammunition, and most of them being so shattered in their masts and rigging as to be scarce able to set a sail, the Admiral made a signal to cut, and sailed to the Keys of *Burburata* to refit his squadron.

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### SANTIAGO DE LEON DE CARACAS,

IS the metropolis of the province of *Venezuela*, five leagues within land from *Puerto de la Guaira*; it is a large, elegant, and wealthy place, built in the *Spanish* taste, with broad, strait streets, above a mile long, intersecting each other at right angles, with a handsome square in the centre, where most of the owners of the cocoa tree walks, that are in the valleys by the shore, and within land reside; the plantations being managed by overseers and negroes. A *Spaniard* who was an acquaintance of Capt. *Dampier*, and had been there, told him, the town is very populous, and he judged it to be three times as big as the *Groyne*, in *Old Spain*. The way to it is very winding, steep, and craggy, over a ridge of great hills, that closes up the valley. It is in a large savanna that is seven miles long, and in some places about two miles over, that abounds with cattle, and is terminated on the east by immense high hills, and on the west by some much smaller, between which run several streams of water, that unite into a great river, navigable many miles before it enters into the sea. The coast here is very remarkable, being a continued tract of high ridges of hills, and small valleys, intermixed for about 20 leagues, stretching east and west, but in such a manner, that the ridges of hills, and the valleys, alternately run pointing upon the shore from south to north. These hills are barren, except the lower sides of them, which are covered with some of the same rich black mould that fills the valleys, and is very good. In some of the valleys there

is a strong red clay, but in general they are extremely fertile, well watered, and inhabited by *Spaniards* and negroes.

All this coast at different seasons of the year, enjoys a dry north-east wind ; in other respects likewise it is very healthy, and has a sweet clear air. The *Spaniards* have look-outs or scouts on the hills, breast-works in the valleys, and most of their negroes are furnished with arms also for the defence of the bays. The *Dutch* have a profitable trade here almost to themselves: *Dampier* says, he has known three or four great ships at a time on the coast. They carry thither all sorts of *European* commodities, especially linen, making vast returns, chiefly in silver and cocoa.

The cocoa tree grows here in abundance, and is their chief wealth. The trunk of it is about a foot and a half thick, and from seven to eight feet high, the branches large and spreading like an oak, the nuts are enclosed in cods shaped like a large cucumber. There may be commonly 20 or 30 of these cods on a tree, the rind of them is about half an inch thick, brittle, and harder than that of a lemon ; they neither ripen, nor are gathered at once, but all in about the space of a month, some before others ; when gathered, they lay them in several heaps to sweat, and then bursting the shell with their hands, they extract the nut, which is enclosed in a whitish, clammy substance. The nuts lie close stowed in rows like the grains of maize ; there are generally from 18 to 24 in a cod, which are big or small in proportion to the size of the latter. They are then dried in the sun, and will keep so well, that even salt water will not hurt them. There are from 500 to 1000 or 2000 trees in a walk or cocoa plantation. These nuts are passed in change for money, and used as such in the bay of *Campeachy*.

## M A R A C A I B O,

**I**S a small, but rich town in the province of *Venezuela*, situated on the western banks of the lake of the same name, about eight leagues from its mouth. It is extremely well built, has several stately houses, very regular, and adorned with balconies which command a fine prospect

spect of the lake. Here are about 4000 inhabitants, of which 800 are able to bear arms. The Governor is subordinate to the Governor of *Tierra Firma*. Here is a large parochial church, an hospital, and four convents. Vessels under 30 tons are continually coming hither, with manufactures and merchandises from the places near the lake, which are bought up by the *Spaniards* for other markets. Ships are built at *Maracaibo*, which trade all over *America*, this place being very commodious for ship-building. The lake, or rather gulf, on which the town stands is near 140 miles long, and, in some parts, 40 in breadth, running from south to north, and emptying itself into the *North Sea*. There is a bar at the entrance, which is well defended by strong forts; Sir *Henry Morgan* passed by them, plundered several *Spanish* towns on the coasts, and defeated a squadron which had been sent to intercept him.

As the tide flows into this lake, its water is something brackish, notwithstanding the many rivers it receives. It abounds with all sorts of fish, some of which are very large. By the navigation of this lake the inhabitants of *Venezuela* carry on a trade with those of *New Granada*.

## RIO DE LA HACHA.

**I**S the capital of a province bearing the same name, and lies about 40 leagues east of *Santa Martha*. The *Spaniards* formerly called it *Nuestra Senora de los Nieves*, and afterwards *De los Remedios*. It is situated on the banks of the *Rio de la Hacha*, near the sea coast, and upon a little hill. It contains not much above 100 houses.

This town has been several times taken by the buccaneers, the *Spaniards* were at last so disheartened, that in 1682 they deserted it, but within a short time after settled here again, and have since fortified it.

In the open country the *Indians* are free from the *Spanish* yoke, though they permit their priests to visit them. They subsist chiefly by grazing their cattle, every man marking his own, and thereby securing his property; but

as to the lands they are common to all, and they have only a property in the ground round their houses, which is enclosed by a fence.

As soon as the *Spanish* galleons are seen at this port, expresses are sent to all the settlements in the country, to give them notice to prepare their treasure for the fairs of *Cartbagena* and *Puerto Velo*. Its harbour is quite open, and has no defence against the northern winds. The district of *Rio de la Hacha* is very fruitful; produces much gold and precious stones, and abounds in salt. Formerly a pearl fishery was carried on near this town, which brought great riches to its inhabitants.

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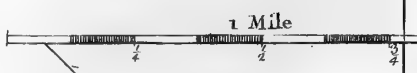
### SANTA MARTHA,

**I**S 40 leagues north east from *Cartbagena*, the capital of a province of the same name, situated near the sea, in a very wholesome spot, and at the foot of one of those prodigious mountains which are a part or continuation of the *Cordillera* or *Andes*, whose summits are generally hidden in the clouds; but in clear weather, when the tops appear, are covered with snow. The city was formerly very populous, but is now much decayed, occasioned by the *Spanish* fleet's not touching there, as they anciently used to do. The houses, in general, are built with canes, and covered with palmetto leaves, and some with pantiles. The governor of the province, together with the other officers, resides here. It is the see of a bishop, suffragan to the metropolitan of *New Granada*. The inhabitants trade with the *Indians* in the neighbourhood, who bring hither earthen ware and cotton stuffs. The country round the city produces but few cattle, being extremely mountainous; and the *Spaniards* who inhabit it are but few.

Sir *Francis Drake* in 1525, entirely ruined this town; the next year Sir *Anthony Shirley* plundered it. In 1630 it was ravaged by the *Dutch*, and since has been taken several times by our buccaneers, which had so impoverished the place, that in 1681 they scarcely thought it worth pillaging.

At a league and a half distant from *Santa Martha* are large salt-ponds, from whence they extract very good salt, and carry it into the neighbouring provinces.

PLAN of the  
BAY & TOWN of  
S<sup>TA</sup> MARTHA,  
on the Coast of  
TIERRA FIRMA.



de Granda

Pueblo de  
Taganga

Bay of Taganga

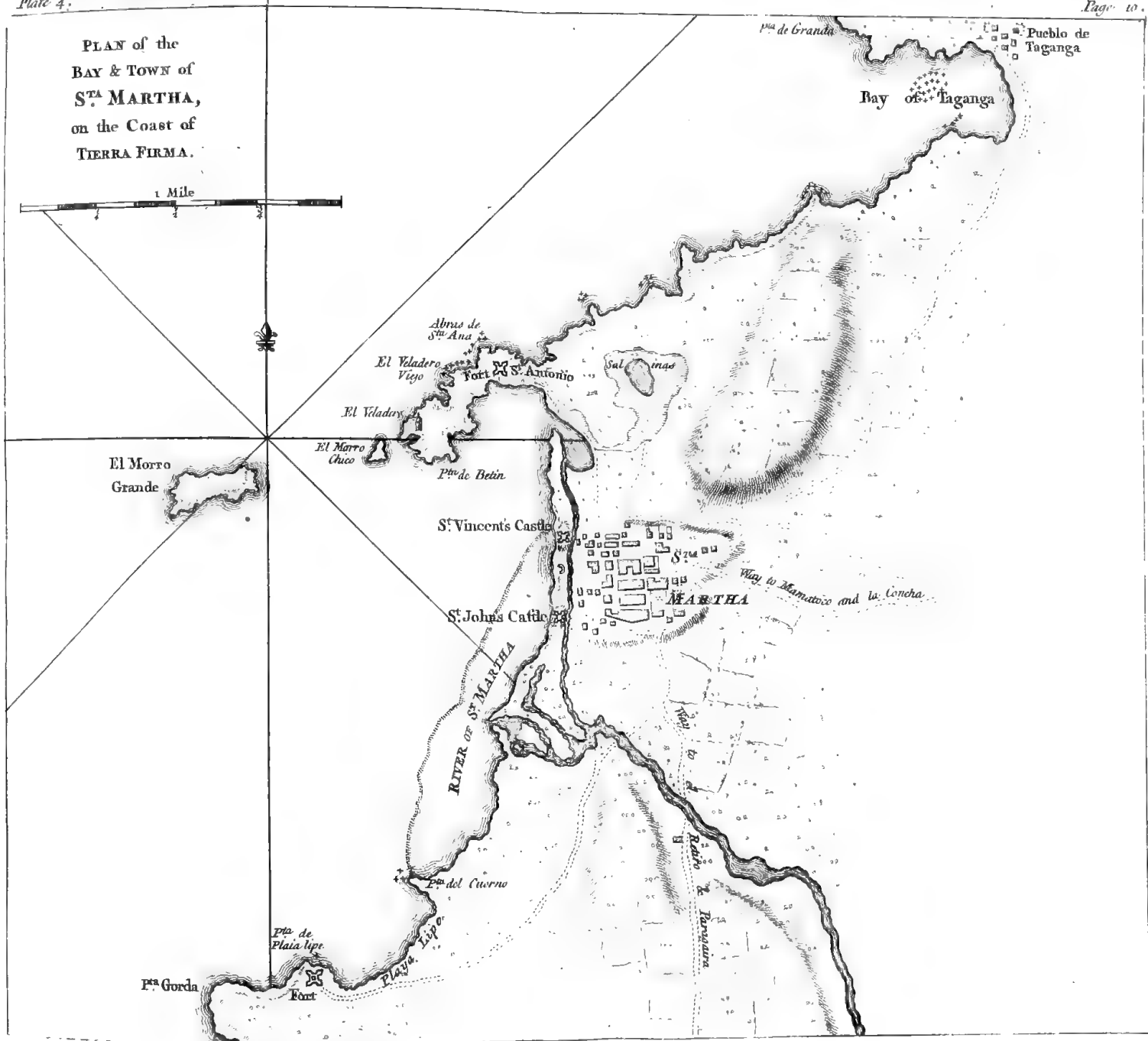
El Morro  
Grande

to Mamatoce and la Concha

Pt<sup>a</sup> Gorda



PLAN of the  
BAY & TOWN of  
S<sup>T</sup>A MARTHA,  
on the Coast of  
TIERRA FIRMA.



Pta de Granda Pueblo de Taganga

Bay of Taganga

Almas de S<sup>T</sup>a Ana

El Veladero Viejo Fort St. Antonio

Salinas

El Veladero

El Morro Chico

El Morro Grande

Pta de Betin

S<sup>T</sup> Vincent's Castle

S<sup>T</sup> John's Castle

S<sup>T</sup> MARTHA

Way to Mamatico and la Concha

RIVER OF S<sup>T</sup> MARTHA

Riacho de Ramalina

Pta del Cuerno

Pta de Plata Vieja

Playa Lopo

Pta Gorda

Port





provinces. Between the city and the mountains of the *Andes*, which are rocky and barren, the land is level, and produces abundance of oranges, lemons, pine-apples, and grapes. In some places there are gold-mines, and in others precious stones of great value.

The harbour of *Santa Martha* is very large and safe, and covered by two small islands, with very good anchoring ground, and a place very fit for careening vessels: there is also good conveniency for watering of ships, and cutting of wood. The inhabitants send their goods to *Carthagena*.

All along this coast from *la Trinidad* to *Carthagena* there used to be pearl fisheries, of which we shall give the reader some account, though they are almost, if not quite disused. They were, strictly speaking, five; the first was at *Cubagua*, a small island lying between *Margarita* and the continent; the pearls here seldom exceeded five carrats, but to ballance this they were found in great quantities. The second was at the isle of *Margarita*, or *Isle of Pearls*, where they found the largest, finest, and most regular of any in the *West-Indies*. The third was the fishery of *Cumanagota*, 20 leagues south of *Tortuga*, and 26 leagues south-east of *Cape Blanco*, at the bottom of the gulph of *Caracas*, on the coast of the *Caracas*. The fourth fishery was that which the *Spaniards* stiled *La Rancheria*, at the mouth of the *Rio de la Hacha*. The fifth was the fishery of *Sta. Martha*, at 60 leagues distance from the former. The time of fishing is from the month of *October* to the month of *March*, at which time there sail from *Carthagena* ten or twelve barks, convoyed by some men of war, styled the *Armadilla*; and these having made their tour, return again to the same port, which is the centre of the pearl trade. These barks have an admiral, which is styled *la Capitana*, on board whereof all the oysters that are taken in the day are deposited at night. Some of the slaves who are made use of in diving will continue under water near a quarter of an hour, and then bring up with them a little basket of oysters. The pearl oyster, or mother of pearl, as it is usually called, is three or four times as big as another oyster, and contains usually ten or twelve pearls of different sizes. The ripest and largest appear first, the smaller and rawer lie deeper in the shell. When the oysters are brought on shore, they bury them in the sand, till, by the heat of the sun, they corrupt and open of themselves, and the pearls are discovered; in some they find many in some few.

and in some none at all; they are afterwards taken out, cleaned, dried, and then passed through a kind of sieve, in order to distinguish their sizes: such as are very small are sold for seed pearl, and the rest according to their magnitudes—Pearls have been always esteemed; the *Indians* set a great value upon them, before any *Europeans* came amongst them. The beauty and excellence of pearls consists in their shape and water; those that are perfectly round are most esteemed, and next to these pear pearls. In *Europe* we esteem most the white or clear water; but the *Indians* and *Arabians* prefer the yellow, provided the pearls be perfectly ripe. The great distinction between oriental and occidental pearl consists in this, that the latter have a cast of lead in their colour, however ripe or perfect, which abates their value; and yet *Tavernier* speaks of six pearls which came from the *West-Indies*, perfectly round and black, which, one with another, weighed twelve carrats, and were esteemed at a high rate. Seed pearls, for the use of the apothecaries, are worth about a crown an ounce; small pearls, bored, are worth from one to three crowns an ounce; a round ripe pearl of a carrat weight may be worth about ten shillings; of two carrats about three pounds; of four carrats about fifteen pounds; and a very perfect pearl of ten carrats, or the largest size, is esteemed at about two hundred pounds. When pearls are very perfect, and much above this size, they have no regular price, but are estimated merely by fancy: thus the fine pearl which the king of *Spain* has, called *la Peregrina*, which weighs fifteen carrats, or somewhat less, is said to be worth twenty thousand pounds. Pear pearls are about a third less in value than round.

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## CARTHAGENA,

**I**S the capital of a province of the same name. The bay and the country round *Carthagena*, anciently called *Calamari*, were discovered in 1502, by *Roderigo de Bastides*. The *Indians* being naturally a very warlike people, the very women shared in defending the country. Their usual arms were bows and arrows, the points of which they so poisoned with the juice of certain

certain herbs, that the slightest wounds made by them were mortal. *Oviedo* being, with several of his predecessors, baffled in their repeated attempts, the conquest of this place, the peopling of the city, and reducing it into a colony and government were completed by *Don Pedro de Heredia*, in 1583, From several natural advantages, particularly that of its fine situation, it was raised into an episcopal see.

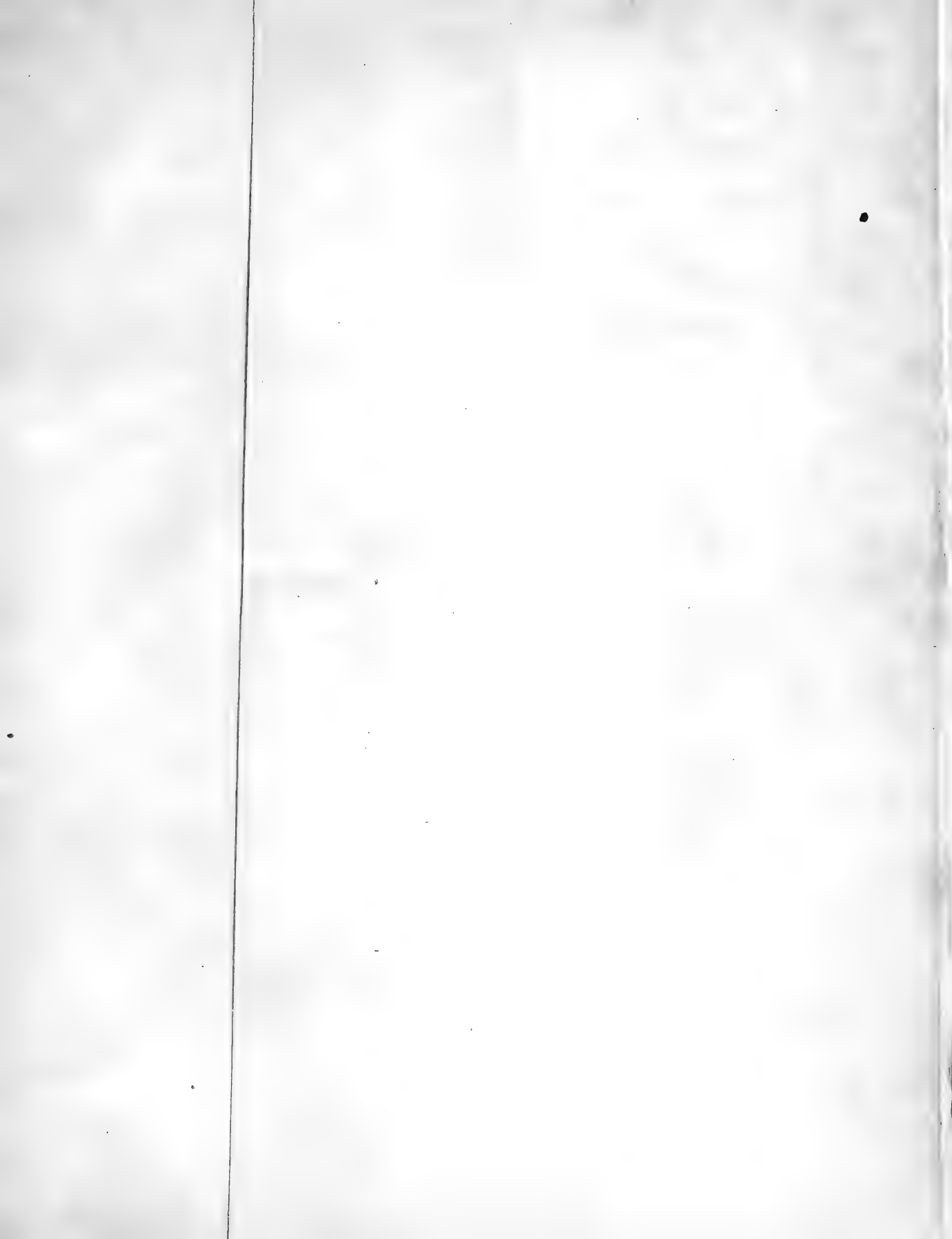
The *French* invaded it under the conduct of a *Corfican* pilot in 1544. In 1585 this place was taken by Sir *Francis Drake*, with a body of 2300 land-forces: they kept possession of it six weeks, and having burnt a part of the city, received 30,000 pounds sterling in specie, for the ransom of the remainder of it. The next year it was subdued by Capt. *Christopher Carlisle* with 900 men, who took from this place above 30 pieces of brass cannon, besides other treasure. A very short time after five *French* privateers took it again, and carried off a booty worth 150,000 ducats, but burnt the place, which was newly repaired, to the ground. In 1697 the *Sieur de Pointis* undertook to plunder it with a squadron of *French* men of war, on board of which there were 4,175 men; at *St. Domingo* he was joined by a squadron of buccaneers, consisting of six ships, and about 1500 men, without whose assistance, in all probability, he had miscarried. The place made a vigorous resistance, but was at length taken, though not without considerable loss to the *French*. We have various accounts of the plunder which they carried off: but the most authentic compute it at two millions sterling, at the least. Besides what the buccaneers carried off, who, being dissatisfied with their share, returned again, and re-took possession of the city, notwithstanding the former composition, stripping the inhabitants of five hundred thousand pounds more.

Since this time the city of *Cartbagena* has been thoroughly repaired, or rather rebuilt, and better fortified than ever. There are in it five churches besides the cathedral, which is in itself a noble structure, its inside being as richly furnished, as its outside is magnificent. There are also eleven convents, a fine palace for the governor, a sumptuous town-house and custom-house, and a prodigious trade is driven on by the merchants settled here, especially in pearls, emeralds, indigo, cochineal, and other rich goods. As to the number of persons who inhabit this city, it is not easy to have an exact account of them; a *French* officer who was there in 1730, judged there might

might be about twenty-four thousand persons ; that is to say about four thousand *Spaniards*, and the rest creoles, negroes, &c.

The city is situated on a sandy island, which forming a narrow passage on the S. W. opens a communication with that part called *Tierra Bomba* ; as far as *Boca Chica* on the north side, the land is so narrow, that before the wall was begun, the distance from sea to sea was only 30 fathoms, but afterwards the land enlarging by means of the wall, forms another island on this side, and the whole city is, except in these two places, which are very narrow, entirely surrounded with water ; it communicates by a wooden bridge, with a large suburb called *Xemani*, built on another island, which is also annexed by a wooden bridge to the continent. The fortifications both of the city and suburbs are constructed in the modern manner, and lined with free-stone. The garrison in time of peace, consists of ten companies of regulars, each containing 77 men, officers included, besides several companies of militia. The whole city and suburbs are commanded by the castle of *St. Lazaro*, which lies on an eminence, from whence is seen an enchanting view of the country and coast to a great distance. The city and suburbs are well laid out, the streets strait, broad, uniform, and well paved. The houses are mostly built of stone, and have but one story. All the churches and convents are of a proper architecture ; but there appears something of poverty in the ornamental part, and some want what even decency might require. *Carthagena*, together with its suburbs, is equal to a city of the third rank in *Europe*. It is well peopled, though most of its inhabitants are descended from the *Indian* tribes. The governor resides in the city, which till the year 1739 was independent of the military governments. In civil affairs an appeal lies to the audience of *Santa Fe* ; and a viceroy of *Santa Fe* being that year created, under the title of viceroy of *New Granada*, the government of *Carthagena* became subject to him also in military affairs. The first viceroy was lieutenant-general Don *Sebastian de Eslava*, who defended *Carthagena* against the *English* in 1741. *Carthagena* has also a bishop, whose spiritual is of the same extent with the military and civil jurisdictions. The chapter is composed of the bishop and prebends. Here is also a court of inquisition whose power is very extensive.

Besides

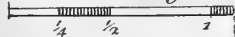






# PLA of the HARBOUR of CARTHAGE

Scale  
English



CIENAGA DE TESCA



T. Jefferys Sculp.



Besides these tribunals, the policy and administration of justice in the city, is under a secular magistracy, consisting of regidores, out of whom every year are chosen two alcaldes. There is also an office of revenue under an accomptant and treasurer, where the taxes and monies belonging to the king are received, and proper issues directed. A person of the law also resides here, with the title of Auditor *de la Gente de Guerra*, who determines processes.

*Cartagena* bay is one of the best in this country. It extends two leagues and a half from north to south, and has safe anchorage, though the many shallows at the entrance make a careful steering necessary. It abounds with great variety of fish, the most common are the shad and turtle; but it is also infested with a great number of sharks. In this bay the galleons from *Spain* wait for the arrival of the *Peru* fleet at *Panama*, and on the first advice of this they sail away for *Puerto Velo*; but at the end of the fair held at that town, return into this bay, and after victualling, put to sea again immediately. During their absence the bay is very little frequented; the country vessels, which are only a few bilanders and feluccas, stay no longer than to careen and fit out for sea.

The climate is very hot from *May* to *November*, which is the winter here; there is almost a continual succession of thunder, rain, and tempests; so that the streets have the appearance of rivers, and the country of an ocean; from this, otherwise shocking inconvenience, they save water in reservoirs, as the wells supply them only with a thick, brackish sort, not fit to drink. From *December* to *April* is the summer here, in which there is an invariable continuation of excessive heat, which makes the complexions of the inhabitants so wan and livid, that one would imagine them but newly recovered from a violent fit of sickness: yet they enjoy a good state of health, and live even to eighty and upwards. The singularity of the climate occasions distempers as peculiar; the most shocking is the fever, attended with the black vomit, which mostly affects strangers, and rages among the seamen; it lasts about three or four days, in which time the patient either recovers or dies, (for it is very acute) and on recovery he is never troubled with it again. Another distemper peculiar to the inhabitants is the *mal de san Lazaro*, or  
leprosy

leprosy, which is common and contagious: nor is the itch less frequent or communicative, and it is dangerous to attempt the cure, when it has once gained ground; in its first stage they anoint with a kind of earth called *Maquimaqui*. The *Culebrilla*, or little snake, is particular to this climate, which causes a round inflamed tumour, that often terminates in a mortification. Spasms and convulsions are very common here, and frequently prove mortal. The principal trees for size are the caoba, or mahogany, cashue, the cedar, the Santa Maria, and the balsam tree. Of the first are made the canoes, and champagnes, used for fishing, and for the coast and river trade. The reddish cedar is preferable to the whitish. The S<sup>ta</sup>. Maria and balsam trees, besides the usefulness of their timber, which, like the others, are compact, fragrant, and finely grained, distil those admirable balsams, maria oil, and balsam of *Tolu*, so called from an adjacent village, where it is found in the greatest quantities. The manzanilla is remarkable for its poisonous fruit; the antidote is common oil: the wood is variegated like marble. It is dangerous to lie under this tree, for even its droppings swell the body, which is only cured by repeated ointments and cooling draughts. The very beasts themselves avoid the tree by instinct, and never approach it. The palm trees are of four species: the first produce cocos or coco nuts; the second dates; the third, called *palma real*, a very disagreeable fruit, less than the date; and the fourth, called *corozo*, a fruit larger than the date, of exquisite taste, and greatly used in making cooling and wholesome draughts. Palm wine is extracted from all the four, which ferments for five or six days, and is then applied to use: it is of a whitish colour, very rich and racy, and is the favourite liquor of the *Indians* and negroes. The guiacum and ebony trees are equally common here; being the most firm and compact of all wood. The sensitive plant is found in great plenty. The bejuco with, or vine here bears a fruit called *habilla*, or bean, very bitter, but one of the most effectual antidotes against the bites of vipers and serpents; persons who frequent the woods eat of this valuable *habilla*, and then are no way apprehensive from the bite, though ever so venomous. There are several tame animals here as the horse, cow, and the hog, &c. the flesh of the latter is said to exceed the best in *Europe*; while that of the ~~former~~<sup>cow</sup> is dry and

and unpalatable, because they cannot fatten upon account of the excessive heats. Poultry, pigeons, partridges and geese are very good, and in great plenty. There is also plenty of deer, rabbits, and wild boars called sajones. The tigers make great havock among the animals. Here are foxes, armadillos, lizards, ardillas, squirrels, and an innumerable variety of monkeys. The bat is very remarkable; for the people being obliged, on account of the heat, to leave their windows open all night, the bats get in at them, and open the veins of any part of the body they find naked, so that the blood flows from the orifice in such quantities, that their sleep often proveth their passage to eternity. Snakes, vipers, centipes, and all other poisonous reptiles are here as common as in other parts. Barley, wheat, and other esculent grains of *Europe*, are little known; maize and rice, of which they make their bolla, or bread, abound even to excess. The best sort of bolla is kneaded with milk. Among the negroes the cassava bread is most common; it is made of the roots of yuca, yams, and moniatos, the upper skin of which they strip off, and grate the inside into water. There is great plenty of camotes, in taste like *Malaga* potatoes, used both as pickles, and roots with meat. Plantations of sugar canes abound, so as greatly to lower the price of honey, and a great part of the juice of these canes is distilled into spirits: they grow so quick as to be cut twice a year. Great numbers of cotton trees grow here, those which are planted and cultivated are reckoned the best; the cotton of both is spun, and made into several sorts of stuffs for the negroes.

The cacao trees, from which chocolate is made, excel here, and the chocolate is more esteemed than that of other countries; especially the chocolate of the *Magdalena*, which is highly valued, and by way of distinction, in preference to that of the *Caracas*, is sold by millares,—The cacao nuts of which chocolate is made, are sold by the fanega of 115 pounds, or in some places 110, except that of *Maracaibo*, which weighs only 96 pounds. Chocolate is allowed to have these four good qualities: first, it is very cooling; secondly, very nourishing, and of easy digestion; thirdly, very proper to repair the exhausted spirits and decayed strength; and lastly, very proper to preserve the health, and prolong the lives of old men. This is

most valuable treasure which nature could have bestowed on this country. The fruits peculiar to the country, are the pine-apple, which from its beauty, smell, and taste is stiled by way of preference, the queen of fruits; the papapays, guanabanas, guayabas, sapotes, mameis, plantanes, cocos, which is a species of the palm-tree, and many others. Lemons are scarce; but that defect is remedied by a great plenty of limes called here futes, the juice of which the inhabitants of *Carthagena* use in all their cookeries. As grapes, almonds and olives are not natural here, the country is destitute of wine, oil, and raisins, with which it is supplied from *Europe*; therefore these articles are excessively dear, and this want sometimes occasions epidemical disorders among those who have been used to wine, for being deprived thereof, they often lose their digestive faculty. The want of oil is supplied by hog's lard, and instead of lamps they use tallow-candles, so that they want oil only for their salads. Among the nobility and better sort their most luxurious dish is the agico; which consists of pork fried, birds of several kinds, plantanes, maize paste, and seasonings made of pimento or agi.

The bay of *Carthagena* is the first place in *America* at which the galleons are allowed to unload at, and therefore enjoys the first fruits of commerce, by the public sales made there. Those sales, though not accompanied with all the forms used at *Porto-Velo* fair, are yet very considerable; for the traders at *Santa Fe*, *Popayan*, and *Quito*, lay out not only their whole stock, but also the monies entrusted to them by commissions for several sorts of goods, and those species of provisions which are mostly wanted in their respective countries. The two provinces of *Santa Fe* and *Popayan* have no other way of supplying themselves with provisions but from *Carthagena*. Their traders bring gold and silver specie, ingots, dust, and also emeralds; for, besides the silver mines worked at *Santa Fe*, which daily encrease by fresh discoveries, there are others that yield the finest emeralds; but the value of those gems being at present fallen in *Europe*, and particularly in *Spain*, the trade of them, formerly so considerable, is now greatly lessened, and, consequently the reward for finding them. All these mines produce great quantities of gold, which is carried to *Coco*, and there pays one

one fifth to the king. The little fair at *Cartbagena* occasions a great number of shops to be opened, and filled with all kinds of merchandize, the profit partly resulting to *Spaniards* (who come in the galleons, and are either recommended to, or are in partnership with the cargadores or traders, who bring *European* goods) and partly to those already settled in the city. The cargadores furnish the former with goods, though to no great value, in order to gain their custom: and the latter, as persons whom they have already experienced to be good and honest dealers, and both in proportion to the quickness of their sale. This is a time of universal profit; to some from letting lodgings and shops, to some from the increase of their respective trades, and to others from the labour of their negroes and slaves, whose pay also is proportionally increased, as they do more work in this busy time; nor is it uncommon for these last, from this briskness of trade, to purchase their freedoms and set up for themselves. By the increase of strangers, sometimes to one half of the usual number of people, the consumption, and consequently the price of provisions and other articles advance; from which those who bring them to market make great advantages.

This commercial tumult lasts only while the galleons continue in the bay, to which hurry the *tiempo muerto*, or dead time, succeeds. The small trade carried on during this calm season, consists of a few billanders from *La Trinidad*, the *Havana*, and *St. Domingo*, bringing leaf tobacco, snuff, sugars, and returning with *Magdalena* cacao or chocolate, earthen ware, rice, and other goods wanted in those islands, and even of these small vessels one is scarcely seen for two or three months together. The same may be said of those which go from *Cartbagena* to *Nicaragua*, *Vera Cruz*, *Honduras*, and other parts; but the most frequent trips are made to *Puerto Velo*, *Chagre*, or *Santa Martha*. And the reason why this commerce is not carried on more briskly is, because that most of those places are naturally furnished with the same kind of provisions, and are under no necessity of trafficking with each other. Another branch of the commerce of this place during the *tiempo muerto* is carried on with the towns and villages of its own jurisdiction; from whence are brought all kinds of necessaries, mostly in canoes, and champanas, a sort of boats very proper for rivers: their returns consist mostly

of goods for apparel, which the traders purchase from the galleons, &c. No eatables pay any duty to the king, and any person may in his own house kill any number of pigs he thinks he shall sell that day, no salted pork being eaten here, the excessive heat soon corrupting it. All imports from *Spain*, as brandy, wine, oil, almonds, raisins, pay a duty, and are afterwards sold without any farther charge, except what is paid by the retailers as a tax for their shop or stall. Besides these goods which keep alive this slender inland commerce, here is an office for the asiento of negroes, where they are brought, and as it were kept for pledges, till such persons as want them on their estates come to purchase them; negroes being generally employed in husbandry, and other laborious country works. This indeed gives some life to the trade of *Carthagena*, though it is no weighty article.

On the east side of the harbour there is a safe landing-place at *Cavallo*, about three leagues from *Carthagena*; and a pretty good horse-road in the summer months to *Texar de Gracia*, within three miles of *Carthagena*, from whence is a coach road into the city. About 200 paces from the bottom of the hill of *St. Lazaro* there is a way to the city over a narrow neck of land near *St. Catharine's* gate, where there is a water to cross of about 30 paces over, which generally takes the horses up to their girths: by this neck of land and the high road above-mentioned are the only great entrances into *Carthagena*. At *Texar de Gracia*, *Bosque*, *Alfivia*, and *la Quinta* there are good landing places, and very fine cisterns for water. The communication by the great road to the city can be cut off by a line from the great lake to the bay, which is about a quarter of a mile; the road is there narrow, and mostly through a wood.

In *March* 1739-40, Admiral *Vernon* with the *British* fleet cast anchor in the open bay, called *Playa Grande*, before this city, bombarded it, and damaged the principal church, the jesuits college, the custom-house, and beat down several houses, and by a shell thrown into the south bastion silenced a battery of ten guns; but not having a sufficient force to attempt the total reduction of this place, coasted the shore towards *Boca Chica*, and sailed to *Porto Velo*, and reduced fort *Chagre*; but afterwards being reinforced by Sir *Chalmer Ogle's* squadron, with transports and troops from *England*,

PLAN  
of the  
CITY AND SUBURBS  
of  
CARTHAGENA.

References

1. Cathedral Church.
2. St Domingo.
3. The Jesuits.
4. St Theresa.
5. St John's Hospital.
6. St Austin.
7. Our Lady of Mercy.
8. St Clara.
9. St James Recollect.
10. St Francis.
11. Trinity.
12. St Roch's Chapel.
13. The Shambles.
14. Inquisition.

Bastions

15. Advanced Bastion.
16. St Joseph's.
17. St Isabella's.
18. Chabago's.
19. St Francis's.
20. St Jo Martyr.
21. St Ignatius's.
22. St Lukes.
23. St Francis Xavier.
24. St Catharina's.
25. St Iago.
26. St Domingo.

Fathoms



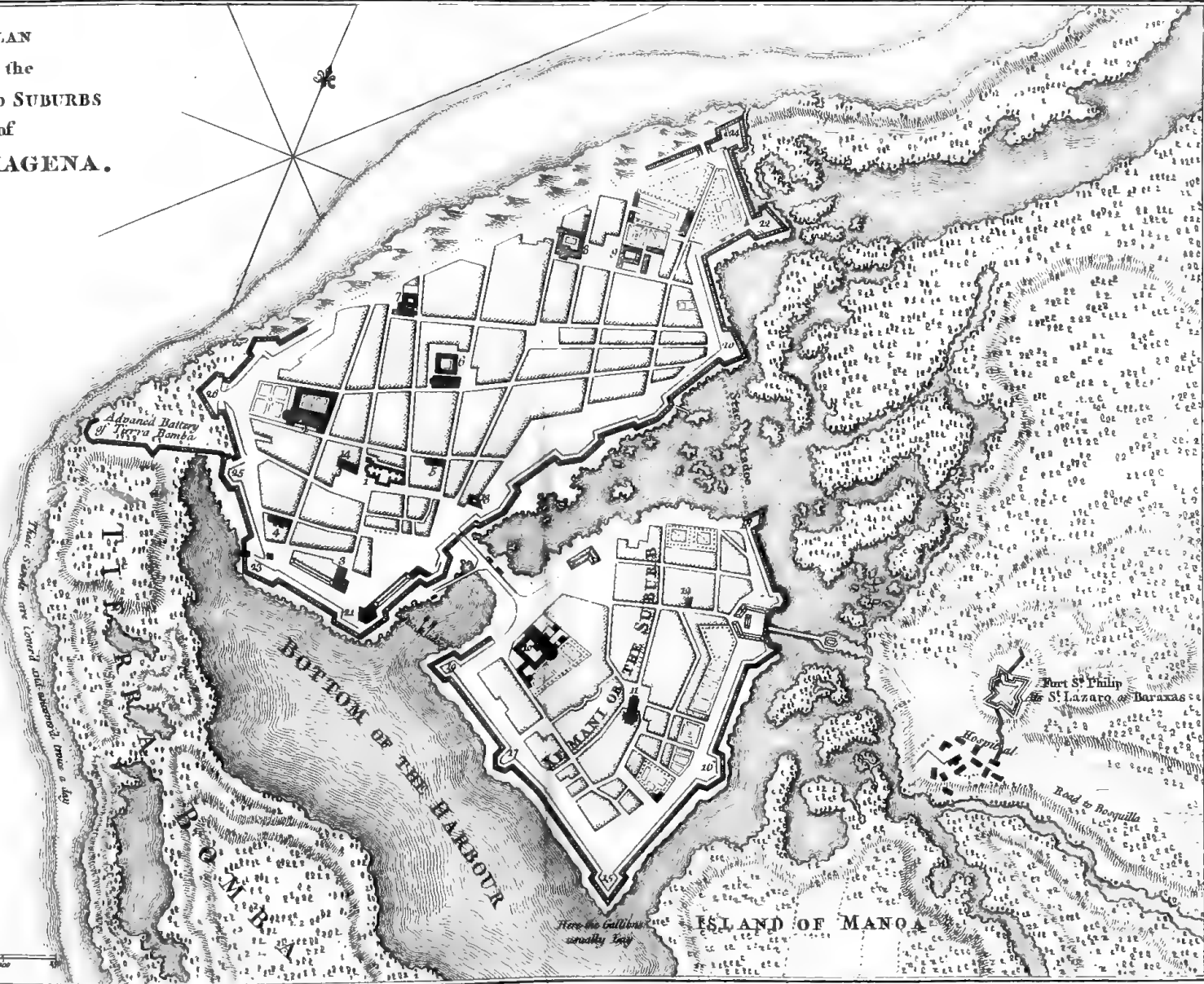




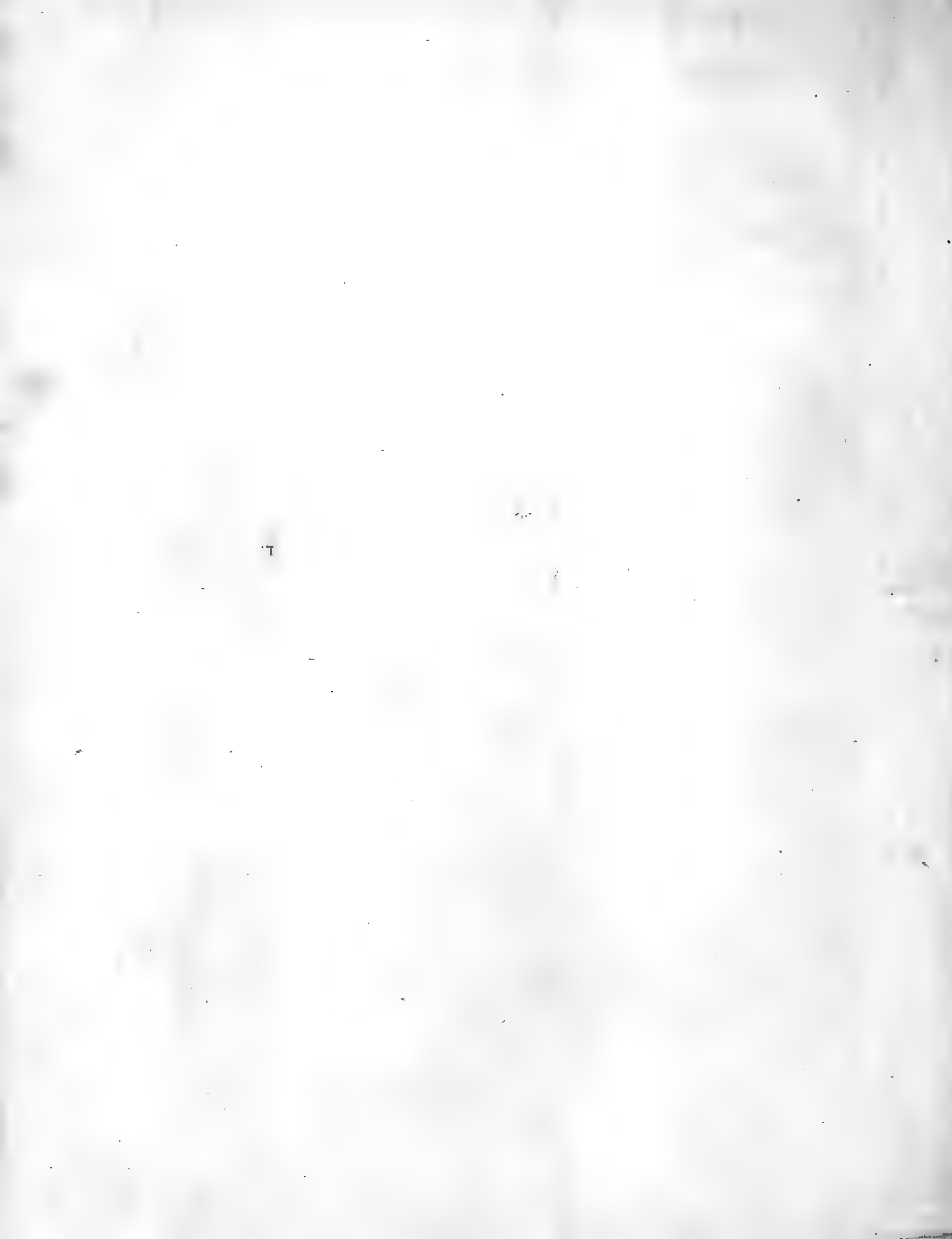
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- 12. St Roch's Chapel.
- 13. The Shambles.
- 14. Inquisition.
- Bastions
- 15. Advanced Position.
- 16. St Sepe's.
- 17. St Leobald's.
- 18. St Ambago's.
- 19. St Francis's.
- 20. St B Martyr.
- 21. St Ignatius's.
- 22. St Lukes.
- 23. St Francis Xavier.
- 24. St Catharina's.
- 25. St Lago.
- 26. St Domingo.



G. Jefferys sculp.



land, the next year Admiral *Vernon* and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, with the *British* fleet and transports arrived off this city on the 4th of *March*, they landed the forces under the command of General *Wentworth*, who opened the siege of *Boca Chica* on the 9th, which, after a great opposition, was taken on the 25th, when the boom was cut, on which our ships entered the harbour, and took possession of *Castillo Grande*, without opposition, on the 31st.—The whole army landed on the 5th of *April* near *La Quinta*, and entered the convent of *La Popa* without opposition. On the 8th it was determined to attack the fort of *St. Felipe de Baraxas* (called by the *English*, fort *St. Lazar*) which commanded the city, and had been reconnoitred by our engineers, who affirmed, that the walls might be easily escaladed, as there was no ditch at the foot of it, and that the road leading up the hill to it was broad, and of an easy ascent, and that there was a wooden door on the left of the fort, which might be forced without much difficulty. Accordingly, before break of day on the 9th, the troops began to mount the hill, but that division, which was, by order, to have gone up an open *acceder* road, was, in the dark, by a fatal mistake (as it was said of the guide) led up the centre, where the ascent is very steep, and the ground broken: some of the most forward gained the top, and pushed on to the enemy's entrenchments, but not being immediately sustained, by reason of the great difficulty found in mounting the hill, and that the rest of the platoons advanced slowly with the street-firing, they were most of them killed or wounded. Soon after day-break it was discovered that the enemy had assembled out of the city, upon the hill, a force superior to this detachment, and the General, finding it was too late to push forward in the attack, ordered them to retreat. In this skirmish, the *English* lost 179 killed, 459 wounded, and six taken prisoners.

After the miscarriage of this scheme, the troops sickened surprisingly fast, and those that were killed being esteemed the flower of the army, the General declared he was no longer in a condition to defend himself, and much less to carry on a siege against the place, and in a general council of war of sea and land officers held on the 15th, they came to a resolution, upon the General's representation of the bad state of the army, to have the cannon and forces reimbarcked with all convenient speed, and the 17th in the night  
all

the troops were accordingly taken off the shore, the fortifications already taken were blown up, and by the 12th of *May*, the whole fleet and transports left *Carthagena*.

It was reported in the beginning of the present year, that great part of *Carthagena* was destroyed by an earthquake in 1761, but as the particulars of that dreadful account are not yet come to hand, we shall decline saying any more about it, only that we hope it is not true.

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### Z I S A P A T A BAY,

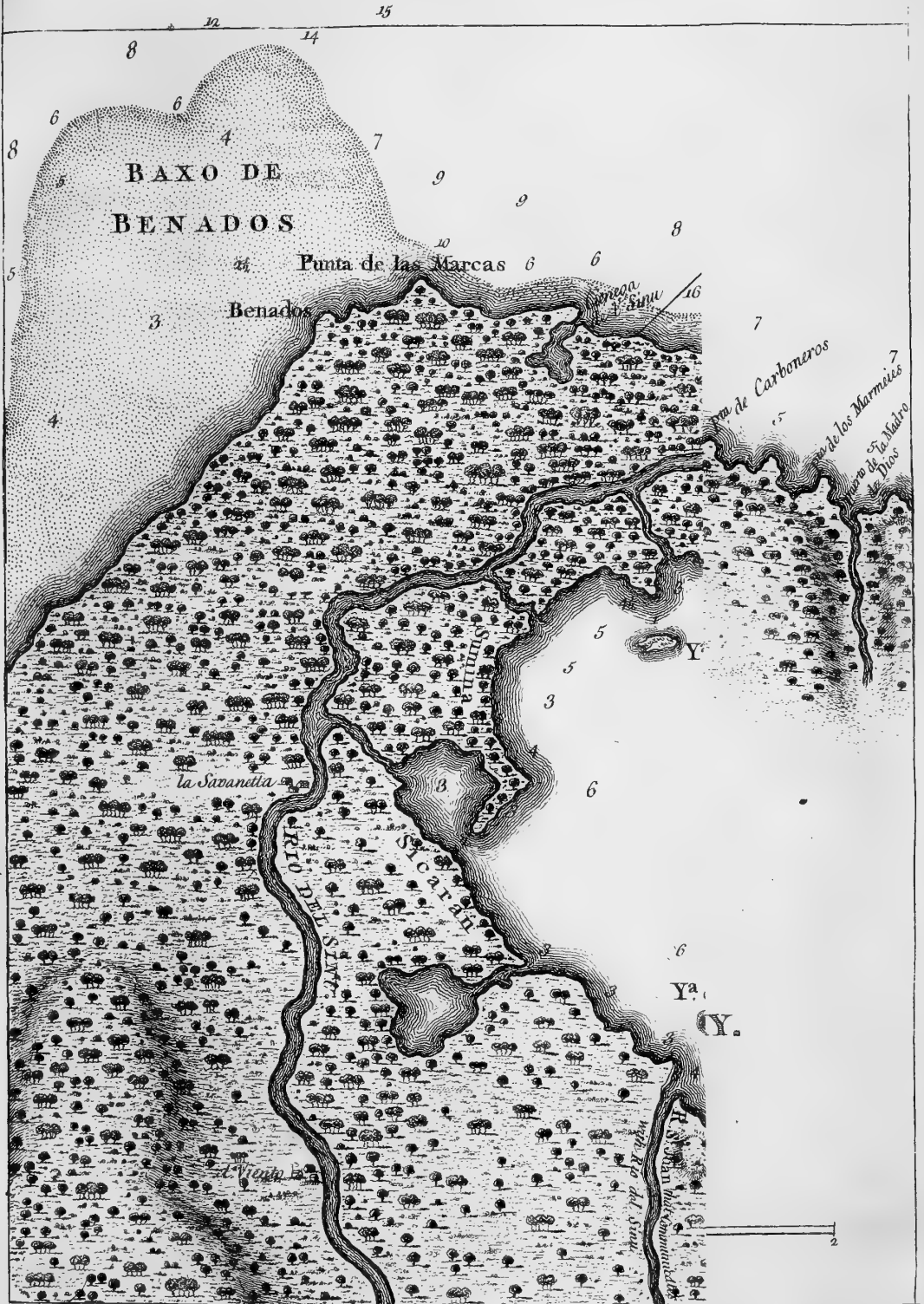
**I**S 25 leagues to the southward of *Carthagena*; several branches of the *Rio del Sinu* enter this bay, in which a fleet of ships may ride at anchor in five or six fathom water, safe from most winds.

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### THE GULF OR RIVER OF DARIEN,

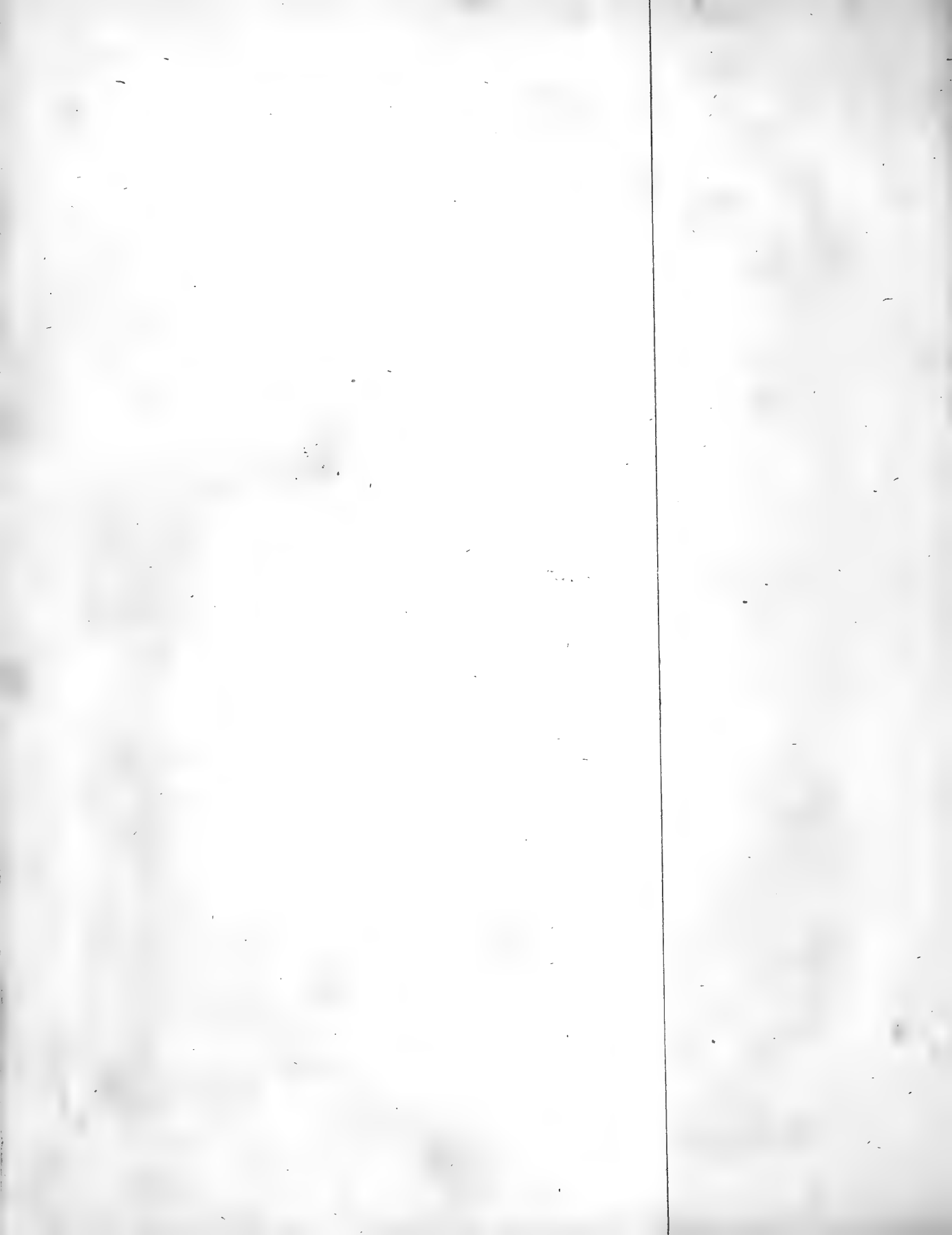
**I**S very large, but the depth at the entrance is not answerable to the width of the mouth. About nine leagues to the N. W. from this gulf lies the *Golden Island*; and not far distant the bay of *Caledonia*, in which is very good anchorage, and great plenty of excellent water. In 1699 several natives of *Scotland* formed a settlement here, calling it *New Caledonia*, and reported that the fertility of the soil, and pleasantness of the place is equal to any in *America*; that they found a considerable quantity of gold in digging the earth, and that many score acres of wood-land having been cleared, was, in a few months after, as much over-grown as if no body had been there. This settlement however was abandoned in the year 1700, through the neglect and mismanagement of the undertakers, who neither sent out proper persons, nor supplied those they did send with provisions.

# GULF











## S A M B A L L A S I S L A N D S,

CALLED by the *Spaniards*, *Islas de San Blas*, extending to a very considerable distance along the northern shore of the isthmus, with the adjacent country; and its hills and forests, of perpetual verdure, form a lovely prospect from the sea. These islands lie in clusters, and between most of them are navigable channels, the sea betwixt them and the shore being navigable for their whole extent, and affording every where good anchorage in firm, sandy ground, with safe landing either on the island or the main. In this long channel a number of ships may always find shelter in all winds, so that formerly it was the general rendezvous for all the privateers on this coast. Most of these islands are low, flat, and sandy, covered with a variety of trees, and abounding with shell-fish of several kinds: some of them also afford springs of fresh water, and convenient places for careening ships. The long channel between the *Samballas* and the isthmus, is from two to four miles in breadth, extending from point *Samballas* to the gulph of *Darien*: the whole coast of the isthmus is full of sandy bays, with many brooks of fresh water.

## T H E B A S T I M E N T O S,

ARE a few islands about a mile or two to the westward of *Samballas* islands, in the mouth of the bay of *Nombre de Dios*, and about half a mile, or more, from the shore; famous now for admiral *Hofier's* having continued a long while before them with a *British* squadron some years ago. These islands are for the most part pretty high; on one of them there is a spring of very good water; and all of them together make a very good harbour; between them and the isthmus there is a good entrance in with the sea wind between the eastermost island and the next to it, and an out-let with the land wind the same way, this being the chief passage.

N O M-

## NOMBRE DE DIOS,

**W**AS destroyed in its infancy by the *Indians* of *Darien*. Some years after it was rebuilt, and the inhabitants maintained their ground till the year 1584, when orders arrived from *Philip II.* for their removing to *Puerto Velo*, as much better situated for the commerce of that country.

The place where *Nombre de Dios* stood, is in the bottom of a bay close by the sea. There is no sign of a town remaining, it is so over-run with wild canes. The situation seems to have been but very indifferent, the bay before it lying open to the sea, and affording little shelter for shipping, which was one reason why the *Spaniards* forsook it, and another, probably, was the unhealthiness of the country itself, it being low, swampy land, and very sickly; yet there is a rivulet of very sweet water which runs close by the north side of the town. The mouth of the harbour is very wide, and though there be before it two or three little keys or rocks, yet they afford no great security to it.

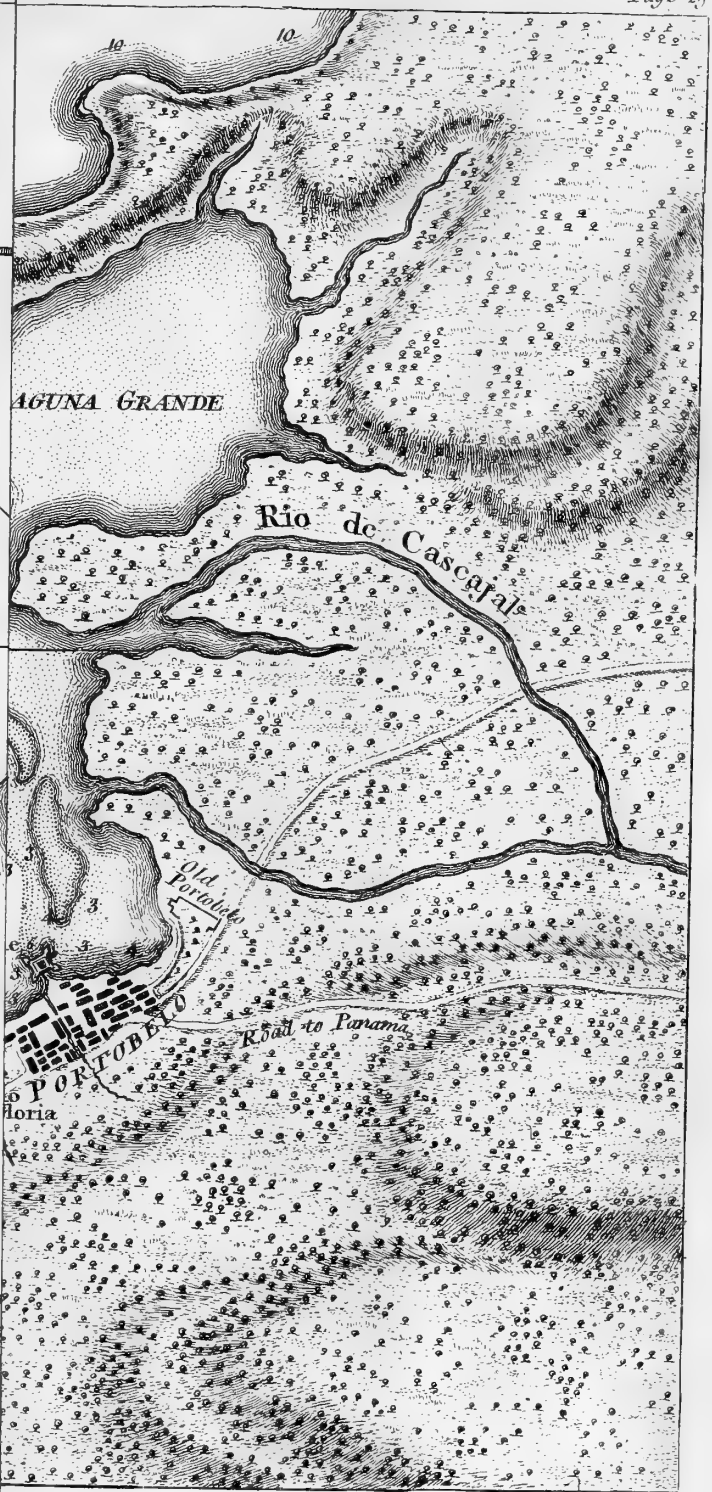
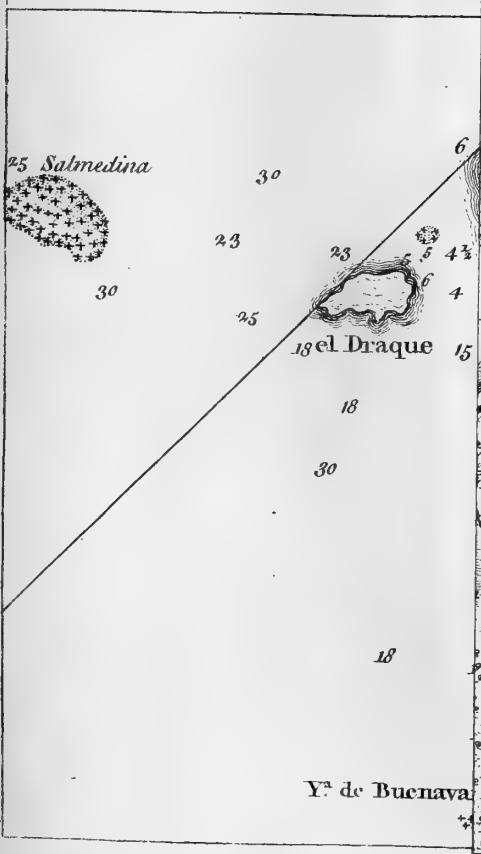
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POR TO BE LO, NAMED BY THE SPANIARDS  
PUERTO VELO,

**W**AS discovered by *Christopher Columbus* in 1507. It stands about the middle of the narrowest part of the isthmus, and not above 50 miles from *Panama*, which is on the other side. Its situation is very agreeable, being about a quarter of a mile distant from the harbour, in a fine plain, watered by three rivulets: there are in it two good churches, a handsome house for the governor, an exchange for the merchants, a custom-house, and a great number of warehouses. The great church is built of stone, large, decently ornamented, and served by a vicar and some other priests, who are natives of the country; there are also two other churches, one belonging to the *Fathers*

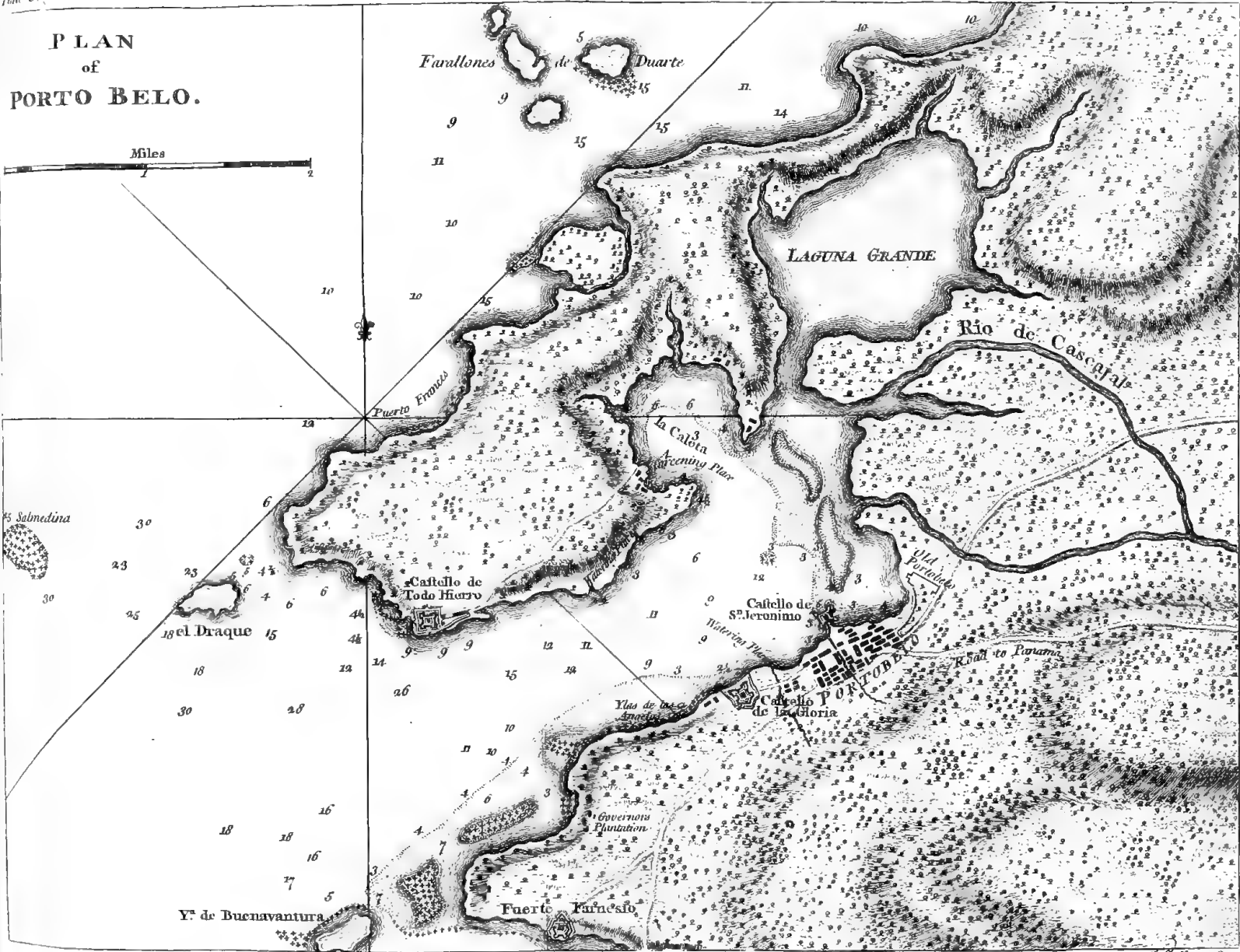
of

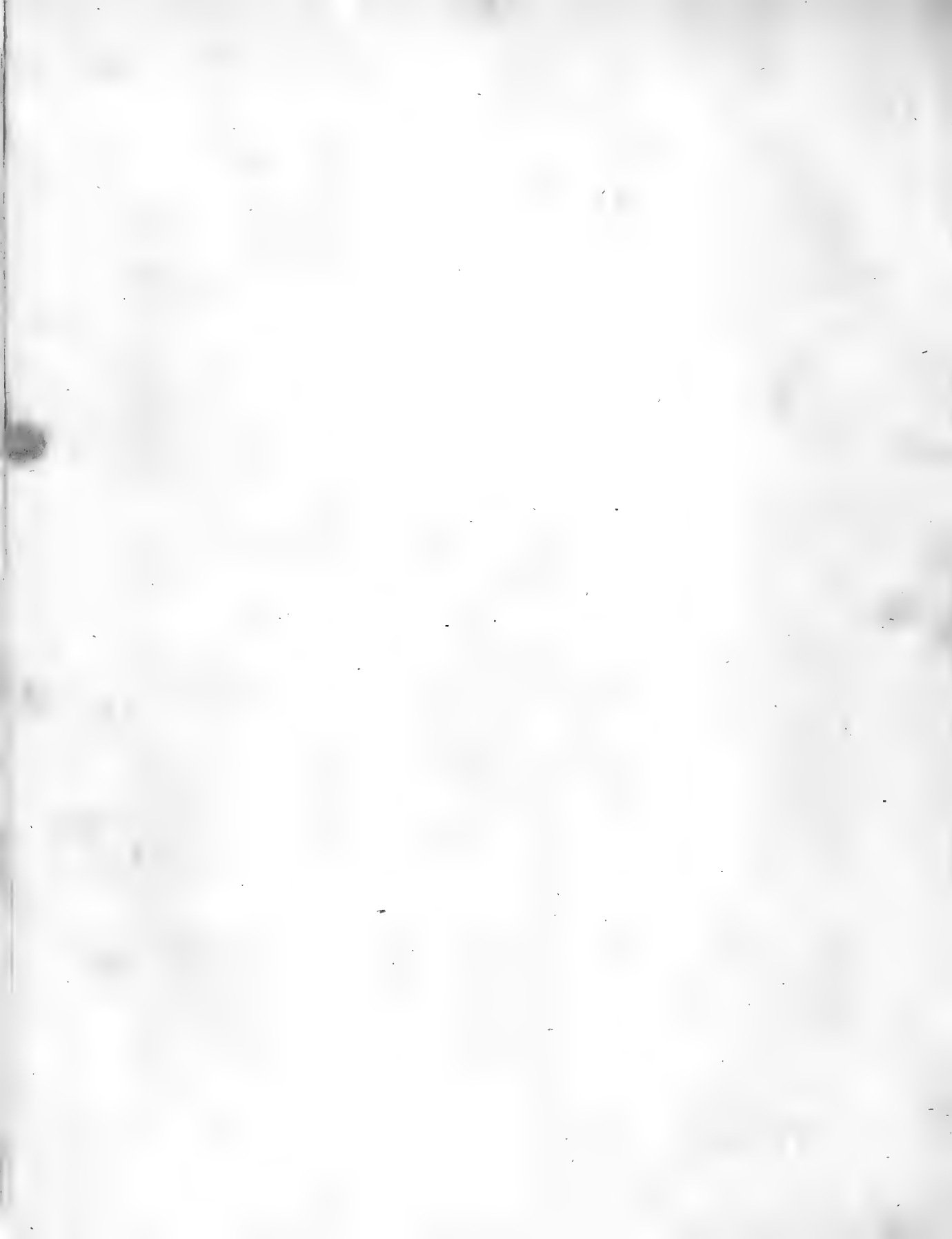
# PLAN of PORTO BELO.





# PLAN of PORTO BELO.





*of Mercy*, whose convent is contiguous to it; the other dedicated to *St. Juan de Dios*, and was intended for an hospital. The church belonging to the *Fathers of Mercy* is of stone, but very mean, and in a ruinous condition; and the convent so greatly decayed, that the religious are obliged to live in the town, dispersed in private houses. That of *St. Juan de Dios*, is a small building resembling an oratory, and like the other, is in a very ruinous condition. Its whole community consists of a prior, chaplain, and another religious, so that properly speaking it has no community at all; and the apartment intended for the reception of patients, consists of one chamber open to the roof without beds or other necessaries; nor are any admitted but such as are able to pay for their treatment and diet: it is therefore of no other use than to lodge the sick men belonging to the ships of war which come hither, and who are provided with necessaries from the ships, and attended by their respective surgeons, lodging being the only thing afforded them in this nominal hospital. At the east end of the town in the road to *Panama*, is a quarter called *Guinea*, being the place where all the negroes of both sexes, whether slaves or free, have their habitations. This quarter is greatly crowded when the galleons are at *Porto Velo*, most of the inhabitants of the town retiring hither for the sake of letting their houses. At the same time great numbers of mechanics, who then flock hither from *Panama*, lodge in this quarter for cheapness. *Porto Velo*, which is but very thinly inhabited, becomes at the time when the galleons are there, one of the most populous places in the world. Its situation on the isthmus between the south and north sea, the goodness of its harbour, and its small distance from *Panama*, have given it the preference to all other places for the sale of the joint commerce of *Spain* and *Peru* at its fair. As soon as advice arrives at *Cartagena* that the fleet from *Peru* have unloaded their merchandize at *Panama*, the galleons make the best of their way to *Porto Velo*, in order to avoid the many distempers which affect the seamen, and derive their source from idleness. The concourse of people on this occasion is such, that the rent of lodgings is raised to an excessive height, the price of a common chamber with a small closet during the fair, being often 1000 crowns; and that of some large houses 4, 5, or 6000. The ships are no sooner moored in the harbour, than

the seamen erect in the square a large tent with the sails, where they deposite the cargoes. These bales are drawn on sledges by the crews of the several ships, and the money paid for their labour is equally divided among them all. While the seamen and *European* traders are thus employed, the roads are covered with droves of mules from *Panama* loaded with chests of gold and silver, on account of the merchants of *Peru*; but notwithstanding the hurry and confusion attending such prodigious crouds, no loss or disturbance is ever known. He who has seen *Porto Velo* at other times, solitary and poor, the harbour without ships, and every place wearing a melancholy aspect, must be filled with astonishment at this sudden change, to see every house crouded, the squares and streets full of bales and chests of gold and silver, the harbour of ships and vessels; in short, a spot at other times detested for its deleterious qualities, become the staple of riches for the old and new world, and the scene of one of the most considerable branches of commerce in the whole earth. The ships being unloaded, and the merchants of *Peru*, together with the president of *Panama*, arrived, the fair comes under deliberation: and for this purpose the deputies of the several parties repair on board the ship belonging to the commodore of the galleons, where, in presence of that commander, and the president of *Panama*, the former as patron of the *Europeans*, and the latter of the *Peruvians*, the prices of the several kinds of merchandize are settled, and the contracts are signed and made publick, that every one may by them regulate the sale of his effects; and by this means all fraud is precluded. The purchases and sales as well as the exchanges of money, are transacted by brokers from *Spain* and *Peru*. After this, every merchant begins to dispose of his own goods; the *Spanish* brokers embark their chests of money, and those of *Peru* send away the goods they have purchased, by vessels up the river *Chagre*; and thus the fair of *Porto Velo* ends. After all, it is no very considerable place, exclusive of the trade carried on there during the fair, for it is an open town, without either wall or fortification, all the castles and forts being intended to protect the harbour only. The air is as unwholesome as that of *Nombre de Dios*, though there are not so many marshes about it. The sea, when it ebbs, leaves a vast quantity of black stinking



stinking mud upon the beach, from whence there exhales an intolerable noisome vapour, which is supposed to be the chief cause of the unwhol-fomness of the place. Be that as it will, certain it is, that at every annual fair, near 400 people are carried off by the maladies which reign here; particularly a kind of pestilential fever, which, causing a mortification in the entrails, carries off the patient in a few days. It is no wonder therefore, that, except at this trading season, *Puerto Velo* is very thinly inhabited. To say the truth, there are none reside here but what are obliged to it on account of their employments, either in the army, or in commerce: so that there are not reckoned in it above 2 or 300 people, besides the gar-rison.

Notwithstanding all the pains taken to fortify it, there are few places which have fallen oftner into the hands of an enemy than *Porto Velo*. In 1595, before it was half finished, it was taken and ransomed by the famous Sir *Francis Drake*, who died, and was thrown overboard in the harbour. In 1601, it was taken again by Capt. *Parker*, though it had then as many forts as it had lately. In 1669 it was taken, after a very obstinate defence, by Capt. *Morgan* and his buccaneers. In 1678, Capt. *Croxon*, at the head of another body of free-booters, surprized and plundered the town, though they did not make themselves masters of the forts; and finally, in 1739, it was taken, and all its fortifications demolished by Admiral *Vernon* with six ships only, whereby the *Spaniards* received incredible damage. The anchoring-place for large ships is to the north-west of *Gloria* castle, near the center of the harbour; but small vessels come farther up, taking care to avoid a bank of sand stretching off 300 yards from *St. Jerom's* point, there being only a fathom and a half or two fathoms water on it. North-west of the town is a little bay called *La Caldera*, or *the Kettle*, having four fathoms and a half water, a very proper place for careening of ships, being perfectly defended from all winds. Among the mountains which surround the harbour of *Porto Velo*, is one particularly remarkable for its superior height, and for being considered as the barometer of the country, by foretelling every change of weather. This mountain, distinguished by the name of *Capiro*, stands at the bottom of the harbour in the road to *Panama*; its top is always covered

with vapours of a density and darkness seldom seen in the clouds of the atmosphere; and from these which are called the *capillo* or cap, the changes of the weather are indicated; for when these clouds thicken, increase in their blackness, and sink below their usual station, it is a sure sign of a tempest; while on the other hand their clearness and ascent as certainly indicate the approach of fair weather. It must however be observed, that these changes are very frequent, and the summit is hardly ever free from clouds, and when this does happen, it is only as it were for an instant. The inclemency of the climate of *Porto Velo* is well known. The heat is excessive, being greatly augmented by the situation of the town, which affords no interval for the current of the winds, that would otherwise refresh it. The trees on the mountains stand so thick, that they intercept the rays of the sun, and consequently prevent the earth under their branches from being dried, hence copious exhalations, which form large heavy clouds, and precipitate in violent torrents of rain; but these are no sooner over than the sun breaks out afresh, and shines with his former splendour; though before the activity of his rays has dried the surface of the ground not covered by the trees, the atmosphere is again crowded with another collection of thick vapours, the sun is again concealed, and another torrent of rain succeeds: in this manner it continues night and day without any sensible diminution of the heat. These torrents of rain, which, by their suddenness and impetuosity seem to threaten a second deluge, are often accompanied with such tempests of thunder and lightning, as must terrify the most intrepid; especially as this dreadful noise is prolonged by percussions from the caverns in the mountains, and augmented by the howlings and shrieks of the multitudes of monkeys of all kinds that inhabit the adjacent forests. This continual inclemency of the climate, added to the fatigue and immoderate drinking of the seamen employed in unloading the ships, who, to recruit their spirits, have recourse to brandy, of which there is, on these occasions, an incredible consumption, must jointly injure the best constitutions, and produce those deleterious diseases so common in this country. But it is not the seamen alone who are subject to these diseases; others who are strangers to the seas, and not concerned in the fatigues, are also attacked and often carried off by them. The number of the inhabitants of *Porto Velo*

*Velo* is therefore very inconsiderable, and the greatest part of these negroes and mulattoes ; the whites continuing no longer here than they can acquire a moderate fortune, when they retire to *Panama* to enjoy it ; a sufficient proof of the unhealthiness of *Porto Velo*, since it is forsaken by those to whom it gave birth. Provisions are scarce at *Porto Velo*, and consequently dear, particularly during the time of the fair, when large supplies are sent from *Panama* and *Carthagena*. The only thing in plenty here is fish, of which there is a great variety, and extremely good. It also abounds in sugar canes, so that the miserable cottages in the country are built with them. Fresh water pours down in streams from the mountains, these waters are light and digestive, qualities which in any other part of the world would be valuable, but are here pernicious. The country seems to be cursed by nature, so that what is in itself good, is here destructive ; for this water being too fine and active for the stomachs of the inhabitants, produces dysenteries, the last stage of other distempers, and from which the patient seldom or never recovers. As the forest almost borders on the town, the tigers often make incursions into the streets, during the night, carrying off fowls, dogs, and domestic animals ; even children have often fallen a prey to these ravenous creatures. Serpents are also very numerous, and remarkably destructive ; but the number of toads exceeds any thing of that kind hitherto known. When it has rained more than common in the night, the streets and squares in the morning are paved with these reptiles ; so that you cannot step without treading on them, which is sometimes productive of troublesome bites ; for, they are not only poisonous, but large enough for their teeth to be severely felt. They are generally about six inches in length, and their number is so great, that nothing can be imagined more dismal than their croakings during the night in all parts of the town, woods, and caverns of the mountains.

CHAGRE,

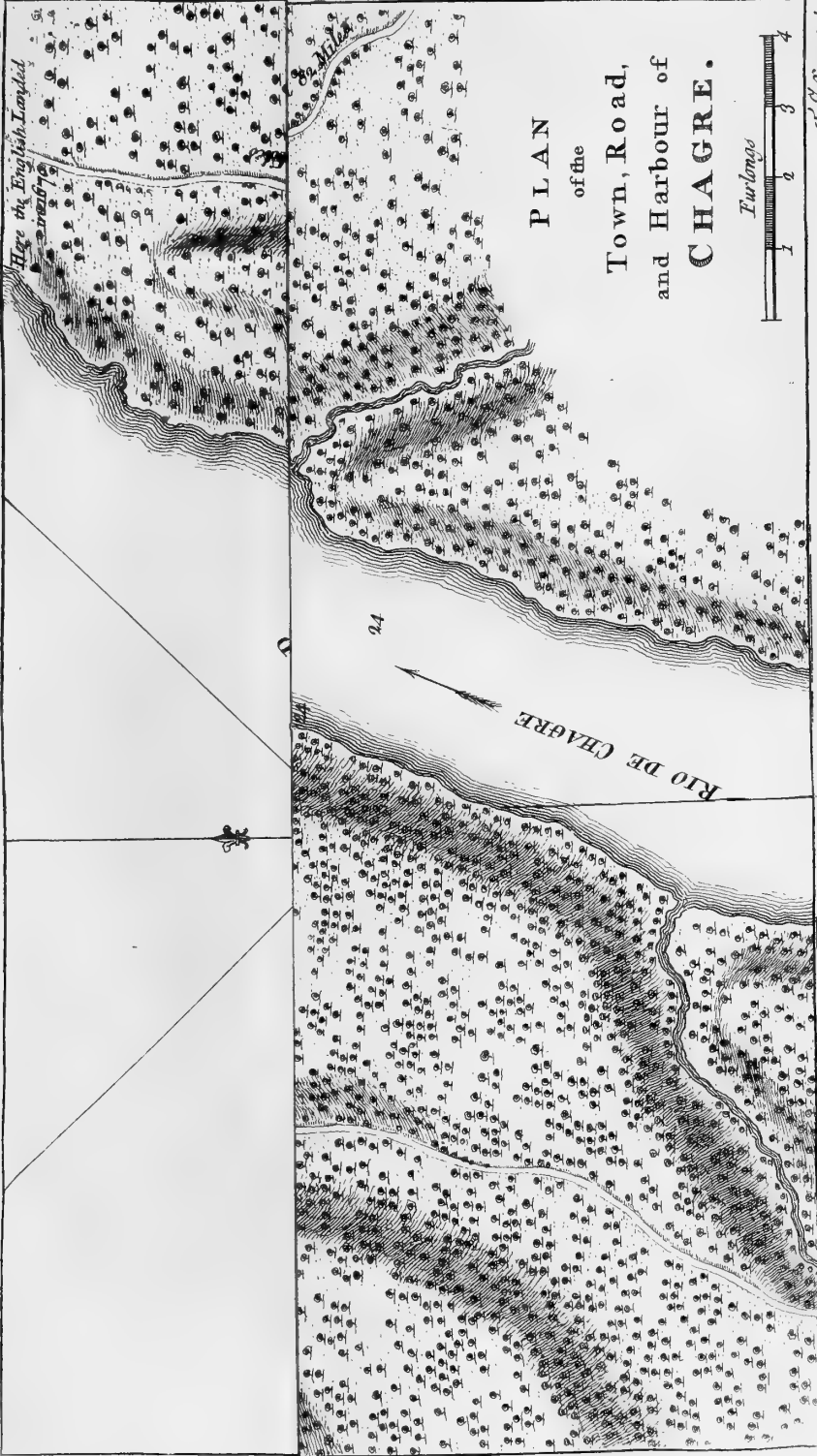
## CHAGRE,

IS situated on a steep rock at the mouth of the *Rio de Chagre*, distant about eighteen leagues from *Porto Bello*. It is defended by the *Castillo de San Lorenzo*, which commands the entrance of that river. On the west side of the harbour is *Fuerte de la Punta*, and the royal custom-house, where an account is taken of all the goods that go up the river. This fort has a commandant and lieutenant, which, with the garison, is draughted from *Panama*.

In 1669 Captain *Morgan* landed the buccaneers a few miles to the east, and besieged *Castillo de San Lorenzo*, which the *Spaniards* defended with great bravery; for after the *English* had gained a breach, defended by the governor with twenty-five men, several of the *Spaniards* cast themselves from the top of the hill, headlong into the sea, choosing rather to die that death, than to ask quarter; the governor, tho retreating, continued to defend himself; but at last was killed by a musquet shot in the head, on which the rest surrendered prisoners of war, being only thirty left out of three hundred and fourteen, (all the officers being killed) and scarce ten of these but what were wounded. The *English* had above one hundred men killed and seventy wounded. Captain *Morgan* having been refused a ransom by the governor of *Porto Velo* for this castle, took all the cannon, demolished the walls, and burnt all the buildings, after which the *Spaniards* rebuilt it with stone.

Admiral *Vernon* came before this place on the 20th of *March* 1740, and ordered Capt. *Knowles* close in with the ketches, who incessantly for two days bombarding the castle, it surrendered on the 22d to the admiral, who went on shore, and found in the custom-house 4300 serons and bags of *Guayaquil* cocoa, jesuits bark, and *Spanish* wool, ready to be shipped on board of the galleons, and entirely destroyed two *guarda costa* sloops that were sunk just above the custom-house. On the 28, the custom-house (being cleared) was burnt; and the 22 brass cannon, with part of the garrison, being embarked, on the 29th the mines were sprung, which entirely demolished the lower bastion, blew up some of the upper works, and destroyed by fire all the inner building of the castle of *San Lorenzo*.

RIO



L. Jefferys sculp.









## THE RIVER OF CHAGRE,

**F**ORMERLY called *Rio de Lagartos*, from the number of alligators in it, has its source in the mountains near *Cruces*, where the river begins to be navigable. At the custom-house here resides an *alcalde*, who takes an account of all goods sent this way, to or from *Panama*. The river here is about 20 fathoms broad, and at the mouth about 120 fathoms over, forming a fine harbour for vessels to ride at anchor, in 24 fathoms water. At the entrance is a ridge of rocks, seen at low water, on which four ships of Capt. *Morgan's* fleet, that were coming into the harbour after the castle was taken, were lost; but the men and goods were all saved.

This river is navigated by *Spanish* vessels, called *Chatas*, they are commonly mounted with two great iron guns, and four small brass ones: these vessels not only carry the merchandize up and down this river, but to *Porto Velo*, and into the lake of *Nicaragua*.

Capt. *Morgan*, after he had taken the castle of *San Lorenzo*, sailed up the river *Chagre* with 1200 men, and artillery in 32 canoes and five boats; on the third day he landed at *Cedro Bueno*, and marched by land to *Panama*, where they arrived with their artillery in seven days, after having fought their way thro' several ambuscades. Notwithstanding this express account of the march of these adventurers, it appears, by a council of war held on board the *Boyne*, in the *West-Indies*, 28th *October* 1741, to be unanimously agreed by Admiral *Vernon* and the other members of that council, that, from the best advices they had been able to collect, it was impracticable to advance with cannon to *Panama*; and it being a fortified town, with above forty pieces of cannon mounted on the ramparts, and a sufficient garrison, they thought it not practicable to attempt it without.

The road to *Panama* by land from *Porto-Bello* is at present, and will ever remain so whilst that country is possessed by the *Spaniards*, utterly impracticable for the transporting of cannon.

Cannon of any calibre may be brought in flat-bottomed vessels, such as are used on the river *Chagre* for transporting of heavy goods, as far as the landing place of *Cruzes*; from thence to *Panama* by land, tho' the road is to  
rocky

rocky and narrow, as not to admit of any sort of wheel-carriage for the greatest part of the way. However, methods may be used to bring up from *Cruzes* to the plains near *Panama*, without the least delay, any number of cannon and mortars, provided none of them, when dismounted, exceed the weight of 500lb.

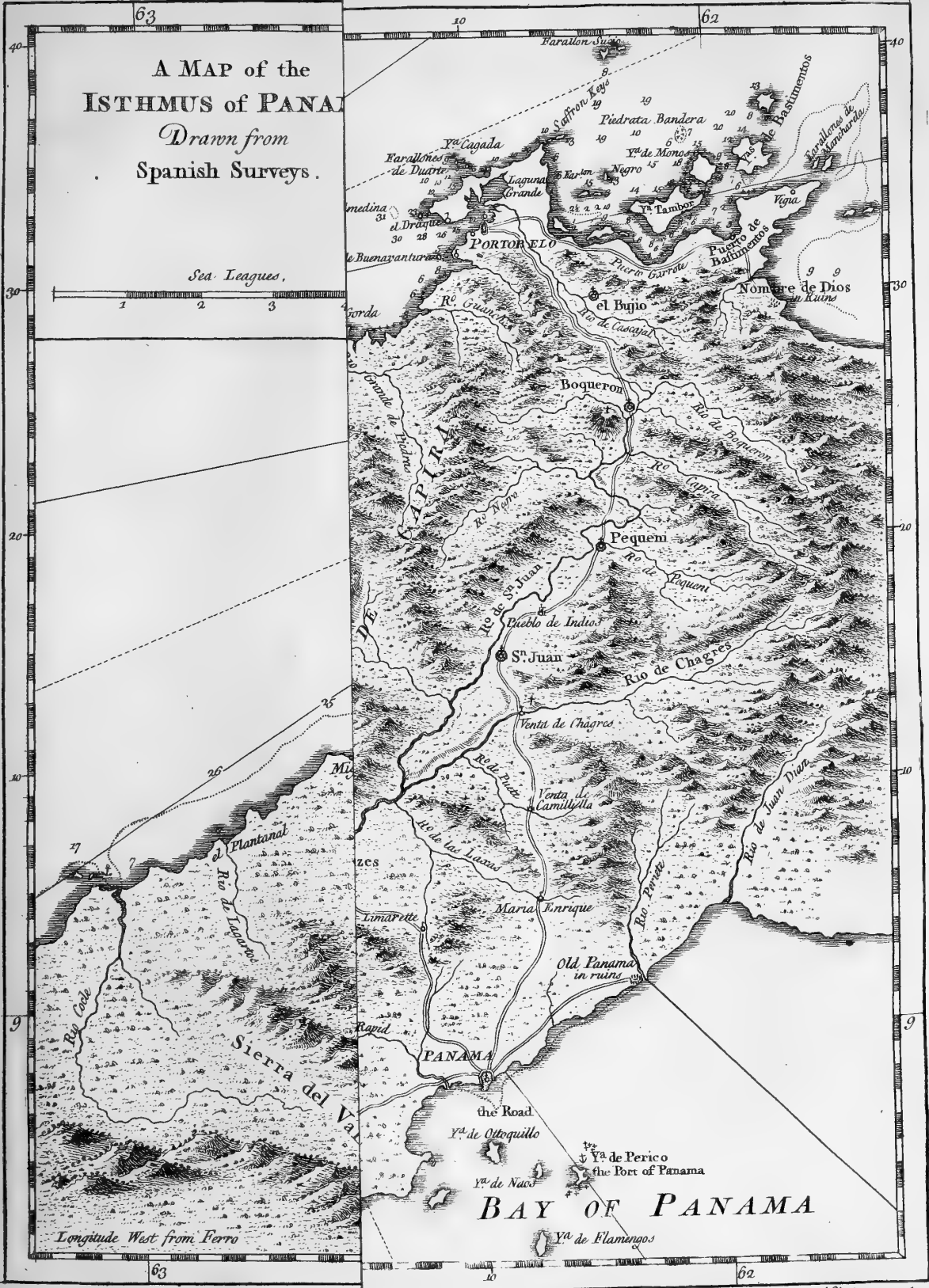
The few cannon that were mounted on the walls of *Panama*, in the year 1740, were brought by sea from the city of *Lima*.

The conveyance of the king's treasure, and the merchandize from *Cbili* and *Peru*, landed at *Panama*, thence to *Porto Velo*, is performed two ways: the first is in summer, by land, which is a journey of about 14 *Spanish* leagues, upon mules, through the towns of *Maria Enrique*, *Venta de Camillilla*, *Venta de Chagres*, *San Juan*, *Pueblo de Indios*, *Pequem*, and *Boqueron*; in winter, to *Santa Cruz*, or *Venta de Cruzes*, on the *Rio de Chagre*, near five leagues from *Panama*, from whence it is conveyed down the river in flat-bottom boats, in three days, if the water be high, else they may be from six to twelve days, or more, the river being full of shelves, and very shallow in summer: in this case the treasure may be carried through a level country to *Embarcadero*, on the *Rio de la Trinidad*, and there embarked for *Porto Velo*.

*Cockburn*, in the account of his journey from *Panama* to *Porto Velo*, says that they set out upon mules about two o'clock in the afternoon, and travelled till about four o'clock the next morning, before they reached a house; but had a good guard against an attack of the *Indians* at war, or wild beasts. Their guard carried wax tapers in the night, to frighten the beasts: that the same day they arrived at the *Rio de Chagre*, and alighted from their mules, to dine under some trees: after resting there two hours, they crossed the river, and ascended a very steep mountain, where it was impossible for them to keep on their mules, without clinging fast round their necks. Some part of this road is not above two feet broad, having precipices on each side four or five hundred feet deep; so that by the least slip of a mule's foot, both itself and rider must be dashed in pieces: by sun-set they got to an inn, or house where travellers are entertained, there being several such on this road: the next morning they set out by day-break, and came down to the *Rio de Chagre*.

A MAP of the  
**ISTHMUS of PANAMA**  
 Drawn from  
 Spanish Surveys.

Sea Leagues.

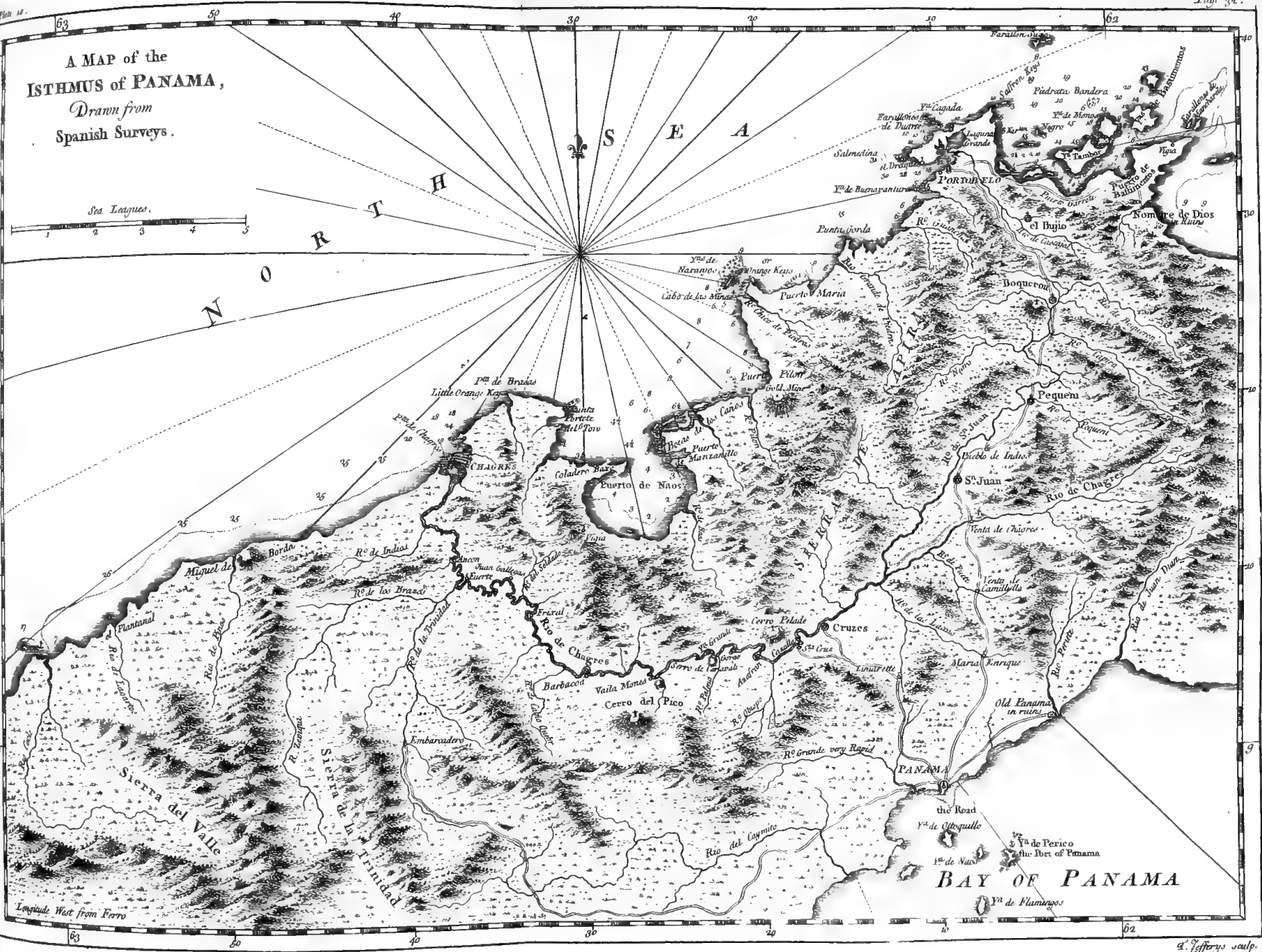



Longitude West from Ferro

**BAY OF PANAMA**

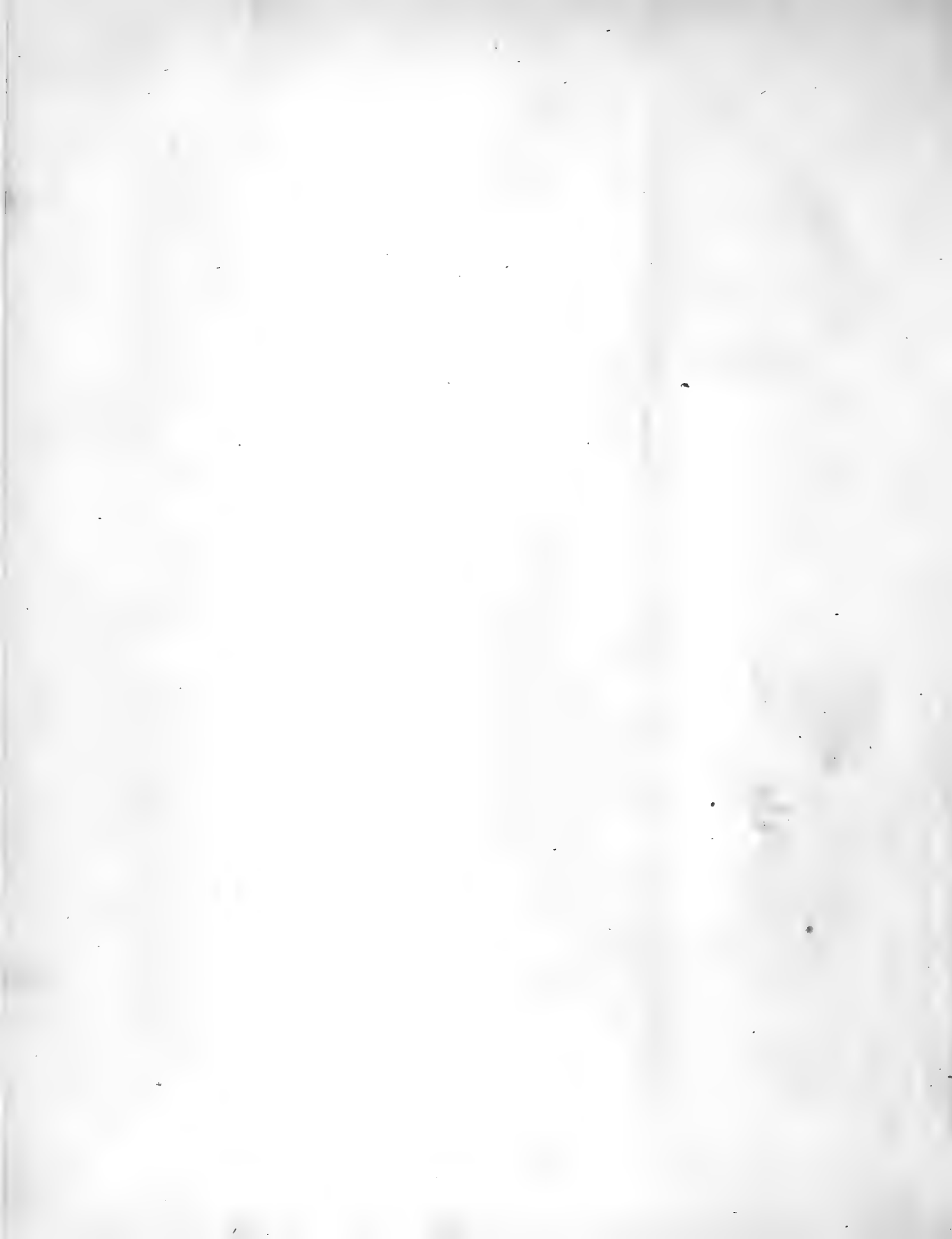


A MAP of the  
ISTHMUS of PANAMA,  
Drawn from  
Spanish Surveys.



Longitude West from Ferro

BAY OF PANAMA



*Chagre* again, through which they rode a considerable way over great rocks, though sometimes the water was over the mules backs : from thence they ascended other mountains, and met the river again. Some of these mountains have roads about three feet wide, paved with broad stones by the poor *Indians*, on whom the *Spaniards* imposed this task, and being come to a clear spot of ground, they refreshed themselves and mules again, and in the evening came to another of these houses of entertainment, which are placed on this road at ten leagues distance from each other ; a distance which is thought a common journey for a mule to travel in one day ; and indeed it is more than they can well perform, for they never come this way laden with plate, but several of them perish on the road : having travelled thus at the rate of ten leagues \* a day, they arrived at *Porto Velo* on the fourth day after they had left *Panama*.

These different methods of carriage are of vast utility ; for in the summer the *Rio de Chagre* is frequently so low, that boats cannot pass ; and on the other hand, in the winter, when the navigation by that river is free, the road by land is altogether impassable.

All the country in the vicinity of this river, and indeed the greatest part of the isthmus, is of small value, and little regarded ; the climate being bad, the soil a continued bog, the rivers muddy, and their waters unwholesome.

## P A N A M A.

THE first discovery of this place the *Spaniards* owe to *Tello de Guzman*, who landed here in 1515, but found only some fishermen's huts, being a very proper place for their business, and thence called by the *Indians* *Panama* ; which signifies a place abounding with fish. In 1518, *Pedrarias Davila*, governor of *Tierra Firme*, settled a colony here ; and in 1521 *Panama* was constituted a city with the usual privileges.

The old city of *Panama* became, by degrees, a very considerable place ; for, besides a handsome cathedral, there were eight convents, a large hospital,

F

pital,

\* *Cockburn* must err in this account, by making it leagues instead of miles, for the usual road from *Puerto Velo* to *Panama* by land is only 14 leagues ; and there is yet a nearer way thro' the woods, which none are permitted to go, except expresses for the government.

pital, and several fine buildings; but as for walls, they had none; all the fortifications for the defence of so important a place were two sorry redoubts, one on the shore, and the other fronting the road to *Venta Cruz*, mounted with 6 pieces of cannon each. In 1669 it was taken by the famous Sir *Henry Morgan*, who burnt it to the ground, having loaded 175 beasts with the treasures he took. The *Spaniards* say it contained about 6000 houses, most of them built of rose-wood and many of them more magnificent than any other in the *Indies*.

*New Panama* was built four miles west from the ruins of *Old Panama*, and is a very fair city, seated close by the sea-side. It gives name to a large bay, which is famous for a great many navigable rivers running into it; some whereof are very rich in gold. In the bay are several small islands, equally pleasant to the eye of a spectator, and profitable to the proprietors. On the land side *Panama* is encompassed by a pleasant country, full of small hills, verdant vallies, and fine groves of trees, which appear like islands in the *Savanas*. The city is surrounded by a strong and high stone-wall, well mounted on all sides with brass cannon, and defended by a large garrison of regulars. It has a cathedral, eight parish churches, and thirty chapels. The president's palace is a very grand building; and all the public edifices being built with stone, may be justly styled so, considering where they stand. The houses have but one story and a tiled roof. Without the walls is an open suburb, larger than the city itself. The streets, both of the city and suburb, are strait, broad, and, for the most part, paved; the houses in general were of a wood which was seldom known to burn, till this city was almost destroyed by fire in 1737, the virtue of the timber being unable to secure it from the ravages of the flames. The fire began in a cellar, where, among other goods, were great quantities of pitch, tar, naptha, and brandy; so that the fire being, as it were, saturated with these substances, soon reached the walls, and even this singular kind of wood became a prey to the devouring flames. The suburbs, being above a mile from the city, received no damage. Since this misfortune it has been rebuilt again, for the greater part of stone, a material for building here very plenty. In this city is a tribunal, or royal audience, in which  
the



the governor of *Panama* presides ; and to this employment is annexed the captainship of *Tierra Firma*, a president, four counsellors, a provost, and a procurator general ; an auditor of accounts, a treasurer, and a commissary general ; a corporation composed of alcaldes and regidores, and a court of inquisition appointed by the tribunal at *Cartagena*. The convents are those of the *Dominicans*, *Franciscans*, *Augustines*, and fathers of mercy ; besides which there is a college of jesuits, a nunnery of the order of *Santa Clara*, and an hospital of *San Juan de Dios*. The slender revenues will not admit of their being very numerous ; nor are the ornaments of the churches remarkably rich, though far from being contemptible. The decorations of private houses are elegant, but not costly, though this city is not destitute of wealthy inhabitants ; and all have a sufficiency.

*Cockburn*, who was at this city in 1732, says it stands very pleasantly on a high hill, close by the sea, and is of great extent, having several well built churches and convents in it. The houses are large, and handsomely built of timber ; the inhabitants numerous, and most of them very rich : they dress exceedingly fine, the ladies wearing the most costly goods that can be brought from *Europe*, having their hair curiously dressed, and adorned with diamonds and other precious stones. The place abounds with money, but all things are excessively dear, the least coin that passes here, being half a real of plate, which is three-pence half-penny *English* money.

The harbour of *Panama* is formed by the shelter of several islands, where ships lie very safe at about two and an half or three leagues from the city. The tides are regular, and it is high water at the full and change, about three o'clock. The water rises and falls considerably, so that the shore, lying on a gentle slope, is at low water left dry to a great distance. The trade is very considerable, it is the port where the ships from *Lima*, *Guayaquil*, &c. unload the treasure sent to *Old Spain*, and the staple for the goods brought up the *Rio de Chagre*. This commerce is of the greatest advantage to the inhabitants, with regard to letting out their houses, mules and negroes, and the freight of vessels : but this is not the whole of its commerce, *Panama*, even during the absence of the armadilla, is never without strangers, it being the thoroughfare for all going

and coming from *Peru* by the South Sea, for *Spain*; to which must be added the continual trade carried on by the *Peruvian* ships, which bring variety of goods, as meal of different sorts, wine, brandy, sugar, tallow, leather, olives, oil, and the like. The ships from *Guayaquil* bring cacao, and jesuit's bark, which always meet with a quick exportation here, especially in times of peace. The coasting vessels which make frequent trips from the adjacent ports supply the city plentifully with provisions, the dearthness of which in this city and its district, occasioned by the large quantity consumed, and the great distance from whence they are brought, is amply compensated by the multitude and value of the pearls found in the oysters growing in its gulph. The first to whom the *Indians* made this valuable discovery, was *Basco Nunez de Balboa*, when in his voyage from *Panama* to make farther discoveries, in the south sea, he was presented with some by *Tumaco*, an *Indian* prince; at present they are found in such plenty, that there are few persons of substance near *Panama*, who do not employ all, or at least part of their slaves in this fishery.

There are neither woods nor marshes near *Panama*, but a fine dry champaign country, little subject either to fogs or mists. The rainy season lasts here from *May* to *November*; but the rains are by no means so heavy as on the other side of the isthmus; and yet even here they are very unwholesome to all but the natives, or such as have dwelt very long in the place. As this is the great centre of commerce from *Peru* and *Chili*, so the merchants who live at *Panama* are generally speaking rich, and the port is never without a considerable number of ships in it; nay, there is generally an armadilla, that is, a squadron of small men of war either lying before it, or cruising in its neighbourhood. Most of the towns and villages in the province of *Panama*, are situated in small plains along the shore, the rest of the country being covered with steep and craggy mountains, uninhabited on account of their sterility. This province contains three cities, twelve villages, and a great number of rancherias, or villages of *Indian* huts. It has also several gold mines, but they are greatly neglected, the *Spaniards* chusing rather to apply themselves to the pearl fishery than the mines, as it affords a more certain profit, and at the same time is followed with much greater ease.

The

The method made use of by the *Spaniards* for obtaining gold out of the rivers, of which there is greater plenty in this audience, and in the mines of *Santa Maria* not far off, than within the same space in any other part of *New Spain*, or perhaps in the whole world, is as follows :

From the mountains in the midst of the isthmus there roll down several rivers, with a strong and rapid current, during the rainy season especially, and then tear away part of the soil, and with it abundance of gold, which afterwards is, with considerable pains, separated therefrom. The *Indians* are generally employed in this work, as also the slaves of the *Spaniards*, that is, the negroes ; the latter make about five shillings a day ; but the former, who sell what they get at a price agreed on, get considerably more. They take the mud up in little wooden dishes, and after suffering it to settle, they wash from it as much of the black earth as they can ; then it is put up into certain basons, called by the *Spaniards* *lavaderos*, which are placed under a pipe or spring of running water, and is stirred with an iron spatula, that as the water passes through, it may be the better able to carry off the sand or earth : after it has gone through this operation, it still retains its black colour, but the increase of its weight, in proportion to the quantity that is left, sufficiently indicates that all this pains is not taken without answering some end. This black earth is next thrown into broad wooden dishes, hollow in the middle, like a butcher's tray, but not so deep ; there, by repeated washings and rubbings, the black earth is entirely cleaned away, and a shining gold sand is found at the bottom. Though there seems to be a great trouble in this method, yet it is much the easiest and the cheapest way of coming at the gold, for there is neither a fourth part of the labour, nor of the expence in thus separating the grains of gold from the soil, that there must be used in extracting it from the ore. In the dry season they work at the mines of *Santa Maria*, which lie not far from *Panama*, and are exceedingly rich. It was taken in 1684, by our buccaneers, and more than once since ; nay, *Dampier* tells us they had some thoughts of settling there, and thinks they might have done it in spite of all the force the *Spaniards* had in *Peru*. They were tempted to these thoughts by seeing the mines abandoned by the *Spaniards*, as they were for a long time, and by the quantities of gold, which, from their own  
experience

experience they knew them to yield. For the obtaining of gold from the mine, they first of all break to pieces the mineray or marcasite which holds it; and then conveying it to the mills, it is ground into a powder as fine as can be imagined: this powder being put into wooden-vessels, together with a proportionable quantity of quicksilver, is there wrought into a paste; which, after being exposed to the sun for forty-eight hours, is washed in a particular manner, till there is nothing left but the quicksilver and gold; and then the latter is separated from the former by distillation. Such as are versed in this kind of business distinguish three kinds of gold: the first is called *pepitas*, which is an *Indian* word, though used by the *Spaniards*, and signifies the seeds of an apple. They use this to distinguish the pure gold, which is either found in the rocks, or washed down by the rivers, already formed into little lumps, which need no refining; these are of several sizes, from the bigness of a large pin's head, to that of a goose's egg. The second is the grain gold, obtained by washing only. The third is ingots, cast out of gold, refined by the help of fire. The inhabitants of *Panama* are said to have gained formerly, by the methods before mentioned, some thousand pounds weight of gold in a year; but of late, though the mine has not been discovered above eighty years, the quantity is considerably decreased. Throughout all *America* the king of *Spain* receives for his duty a fifth of the silver, and a twentieth of the gold: this duty is called the *covo*, and when it is once paid, the remainder belongs to the subject; for he who finds a mine, and will be at the charge of working it, is the absolute proprietor, and has all the encouragement given him that he could wish.

But this is a small article in the profits of the inhabitants of this rich city, who drive on a prodigious commerce, both in *North* and *South America*. As soon as ever the galleons enter the port of *Cartagena*, an express is dispatched over land to *Panama*, from whence he proceeds by sea to *Lima*. In the mean time all the necessary preparations are made for conveying the treasure, from *Panama* to *Puerto Velo*. The viceroy of *Peru*, on the other hand, makes all imaginable dispatch in sending the *Lima* fleet, escorted by an armadilla, or small squadron of men of war, to *Panama*, where, as soon as they arrive, they are unladen,  
and

and the goods forwarded for *Porto Velo*. The *Lima* fleet then sails to *Perico*, which is the port of *Panama*, at a small distance from that city, and there wait the return of the *European* goods from *Puerto Velo*, by the same carriage their's was sent thither ; and having taken this on board, they immediately sail away for *Lima*.

Although the neighbourhood of *Panama* be pretty well cultivated, yet the rest of the audience is but very thinly inhabited ; neither are there any tolerable ports after you have passed the bay of *St. Michael*, till you come to cape *Corrientes* ; though there are many rivers which fall into the sea along the coast. What is stranger still, this country is absolutely in the hands of the natives, with whom the *Spaniards* sometimes trade for gold, almost all of them bringing down more or less ; but they have no command over them, and are so much afraid to trust them, that they never attempt to send so much as one express by land from *Panama* to the audience of *Quito*.

## MEXICO, OR NEW SPAIN,

**I**N the broadest part on the frontiers of *New Mexico*, extends from the gulf of *California* on the west, to *Louisiana* on the east, about two hundred leagues, and narrows by degrees till it comes near the bay of *Campeche*, where it is but 35 leagues over, after which it diminishes so much, that near the isthmus of *Panama*, the most western extent, is but ten leagues over. The extent of the northern coast of *New Spain*, in the gulf of *Mexico*, measures by the sea coast above one thousand leagues.

The air is generally reckoned extraordinary wholesome, and is very temperate, being qualified with refreshing showers in the hottest months, and cool breezes from the sea all the year. It produces many sorts of grain, fruits, and herbs ; rich mines of gold and silver ; and its spacious plains afford the best of pasturage : the principal commodities are wool, cotton, sugar, silk, cochineal, feathers, honey, balm, amber, salt, tallow, hides, tobacco, ginger, and diver medicinal drugs.

This

This large and pleasant country was a great flourishing monarchy for several ages, governed by its own kings (chosen from their greatest captains) till 1521, when it was entirely conquered by the *Spaniards* under *Ferdinando Cortez*; since which it has remained subject to the crown of *Spain*, and is governed by a viceroy. The inhabitants are a mixture of Christians and Pagans; for many of the natives still retain their heathenish worship, though the *Spaniards* take great pains to convert them to the church of *Rome*. They are reckoned very docile, civil, and steady in friendship; many of them are very ingenious in painting and making very lively pictures with divers coloured feathers of little birds called *circons*, and some are said to be good musicians.

*Mexico* is divided into three audiences or governments; which, though all under the inspection of the viceroy of *Mexico*, have each a sovereign court, to decide all matters whatsoever, civil or criminal: and this is so ordered for the ease of the people, who else would be obliged upon all suits to repair to the city of *Mexico* from the remotest parts. These audiences are,

GUADALAJARA, or NEW GALLICIA, the most northern.

2. MEXICO.

3. GUATIMALA, the southermost, which, as it joins to *Tierra Firma*, and we continue to proceed from east to west, shall be first described.

## GUATIMALA,

CONTAINS the provinces of *Chiapa*, *Soconusco*, *Guatemala proper*, *Vera Paz*, *Honduras*, *Nicaragua*, *Costa Rica*, and *Veragua*.

VERAGUA is the least province in the audience of *Guatemala*; and enjoys an advantageous situation for commerce, having many ports in the *South-Seas*. The climate is not to be boasted of; its soil very indifferent; the

the country being mountainous, and overgrown with woods, affording very little either of arable or pasture-lands; but then it abounds in what the *Spaniards* esteem much more than even the necessaries of life; that is gold, of which there is more in this little province than in all *New Spain* besides, chiefly got out of the rivers, after rains or storms.

This province was settled as a reward of the extraordinary merits of the great admiral *Christopher Columbus*, the discoverer of this part of the world, and was granted not only to him, but to his posterity, in propriety with the title of dukes, which they hold to this day, and are of the richest families of *Spain*.

TRINIDAD, by some mistakenly called VERAGUA, is only an island: the trade of this place proceeds from the working of the neighbouring mines, where the slaves are compelled to dig and wash the earth in the adjacent rivers, in which bits of gold are often found, as big as peas.

CONCEPTION, is both a rich and large city, standing not far from the coast of the *North Sea*. Here reside the governor and others of the king's officers.

SANTA FE, is near the centre of this province: here the king of *Spain* keeps officers for casting and refining the gold which is produced in the mines near this town.

It has been thought very practicable to make a descent on this coast, even to take the city of *Conception*, during a war with *Spain*.

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## COSTA RICA, OR THE RICH COAST.

THE climate of this province is far from being good, and its soil is worse, being mountainous, barren, and woody; which description ill suits with its name; but these places received their appellations when they were

first discovered, and of course acquired such denominations as suited best with the notions of those who imposed them. The reason they call this *Costa Rica* was, because its inhabitants were possessed of a great deal of gold, and parted with it freely : whence the *Spaniards* concluded they procured it without difficulty, and that there was abundance of it in this country : however they were in some measure deceived ; for as the gold was chiefly taken out of their rivers, so the quantity decreased in proportion as the people diminished, who were wont to search for it ; a work which none of the *Indians* are much inclined to now. Mines however there are in this country, both of gold and silver, though not so rich as formerly.

The only place of note in this province is the *Rio de Sucre*, called by the *English* the *Sugar River*, so named from the many sugar works erected on it : the country through which it runs produces great plenty, which the *Spaniards* chiefly consume in sweet-meats and preserves.

CARTHAGE, which is the capital, is seated in the heart of this province, about midway between the North and South-Seas. It is a bishop's see, and has a *Spanish* governor : the merchants residing here are esteemed rich, and are said to carry on their trade by land to *Panama*, and by sea to *Puerto Velo*, *Cartagena*, and the *Havana*.

## N I C A R A G U A.

THIS province extends from the North to the South-Sea. The air is the best and clearest in the whole kingdom of *Mexico*, and the soil most excellent : it abounds with corn and with fruits, as also with very fine timber : wax, cordage, tar, and sugar are the principal commodities it affords. One may guess how pleasant and plentiful a country this is, by its being called the *Paradise of Mahomet*. What adds much to its beauty is the noble lake of the same name, which is near 130 leagues in circuit, and extending within 20 miles of the South-Sea. This lake runs into the North-Sea



sea by a canal, which is narrow and full of bars and shoals; near the mouth of it, where it is not above a mile over, is the castle of *St. John*, about 50 leagues from *Granada* that commands the channel. This lake abounds with fish, which are so much the better, on account of its having a flux and reflux, like the sea. The navigation of the lake is managed by flat-bottom boats built at *Granada*, that trade to *Puerto Velo* and *Cartagena*, but in a very tedious, tho' not dangerous manner, chiefly on account of idleness and want of application in the *Spaniards*, who, from being very active and vigorous as they were when they first settled in this country, are now become slow, cautious, and so wedded to their own opinions, that custom is always a stronger argument than reason. It is said confidently, perhaps not without truth, that there is a great deal of smuggling carried on by the help of this navigation, which certainly might be used to a much better purpose than it is, if the possessors of this country were of the same disposition with other nations.

But because the river, which issues from the lake, and falls by three mouths or channels into the North-Sea, is interrupted with cataracts, they trouble not themselves about it, as they are afraid, if they should take pains to remove these difficulties, and to open a commodious port on this side, it might invite enemies to think, not only of plundering, but of taking possession of it; to prevent which, the instructions from the king of *Spain* to the governor of *St. John's* castle is, not to permit any *British* subject to pass either up or down this lake, for the *Spaniards* say, if once the *English* come to a knowledge of the importance and value of this lake, they will soon make themselves masters of this part of the country.

LEON, the capital city of the province of *Nicaragua*, is large and populous; it stands at the edge of the lake, 20 miles distant from the South-Sea. The plain in which it is seated is sandy, surrounded on every side with fine meads. The houses are not high built, but strong and large, with gardens about them; their walls stone, and their covering pantiles. It is the see of a bishop, (under the archbishop of *Mexico*) who has a cathedral and palace, and likewise the residence of a *Spanish* governor, appointed by the viceroy of *Mexico*. Here

are five monasteries, and three parish churches. In 1685 it was taken and plundered by our buccaniers under the command of *Swan* and *Townley*, who burnt it to the ground ; but it has since been rebuilt and fortified ; it has a port on the South-Sea, called *Rialexa*, which stands in a plain, by a small river, and serves not only for carrying on the trade of *Leon*, but of *Guatemala*.

GRANADA is a city situated on the east side of the lake of *Nicaragua*, is very large, has three churches, with several convents, and a numerous clergy ; this city, which is about 25 miles from *Leon*, is more populous, and much better built of the two ; and is withal a place of far greater trade, as having the conveniency of sending goods by the lake to *Cartbagena* and other places ; it is defended by a castle, and as much frequented as any city in the *Spanish* territories. It was taken in 1686 by the *French* and *English* free-booters, who plundered and set fire to it.

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## HONDURAS,

IS the largest province in the audience of *Guatemala*, extending from east to west above a hundred leagues in length, and near fourscore in breadth. Though the *Spaniards* claim this country, the *English* have been long in possession of the logwood tract in the bay of *Honduras*, cutting large quantities of it there every year ; and the *Musquito Indians*, to the east of this province, have entered into treaties with the *English*, and received them with great friendship into their country. The air is extremely fruitful : it abounds with corn, both *European* and *Indian* ; its pastures are rich and fine, and maintain vast quantities of cattle. The rivers of this province, most of them, overflow like the *Nile*, and contribute thereby to the richness of the soil. Its principal commodities are cotton, wax, *Vigonia* wool, logwood, &c. besides gold and silver, of which antiently there was more than there is now, the *Indians* in this province being worn out, and with them the mines also. It produces great quantities of extraordinary large gourds, or calabashes ;  
which

which the *Hispaniola Indians* call *Hibueras*; and the first discoverers, seeing many of them float along the coast, called it *Golfe de Hibueras*, and the province itself *Hibuera*: yet afterwards, finding very deep water at the great cape of this country, they called it *Cabo de Honduras*, i. e. the promontory of the depth, and the country itself *Honduras*. The vineyards bear twice a year; for immediately after the vintage, the vines are cut again, and the second grapes are ripe before *Christmas*. The ancient inhabitants, being extremely slothful, sowed so sparingly, that they were often in want, and forced to feed on roots, and even on vermin and carrion. The country was once exceeding populous, till it was thinned by the *Spaniards*. The natives, instead of a plough, use a long pole with two crooked staves at the end; the one bent downwards, the other upwards. The east part of this province is possessed by the *Mosquitos*, which we shall here describe.

The *MUSQUITOS* is a small nation of *Indians*, never conquered by the *Spaniards*; the country being so situated as to render any attempts against them impracticable: for they are surrounded on all sides by land with morasses, or inaccessible mountains; and by sea with shoals and rocks; besides they have such an implacable hatred to the *Spaniards*, for their inhumanity and cruelty in destroying many millions of their neighbours, that they would never have any correspondence with them; for whenever they sent any missionaries, or other agents, amongst them, they constantly hide them, i. e. put them to death. They call the *Spaniards* in derision, *little breeches*, and reproach the *English* with folly in releasing them when taken prisoners of war.

Notwithstanding this, they are a mild inoffensive people, of much morality and virtue, and will never trust a man who hath once deceived them, or forfeited his word.

None of them have more than one wife, with whom they never part, unless for adultery, which is very seldom known amongst them; and so great a regard is shewn to those who are married, that precedence is always given to them, even from the elder to the younger, if the latter happens to be married and the other is not.

They

They have no kind of vice amongst them, nor any occasion for magistrates to decide differences, and preserve the peace. They have some notions of a supreme being, and pay their adorations to the sun, which they suppose influences every thing, and governs the world. They likewise use a ceremony in the burial of their dead, who are sewed up in a mat, and not laid in their grave length ways, but upright on their feet, with their faces directly to the east.

When the duke of *Albemarle* was governor of *Jamaica*, the *Musquitos* put themselves under the protection of the crown of *Great-Britain*, and their king received a commission from his grace under the seal of that island. They have ever since been steady in their alliance with the *English*, and very useful to them on many occasions.

When the king dies, the next male heir goes to *Jamaica*, with three or four principal men, to certify that he is next in blood, and receives in form a commission to be king of the *Musquitos*; and till this is obtained, he is not acknowledged by them, though after all, he is little more than a nominal king unless they are at war, having no revenues, and very few prerogatives; being obliged, in time of peace, to fish and fowl for the support of himself and his family. He hath indeed some distinction shewn him, and now and then presents made him by the governor of *Jamaica*, and the *English* traders, who frequently touch there. Neither hath he any guards; and yet we never heard of any plot, rebellion, or insurrection in that kingdom.

The *Musquitos* have a very great affection for the *British* nation; and are so fond of every thing that belongs to us, that they are never easy till they have obtained an *English* name. Our seamen give the common people such christian and surnames as they think proper; and their war captains, or great men, the titles of some of our principal nobility.

VALADOLID, called by the *Indians*, *Comayagua*, is the principal city in the province of *Honduras*. It stands on a river at the distance of eighty miles from the sea, and is pleasantly seated in a valley, and for a *Spanish* inland city well inhabited. It is a bishopric which was removed in 1558 from *Truxillo*; is the

the residence of the governor of the province, and the place where the silver is refined, which is dug in the adjacent mountains. The country adjacent produces fine cotton, and as fine wool on the backs of their sheep.

ST. JAGO, OR ST. GEORGE DE OLANCHO, is situated in a delightful valley on the east of the river *Xagua*, seventy miles from the bay: it is said, that formerly this town was inhabited by 4000 *Spaniards*, who had with them 6000 tributary *Indians*, but when captain *Cook* was here, the *Spanish* families were reduced to 40. This town was plundered and destroyed by the buccaniers.

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## TRUXILLO,

FORMERLY stood about a league from the bay, between two rivers, the mouths of which, with some islands, formed the harbour; which, by some, was called the port of *Truxillo*, by others *St. Giles's* bay, and was defended by a castle. It is said to be the only harbour on this coast capable of trade. In 1588 the bishops see was removed from this town to *Valladolid*. It has been frequently attacked by the *English* and *Dutch*, the latter of whom, in 1663, took the castle, and carried their plunder to a watch-house on the shore; but a fire broke out in the city, which in a few hours reduced two thirds of it in ashes, blew up the magazine, and consumed great part of their booty. The town afterwards was attempted to be rebuilt, but could never recover its trade; since which it is reported to have been destroyed by an earthquake. The country abounds with *Indians*: there are but very few *Spaniards*, and but little if any remains left of this once populous city.

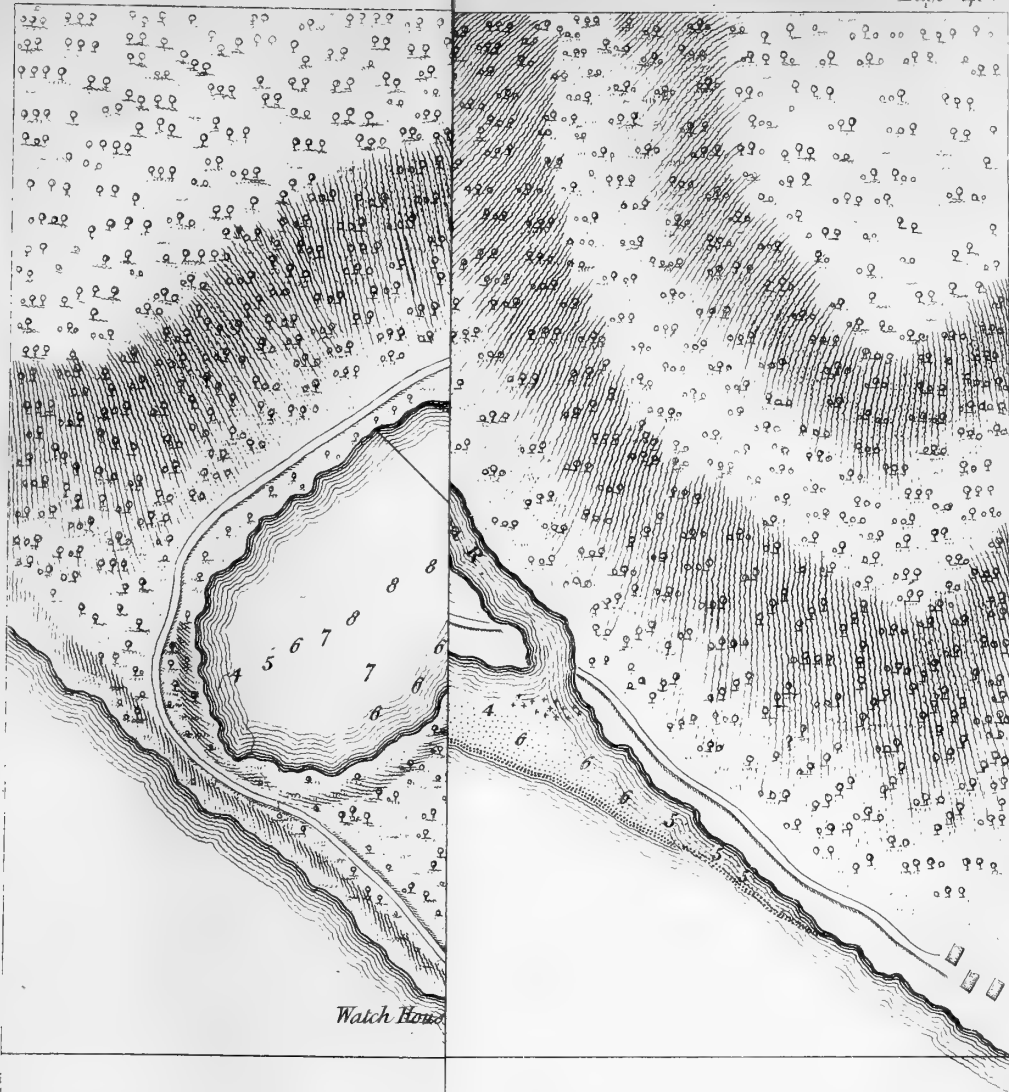
## P U E R T O D E C A V A L L O S,

**I**S a small town, on the east side of the entrance into the *Golfo Dolce*; it was heretofore a famous port of the city of *Guatemala*, to and from which all commodities were carried on horseback, by a road cut through the rocks, from whence some think it had the name *Cavallos*, i. e. *horses*; but *d'Acosta* derives it from a storm here, wherein the *Spaniards* were obliged to throw their horses overboard. Captain *Newport*, an *Englishman*, arriving here in 1591, found a considerable booty; but the town was deserted by the *Spaniards*, who had magazines here for the goods that were brought from the inland parts, which were burnt together with the town; and the place being taken six years after by Capt. *Shirley*, the *Spaniards* removed the trade to *Amatique*, where they built and fortified the village of *St. Thomas de Castilla*, a very strong place in the province of *Vera Paz*.

## S A N F E R N A N D O D E O M A O,

**I**S situated near the entrance of the *Golfo Dolce*, in 15 degrees 18 minutes north latitude. This place has lately been fortified by the *Spaniards*, with an intent to curb the *Musquito-men* on the one hand, and the Logwood-cutters and bay-men on the other. It is a very good harbour, with safe anchorage from the north and east winds, in eight fathom water. The plan of this port was drawn by lieutenant *Young* of the *Viper-sloop* a few years ago, since which they have erected a fort.

THE



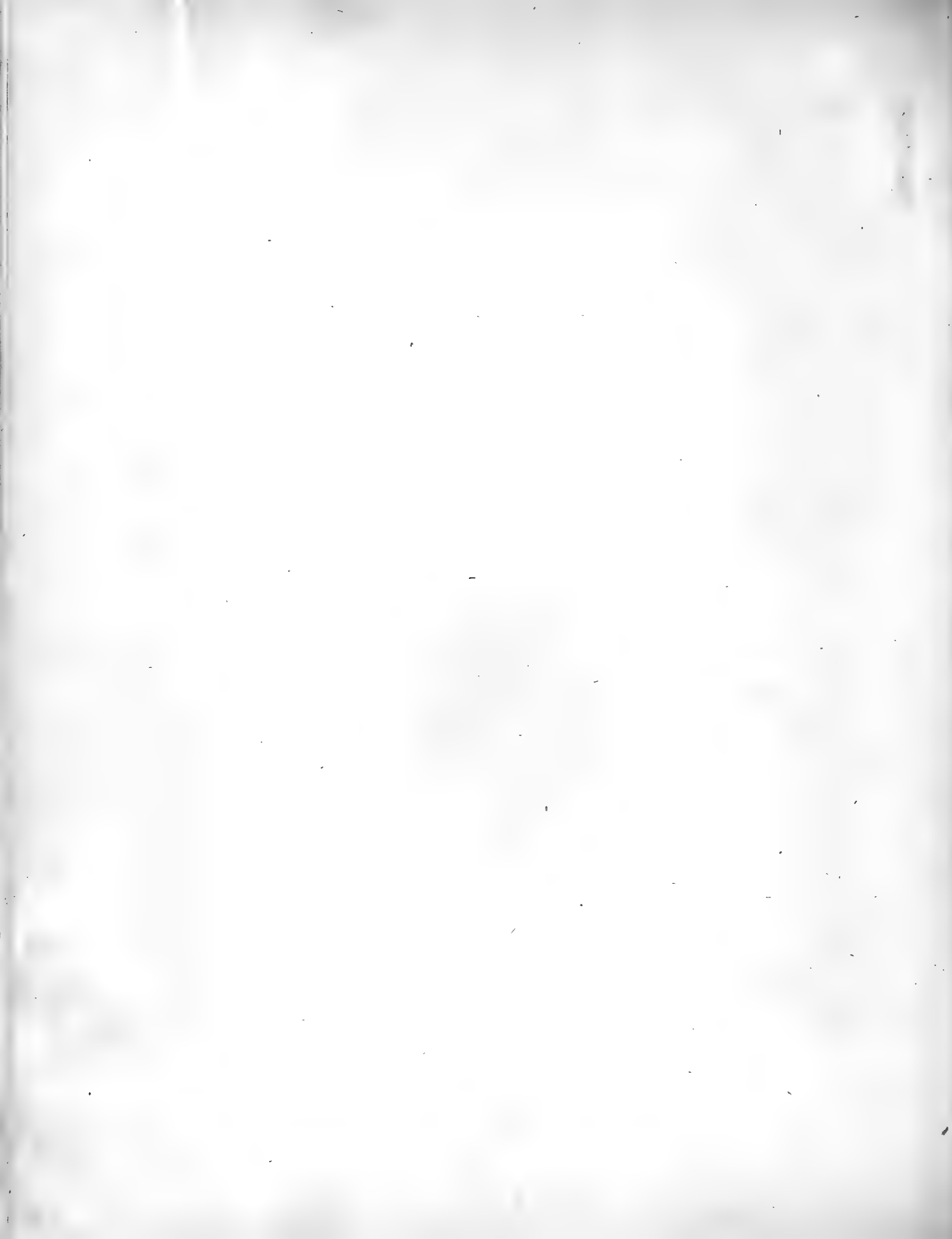
PLAN  
of the  
HARBOUR  
of  
SAN FERNANDO de OMOA.

T. Jefferys sculp.









## THE BAY OF HONDURAS,

IS noted for the great quantities of logwood that are cut there. In this bay are several small islands, formerly used for the pearl fishery: but fewer pearls are now found here, and those not so large as formerly, that fishery in a manner being disused.

The cutting of logwood being so much complained of by the *Spaniards*, and assigned by them as a just provocation for their depredations on the *English*, before the commencement of the late war, we shall here give a brief account of it.

The country where the *English* cut their logwood, is all a flat, and a great part of it a morass, with several lagunes, which are very often overflown. In the dry season, when the cutters have found a good number of trees, they build a hut near them, where they live. After cutting down a tree, they chip off the bark, and lay it in heaps, marking paths to each, that when the rains come which overflow the ground, they are as so many channels where they go with small currents and land them, bringing them sometimes thirty miles to the *Barcaderas*, whence the buyers fetch it at five pounds a ton, *Jamaica* money. During the floods, the cutters dwell at the *Barcaderas*, which are 42 miles up the river, where they have huts built on high banks to secure them from the waters. As soon as they have notice of any vessels arrival at the mouth of the river, they flock down to purchase whatever they want.

The cutters of logwood were originally settled in the bay of *Campeache*; but having been disturbed by the *Spaniards*, removed to the bay of *Honduras*, where they support themselves by force of arms, being about 1500 in number, masters and servants. At the season they follow the wood, which runs in a line of some miles, like a vein of minerals in the earth; and sometimes they run over a great many miles, without finding a stick of it. The ships that come into the bay are always on their guard; for they fetch the logwood down in flat-bottom boats in the night, and take it on board in the day. But the neck of this trade has been broken in the bay of *Campeache*, since the year 1722, when five *Spanish* frigates took or burnt twelve *English* ships

belonging to the northern colonies, destroyed all the logwood they had cut, and put the cutters to the sword.

Some trees of the logwood grow very tall and strait; though mostly low and crooked. They bear a small leaf, and have a prickly underwood like our white thorn in both these respects. It blossoms and bears seed; which, by falling off, sows the ground from which it springs up, and its vegetation is much forwarded by the inundations bringing the soil over it. All the rivers and creeks in the bay of *Honduras* swarm with alligators, guanos, and several sorts of fish.

Among the little islands in the bay are great numbers of green turtle, mostly caught in nets. The manatee is also frequently met with here; which the *Moskito Indians* are employed to strike, they being excellent marksmen. The *Jew fish*, which exceeds all the rest in goodness, is shaped somewhat like a cod, but thicker in proportion, and much better eating. They have very broad scales, and some of them weigh 80 lb.

As there are in the bay of *Honduras*, many islands, keys, and reefs of rocks, which makes the navigation extremely dangerous, to those who are unacquainted with them, we shall describe some of the principal, beginning with *Santa Catalina*.

SANTA CATALINA and OLD PROVIDENCE are two islands, about seven leagues in circumference, situated  $13^{\circ} 10'$  north latitude, and  $79^{\circ} 30'$  west longitude, 50 leagues to the S. E. of cape *Gracios a Dios*. These islands are perhaps the best in the *West-Indies*, (in proportion to their bigness) both as to their healthful air and richness of soil, and capable of producing any thing the *West-Indies* afford; the sea is well stored with plenty of turtle and fish, and abundance of wild hogs are on the largest island. The natural produce of these islands is suttick, cedars, and several sorts of *West-India* woods: they are surprisingly free from those insects which are natural to the *West-Indies*, neither are there any snakes or poisonous animals to be found in them. In 1665 *Mansvelt* the pirate, sensible of the great convenience of these islands, in his descents on the *Spanish* main, took them, and joined them by a bridge, intending to raise provisions on them for his whole fleet, leaving a garrison and *French* governor,

vernor, who delivered them soon after to the *Spaniards*, who fortified them in a very strong manner with nine forts. Afterwards the *Spaniards* defended the forts against several attacks made by captain *Morgan*, who took them at last by a stratagem concerted between him and the *Spanish* governor.

RATTAN-ISLAND, is above 30 miles long and 13 broad, about 8 leagues distant from the coast of *Honduras*. This is a plentiful island abounding with wild hogs, deer, *Indian* conies, wild fowl, quantities of turtle, and fine fish, &c. Its soil in the vallies is rich and fertile, and will produce any thing in common with the rest of the *West-Indies*. There is very good oak grows upon this island, as likewise pine-trees of sufficient bigness to make masts and yards for merchant-ships. The south side is very convenient for shipping, having many fine harbours. The north side is defended by a reef of rocks that extend from one end of the island to the other, having but few passages through, and those of but small note, being mostly made use of by the turlers. This island is very well situated for trade both with the *Spaniards* at *Guatimala*, and the bay of *Honduras*. It is likewise very healthy, the inhabitants hereabouts generally living to a great age.

*Port Royal* the principal harbour on this island, is naturally fortified with rocks and shoals: the entrance is so narrow, that only a single ship can pass at a time.

## V E R A P A Z.

**T**HIS province received its name from an odd accident: it was brought under the obedience of the *Spaniards* by the preaching of certain monks. The soldiers, on their first entering the province, finding they had nothing to do, called it ironically *Tierre de Guerra*, (or *The Land of War*) but the graver sort of people, with much more propriety, *Vera Paz*, as much as to say *The Land of true Peace*. This province is but of small extent. As to the climate, the *Spanish* writers affirm that one half of the province is

very pleasant, and with all very healthy; whereas the other half is hot to the last degree, the air participating of all the ill qualities which can be expected from such a temperament. As to soil, the country is very rough and mountainous, yields very little corn, but abounds with cedar trees and other useful timber. The chief commodities are drugs, especially physical gums, of which they have plenty; as also sarsaparilla, *China* root, and mechoacan: formerly also there was some gold in the *Golfo Dulce*, but of late we do not hear much of it.

COBAN, by some called *Vera Paz*, the capital of this province, is a little neat city on a river, about 40 miles from the *Golfo Dulce*, was the see of a bishop, till it was united with that of *Guatemala*.

ASCABATLAN is a small town on a river about 40 miles from *Golfo Dulce*; the town is governed by a *Spanish* corregidor, whose power extends to *Golfo Dulce*, and over the towns in the way to it. There are many farms of cattle and mules in the neighbourhood, and it is very famous for musk melons, which the *Indians* carry on mules as far as *Guatemala*. The river on which this town stands is famous for the best fish in the country, particularly that called bobo, a round thick fish, as long as a man's arm, with only one bone in the middle, white like milk, and as fat as butter. They have good trout, very much resembling the taste of veal.

## GOLFO DOLCE,

IS a lake that runs into the bay of *Honduras*, having a little port at its mouth, with an old castle, called *St. Thomas de Castilla*. Here are many fishing vessels, but it is otherwise not much frequented, the air being unwholesome; though it is large enough for 1000 ships, with an entrance betwixt two rocks, which might easily be defended. Two or three vessels  
come:

come hither in *July* or *August*, with wheat and other goods from *Spain*, and take on board the produce of the country about *Guatimala*, of which great quantities are lodged here in the months of *July*, *August* and *September*.

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## G U A T I M A L A ,

**T**HE ancient city of this name, one of the finest in *New Spain*, was entirely destroyed in the year 1541, by a dreadful hurricane and earthquake, whereby one hundred and twenty thousand *Spaniards* lost their lives. It was built at the bottom of a volcano with two heads, from one of which issued fire, from the other water.

*St. Jago de Guatimala*, the present city, which is not only the capital of this province, but also of the audience of *Guatimala*, a place where the president and the royal courts reside, the seat of a rich bishop, and the centre of commerce in these parts, stands on a fine plain, about three leagues distance from the volcano, which was fatal to the old city: however it is far from being altogether out of danger from earthquakes, which are still frequent in those parts. It is, notwithstanding this, well built, and well inhabited, the citizens carrying on a great trade, not only through all the provinces of *Mexico*, but even into *Peru*, whereby some become extraordinary rich, who then, generally speaking, leave this place, and go to reside at *Mexico*. The chief commodities in which they deal are hides, indigo, anatta, silvester, cochineal, cocoa, &c. and indeed no city can be seated more conveniently for an extensive trade than this, and at the same time enjoy so great a security from the inroads of pirates and privateers, for it stands eight leagues from the South Sea, which is too far for the buccaneers to march without halting, and about forty leagues from the *Golfo Dolce* in the bay of *Honduras*, by which it also drives a great trade.

## THE AUDIENCE OF MEXICO,

**I**Ncludes the provinces of *Mechoacan*, *Mexico Proper*, *Panuco Tlascalá*, *Guaxaca*, *Tabasco* and *Yucatan*. This is by far the noblest part of the *Spanish* dominions. Its extent is very great, its soil fruitful, and though under the torrid zone, its climate indifferently cool, rich in all sorts of desirable commodities, gold, silver, and precious stones.

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## Y U C A T A N.

**T**HIS province is in all respects a most noble country, and as such deservedly commended by *Herrera*, and all the *Spanish* writers. The climate is pretty warm in the summer, which begins in the month of *April*, and ends in that of *September*. The winter season is indifferently cool, excepting the months of *January* and *February*, which are almost as hot as in the midst of summer; yet on the whole the country is very wholesome, especially a sort of mountainous tract, which runs across it, where when the *Spaniards* entered *America*, there were some *Indians* three hundred years old, and the natives still live to a vast age. The days and nights are pretty near equal all the year round; and this, with the sea breezes, makes the heat tolerable enough. The soil is indifferently good, produces plenty of corn, when sufficiently cultivated, and abounds with cattle of all sorts, but the principal commodity is logwood, for which the bay of *Campeache* is deservedly famous. But inasmuch as no mines have been discovered in this country, whatever plenty there may be of other useful things, the *Spaniards* are not fond of making settlements here, which without doubt is one great cause of its abounding so much with *Indians*. These, however live, generally speaking, in submissive obedience to the *Spaniards*. In the bay of *Campeache*, they are made use of in making salt, which is a very laborious employment, the poor creatures



creatures being forced to endure all extremities of weather, without either house or hut to protect them; they likewise keep their cattle, and do every servile office, though not without reluctance.

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### C A M P E A C H E',

**C**ALLED by the *Spaniards*, *San Francisco de Campeaché*, stands open to the sea: it makes a fine shew, being all built with stone. The houses are not high, but the walls very strong; the roofs flattish after the *Spanish* manner. When taken by the *Spaniards*, it was a large town of 3000 houses, and had considerable monuments both of art and industry. There is a good dock, and a strong citadel or fort, where a governor resides with a garrison which commands both the town and harbour.

The *English*, commanded by Sir *Christopher Mims* in 1659, stormed and took it only with small arms, and it was a second time taken by the *English* and *French* buccaneers by surprize in 1678. The port is large but shallow. It was a stated market for logwood, of which great quantities grew here, before the *English* landed in the neighbourhood, and cut it at the isthmus, which they entered at *Trieste* island, near the bottom of the bay, 40 leagues S. W. from *Campeaché*. The chief manufacture of the country, adjacent to this town, is cotton cloth, which is the clothing of the natives, and even of some of the *Spaniards* of the poorer sort.

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### T A B A S C O.

**T**HE extent of this province along the gulf of *Mexico* is a very narrow slip by the sea shore. Neither is the soil or climate much to be boasted of, the one being far from wholesome, and the other not over-fruitful. Our logwood-cutters used to frequent this place much, and procured

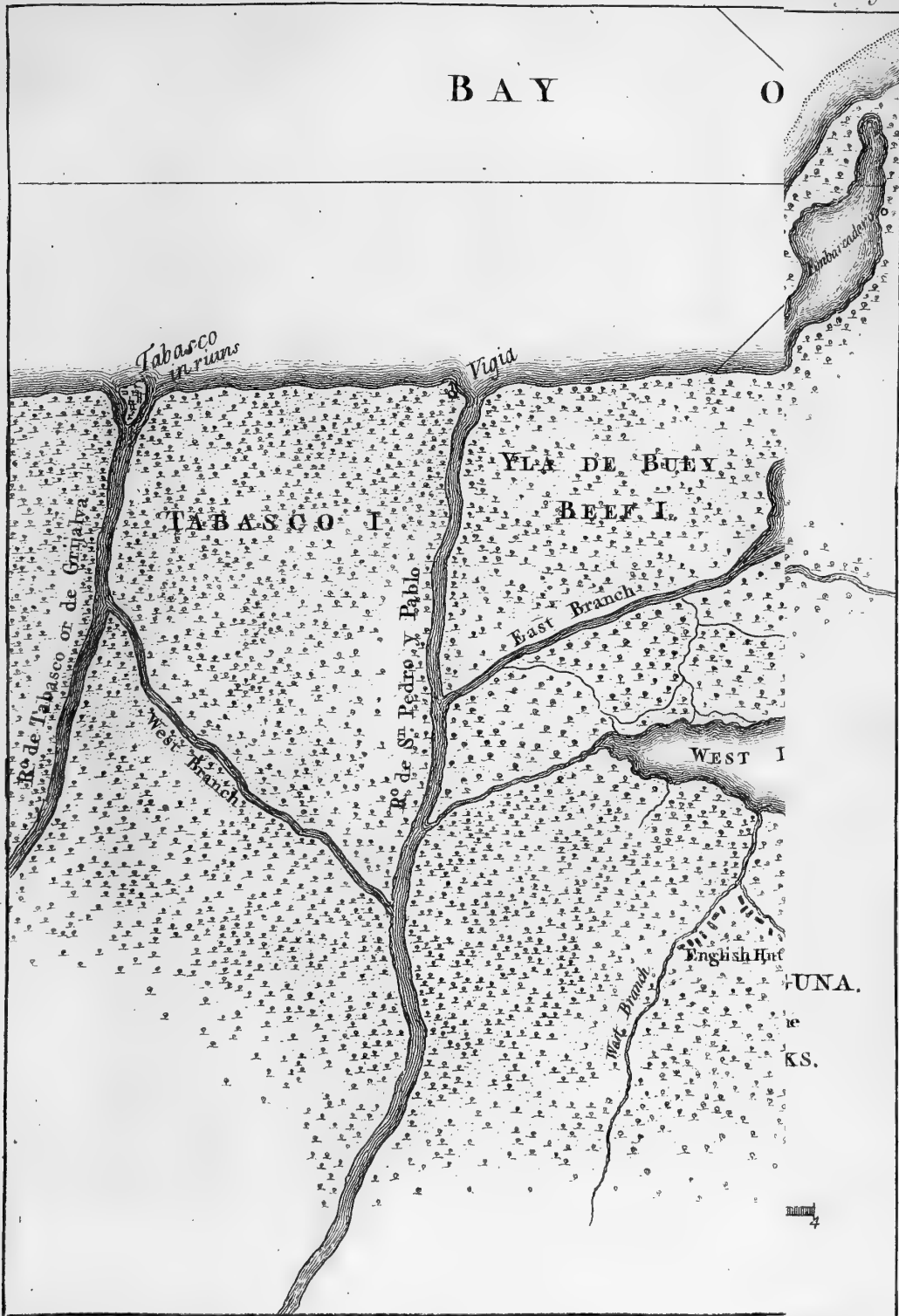
great advantage to themselves by trading with the *Spaniards*, who were very glad of any supplies of *European* commodities, having no ports of their own, and lying at a considerable distance from *La Vera Cruz*. There are no mines here, which is one reason perhaps why it is somewhat neglected; yet the people have good farms, well stocked with cattle, which yield them considerable profit; and besides, they have great plenty of cocoa, which they send laden on mules to *Vera Cruz*.

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## P O R T   R O Y A L   L A G U N A ,

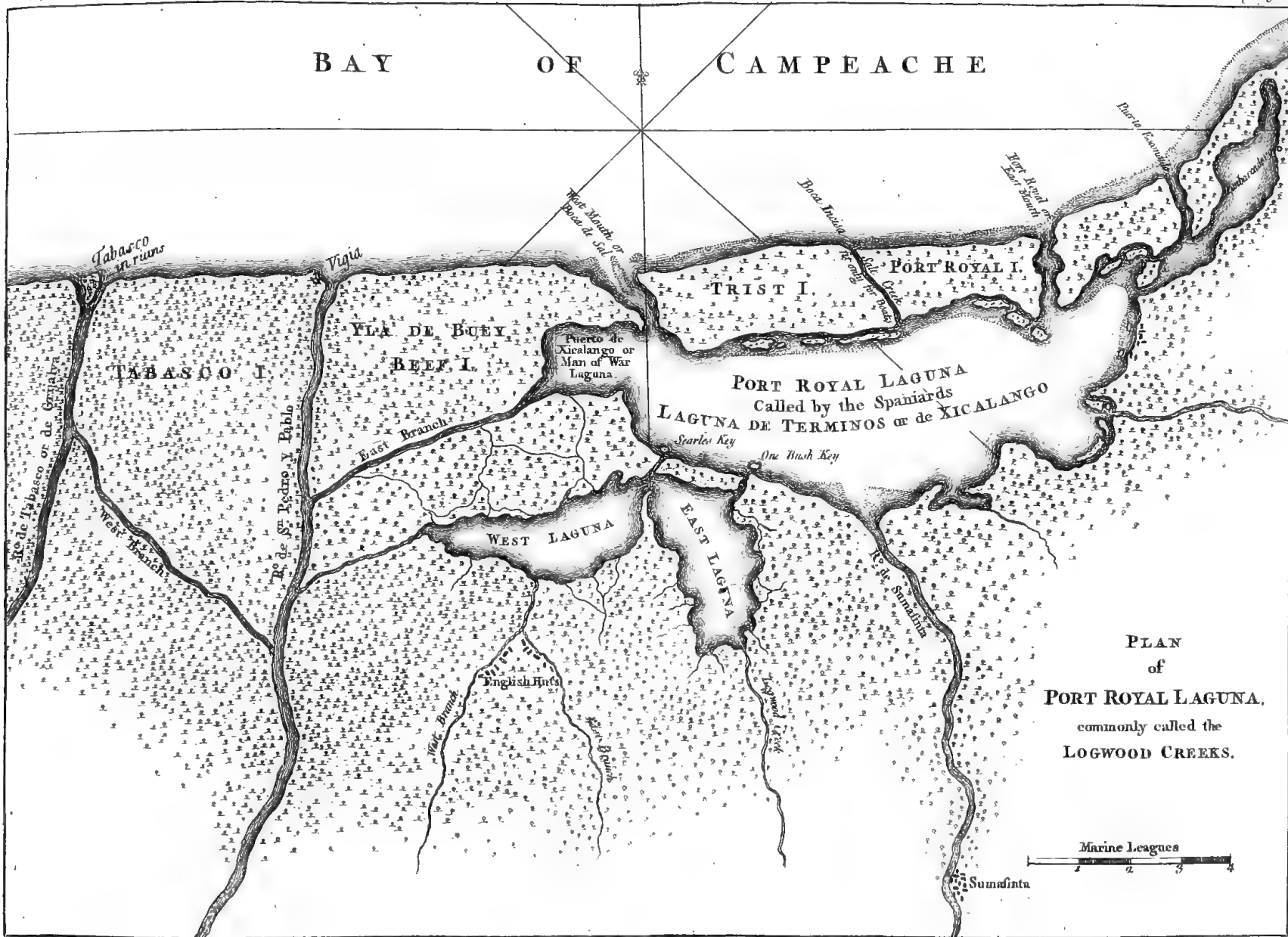
CALLED by the *Spaniards* *Laguna de Terminos*, or *de Xicalango*, is ten leagues in length, and near four leagues over, with one mouth at each end; the western is called *Bocca de Sal*, and the eastern *Port Royal*. There is a small island of the same name at the western side of this passage, three leagues from west to east, which is separated by a narrow creek from the island of *Trieste*, which is above four leagues long. There is another island, near seven leagues in length, called *Beef Isle*, because a *Spaniard* here used to furnish the privateers with beef. This isle is divided on the west side by the river of *St. Peter and Paul* from *Tabasco* island: the east branch separates this island from the continent on the south, running into a great lake called *Puerto Xicalango*, or *Man of war Laguna*, which empties into *Laguna Terminos*, near *Bocca de Sal*. The bar, which is above two miles broad, makes this harbour very difficult to enter, either in or out, having not more than twelve feet water, and if the sea is not very smooth, it is very dangerous for ships of any burthen to go over the bar. This port used formerly to be called the *Logwood Creek*, being the principal resort of the *English* for logwood.

The *Spaniards* having denied the right of the *English* to cut logwood in the bay of *Campeache*, just before the beginning of the last war, the matter was referred to the board of trade, who made a report, “ That the bay of *Campeache* might so far be called the property of *England*: that the *English*, “ for some years before, as well as after the *American* treaty in 1670, enjoy-  
“ ed





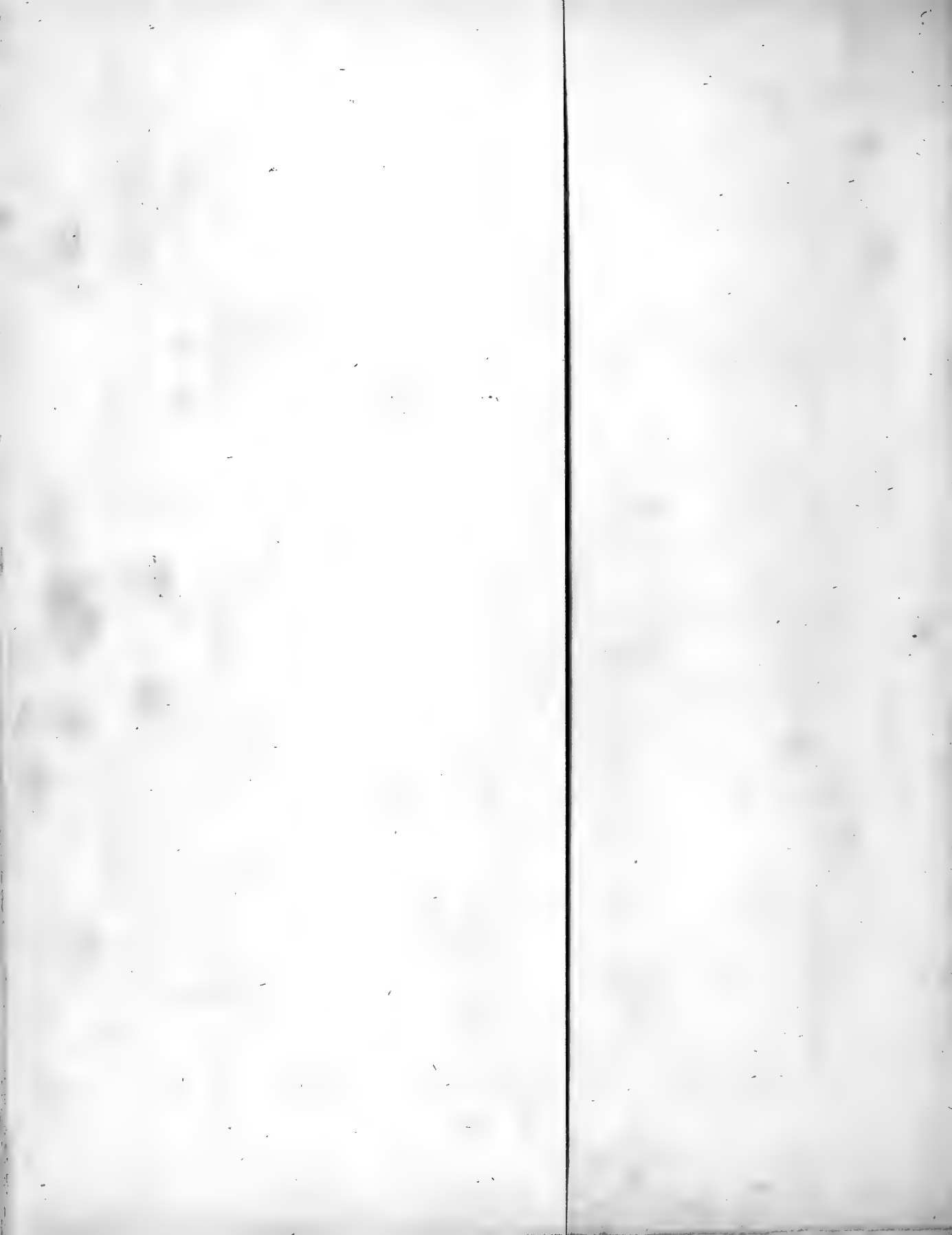
# BAY OF CAMPEACHE



PLAN  
of  
**PORT ROYAL LAGUNA,**  
commonly called the  
**LOGWOOD CREEKS.**



Sumadinta



“ ed an uninterrupted liberty of cutting logwood in the *Laguna de Terminos*,  
“ (which lies at the bottom of the bay) and other places not inhabited by the  
“ *Spaniards* in the province of *Yucatan*, either through right, sufferance, or  
“ indulgence : that the said treaty even established a right in the *British* crown  
“ to the said *Laguna* and parts adjacent, which had been for some years be-  
“ fore, as well as at the time of the treaty, in the possession of the *English*; and  
“ that though the right of the *British* crown to the said *Laguna* should not be  
“ insisted on, the same liberty was actually granted and confirmed by the  
“ treaty of commerce at *Utrecht*.”

TABASCO. A town called by the *Spaniards*, *Nuestra Senora de la Victoria*, i. e. Our lady of victory, because of a great one obtained here by *Cortez* on his first arrival. It lies on an island, at the mouth of the river *Grijalva*, where it is broad and shallow. The *Grijalva* divides itself near the sea into two branches, the western falls into the river *Tabasco*, which rises in the mountains of *Chiapa*; and the other runs till within four leagues of the sea, where it subdivides and separates *Beef-Isle* from the continent. The plains on the bank of this river, abound with cattle and other animals, particularly the mountain-cow, because it is very like that creature, and feeds on a sort of moss that grows on the woods near the great rivers. Eight leagues up this river, which is sometimes called *Tabasco River*, *Dampier* says, the *Spaniards* had a breast-work, and a small guard to watch the buccaneers, that formerly plundered the town called *Villa de Mosc*, (four leagues above this breast-work) which was inhabited both by *Spaniards* and *Indians*, who had a fort and a church there. He adds, that ships come up thus far with *European* goods; and take *Cacao* and other commodities of the country in return. This place is very much enriched by merchants and tradesmen who resort hither at *Christmas*.

## G U A X A C A,

**I**S a province as well situated as any in *America*, extending on the north to the gulph of *Mexico*, and on the south to the pacific ocean. The climate is tolerable, and the soil rich, producing two very valuable drugs, cochineal and vainillas, the former a rich dye, and the latter a valuable perfume; it grows in various parts of the kingdom of *Mexico*, but no where in such plenty as here; we will therefore take this opportunity to describe it. The *Vainilla* is a little cod full of small black seeds; it is four or five inches long, bigger than the the stem of a tobacco-leaf, but when dried, much resembling it; so that our privateers at first often threw them away, when they took any, wondering why the *Spaniards* should lay up tobacco-stems. This cod grows on a small vine, which climbs about and supports itself by the neighbouring trees: it first bears a yellow-flower, from whence the cod afterwards proceeds. It is at first green, but when ripe, it turns yellow; this the *Indians* (whose manufacture it is, and who sell it cheap to the *Spaniards*) gather and lay in the sun, which makes it soft, when it changes to a dark colour. Then they frequently press it between their fingers, till it becomes flat. The principal use of this perfume is to give a flavour to chocolate, and sometimes tobacco; in both which it is extremely agreeable. This province also abounds with an excellent breed of horses, and great herds of black cattle and sheep, the wool of which is manufactured by the clothiers of *Los Angeles*. There is also great plenty of mulberry-trees, so that this province might produce more silk than any other in *America*. Notwithstanding these advantages, the country of *Guaxaca* is but very thinly inhabited, for which no sufficient reason appears, since it wants not good ports both on the North, and in the South-Seas: in the gulph of *Mexico*, ships ride safely at the mouth of the river *Alvarado*. The capital of the province is an inland city of a middling size, and indifferently built, seated in a fair and fruitful plain: its proper name is *Antequera*; but it is commonly called *Guaxaca*. It is a bishop's see of considerable  
revenue,



revenue, and some rich families, descended from the old *Spanish* conquerors, have their habitation there.

It is asserted by some, that because the river is not fortified, this place might be very easily subdued, and great contributions levied, as there are in the neighbourhood many rich towns, churches and cloisters; the nuns in which are famous for making the best chocolate that is exported to *Spain*.

## T L A S C A L A.

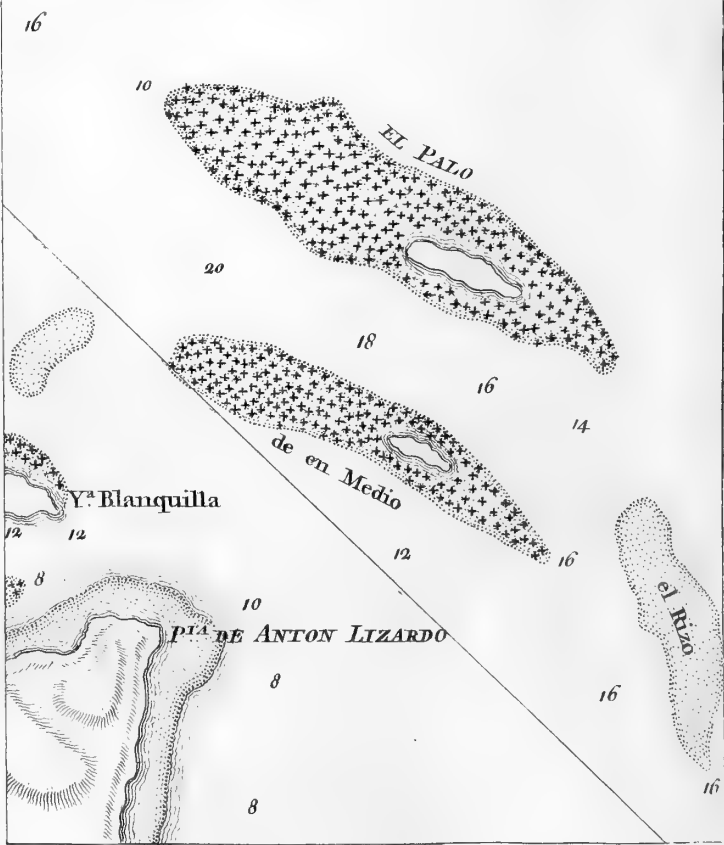
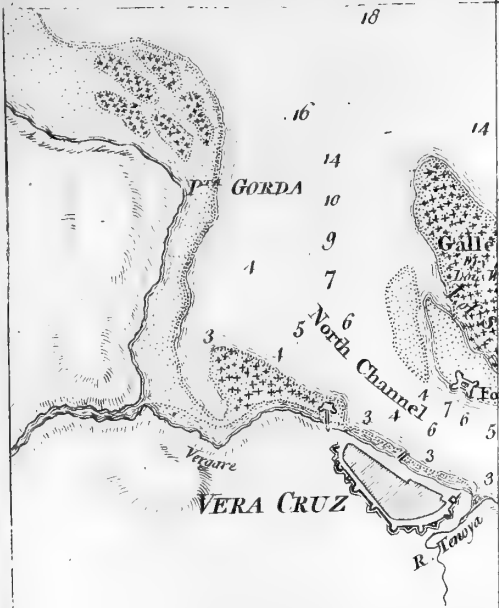
**T**HIS province has the happiness of lying both on the North and South-Seas. With regard to the climate and soil of this province, they are much the same with those of *Mexico*, only some think the former less variable, and the latter more fruitful. As it is perhaps the best seated, so it is beyond question, the most populous country in all *America*, which is owing to many causes; some of which it may not be improper to mention. In the first place we must observe that the *Tlascalans* were never conquered; but as they were originally the allies of *Cortez*, so by his recommendation, they have ever since been considered in that light by the *Spanish* government; which is perhaps the only true point of policy they pursue. By this means the villages and towns swarm with *Indians*, who are a quite different people from their neighbours: for, whereas the latter are grown senseless and stupid, through the long continuance of slavery and oppression, these have all the fire and spirit that is natural to a free people. They speak the *Spanish* tongue, and scarce any other: they are perfectly reconciled to the *Spanish* customs, and are so grateful for the countenance and respect shewed them, that it is conceived the government may more safely depend upon them than the *Mestizes*, though the latter are actually descended from *Spaniards*. One may very well wonder, that having such an instance before their eyes, the viceroy and his council do not treat the *Indians* in general better; perhaps they may have their reasons to the contrary, though to us they seem past finding out.

## L A V E R A C R U Z.

THE old town of this name having fallen to decay, and the port being very bad, occasioned the present town to be built 16 miles further to the east, where was a safe port well situated, and protected by a rock on which they built a fort called *St. John de Ulua*. *New Vera Cruz* is not a place of very great extent, no *Spaniard* of distinction residing here on account of its unwholesome situation between tracts of dry land on one side, and rank bogs on the other; yet, as to trade, this is one of the most considerable places perhaps in the world: it is the natural center of the *American* treasure, and the magazine of all the merchandize that goes out of *New Spain*, or is transported from *Europe*. It receives a vast quantity of *East-India* commodities over land every year from *Acapulco*: and the merchants here carry on a great trade through *America*, being protected by the *Barvolento* fleet, which is a small squadron employed to clear the coast from pirates and interlopers, and which comes hither constantly in *October*.

When the flota, which is always obliged to winter here, arrives and unloads the goods from *Old Spain*, and takes in those of *Mexico*, as well as the merchandize that comes from the *Philippine* islands, by the *Acapulco* ships, a fair is opened in this town, which lasts many weeks, sometimes till the ships are ready to depart: then this place may be said to be immensely rich; but the most wealthy merchants not only reside at the city of *Los Angeles*, the far greater part of the year, but also keep their silver there, till such time as the flota is just ready to go off, which ought regularly to be in *May*, but is sometimes detained till *August*; therefore, the constant inhabitants of this place are only *Mulattos* and *Mestizes*, with a few *Spanish* factors. The inhabitants, slaves and all, are computed at about 3000, and the city is about half a *Spanish* league in compass. The streets are very regular, and the buildings, for most part of timber, decently furnished with porcelaine, and china goods; and their churches magnificently adorned with plate. The soil it stands in

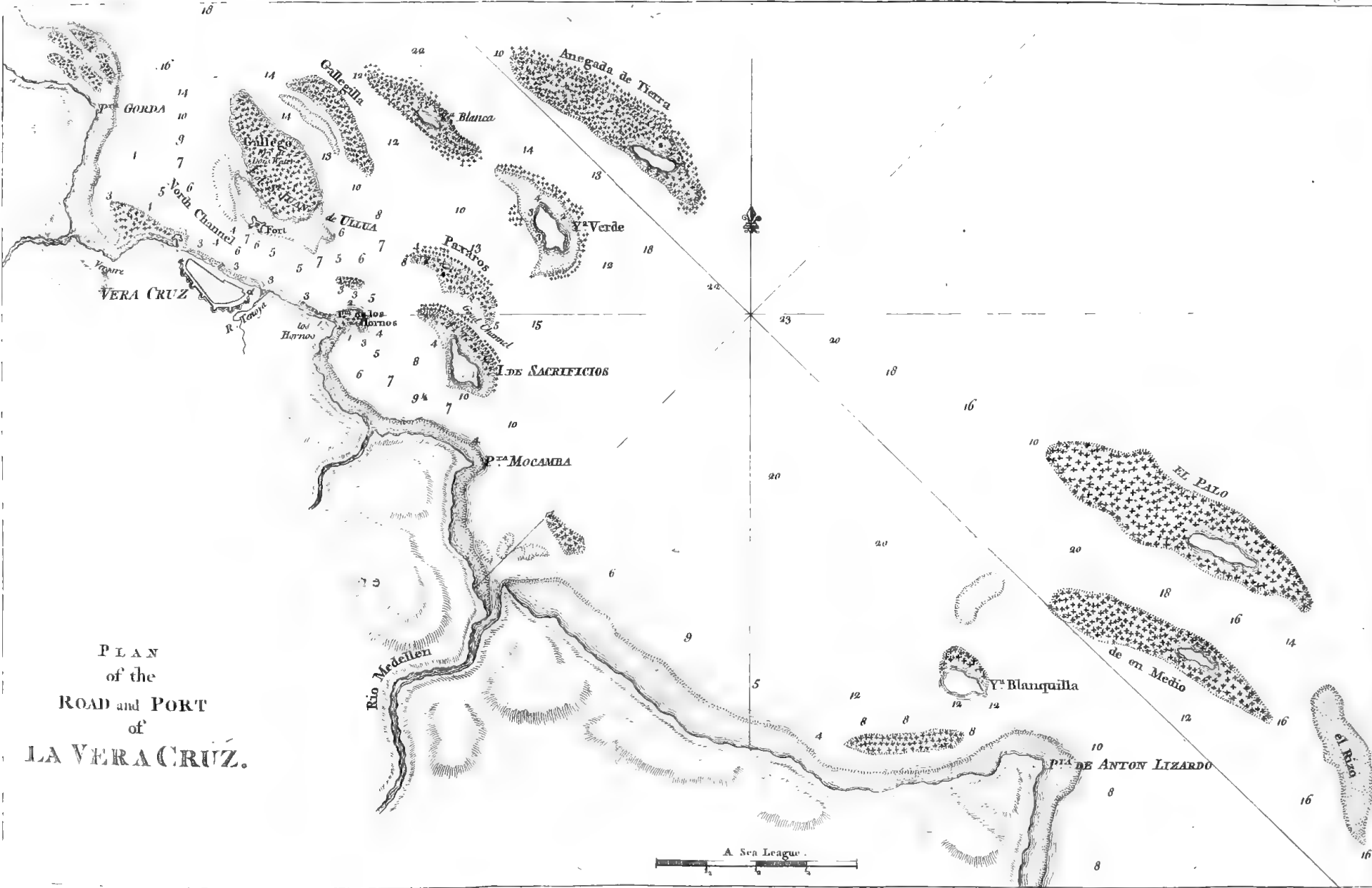
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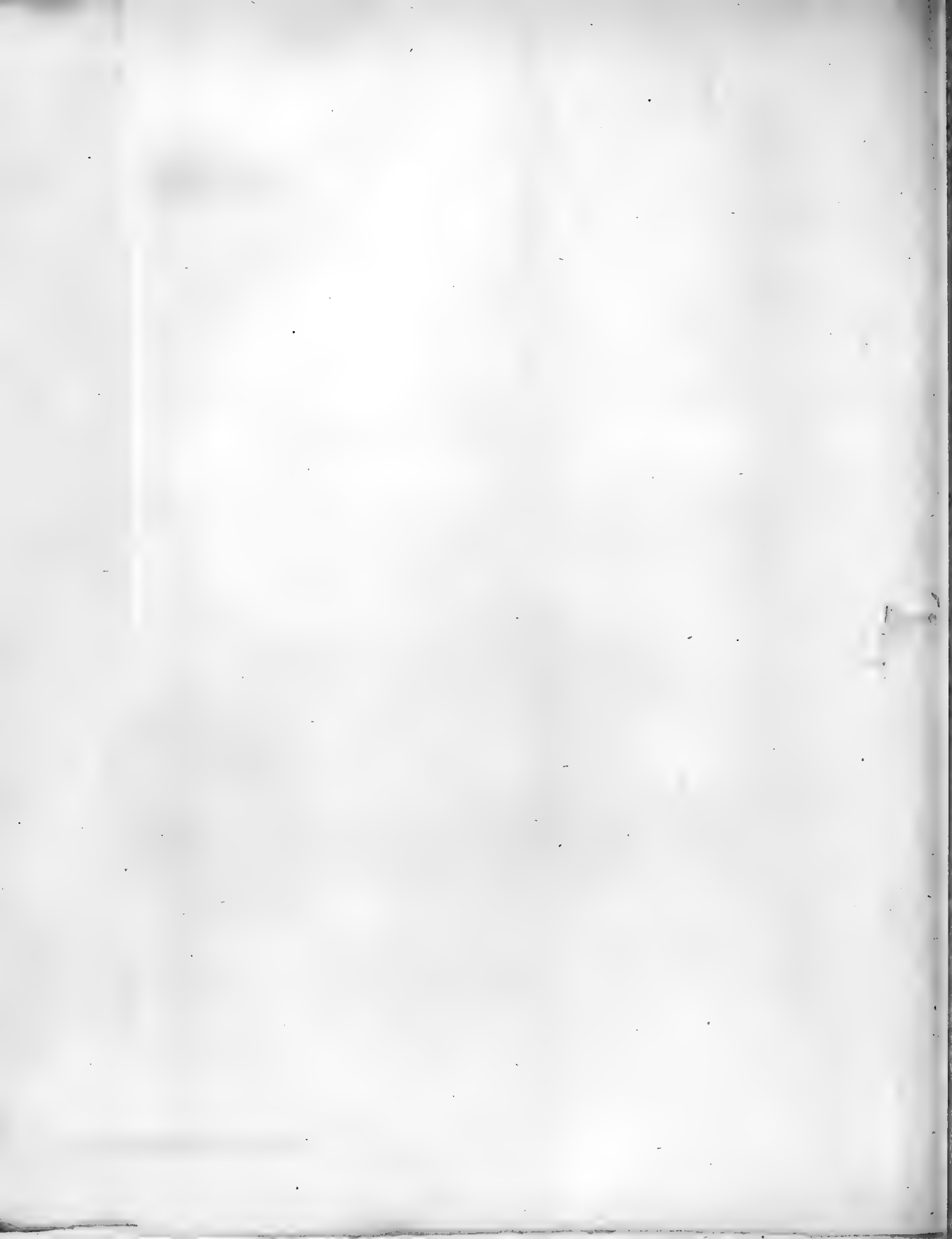
PLAN  
of the  
ROAD and PORT  
of  
LA VERA CRUZ.



18



PLAN  
of the  
ROAD and PORT  
of  
LA VERA CRUZ.



is barren, so that their provisions are far fetched, and dear bought. *Vera Cruz* having been taken and plundered by the buccaneers several times, the *Spaniards* have built forts, and keep centinels all along the coast, their ordinary garrison consisting only of 60 horse, and two companies of foot.

The old town stood about a mile from the shore, which was first discovered by *Grijalva* in 1518. Next year *Cortez* built a town here, and with great ceremony gave it the name of *Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz*. It was called *Villa Rica* on account of the gold that was found there by *Grijalva*; and the surname of *La Vera Cruz* was added, because *Cortez* arrived here on a *Good Friday*, and was determined to conquer the country or die, having for that purpose sunk the ships that brought his handful of men hither, that they might have no hopes of ever going back again by sea. Here it was that the first 500 *Spaniards* fortified themselves against millions of the *Indians*. It stands in a spacious flat, on the north side of a river, which is quite dry some part of the year, but at other times runs very strong.

The men are haughty, and fond of state and ease, for which reason they are slothful, though they understand trade very well. They are also very superstitious, wearing great strings of beads about their necks, and fill their houses with pictures and images of their saints. They live mostly on chocolate and sweet-meats, are extremely sober, and eat little flesh. The women are obliged to keep above stairs from conversation of the men, and very rarely go abroad; at which time those of figure go in a coach or a chair, and the rest in fine silk veils, from the crown of their heads to their feet, with only a small opening on the right side for them to see their way. In their houses they wear nothing over their shifts, but a silk petticoat, laced with gold or silver, and only a ribbon plaited on their hair, with gold bracelets, and chains about their necks, and emerald pendants at their ears.

The unhealthy season here is chiefly from about *April* to *November*, during which it rains almost continually; but for the rest of the year this is a very pleasant place, the wind and the sun tempering each other without rain. For 45 miles towards *Mexico*, the country is hot and sickly, but from thence the climate begins to be more temperate.

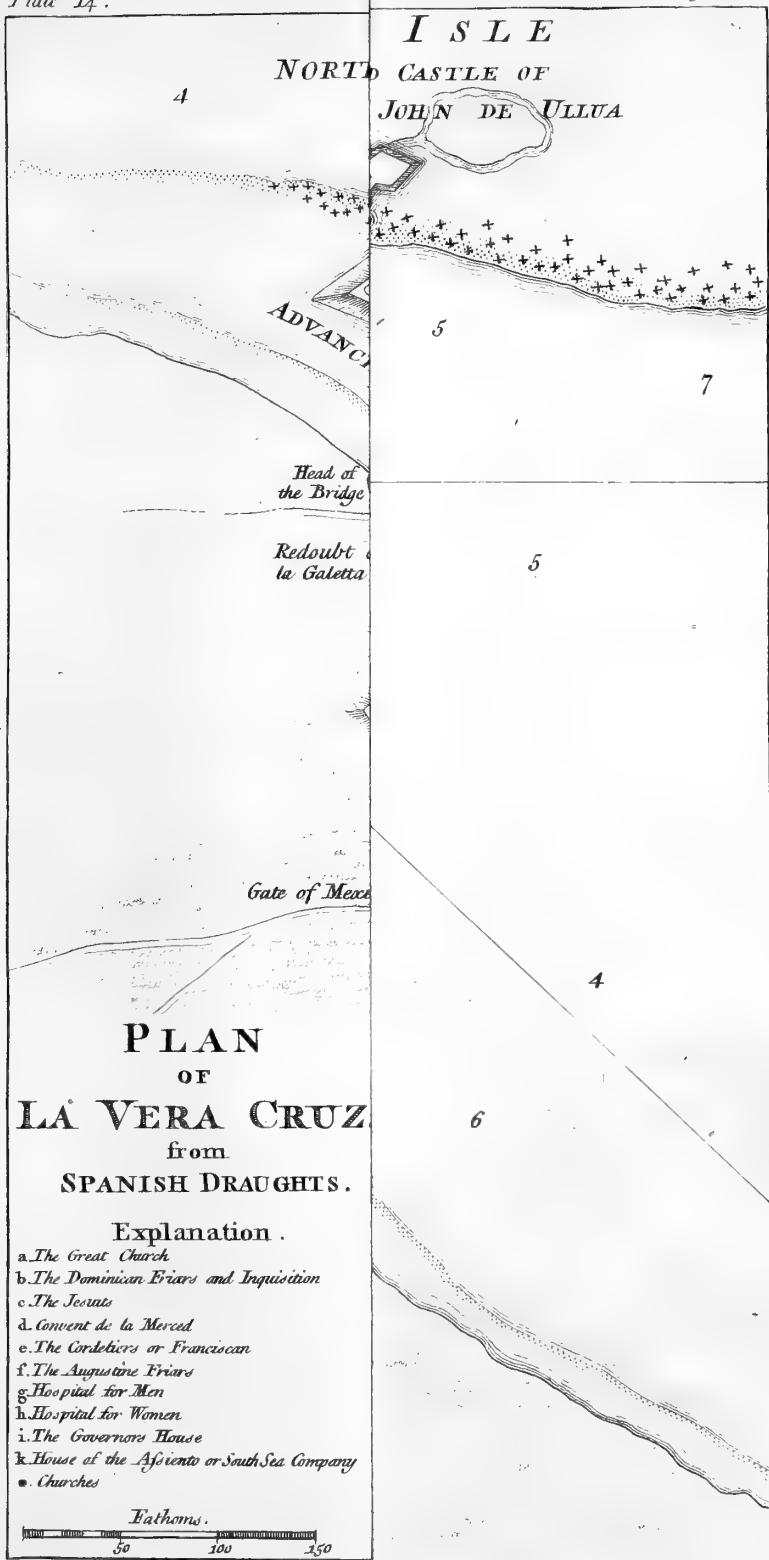
In the neighbourhood of *Vera Cruz*, there grows the nopal, a species of the *Tuna*, or prickly pear, but without thorns, on which the *Cochineal* is found.

Cochineal are small animals, with a beak, eyes, feet and claws, which creep, climb, seek their food, and bring forth young without changing their species, as silk worms do; but producing their like; are no larger than nits, or small mites, or the point of a needle; but when come to maturity, resemble both in size and figure a dog's-tick. They are generated, as is commonly believed by those who cultivate them, by a small butterfly, bred upon the nopal, (the plant they live upon) which, in passing and repassing over them, impregnates these insects.

As to the manner of raising, nourishing, and managing them, it appears, that at the proper season, namely, after winter (when these little animals can bear the open air) as soon as the cochineals, which they have kept in their houses, are grown large enough to produce young ones, they put 12 or 14 together into a paste, or little nest, made of fine soft hay, straw, moss, trees, or the down which immediately envelopes the cocoa-nut. These pastes are then placed upon the plants of the nopal, or prickly *Indian fig*, (which they take care to cultivate well for this purpose) and in two, three or four days these animals bring forth a great many young ones; soon after which the dams die. In the mean while, the young ones, coming out of the nests, climb up the nopal, fix themselves to it, and suck its juices, which is their only nourishment, but they do not eat the plant; and, for this reason, they always seek those parts of it that are greenest, and fullest of juice, taking care at the same time to place themselves on the parts most sheltered from the wind and weather. During this time, whilst they are growing up and become pregnant, great care is taken that no vermin incommode or kill them, as also to keep them clean, and disengage them from certain threads like cobwebs, that grow upon the nopal, as likewise to defend them from too much heat or cold, and from the rain or winds; because the fine cochineals are very tender: nevertheless the wild cochineals stand all these inconveniencies; but then they are so gritty, of so ill a smell, and of such little value, that they ought not to be mixed with the fine.

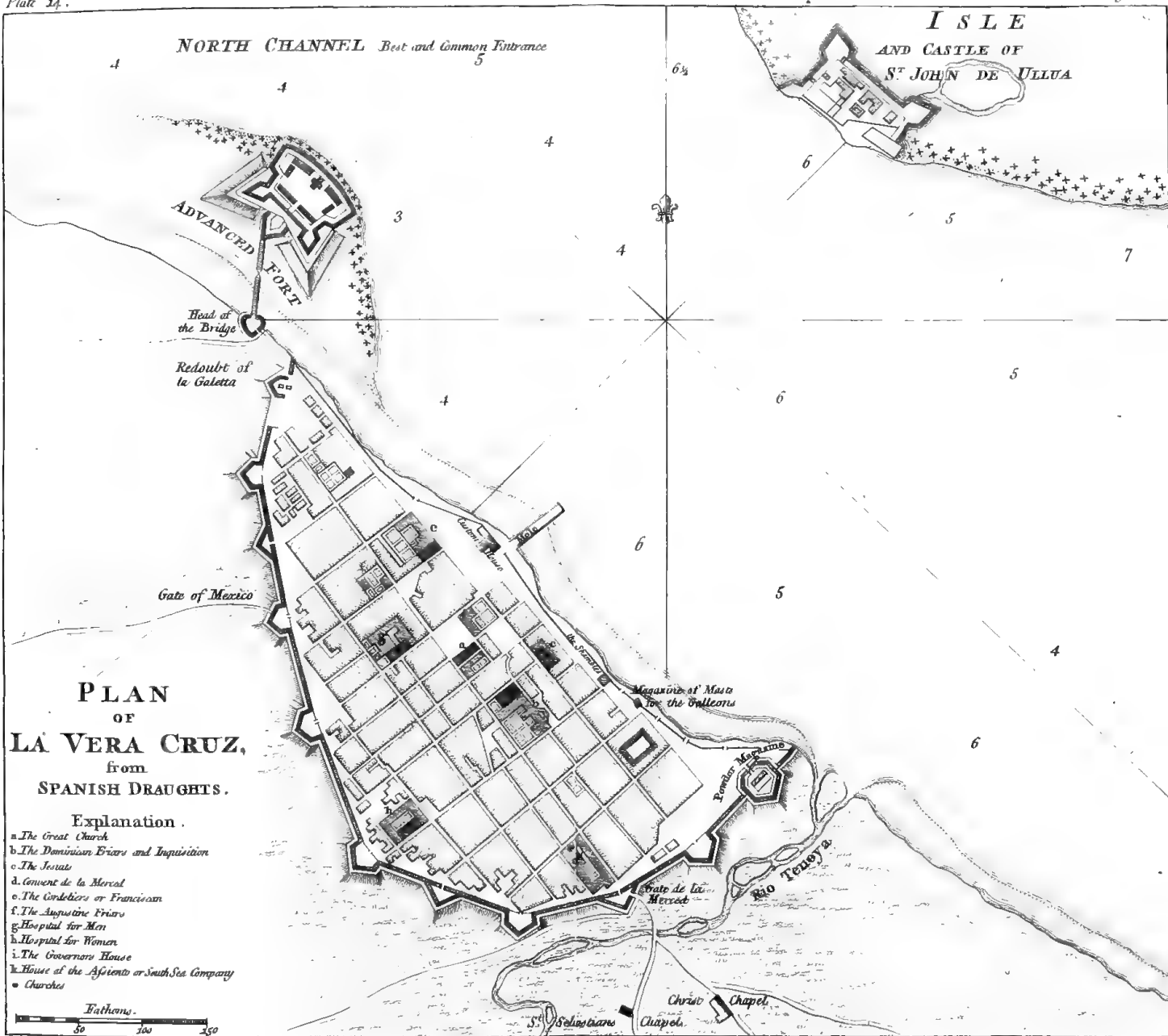
As





*A. Jefferys sculp.*





**PLAN**  
OF  
**LA VERA CRUZ,**  
from  
**SPANISH DRAUGHTS.**

**Explanation.**

- a. The Great Church
- b. The Dominion Errors and Inquisition
- c. The Jesuits
- d. Convent de la Merced
- e. The Cordeliers or Franciscan
- f. The Augustine Friars
- g. Hospital for Men
- h. Hospital for Women
- i. The Governours House
- k. House of the Agents or South Sea Company
- Churches

Fathoms.





As to gathering the cochineal; the first is of the dams, which, having brought forth their young, died in their nests. Three or four months after this, as the season permits, when the first young ones are become sufficiently large, and in a state to bring forth young ones in their turn, and have also produced some few, the *Indians* carefully gather them off the nopal, with a small stick, to which they fix a little hair in the nature of a pencil. These animals being collected in this manner, and afterwards killed by hot water or fire, are called the second gatherings, or rather the first of the young ones, that have been nourished and raised in the open air. Three or four months after this, they gather the second brood of those that have been brought forth upon the nopal, which being grown big, have already produced some young ones. This they do much in the same manner as before, only now they take off the plant a great many young ones, with their dams, which makes this sort of cochineal to be called *Granilla*, from the quantity of small ones found therein. In the mean time they keep a number of these young ones alive upon the nopals, which they pluck up or cut, and lock up in their houses, in order to nourish them during the rainy season. Lastly, these being grown large, they put them into the pastles, and proceed in the manner above expressed in the second article. So that for the most part they make three gatherings in a year.

As to the manner of killing the cochineal, this is commonly done two ways; either in hot water, or in *tamascales*, which are little ovens made for that purpose; though they are sometimes killed by roasting them upon *comales*, which are flat stoves with fire under them, made use of by the *Indian* women to bake their maize bread. These three different methods give the cochineal three different colours. The first renders them of a brown red, the hot water making them lose the white colour, with which they are covered when alive. The second makes them of an ash-colour, and marbled or jaspered, both on account of the natural white with which they are covered, and the red and transparent colour of the cochineal itself. The third sort becomes black, as if it had been burnt. Of the old ones which died after dropping their young, four pounds, when dried, produce but one, or rather one pound is reduced to four ounces; but three pounds only of the living  
which

which have been carefully taken off the nopals, being killed and dried, produce as much.

The island was named *Culua* by the natives, when *Grijalva* first discovered it, who gave it the name of *San Juan de Ulua*; it has by some been called *The King's Island*, but is better known by the old name.

The castle on it is well built, and furnished with all necessaries, besides a numerous garrison, and has been long thought impregnable. The port is sheltered by this island against the north winds that rage frequently on this coast. The ships cast anchor under the rock, and are fastened to the castle wall by great rings of iron and brass; for sometimes they have been torn from their fastenings by the force of the wind, and cast upon the other rocks, or else driven out into the ocean. These northern winds are so violent, that they do mischief every where through the gulph of *Mexico*.

In 1568 six *English* ships commanded by Sir *John Hawkins*, being by distress of weather, driven into this port, in a friendly manner agreed with the vice-roy, to be supplied with provisions, for which he was to pay in ready money; but afterwards the *Spaniards* being reinforced with 13 ships, took an opportunity of breaking the contract, at the signal of a trumpet, slew all the men on shore, and at the same time attacked the *English* ships, who in return sunk the *Spanish* admiral, and burnt their vice-admiral-ship; but Sir *John Hawkins's* fleet being overpowered by numbers, four of his ships were destroyed by this piece of treachery.

In 1683 the buccaneers commanded by *Vanborn*, in an *English* ship of 50 guns with eight more of force, appeared with two ships only, before this place in the evening under *Spanish* colours; these the governor taking for two *Caraca* ships, which they expected, the *Spaniards* having made fires in the castle and on the shore to light them in, went to rest in their usual security. There was a great garrison in the town at this time, though it was unfortified towards the land, and had only two forts at the ends, one of twelve, the other of eight guns. *Vanborn* landed his men before one o'clock the next morning, and finding the centinels asleep, and both the forts open, forced open the governor's house, and seized the principal posts. On the

the firing of muskets the alarm-bell was rung, and the soldiers began to run to their colours; every body was extremely surprized to see the buccaneers in arms. Thus with the loss of only four men, by break of day, they had gained possession of the town and forts. They caused all the inhabitants to quit their houses, and shut up in the church the garrison, burgeses, men, women and children, for three days and nights, without either meat or drink, during which time they continued plundering the town. They got abundance of jewels and plate, about 60,000 pound of cochineal, 70,000 pieces of eight for the governor's ransom, and 2,000,000 of piasres for the town and citizens. They were permitted by the flota to carry off this great booty, it being struck with too great a panic to attack them.

*Laurence* and *Vanborn* (whose share came to above 16,000 pieces of eight) quarrelling about their dividend, fought; the latter received a wound in the wrist, which was thought slight at first, but when it was least expected it gangreened, and he died in fifteen days after, greatly lamented by all his crew, who had the greatest esteem and affection for him. His body was thrown over-board off *Yucatan*; he left 20,000 pound sterling on board to his son, a youth of twelve years of age.

Captain *Uring*, in his account of the buccaneers, says, that they having mustered all their force, resolved on sacking this town, and landed their men undiscovered about eighteen miles from it, and marched in the night about ten miles, and in the morning retired between the sand-hills, which lay on the coast. They marched again the next night, and in the morning at day-break appeared before the town, and having seized one of the gates by stratagem, entered it, and at the same time having attacked and taken another small work, marched directly to the parade. Most of the *Spaniards* being in bed, could not presently get together, but soon took the alarm, formed a body of horse and foot, and marched in good order to attack the buccaneers in form; who being upon the parade, drew up at the end of the street, in which the *Spaniards* were marching, and disposed themselves in such order, that as soon as their first rank had fired, they gave way for the second to take place, as did the second for the third rank, by which means they kept a con-

tinual fire upon the *Spaniards*, put their horse into confusion, and drove their forces out of the town.

The castle of *St. Juan de Ulua* taking the alarm, fired briskly into the town, but the buccaneers being determined to plunder it, beheaded some of the principal fathers, and obliged some others to carry them in a boat as a present to the governor of the castle, and tell him that if he did not immediately leave off firing, they would use all the fathers in the town in the same manner; on which the governor redoubling his fire on the buccaneers, they shut all the gates of the town, and drove the inhabitants into that part of it which lay next the fort, and most exposed to it, and this obliged the governor to cease firing. The buccaneers, after plundering the town, took some of the chief inhabitants as hostages for a sum of ransom-money, which they demanded for not burning the town. The *Spaniards* have since built watch towers, on the coast, in order to prevent any future surprize.

## A L M E R I A,

**C**ALLED *Villa Rica* by the *Spaniards*, because of the gold they found here on their arrival, lies 20 leagues north of *La Vera Cruz*, has an indifferent port and a better air, with a small river, good springs of fresh water, and a dry country behind it, all which are wanting in *La Vera Cruz*. It is said a clandestine trade is driven on here between some *Spanish* merchants on shore, and the *French* of *St. Domingo* and *Martinico*.

## P A N U C O.

**T**HIS province is very large, and finely situated; it is bounded on the east by the gulph of *Mexico*, on the south by the provinces of *Tlascal* and *Mexico proper*. It was one of the first discoveries of the famous *Cortex*, who took a great deal of pains to conquer and plant it, though the country be rather fruitful



fruitful and pleasant than rich. Its inhabitants made a very vigorous resistance, and were not subdued without considerable loss; however several cities having been built among them, they have been since thoroughly bridled, which is perhaps one reason why so many of them chose to retire into *Florida*, rather than to remain slaves in their native country. On this account we find the country north of this province but indifferently peopled, and little notice taken of it in several authors, notwithstanding it has a very extended sea-coast along the gulph of *Mexico*, with several roads and creeks, though no great ports.

That part of this country next to *Mexico* is the best and richest, abounding with provisions, and having some veins of gold, and plenty of salt, but turns out to little account for want of hands. The parts adjacent to *Louisiana* are wretchedly poor and barren, and is, by *Martiniere*, called the kingdom of

NEW LEON; this country extends from the *Rio Bravo*, or *del Norte*, to *Florida*. It is mountainous, and has several mines, tho' very few towns; the principal of which are *Caouil* in the north, and *Guanabate* in the south.

PANUCO city, the capital of this province, is a bishop's see, situated about 17 leagues from the sea, on the river *Panuco*. It was built in the year 1520, by order of *Cortez*, and called *St. Estevan del Puerto*. It contains about 500 families; the houses being built of stone, and neatly thatched with *Palmetto* leaves, are thereby rendered strong and clean. It is said to have an extensive harbour, but the bar prevents the entrance of large ships, yet the river is navigable within land by vessels of 500 tons, which might, it is thought, reach the silver mines in the province of *Zacatecas* with little opposition.

*San Luis de los Zacatecas* is garrisoned by 1000 *Spaniards* and slaves, of whom there are 500 families about the town and mines. Further up the country are many silver mines, particularly the mines of *Santa Barbara*, *St. John*, and *Ende*, which *Monf. de la Salle* had in view when, under a pretence of finding out the mouth of the *Missisipi*, he examined most of the harbours on this coast.

## FLORIDA.

THIS name was given by the *Spaniards* to all that part of the continent lying north of the gulph of *Mexico*, and bordering on the *Atlantic* ocean to the east.

FLORIDA PROPER is, at present, that peninsula lying between *Georgia* and *Cape Florida*. The air of this region is pure and temperate, and the country in general, healthy. It is more subject to heat than cold, being only a few degrees north of the tropic of *Cancer*; but though the former is sometimes very great, it is much tempered at times by the sea-breezes. The country abounds with all sorts of timber, but the tree most valued in this country is *sassafras*, called by the natives of *Florida*, *palama* or *pavama*; large quantities of which are exported *annually* from hence. It never rises to a greater height than a small pine, growing both on the shore, and on the mountains; but always in a soil neither very dry, nor very moist. The *Spaniards* of *San Mateo*, and *St. Augustine*, having been almost every one seized with fevers, from the use of bad food and muddy water, were told by the *French* to take *sassafras* in the same manner as they had seen it used by the *Savages*: that is to cut the root into small pieces, and to boil it in water; having done which, and drinking the liquor fasting, and at their meals, they found it perfectly cured them. Several other experiments have been made with it; and, if we may believe them, there is hardly any malady which can withstand the efficacy of this drink. It was their sole remedy, and universal preservative, in *Florida*; but when they are short of provisions they do not use it, because it would create an eager appetite, still more insupportable than any disorder whatever. They add, that *sassafras* is an admirable specific against the venereal distemper.

The many rivers with which *Florida* is watered, not only abound with fish, but render it inferior to no country, either in pleasantness or fertility. The coast indeed is sandy; but a little further from the sea, the soil is so good as to yield all sorts of grain. Almost every where they have two crops of  
*Indian*

*Indian corn in a year.* All along the coast, and two or three hundred miles up the country from the sea, they have the root of which the cassave flour and bread is made in the greatest part of *America* betwixt the two tropics; and is reckoned as good as our manchet. There is good beef, veal, and mutton, with plenty of hogs, especially on the sea-coast; they have acorns, cocoa-nuts, and other mast. Here are horses, not only for draught, but also for the saddle. Their cattle have a long black sort of hair, or rather wool, so fine, that with some small mixture, it is thought it would be preferable to common wool for hats, cloathing, and other necessaries. Though cotton grows wild here in great plenty, yet it is not manufactured. Of bark of trees they make thread, cords, and ropes. Upon the whole coast, for two hundred leagues, are several vast beds of oysters; and in fresh water-lakes and rivers, is a sort of shell-fish, between a muscle, and a pearl oyster, in some of which are found pearls, and many larger than ordinary. From cape *Florida* to *Mexico*, both to the east and west of the *Mississippi*, is to be found also, especially after high south winds, a sort of stone pitch, which the *Spaniards*, who call it *cofsea*, moisten with grease, and use it for their vessels in the nature of pitch; and they say it is much better than ours in hot countries, as not being so apt to melt.

In latitude  $26^{\circ}. 56'$ . and a good way upwards, the coast of the main land of *Florida* cannot be approached, by reason of the shoals and small islands, most of which are very low and barren, and so close together that canoes of bark can hardly pass between them. Few savages inhabit this part of the country; but the coast is the kingdom, as it were, of oysters. All its shore abounds in mangrove trees, to which adhere a prodigious quantity of small oysters; others much larger are to be met with in the sea; and in such numbers, that they are sometimes taken for rocks, level with the surface of the water.

## PENSACOLA,

**I**N *Florida*, is a large harbour, safe from all winds, and has four fathom water at its entrance, deepening gradually to seven or eight. On the west side of the harbour stands a poor town, of about forty palmetto houses, defended by a small stockaded fort of about twelve or fourteen guns, called *Santa Maria de Galre*, from its being erected in the time of the count *de Galre*, but of very little use, the inhabitants consisting wholly of malefactors transported hither from *Mexico*. A very fine river falls into the bay of *Mexico* on the side of this harbour, after running above 100 miles through the country. The land here produces plenty of trees fit for masts of ships, and accordingly many of them are cut down and carried to *Vera Cruz* for that purpose.

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## SANT AUGUSTINE,

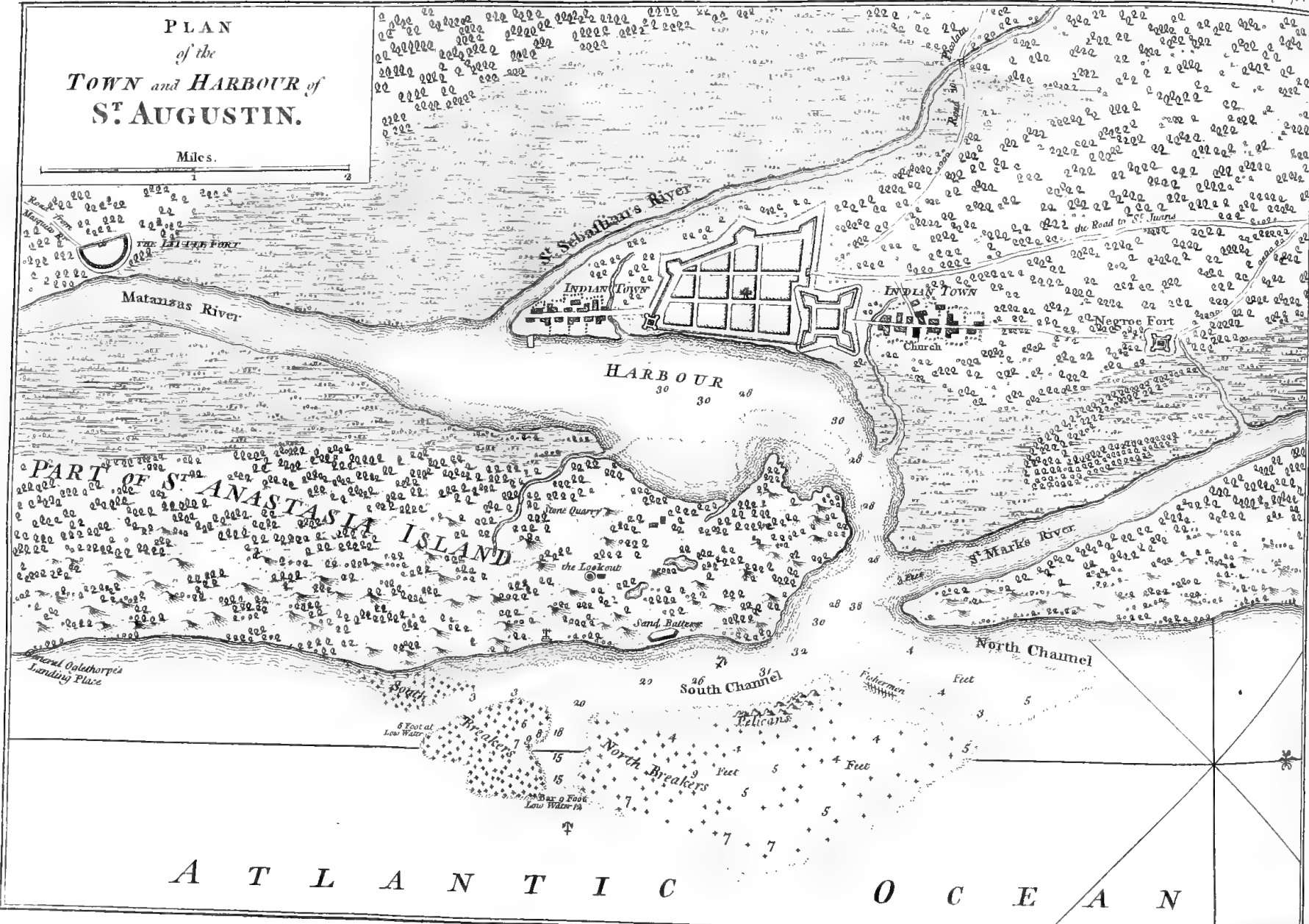
**S**ITUATED on the eastern coast of the peninsula of *Florida*, about 70 leagues from the gulph of *Florida*, or channel of *Babama*, and 47 from the town and river of *Savana*. It is built along the shore, at the bottom of a hill; near it is the church and monastery of the order of *Sant Augustine*. The castle is called *St. John's*, built of soft stone, has four bastions, a curtain 60 yards long, a parapet nine feet thick, and a rampart twenty feet high, casemated, arched, and bomb-proof. There was some years ago fifty pieces of cannon, sixteen of which were brass, and some of them twenty-four pounders.

Sir *Francis Drake* attacked this fort in 1586, when the *Spaniards* fled and left him fourteen brass guns, which were mounted on a platform of trees and earth, besides a chest of 2000 pounds and other booty. Then the town only consisted of timber houses; the fort was also a wooden one, and the walls consisted of nothing but trunks of trees set close together. In 1665 it was  
again



# PLAN of the TOWN and HARBOUR of ST. AUGUSTIN.

Miles.

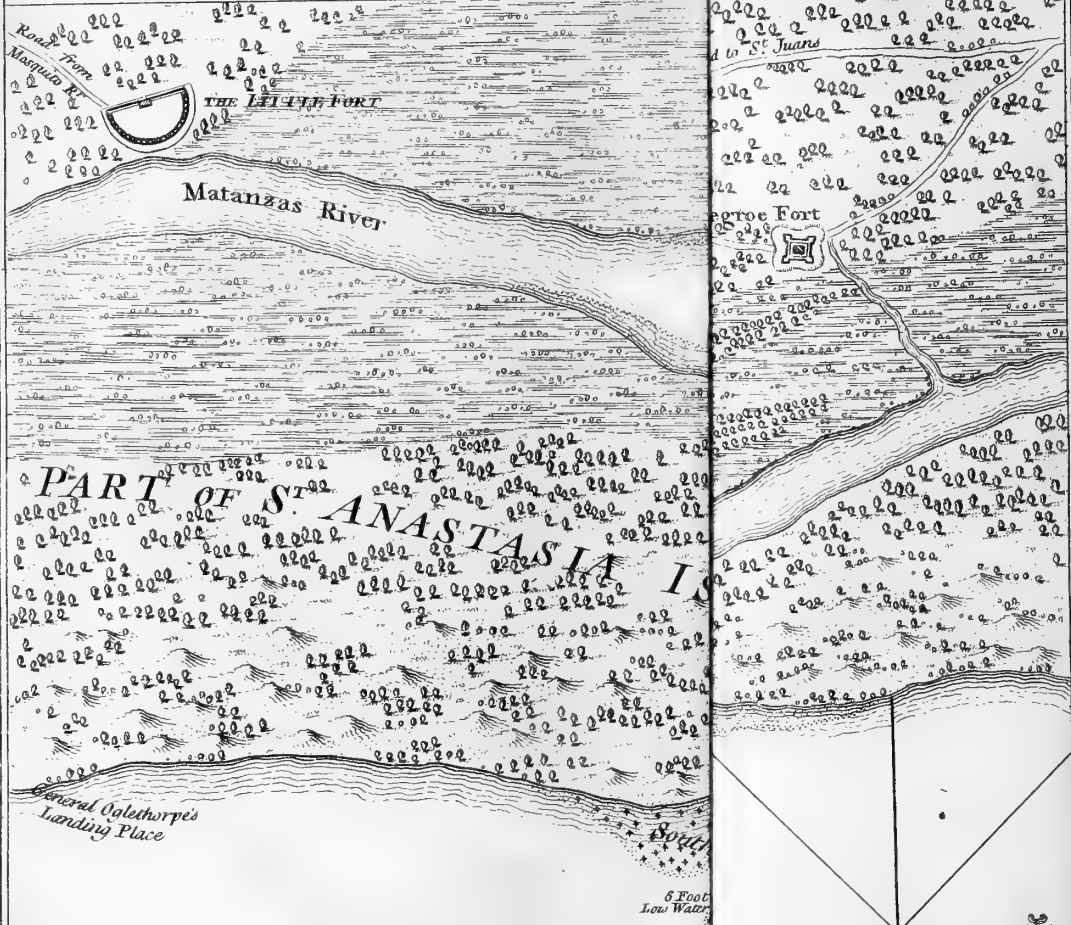
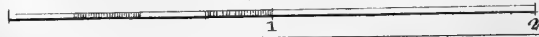


A T L A N T I C O C E A N



PLAN  
of the  
TOWN and HARBOUR of  
S<sup>T</sup>. AUGUSTIN.

Mils.



A T L A N



again attacked and plundered by Capt. *Davis*, at the head of the buccaneers; at which time the fort is said to have been an octagon, with a round tower at each angle, in which the soldiers kept guard. The next attack of it was in 1702 by the *English* and *Indians* of *Carolina*, under Col. *Moor* their governor; he ruined the villages and farms in the open country, and besieged this town three months; but on approach of some *Spanish* vessels to its relief, he raised the siege with precipitation, and marched to *Charles Town*, 300 miles by land, leaving the ship and stores he brought with him to the enemy. The last siege of this place was by Gen. *Oglethorpe* in 1740, with four men of war and transports from *Charles Town* with troops to assist in the siege. Having rendezvoused near the mouth of *Saint John's* river, and being joined by the *Cherokee Indians* on the 9th of *May*, he marched 20 miles to fort *Diego*, which he took, and made the garrison prisoners of war, the *Spaniards* also abandoned fort *Mooza*, or *Negro fort*, (23 miles nearer to *Sant Augustine*) to the general, who afterwards encamped with his army on *Sant Anastasia* island, having left a small part of his forces on the continent to garrison fort *Negro*, and alarm the *Spaniards*. June 15 the *Spaniards* made a sally from the castle of *Sant Augustine*, attacked and defeated the garrison at fort *Negro*, killed colonel *Palmer*, the commander, and took many of them prisoners. After this the *Spaniards* received a supply of provisions, &c. from *Cuba*, that were conveyed up the *Matanzas*, and landed to the south of the town where the general had no battery to annoy or force to intercept them. The besiegers bombarded both the castle and town; but their artillery being planted at too great a distance to do any material execution, which inconvenience was caused by the river, morasses, and other obstructions, and the near approach of bad weather obliging the men of war to return to sea, the siege was raised about the 4th of *July*; it appearing very plain that 200 seamen, 400 soldiers, and 300 *Indians*, which was the whole number employed in the expedition, was a force too weak to subdue 1000 *Spaniards*, secured by a castle, strengthened by the *Spanish* governor, who had early intelligence of the intended visit. Thus were the high expectations blasted that had been raised from this important undertaking, which, if it had succeeded, must have been attended with extraordinary advantages to the *English*,  
whose

whose southern settlements on the continent would have hereby been secured against any attempts of the *Spaniards* by land, besides the great service this place would have been to our trade, not only by depriving the *Spaniards* of a post from whence they might annoy us on that side, but also by enabling us to annoy them upon occasion, by cruising on their homeward bound ships coming from the gulph of *Florida*.

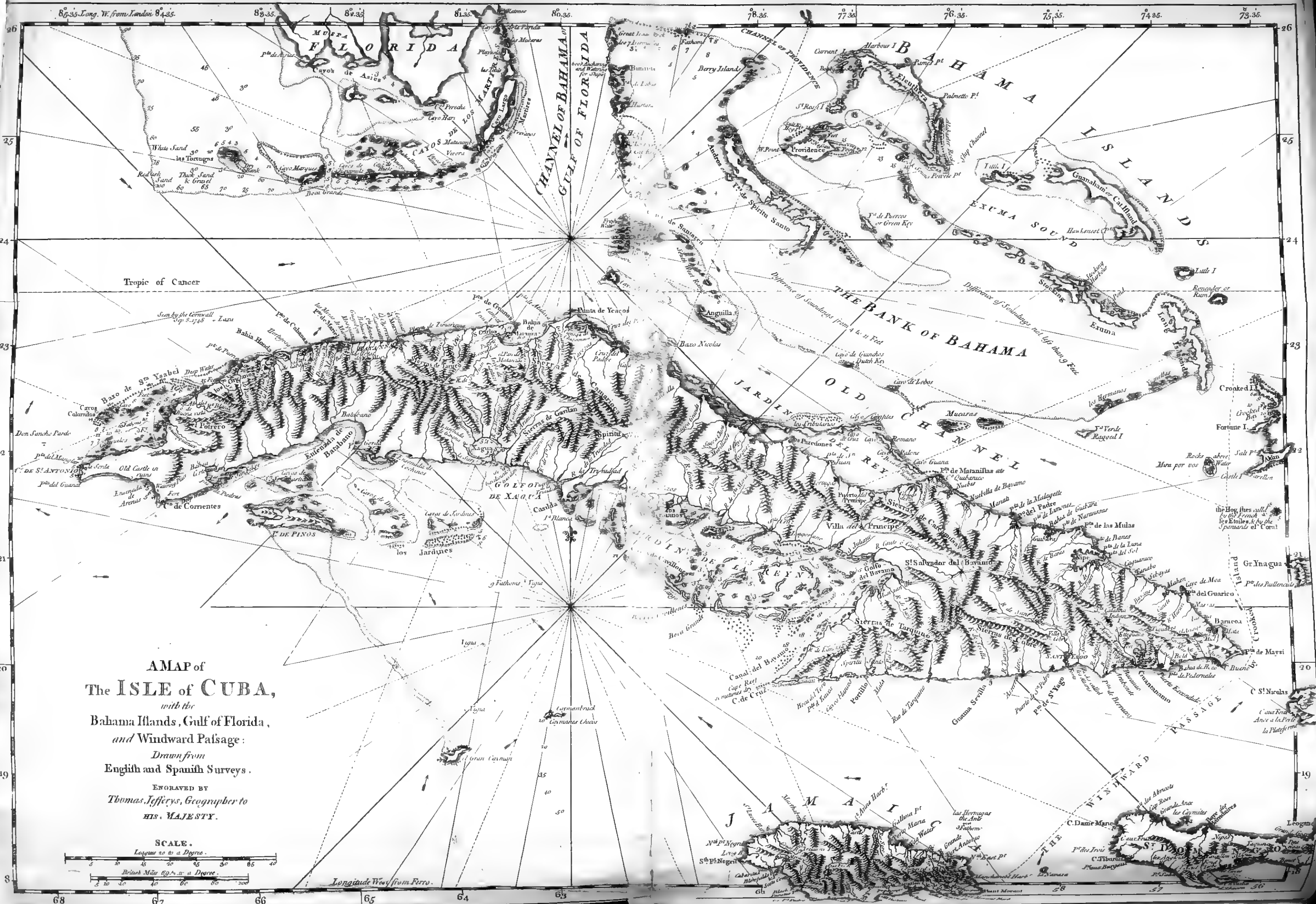
According to the charter of King *Charles II.* in 1665, which fixes the limits of *South Carolina* at latitude 29, this town is, as well as *Georgia*, within the *English* dominions, and consequently belongs to us as a forfeiture. The *Spaniards* say indeed that grant is an invasion of their right, they pretending a right of possession to all the coast as high as *Virginia*. But if the first discovery gives a title, which is generally the foundation of the *Spaniards* pretensions to their dominions in *America*, it belongs to us; for *Sebastian Cabot* discovered it about the year 1497: it was more thoroughly discovered in 1512 by *Leon*, a *Spaniard* from *Puerto Rico*, who took possession of the country for the king of *Spain*.

Seven leagues below the fort of *Sant Augustine* are two forts, the one on the north, and the other on the south side of a large lake. General *Ogletborpe* destroyed the last, and took possession of the first, which is called *Mauchicollis*, surrounded with strong palisadoes, eight feet high, with a parapet and loop-holes, about breast high.

## C U B A,

**I**S the most considerable island of the *Great Antilles*, lies between  $19^{\circ} 50'$  and  $23^{\circ} 20'$  of north latitude, and between  $73^{\circ} 40'$  and  $85^{\circ} 10'$  west longitude. It is about 780 miles in length, but very narrow in proportion, not being in some places above 40 miles in breadth, and in its widest not more than 132. It lies within the tropic of *Cancer*, about 40 miles west of *Hispaniola*, and 90 to the northward of *Jamaica*, commanding the gulph of *Mexico*, *Florida*, and the windward-passage, where it may with propriety be called *The Shield*  
of

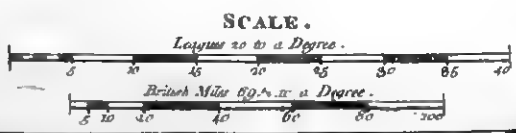




AMAP of  
**The ISLE of CUBA,**  
 with the  
 Bahama Islands, Gulf of Florida,  
 and Windward Passage:

Drawn from  
 English and Spanish Surveys.

ENGRAVED BY  
 Thomas Jefferys, Geographer to  
 HIS MAJESTY.



Longitude West from Ferro.



Dr. P. Pedro  
Cidade de  
Bahia  
Brasil

*of the West-Indies*, and is by far the most temperate and pleasant of all the *Antilles*. The *Europeans*, who are generally troubled with the heat of these parts, confess themselves agreeably refreshed by the cooling winds, which blow in the morning and evening throughout this island. As to the soil, it differs pretty much: the western portion of the country is mostly plain, and if it were properly cultivated, might be fruitful. The eastern part is exceedingly mountainous, and from thence there runs a chain of hills almost through the whole island; but the farther you go the less rough and barren they are. From these hills there run down to the north and south many rivers, which, besides, their bestowing verdure and coolness as they pass, are full of fish, and those very large and good. The greatest inconveniency in *Cuba* is its being overgrown with woods, which, whatever the *Spaniards* may pretend, must be chiefly owing to their own laziness; for as they admit the country was well peopled when first discovered, it must necessarily have been less thick with trees. Amongst these, however, there are some very valuable, particularly cedars of an enormous size, and other sorts of odoriferous wood. Birds there are of all kinds, more than in any other of the islands: and the *Spaniards* at their first landing having suffered some black cattle to stray into the woods, they by degrees turned wild, and have furnished the island with that breed, which, together with tobacco, sugar and copper, make now the principal riches of its inhabitants. Many fine fat beasts are left to rot on the ground, great numbers being killed purely for the hides which are sent into *Spain*, and in the slaughter of them the negroes are employed. The flesh cut into pieces is dried in the sun, and used as provision for shipping. There are many alligators here. Most writers confound this creature with the crocodile, and indeed the *Spaniards* have but one name, *viz. caymanes*, to express both; yet it is certain, that there is a difference, and amongst other particulars in these, the legs of a crocodile are longer than those of an alligator; his flesh is not musky as the other is; the knots on the back are thicker, higher and firmer, but the plainest and most discernable difference, and which indeed discovers itself at first sight, is this, that the crocodile carries his tail cocked and crooked, with the tip turning back like a bow, whereas the alligator drags his on the ground.

This island was discovered by the famous *Christopher Columbus*, who had but a very slight view of it, which yet was fatal to the natives, for they having presented him with gold, some pieces of which he carried into *Spain*, occasioned an immediate resolution to settle in it. This was performed in 1511, by *Diego de la Velasquez*, who transported hither about 500 foot and 80 horse. He was a haughty, cruel, inexorable man, and the treatment the poor people met with from him, was such as we want both room and will to relate. The worthy bishop of *Cbiapa*, who was an eye-witness of his barbarity, hath published it to the world, and computed, that by these horrid severities, near five millions of people were destroyed. Later writers, instead of speaking tenderly, pathetically, and with indignation against so execrable a fact, do all in their power to give this horrid proceeding the air of justice, by representing the *Indians* as the most base and wicked nation that ever lived. *Herrera* tells us, on the contrary, that they were a very good sort of people, and well tempered. They had, says he, princes and towns of 200 or 300 houses, with several families in each of them, as was usual in *Hispaniola*. They had no religion, as having no temples, idols, or sacrifices; but they had the physicians, or conjuring priests, as in *Hispaniola*. They fasted three or four months, taking no sustenance but the juice of herbs, and when reduced to extreme weakness, they were then worthy to be informed whether the seasons of the year would be favourable, or otherwise; what children would be born; whether those born would live; and such like questions. These were their oracles; and these conjurers they called *Behiques*, who led the people into many superstitions and fopperies, as pretending to cure the sick by blowing on them, and such other exterior actions, mumbling some words betwixt their teeth. These people of *Cuba* knew that heaven and earth, and other things, were created, said they had some information concerning the flood, and that the world had been destroyed by water, from three persons that came three several ways: they were men of about 70 years of age; that an old man knowing that the deluge was to come, built a *great canoe*, and went into it with his family, and abundance of animals; that he sent out a carrion *crow*, which did not return, staying to feed on the dead bodies, and afterwards returned carrying a green branch, with other particulars, even to  
Noah's



*Noah's* two sons covering him when drunk, and the other scoffing at it ; adding, that the *Indians* descended from the latter, and therefore had no coats nor cloaks ; but that the *Spaniards* descending from the other that covered him, were therefore cloathed, and had horses. The true reason, in all probability, why the *Spaniards* destroyed, with so little pity, so vast a number of innocent people, was a covetous desire of possessing the whole island, and all its real and supposed riches : for, at this time, they fancied that the parts of the island possessed by the natives, were excessively rich in gold, of which, while they suffered them to live, the *Spaniards* did really receive a very large share ; but since their extirpation, there has been very little, and at present there is scarce any gold to be found. The gold was taken out of the rivers, which required not only a great deal of time and patience, but many hands, and a perfect knowledge of the places where it was to be met with. This accounts for the losing that precious metal with the people, and shews how weak a point of policy this doctrine of extirpation really is.

There is no winter here : but in *June, July* and *August*, when the sun is almost vertical, then they have great rains, and often violent storms, which greatly mitigate the extreme heat of the climate. The fairest season is when the sun is farthest from them, and then it is hottest in the morning ; for towards noon a sea-breeze springs up, which blows pretty brisk till the evening. The trade-wind in those seas blows from the E. and by N. At the full and change of the moon, from *October* to *April*, they have brisk winds at N. and N. W. which in *December* and *January* often turn into storms, though this is called their fair season.

It is said to have in general the best land of any island in *America*, and is capable of producing prodigious quantities of all the commodities furnished by that quarter of the world ; particularly ginger, long-pepper, and other spices, cassia-siftula, mastic, and aloes ; large cedars, and other odoriferous trees, oaks, pines, palm-trees, plenty of large vines, fine cotton trees, and excellent tobacco ; besides plenty of pine-apples, plantains, bananas, guavas, and lemons. Here are also some large walks of cacao trees, and good sugar-works, worked by horse and water mills, which are said to make the best sugars in the *West-Indies*, though in no great quantity, for want of hands to

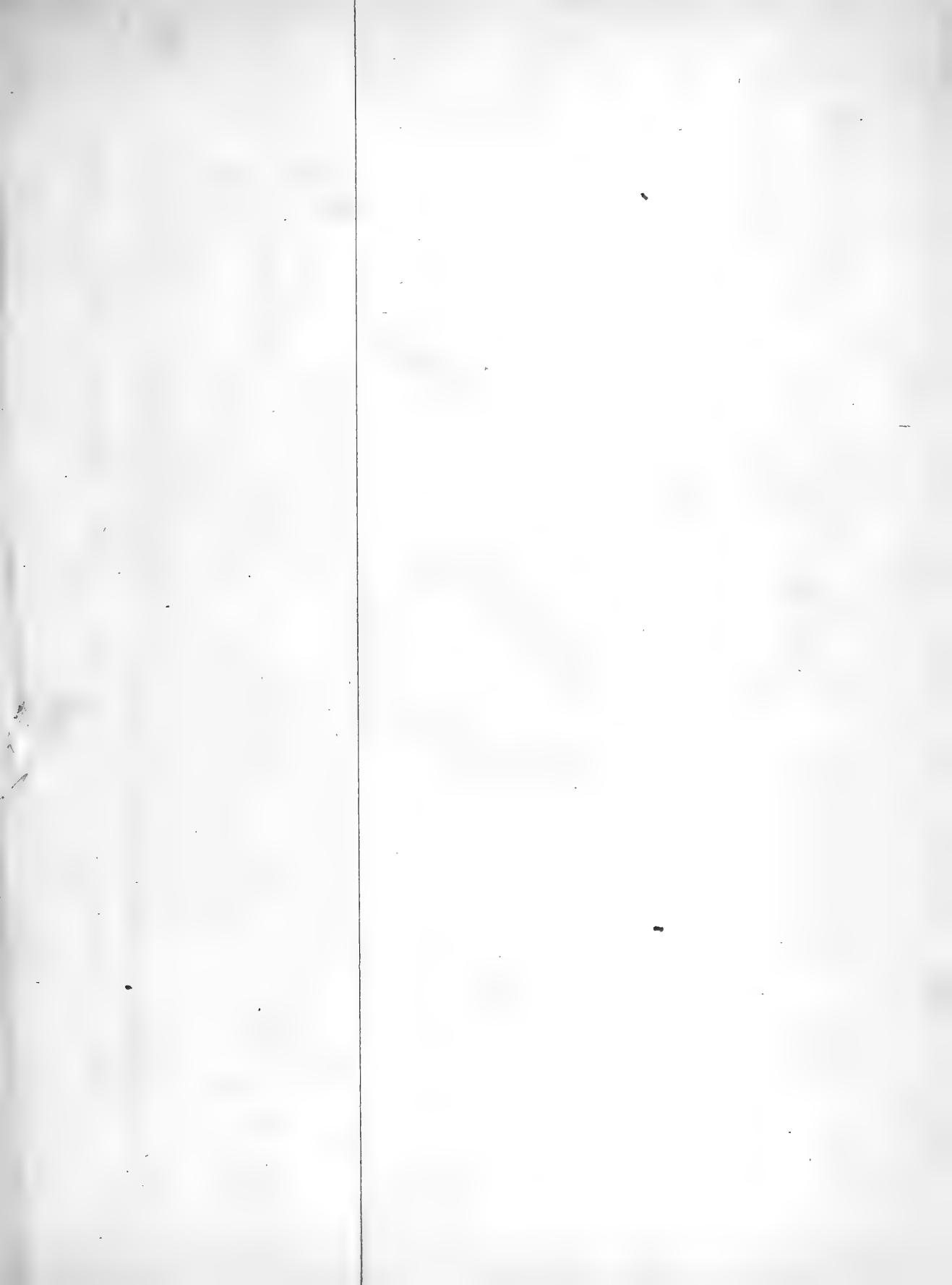
cultivate the canes. Here are mines of copper, which furnish the *Spanish* plantations with metal for all their brass guns; and gold dust having been formerly found in the sands of the rivers, it is conjectured, that there are mines of gold, if not of silver too, in the mountains, of which there runs a large ridge from the east to the west end of the island; but the *Spaniards* having destroyed all the natives, they either never discovered where the mines were, or never opened them for fear of an invasion.

Adjacent to this island are great conveniences both for making salt, and catching fish. The island abounds with horses, mules, sheep, wild boars, hogs, and cattle of a larger and better breed than in any other part of *America*; parrots, partridges with blue heads, and large tortoises. Here are quarries of flints, and fountains of bitumen, which is used for ships instead of pitch.

The black cattle, brought hither by the *Spaniards*, have multiplied to such a prodigious degree, that large herds of them run wild in the woods for want of people enough to eat their flesh, though great numbers of them are yearly killed for their hides and tallow.

Upon the whole, it is a very pleasant, rich, and fertile island; but has at present more churches than farms, more priests than planters, and more lazy bigots than useful labourers: and to this it is owing, that the largest island in the *West-Indies*, with a luxuriant soil, besides food for its inhabitants, which is easier produced and obtained here than perhaps in any other part of the world, does not produce for exportation, including even their hides and tallow, tobacco and snuff, near the value of our little island of *Antigua*. So great is the difference between sloth and industry, tyranny and liberty.

The island has several towns; and *Sant Jago de Cuba*, though a small place, is called the capital, it being the see of the bishop, though he generally resides at the *Havana*, which, as it is the chief city, we shall begin with, and proceed round the eastern and southern coast of that island.







# PLAN of the CITY and HARBOUR of the HAVANA.

## References

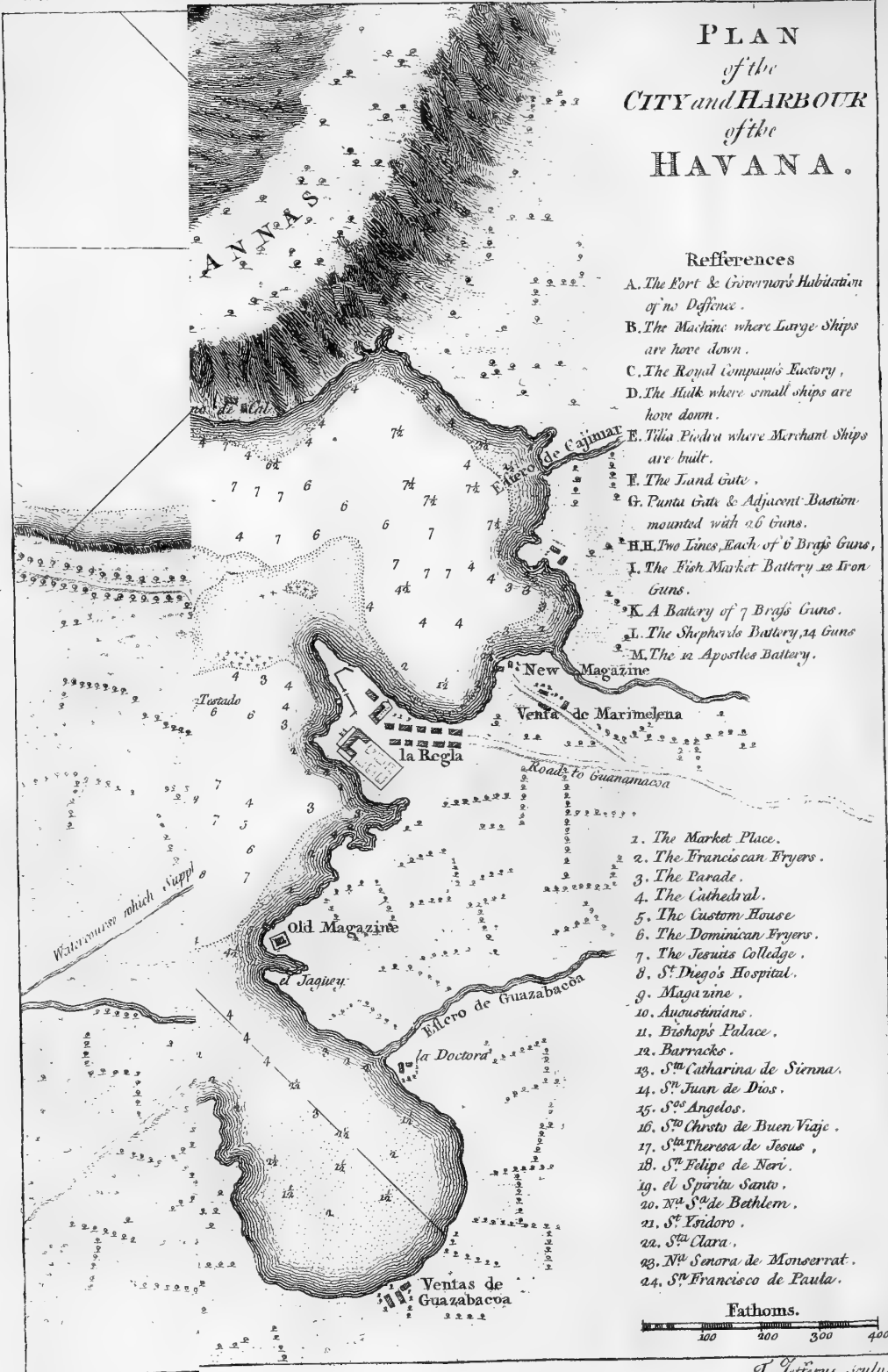
- A. The Fort & Governor's Habitation of no Defence.
- B. The Machine where Large Ships are hove down.
- C. The Royal Company's Factory,
- D. The Hulk where small ships are hove down.
- E. Tilla Piedra where Merchant Ships are built.
- F. The Land Gate.
- G. Punta Gate & Adjacent Bastion mounted with 26 Guns.
- H. H. Two Lines Each of 6 Brass Guns.
- I. The Fish Market Battery 22 Iron Guns.
- K. A Battery of 7 Brass Guns.
- L. The Shepherd's Battery 24 Guns.
- M. The 21 Apostles Battery.

- 1. The Market Place.
- 2. The Franciscan Fryers.
- 3. The Parade.
- 4. The Cathedral.
- 5. The Custom House
- 6. The Dominican Fryers.
- 7. The Jesuits Colledge.
- 8. St. Diego's Hospital.
- 9. Magazine.
- 10. Augustinians.
- 11. Bishop's Palace.
- 12. Barracks.
- 13. S<sup>ta</sup> Catharina de Sienna.
- 14. S<sup>to</sup> Juan de Dios.
- 15. S<sup>to</sup> Angelo.
- 16. S<sup>to</sup> Christo de Buen Viaje.
- 17. S<sup>ta</sup> Theresa de Jesus.
- 18. S<sup>to</sup> Felipe de Neri.
- 19. el Spiritu Santo.
- 20. N<sup>ra</sup> S<sup>ra</sup> de Bethlem.
- 21. S<sup>to</sup> Isidoro.
- 22. S<sup>ta</sup> Clara.
- 23. N<sup>ra</sup> Senora de Monserrat.
- 24. S<sup>to</sup> Francisco de Paula.

Fathoms.



J. Jefferys sculp.



## THE H A V A N A,

WAS built by *Diego de Velasquez*, who conquered the island of *Cuba*, and settled a little town here in 1511. It was named originally the port of *Careñas*; but afterwards when the city, by its increase of wealth, grew considerable, it was called *San Christopher of the Havana*. In 1536 it was of so inconsiderable a value, that being taken by a *French* pirate, he accepted of so small a sum as 700 pieces of eight for its ransom. Some time after it was taken by *English*, and a second time by the *French*; nor was it till the reign of *Philip II.* of *Spain* that the importance of it was thoroughly understood, or any care taken to strengthen it: though what was then done proved insufficient, and most of the fortifications were in a very bad condition, when *Francis Coreal* was there in 1666, and very little better when he visited it again 20 years afterwards. Since the accession of the house of *Bourbon* to the throne of *Spain*, more pains have been taken therein. We shall first describe the city, and then the port, in the condition they now are.

The city of *Havana*, which is properly stiled *The Key of the West-Indies*, lies in  $23^{\circ} 12'$  north latitude, and  $82^{\circ} 13'$  west longitude from *London*, situated in the most fruitful part of the island, and the only part where there are any farms, the rest being almost destitute of inhabitants. It stands on the west side of the harbour, in a very beautiful and pleasant plain; is the residence of the governor and captain-general of *Cuba*, and of the royal officers, as well as of an assessor, for the assistance of the governor and captain-general of the *West Indies*. The buildings are elegant, but not lofty, built of stone, and make a very good appearance, though it is said they are but meanly furnished within. Here are eleven churches and monasteries, and two handsome hospitals. Near the middle of the town is a spacious square, surrounded with uniform buildings. The churches are rich and magnificent, the lamps, candlesticks, and ornaments for the altars being of gold and silver; some of the lamps are of the most curious workmanship, and weigh near an hundred weight. The *Recollects* church, which stands on the best ground  
in

in the city, has twelve beautiful chapels in it, and in the monastery are cells for fifty fathers. The church of *Santa Clara* has seven altars adorned with plate, and the nunnery contains an hundred women and servants, all clothed in blue. The church belonging to the *Augustines* has thirteen altars; that of *San Juan de Dios* nine, with an hospital for soldiers, of 12,000 pieces of eight revenue. It is not a bishop's see, though the bishop of *Sant Jago de Cuba* generally resides there; the revenue of which prelate is not less than 50,000 pieces of eight a year. In 1700 the number of inhabitants was computed at 26,000, and we may very well imagine it to be increased since. They are a more polite and sociable people than the inhabitants of any of the *Spanish* ports on the continent, and of late imitate the *French*, both in their dress and manners. One part of the island is under the jurisdiction of this city, as the other is under that of *Sant Jago*. The district belonging to the *Havana* is by far the best cultivated, yet it has not above six towns and villages in it.

The port is the best in the *West-Indies*, and so capacious, that 1000 sail of ships may ride there commodiously: there is, generally speaking, six fathom of water in the bay. At the entrance of the channel, which is pretty narrow, and of difficult access to an enemy, being well flanked by forts and platforms of guns, there are two strong castles, which are supposed to be capable of defending the place against any number of ships: the chief is *El Morro*; it stands on the east side of the channel, and is a kind of triangle, fortified with bastions, on which are mounted about forty pieces of cannon. A little to the south of this is a battery, called *The Twelve Apostles*, almost level with the water, and carrying each a ball of thirty-six pounds. On the other side of the channel stands a strong fort called the *Puntal*; by some *Mosa de Maria*: it is a regular square, with good bastions, well mounted with cannon. A part of the *Morro* is a watch-tower, where a man sits in a round lanthorn at the top, and on the appearance of ships at sea, puts out as many flags from thence as there are sail. The third is stiled *The Fort*: it is a small, but strong work, on the west side, towards the end of the narrow channel, with four bastions and a platform, mounted with 38 pieces of heavy cannon.

The



The city is walled all round, and fortified with bastions on the land-side, and there are besides two forts on the sea-coast, designed to prevent an enemy from landing; one a league from the entrance of the harbour on the east side, called *Cojimar*, the other on the west, called the fort of *Chorrera*, of 12 guns each.

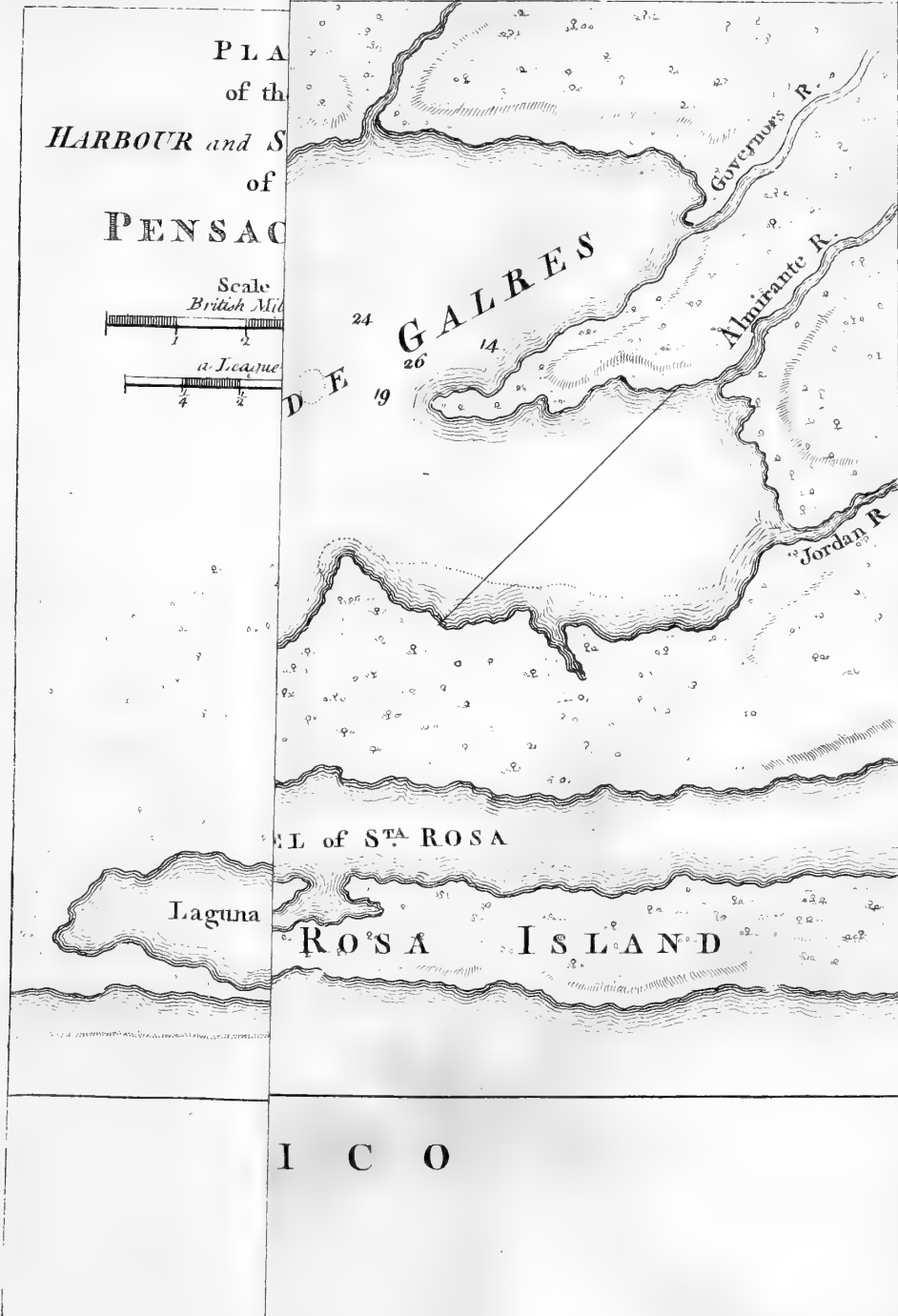
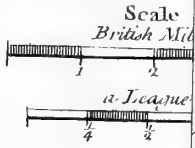
However secure this port may be to ships within, it is of no great security to ships without, the entrance being too narrow to give quick admittance to a numerous fleet. Hence the galleons have been often insulted, and some of them taken in sight of this port, without being able to get in, or receive any succour from its castles: as (among other instances) was the case of the flota in its return from *La Vera Cruz* in 1629, mentioned by *Gage*. It seems at cape *Sant Antonio*, the most western point of *Cuba*, they met with the famous *Dutchman*, called by the *Spaniards*, *Pie de Pelo*, or *Wooden Leg*, and as much feared by them as *Sir Francis Drake*, who waited there for them; and after he had saluted them with a broadside or two, the admiral *Don Juan de Guzman y Torres*, called a council of war, wherein it was resolved to fly from the enemy, as the surest way to save the king's treasure, which amounted to six or seven millions, according to their own account, and to make directly for the bay of *Matanzas*, imagining that the *Dutch* would not venture in after them. But the misfortune was they could not get in far themselves, the bay being too shallow for their heavy great bellied galleons. This obliged them to run their ships a-ground, after which the richer fort endeavoured to escape to land with what wealth they could in cabinets and bags: but the *Dutch* coming swiftly upon them, soon stopped their flight with the cannon from their ships; so that except a few cabinets that were hidden, all the rest of the treasure became the *Hollanders* prize. Two friars, who had fleeced their sheep of 30,000 ducats, were also fleeced themselves. Thus lightened of their burdens, the fleet went on to *Spain*; where *Gage* says, the admiral was imprisoned, and lost his senses for awhile, which having recovered, he was afterwards beheaded.

The commerce carried on in this port, which is very considerable, we will for the sake of perspicuity, divide into the particular commerce of the isle of *Cuba*, and that more general by the galleons. The former consists

sifts in hides, usually stiled, of the *Havana*, which are excellent, and of great value; sugar, tobacco, admirable in its kind, &c. Though strangers are prohibited to trade, yet a contraband commerce is carried on brisker here than that at *La Vera Cruz*. It must be observed, that the traffic of the island of *Cuba* is not entirely confined to the *Havana*, but extends itself to other ports, particularly *Sant Jago de Cuba*, where there are frequently many little vessels from the *Canaries*, and other parts, which trade entirely for the commodities of the country. As to the general commerce, this port is the place of rendezvous for all ships, particularly from *Puerto Velo*, and *Vera Cruz*, which return into *Spain* from the *Indies*. The *Havana* is regularly supplied with *European* goods, only by the register-ships from *Cadiz* and the *Canaries*. The flota and galleons bring there no more than the refuse of their cargoes, which they had not been able to dispose of at *Carthagena*, *Puerto Velo*, or *Vera Cruz*. While the fleet is in the bay, provisions are excessively dear on shore, and money so plenty, that a *Spaniard* expects half a piece of eight a day from a male slave, and a quarter from a female, out of what they can earn by their labour. The fleet generally sails from thence through the channel of *Bahama*, in the month of *September*, and is the richest in the world, since in silver and merchandize, there is seldom less than 30,000,000 pieces of eight on board, or 6,750,000 pounds of our money.

The first attempt that was made upon this city, after the *Spaniards* settled here, was in 1536, by a *French* pirate, who took the place, which then consisted only of wooden houses thatched, and made the *Spaniards* redeem it from fire, by 700 ducats, as was said before. It happened, that three ships arriving from *New Spain* the next day after he was sailed with the ransom, unloaded their goods with all expedition, and pursued the pirate; but the commanders behaved so cowardly, that he took all the three, one whereof was an admiral's ship; which so emboldened the pirate, that he returned to the *Havana*, and made the inhabitants pay him 700 ducats more. After this the *Spaniards* built their houses of stone, and a fort at the mouth of the harbour, but the city being still open on the land-side, some *English* cruizers in those seas landed not far from the town, and having entered it before day-break, the *Spaniards* fled into the woods, and left the place to be plundered. During the war  
between

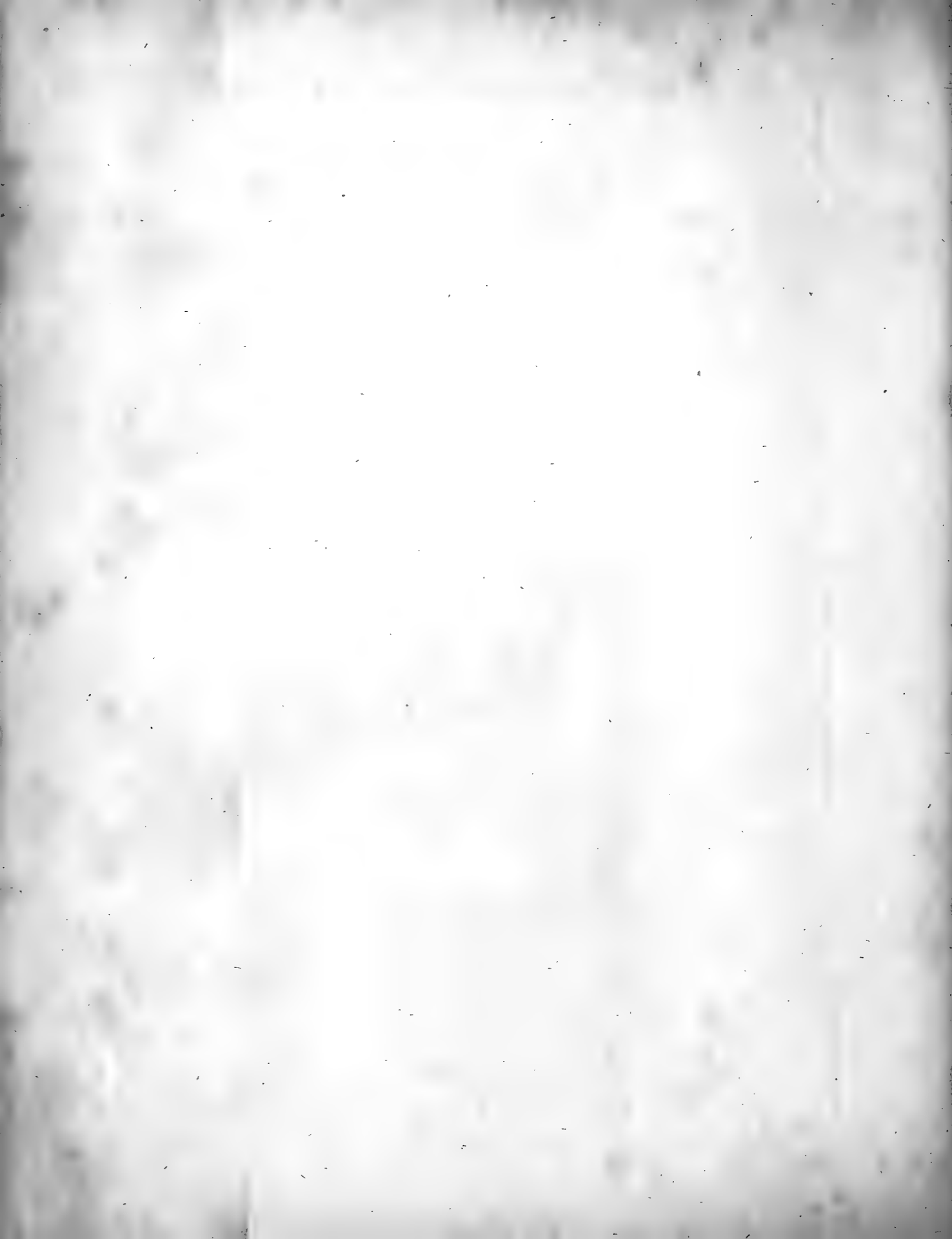
PLAN  
of the  
HARBOUR and S  
of  
PENSAC



T. Jefferys sculp.







between *Henry II.* of *France*, and the emperor *Charles V.* a *French* ship with 90 men, after having plundered *Sant Jago*, came hither in the night, but to their great disappointment found all the houses empty, they having been so often plundered, that the *Spaniards* had removed all their goods to houses in the country. While they were searching, two persons came to them, pretending to agree for ransom, but really to spy out their number. The *French* demanding 6000 ducats, the spies pretended all their effects would not raise that sum. Upon their return to their countrymen, a consultation was held, wherein some were for paying the sum if they could get no abatement; but the majority, despising the enemy's number, were for disputing it with the sword; and marching secretly with 150 men, surprized the enemy at midnight; but the *French*, upon the firing of an alarm-gun, recovered their arms in a trice, and put them to flight; and being enraged at this design of the *Spaniards*, set fire to the town, after having daubed the doors and windows, &c. with pitch and tar, so that it was soon consumed to ashes. A *Spaniard* desiring that they would spare the churches which were erected for the worship of God, the *French* answered, that people who had no faith, had no occasion for churches to profess it in. They then pulled down the walls, and quite demolished the fort. After this, the town was rebuilt, and *Philip II.* appointed *Juan de Texeda* his camp-master, and *Baptista Antonelli*, a celebrated architect, to fortify this place, and put it in a posture of defence.

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OBSERVATIONS *on the* FORTIFICATIONS *of the* HAVANA,  
made by an Officer in 1759.

**E**L *Morro* is a castle that stands upon an high rock, the fortifications are of stone, irregular, and so confined towards the sea, that they cannot bring any more than four guns to bear upon one object; it is more regular towards the land, but being upon a rock, and of small compass, might with shells be rendered not tenable. It is overlooked by the *Cavañas*, a high

land which runs along the N. E. side of the entrance into the bay, and commands all the fortifications that defend the entrance.

Under the faces of the south-west angle of the castle, and more within the entrance into the harbour, is a battery of stone called the twelve apostles; a little higher, and opposite the point-gate is the *la Divina Pastora* or *Shepherds* battery of stone for 14 guns (then not quite finished) level with the water, but so situated under the hill, (which is here very rocky) that it will be almost impossible for men to stand to their guns, on account of splinters from the rock above.

From the governor's house to the *Punta* gate, fronting the mouth of the harbour, there are four batteries opening, one behind the other; they are all overlooked from the *Cavañas* on the opposite shore, and may be flanked from thence by musketry.

Over the *Punta* gate, and towards the entrance into the harbour, there is a large stone battery: this is also overlooked from the opposite hill, and likewise from the rising-ground on the north-side of the village of *Guadaloupe*.

The *Puntal* is a square castle, with four bastions, regular, but very small, about 200 yards distant from the gate, from which it is separated by a ditch with a draw-bridge. The ground here is low, wet, and marshy; behind the marsh, and joining to the south-west side of the glacis of the puntal, there is a breast-work of earth pallisadoed, to cover the communication of the castle, with the puntal gate, and the road that leads to the *Lazaretto*.

From the *Punta* gate to the dock-yard there is a rampart with bastions, faced with stone, and earthen parapets with a ditch, which in several places is fallen in, and almost filled up, particularly behind the *Punta* and land-gates near the stone-quarries, which if joined to one another, might be of great detriment to the place in case of a siege, as lodgments might be made in them; the ground here rises with an easy ascent to the land-gate, and is either open pasture or garden-ground, well stored with the cabbage tree. Before the land gate is a ravelin, the hill on a rising ground from this gate (which is the highest part of the town) to the dock-yard, is steeper than on the other side.

Almost half a mile from the gate, is the church of *Guadaloupe*, being the highest ground on the land side of the town, and if not fortified (which it

was



was not in *August*, 1759) seems to be the most advantageous spot to command the town, being higher than any part of it except the land-gate, which it seems to be nearly on a level with.

From the north side of this rising ground the *Punta* gate may be flanked, and from the south-east side the dock-yard is commanded. Along the north side runs an aqueduct, which falling into the ditch at the land gate, runs down to the dock-yard both for watering the ships and turning a saw-mill.

About half a mile from the church, is a bridge made over a rivulet that runs into the bay about 100 yards. That road leads to the center of the island, and extends to *Baracoa* above 600 miles distant.

From this bridge to the *Lazaretto* is about two miles, with a rising ground betwixt them. A trench thrown up between these two places, would cut off the communication with the town by land,

The *Lazaretto* is about a mile and a half from the point-gate; near this place is a small sandy bay, where there had been a small redoubt.

From the bay to the *Puntal* the coast is a low flat rock about three feet higher than the surface of the sea.

The garrison in *August* 1759, consisted of two regiments of foot, and part of a regiment of horse, 300 mulattos, and 4 or 5000 militia. The islanders, (excepting those that cultivated the land) are hunters, well mounted, and inured to fatigue, provisions good and plenty, their beef wild cattle caught by the hunters in the woody parts of the island.

From the above observations, it is evident, that though the *Havana* is well fortified, and perhaps stronger than any other place belonging to the *Spaniards* in the *West-Indies*, yet it is far from being impregnable, as some have pretended. A proper force landed on the west side of the city, would soon become masters of it, as the walls on the land side are low and in a perishing state; nor could either the castles above described prevent their approaches, unless the hill upon which the church of *Guadaloupe* stands, is properly fortified: the *Spaniards*, (if they do their duty) may baffle the best conducted attempts, as the rainy season sets in in *July*. But if the hill on the east side of the entrance was taken possession of, the town might soon be reduced, and then the forts could not long defend themselves, when attacked from the land by the army, and from sea by the ships.

To conclude; this city is of the greatest importance to the *Spaniards* of any in all the *West-Indies*; as the loss of this place would ruin the *Spanish*

trade; and all their ports on the east side of the continent would easily fall into the hands of the conquerors, if they pursued the blow, with resolution and intrepidity.

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### BAHIA DE MATANZAS,

**I**S a fine deep bay, and one of the largest in *Cuba*, opposite *Bahama* channel, about twenty-four leagues east from the *Havana*, hardly fit for large ships, but very convenient for small vessels to anchor and take in fresh water: at the bottom of the bay is the small town of *San Carlos*, and a fort to guard the road. There is here a very great snuff manufactory.

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### PUERTO DEL PRINCIPE,

**I**S three hundred miles S. E. of the *Havana*, and one hundred eighty six N. W. of *Baracoa*. It was formerly a large and rich town; but being taken by Capt. *Morgan* with his buccaneers, after a stout resistance, it never recovered itself. Near it are several fountains of bitumen.

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### BAHIA DE NIPÉ,

**I**S an extensive bay, with very deep water on the north side of *Cuba*, thirty leagues west of *Punta de Mayfi*, and 140 leagues S. E. of the *Havana*. There is a road from hence over the mountains to *Sant Jago de Cuba*, distant about eighty miles from this place.

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### PUERTO DE BARRACOA,

**I**S about seven leagues north west of *Punta de Mayfi* on the north side of *Cuba*, being a good port with regular soundings; the course into it is S. W. tho' many avoid entering it, because it is troublesome to come out again, for the wind blows right a-head; tho' some have thought it would make

Punta de Maya

for small Craft



Anquinio

Snuff-Mill

Waterfall the Best Watering Place

Plantations

PUEBLO DE ST. CARLOS DE MATANZAS

Morillo

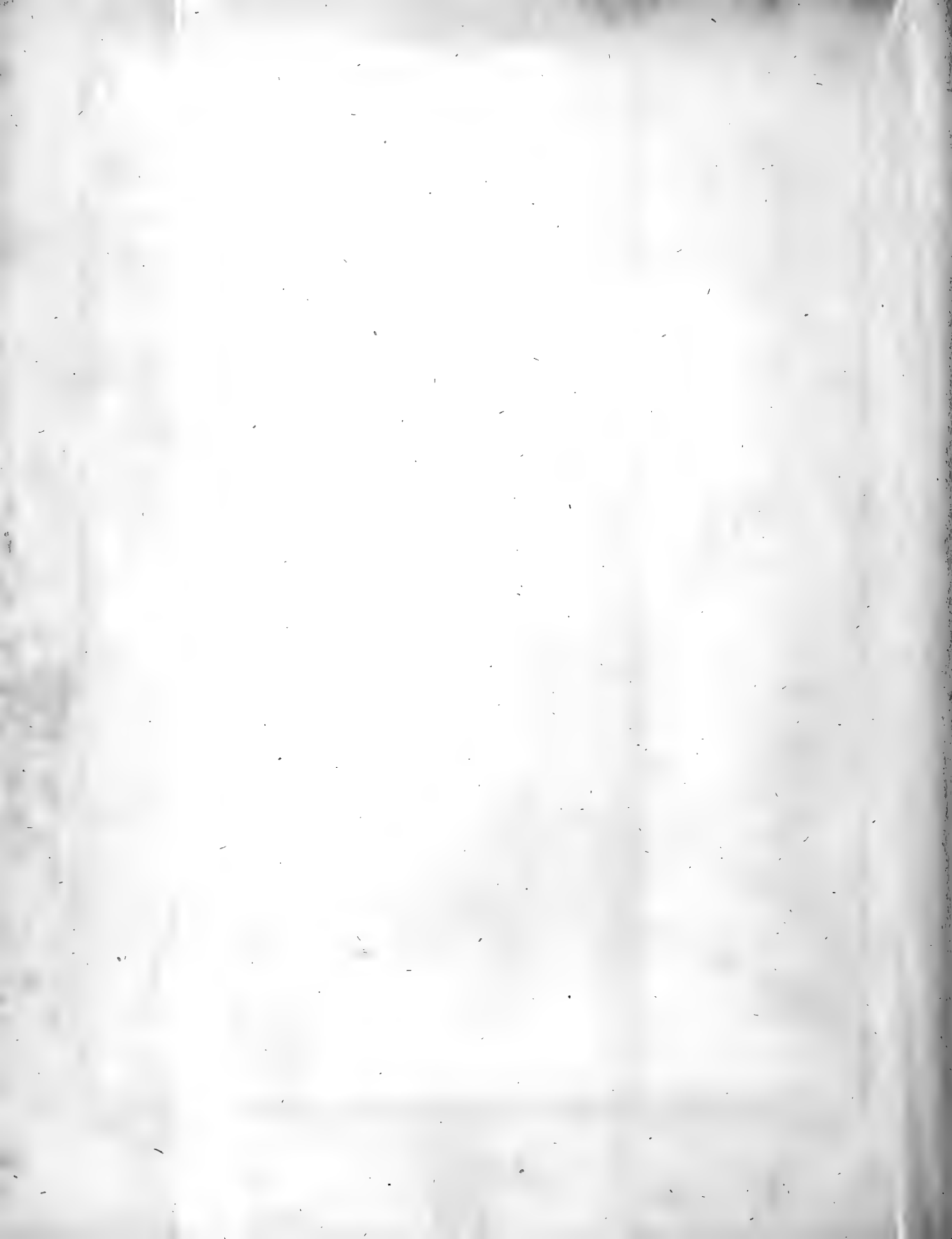
Rio de San Juan

Bucybica

R. de Carimar





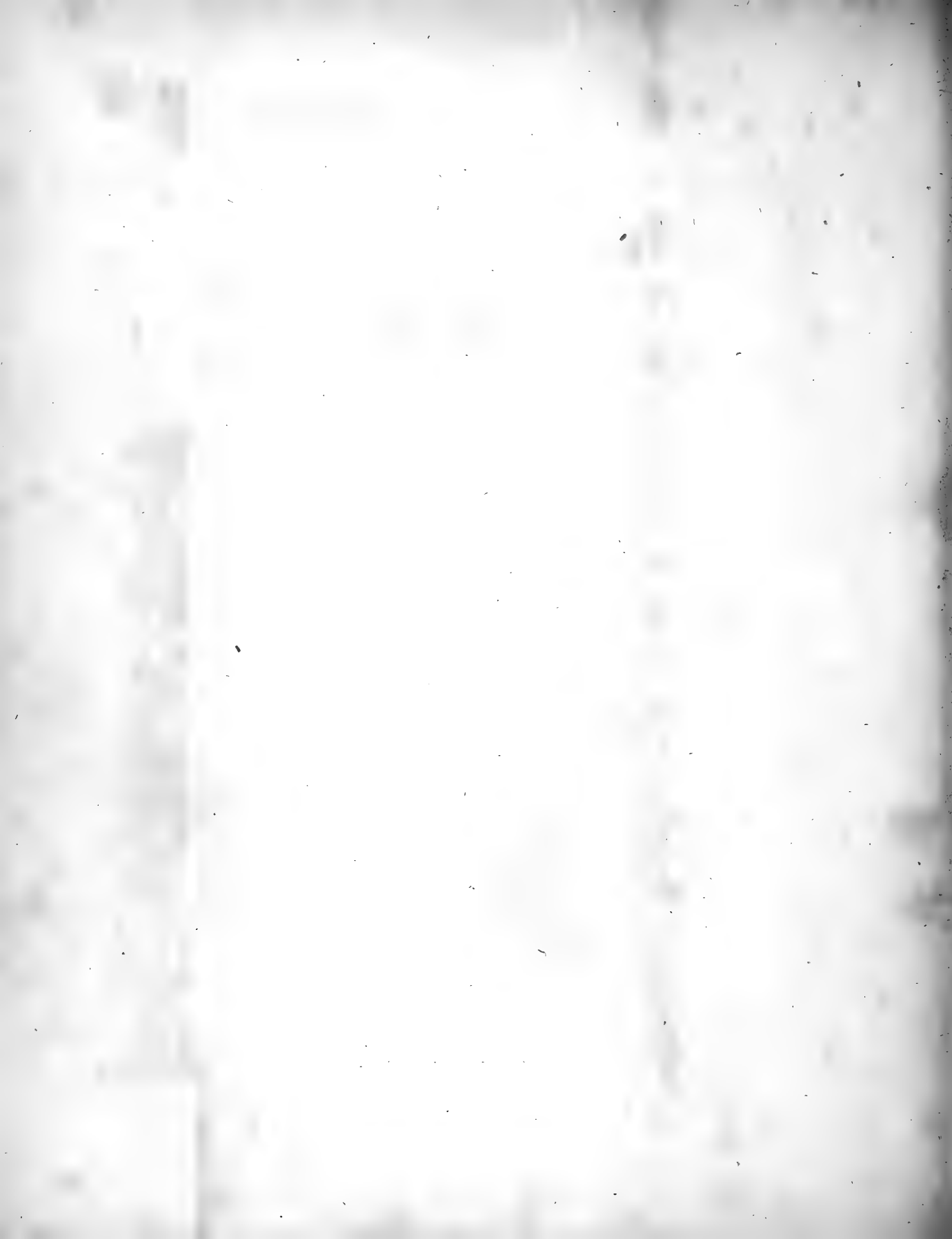


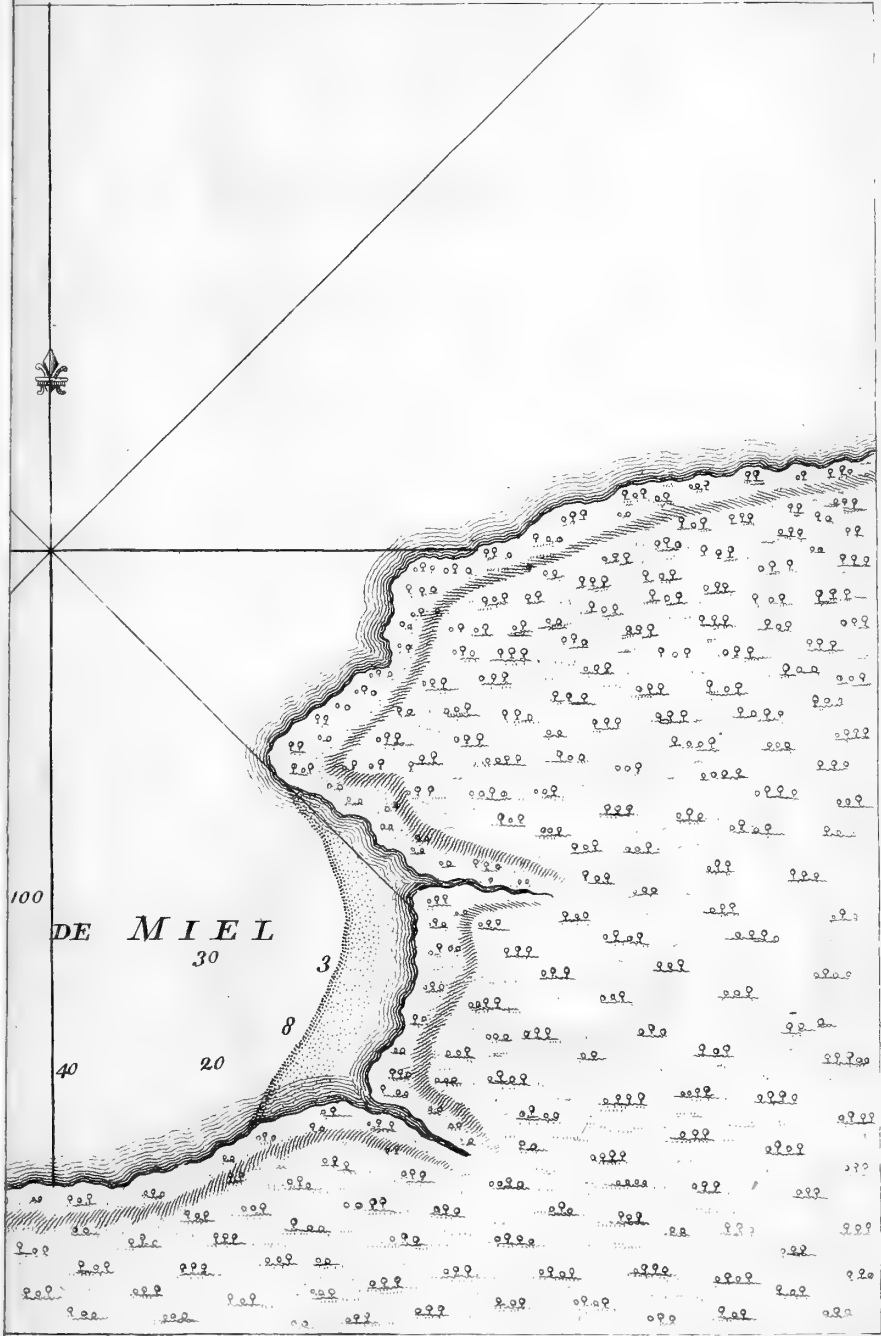










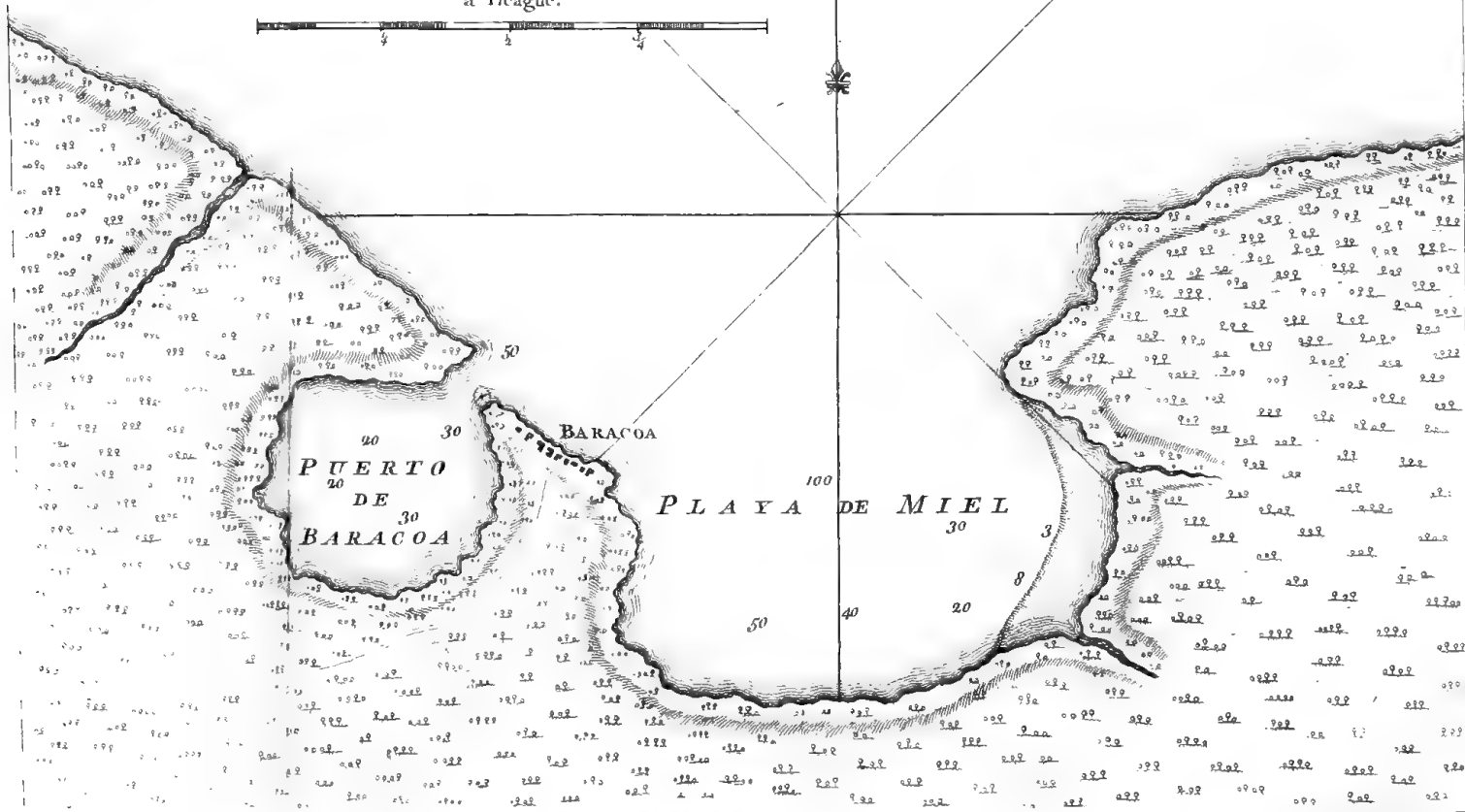


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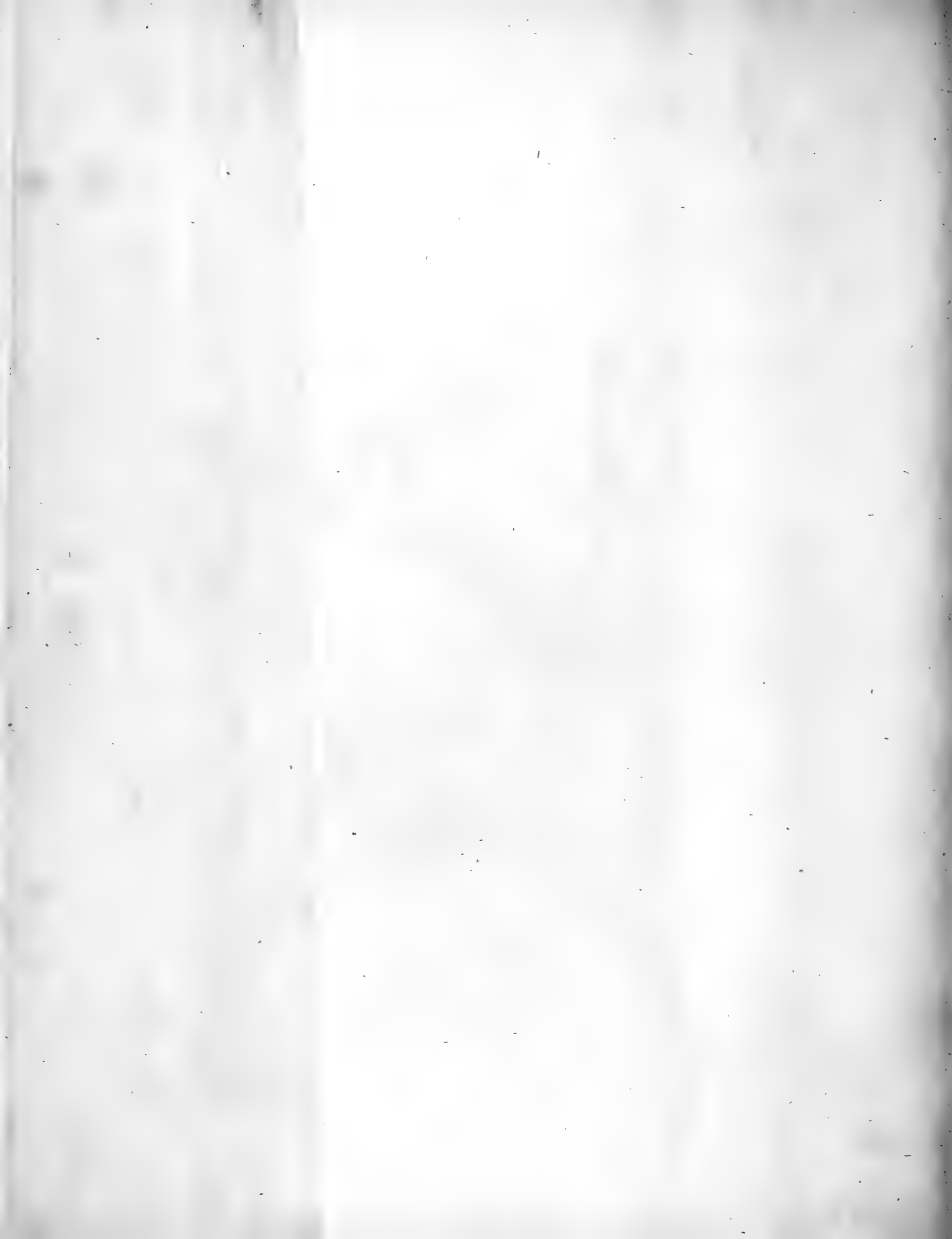


PLAN  
of  
PUERTO de BARACOA.

a League.



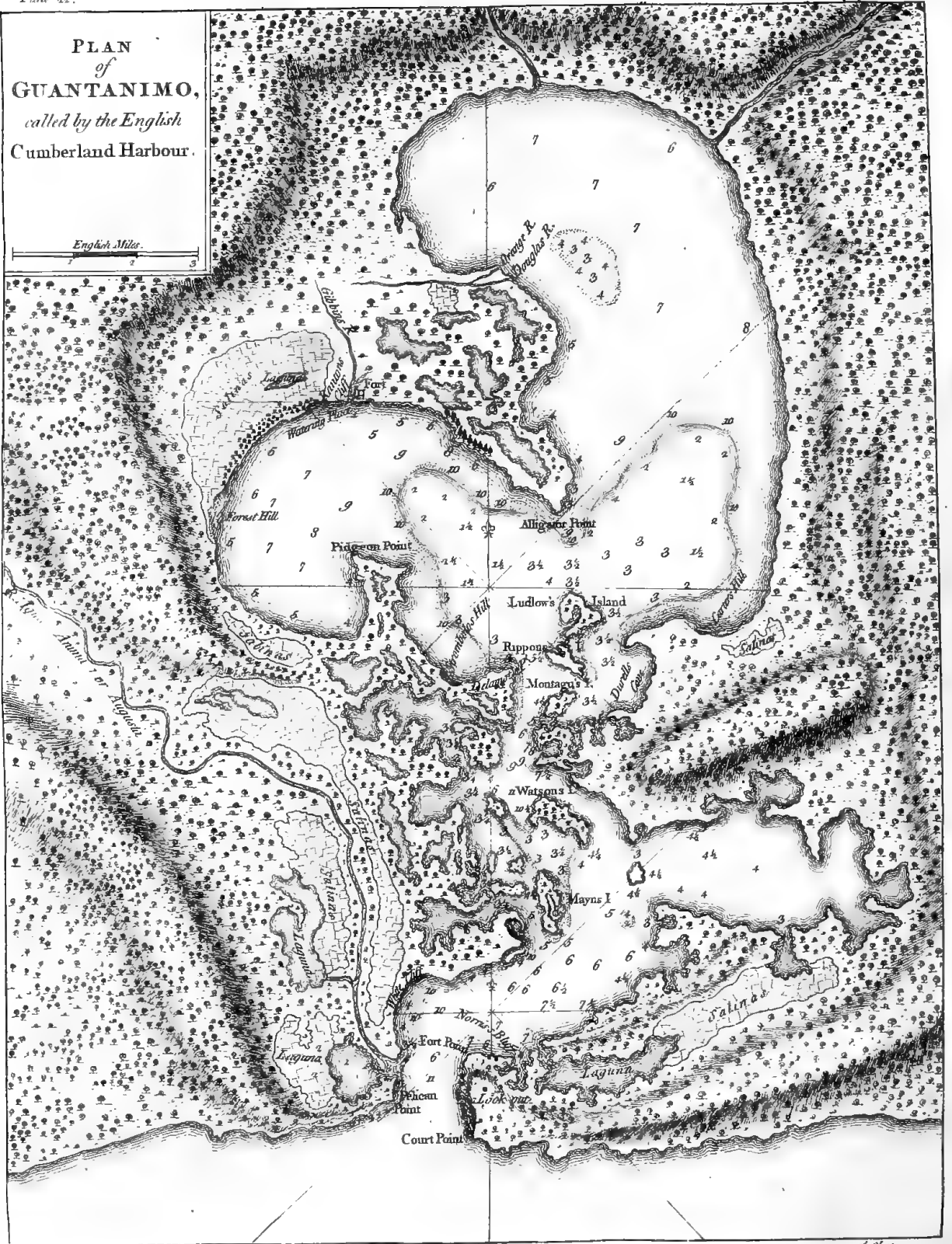
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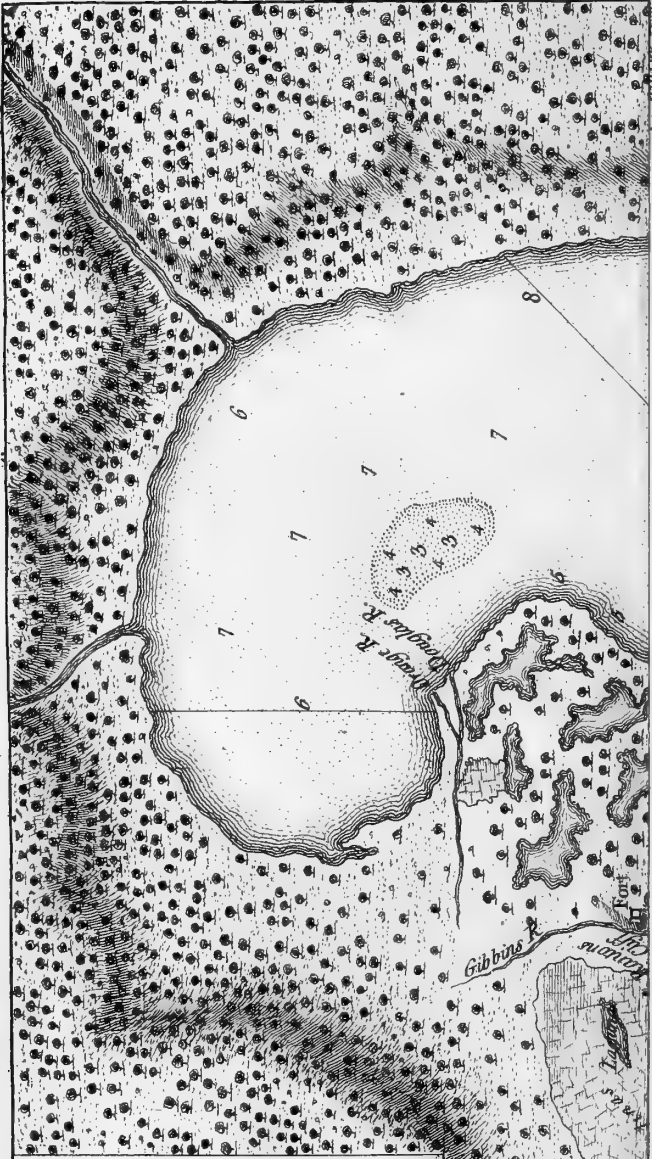
PLAN  
of  
GUANTANIMO,  
called by the English  
Cumberland Harbour.

English Miles



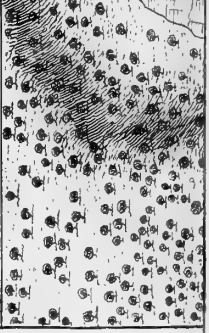






PLAN  
*of*  
**GUANTANIMO,**  
*called by the English*  
**Cumberland Harbour.**

English Miles.  
 3  
 2  
 1



a very convenient port for ships that use the windward passage. From this place there is a road through the chief towns to the *Havana*, above 600 miles in length, by which means there is a communication over land to most of the principal ports on this island.

## P U E R T O   D E   G U A N T A N I M O ,

**B**Y the *English* sailors called *Walthenam*, (to which Admiral *Vernon* gave the name of *Cumberland Harbour*) is a very fine harbour, capable of containing any number of shipping; with this further advantage, that they are secure against the hurricanes which reign in these parts in *August* and *September*. The entrance is narrow and winding, so that it might be rendered inaccessible, by erecting a fortification at its mouth. This passage is above six miles long, is full of small islands, and has on both sides a great many creeks or inlets, (called *lagunas*, or lakes, by the *Spaniards*) especially at the entrance into the harbour, the passage is so narrow, that not above one ship can pass at a time, which renders it capable of being secured against any fleet. The harbour is encompassed by hills, that in some places come close to the shore, and contribute much to its security against winds. The country on both sides these hills is a fine plain; there is a fine fresh-water river navigable for several leagues upwards, which falls into the sea, just within the mouth of the harbour on the west side. To this river, called *Agua Anima*, was given the name of *Augusta*; there are besides two other little rivers, or brooks, on the same side, within the harbour, one called *Orange*, the other *Douglas* river: the land between the hills is much impregnated with salt, affording no less than eight or nine salt springs or pans, three of which are of large extent, and might be made to turn to great advantage. Here is plenty of fish and fowl; likewise up the country abundance of wild cows, hogs, and horses, with other necessaries.

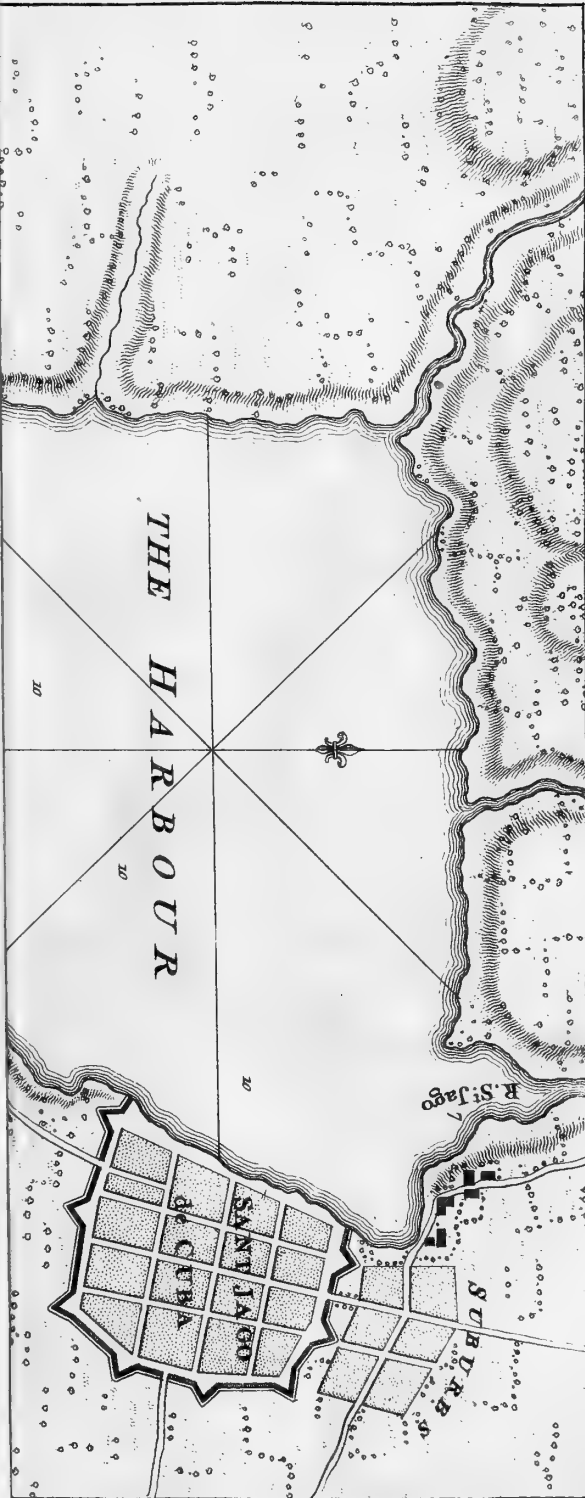
As soon as admiral *Vernon*, in *July* 1741, had taken possession of this place, he sent some vessels about four or five leagues up the river, along which the transports ranged themselves, and landed the troops which encamped in three bodies by the river-side. After this general *Wentworth* sent

sent out several detachments to examine and scour the country, which meeting with many advanced guards of the *Spaniards*, repulsed them, and brought in plenty of provisions both for the fleet and army; but having stayed till the hurricanes were over, and receiving no supplies from *Europe*, it is said, they were obliged to quit the island on account of the sickness among their troops.

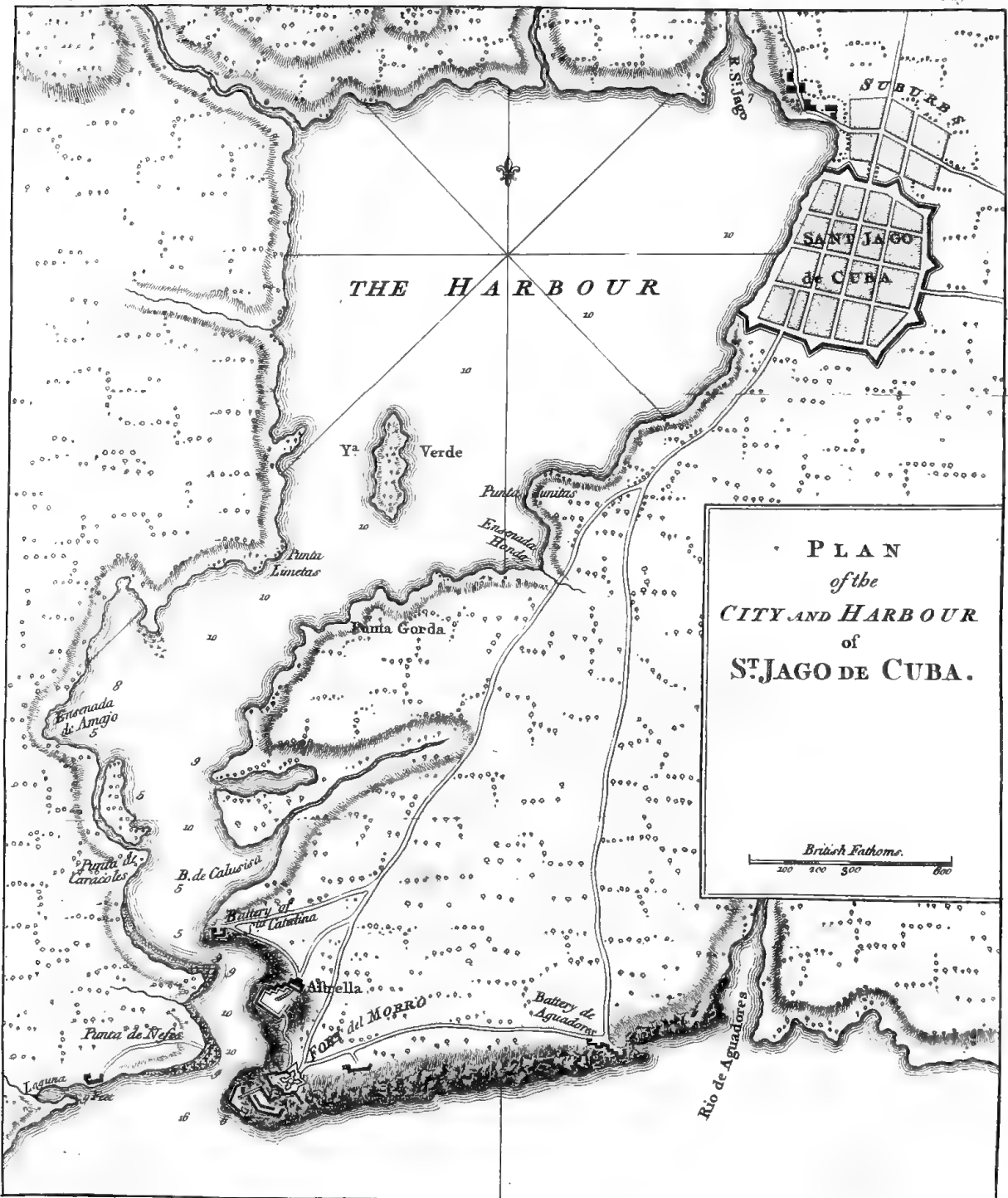
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### SANTIAGO DE CUBA,

LIES about 50 miles to the west of *Cumberland* harbour; is the capital city of *Cuba*, and a bishop's see, although the governor of the island, and all the king's officers reside at the *Havana*, the governor of *Santiago* is subject to the governor of the *Havana*, who is captain general in military affairs. Hence this city is neither so large, populous, nor strong as the former; nor is the resort of ships so great on account of trade, which consists of hides, sugar, and copper, whereof there are rich mines in the mountains but three leagues west from the city. The harbour is one of the best in this part of *America*; it runs about seven miles north into the land: the entrance for about a mile is so narrow that only one ship can enter at a time; then it widens for about two miles, and then contracts itself again; after which it opens again into a spacious triangular basin, very deep, and secure from hurricanes. The water is so still that there is scarce need of anchors to secure the ships which ride here. At the mouth of the harbour, on the east side, stands the strong *Fort del Morro*, mounted with twenty guns; and a little farther within, on the same side, two batteries; the first a large one, the other small: by these the entrance may be defended against a numerous fleet; besides it is by nature so dangerous, that seldom any but small vessels frequent this port. The officers sent by admiral *Vernon* to examine this place, report that there is no anchoring without at sea, where there is 80 or 100 fathom water, with a prodigious swell; and when ships are arrived within half a league of it they are generally becalmed, which is occasioned by the land intercepting the wind: there they roll and toss, unable to help one another, and in great danger of being driven upon the rocks  
that





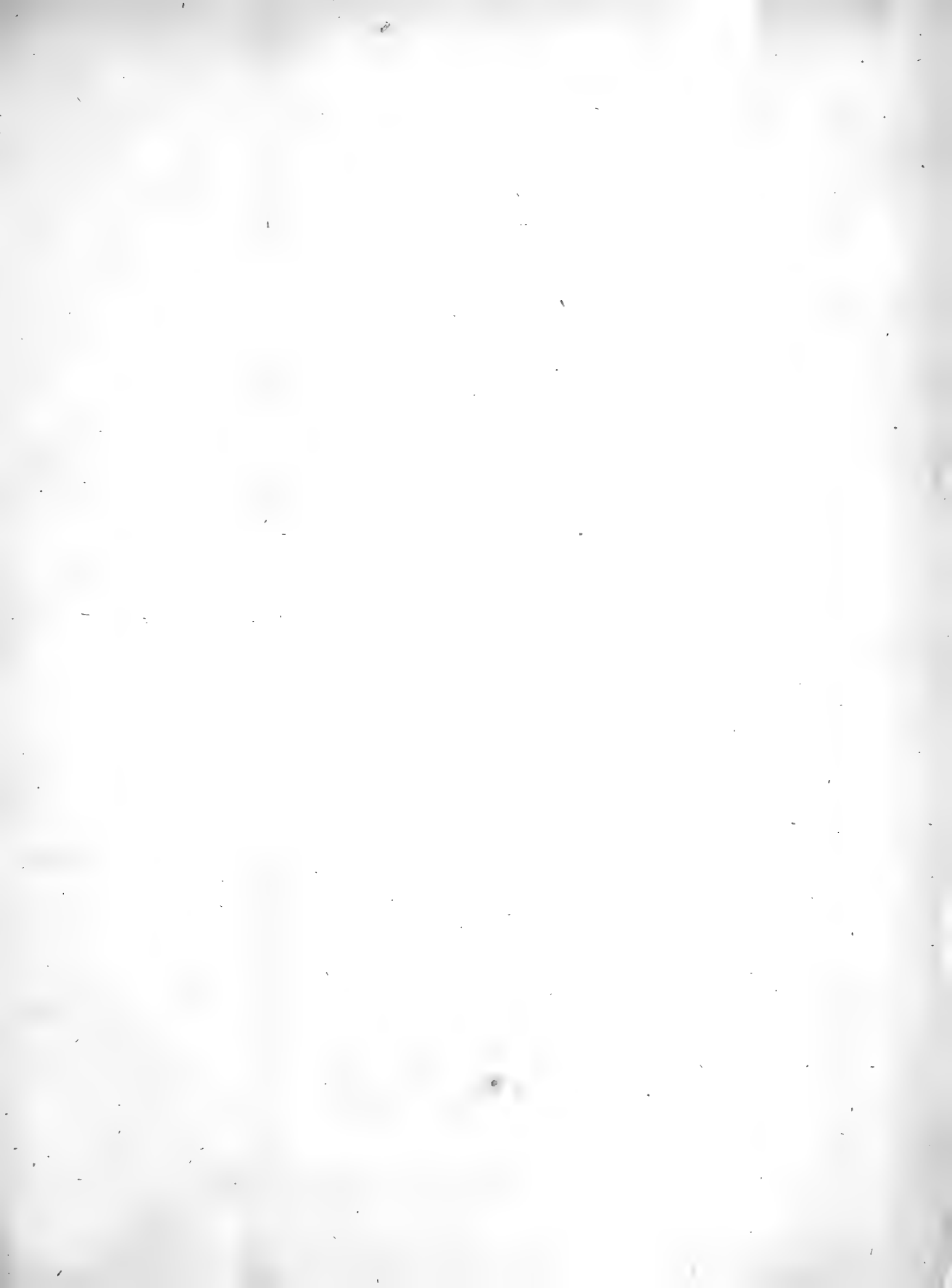


PLAN  
of the  
CITY AND HARBOUR  
of  
ST. JAGO DE CUBA.

British Fathoms.  
200 300 500 600

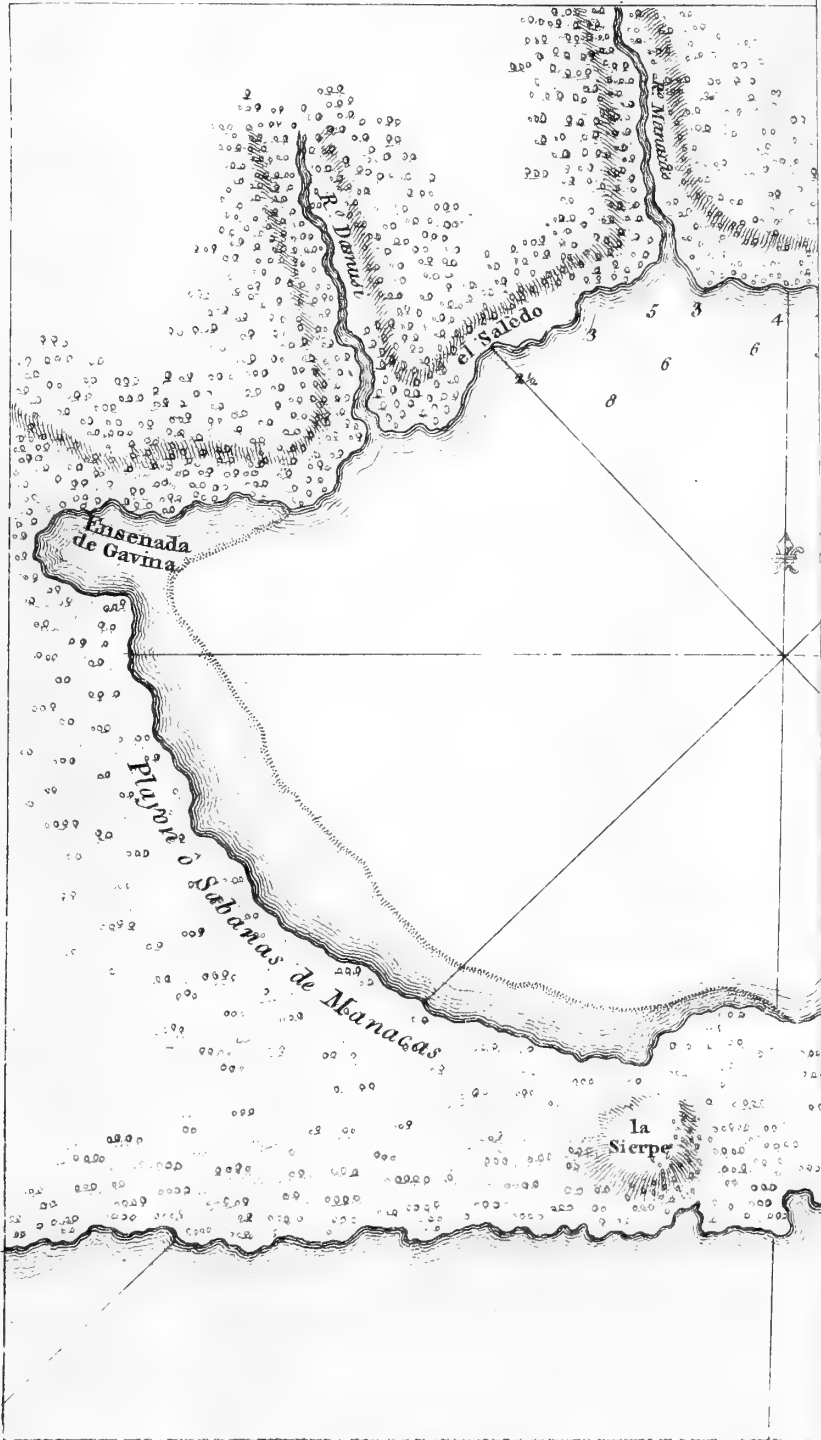












that lie to the west of the entrance, as marked in the plan. For this very reason, while the *Spaniards* are in possession of the fort, it would be almost impossible to enter this harbour.

LA TRINIDAD, situated on the south side of *Cuba*, about 190 miles distant from the *Havana*, and under the jurisdiction of that city: there is a small trade carried on in barks, from this town to *Cartagena*, and several other places on the coast of *Tierra Firma*. The river is only fit for vessels that draw about 10 feet water.

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### BAHIA DE XAGUA,

SITUATED on the south side of *Cuba*, and about 80 miles to the S. E. of the *Havana*, and about 90 miles N. W. and by N. from port *Negril* in *Jamaica*. This is a very fine harbour, with deep water, the entrance of which is guarded by a small fort upon a rock, called *Cayo de Cabron*. There are several fine fresh-water rivers, that discharge themselves into this bay; the country round produces the finest timber for ship-building; most of them that are fit for use are stamped with the king of *Spain's* arms, and when cut down, are transported by sea to the *Havana*, for the use of the docks there.

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### THE COLORADOS,

ARE a very dangerous cluster of rocks, that lie at the most western part of the bank *Santa Isabella*, on which many rich ships have been lost in their passage from *Jamaica* to *Europe*. As this coast has never been accurately laid down, but in *Spanish* draughts, we have thought proper to insert a copy of one, with the description of the coast, written originally in *Spanish*, by *Domingo Gonzales Carranza*, his Catholic majesty's principal pilot of the flota in *New Spain*.

“ In sailing from *Jamaica* for the gulph of *Florida*, and having past the large *Caiman*, direct your course to the N. W. and you will come in sight  
“ of

“ of cape *Corrientes*, which is even land, moderately high, with some trees,  
 “ one of which looks like a watch-tower. When you are off this cape,  
 “ to be more sure of it, you will see about the north, some high mountains,  
 “ full of ridges, which lie on the other side of the island of *Cuba*, upon the  
 “ river *Puercos*; and are by some called *Las Sierras del Potrero*, or *Sierras*  
 “ *del Rosario*, for, in this situation, you can see no other; they appear off at  
 “ sea to be two hills. To this cape *Corrientes*, you are not to come too near,  
 “ till you are N. and S. with it, for to the S. W. about a league and a half  
 “ from land; a rock lies under water.

“ When you are upon cape *Corrientes*, and certain of it by the grove of  
 “ trees as aforesaid, if you would go near, and it bears N. and S. you may  
 “ sail safely towards it; for then you will be clear of its shoals; and there is a  
 “ bay to the eastward which affords very good shelter. In case you want to  
 “ weather the cape, you may make close up to it; for although you must  
 “ make some boards, there is no danger; as you will quickly get past it,  
 “ keeping well up to windward, till you come within the bay, where you  
 “ will see a sandy shore, upon which you may anchor in five or six fathom  
 “ water, or more if you please, for it is all good anchoring-ground and clear:  
 “ though the bottom appears spotted, it is black mud, and the rest  
 “ white sand with cockle shells: at the brink of the shore is a good place  
 “ to take in water; and at the end of it, a grove of date trees. After you  
 “ have passed some ridges of stones, inclining to the sea, you will find the  
 “ said place for water. From cape *Corrientes* the coast runs to the W. N. W.  
 “ as far as the cape de *St. Antonio*, which is the west end of the island of  
 “ *Cuba*, and is like a mole built on the land, that runs out from the front of  
 “ the said island. On the south side of it, the coast is clear and soundable,  
 “ the land low and full of trees; of which some appear higher than others:  
 “ at the sea the trees are to be seen before you discover the land; they look  
 “ like ships under sail, which appearance has deceived many persons.

“ This cape of *St. Antonio*, has about three leagues in front, from which  
 “ three points run out that form two little bays; each of them is a place to  
 “ take in water; but the best is on the northernmost point, called *Punta del*  
 “ *Manglar*; that on the south is called *Punta del Guanál*; and they all  
 “ lie



A. Jefferson sculp.

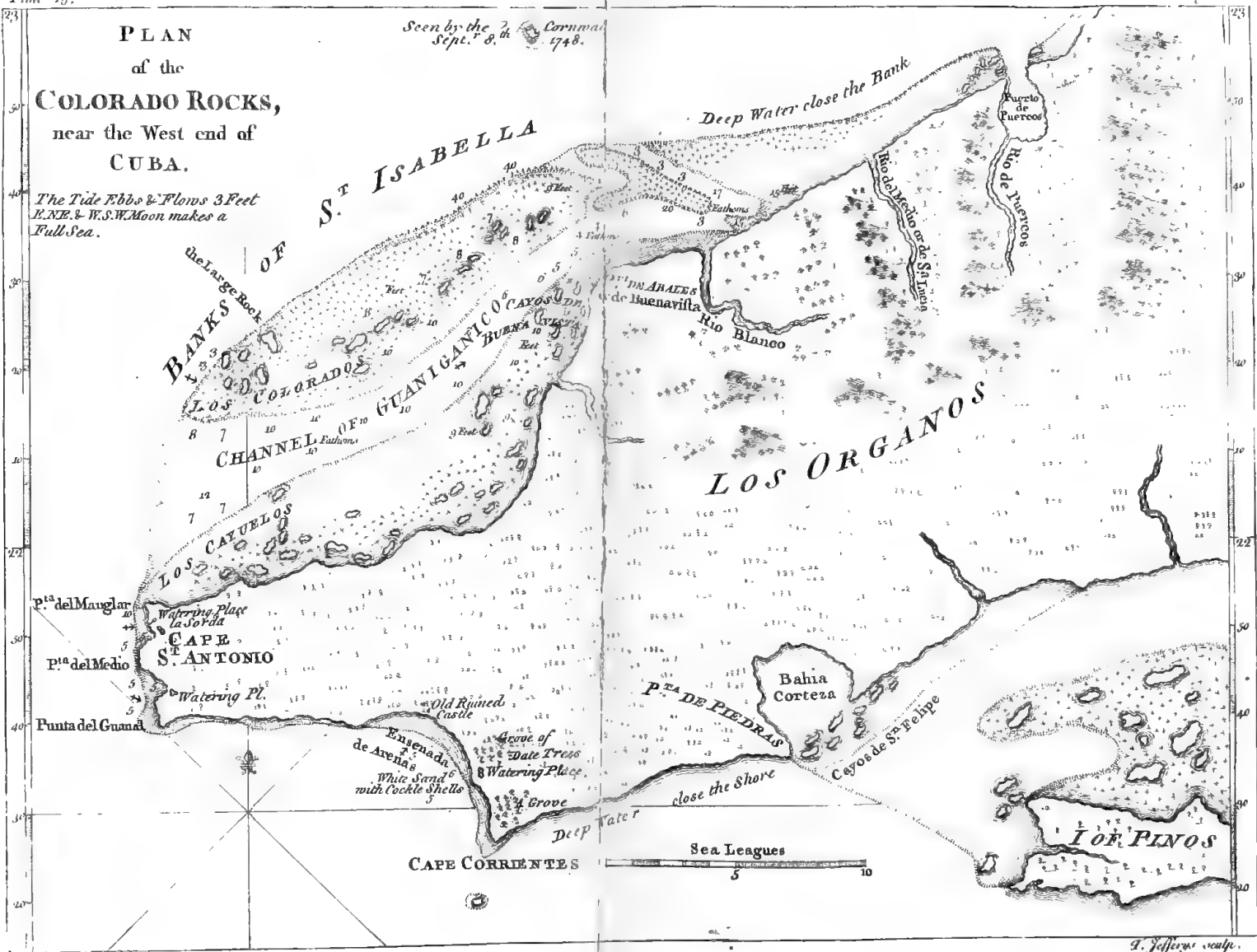




PLAN  
of the  
**COLORADO ROCKS,**  
near the West end of  
CUBA.

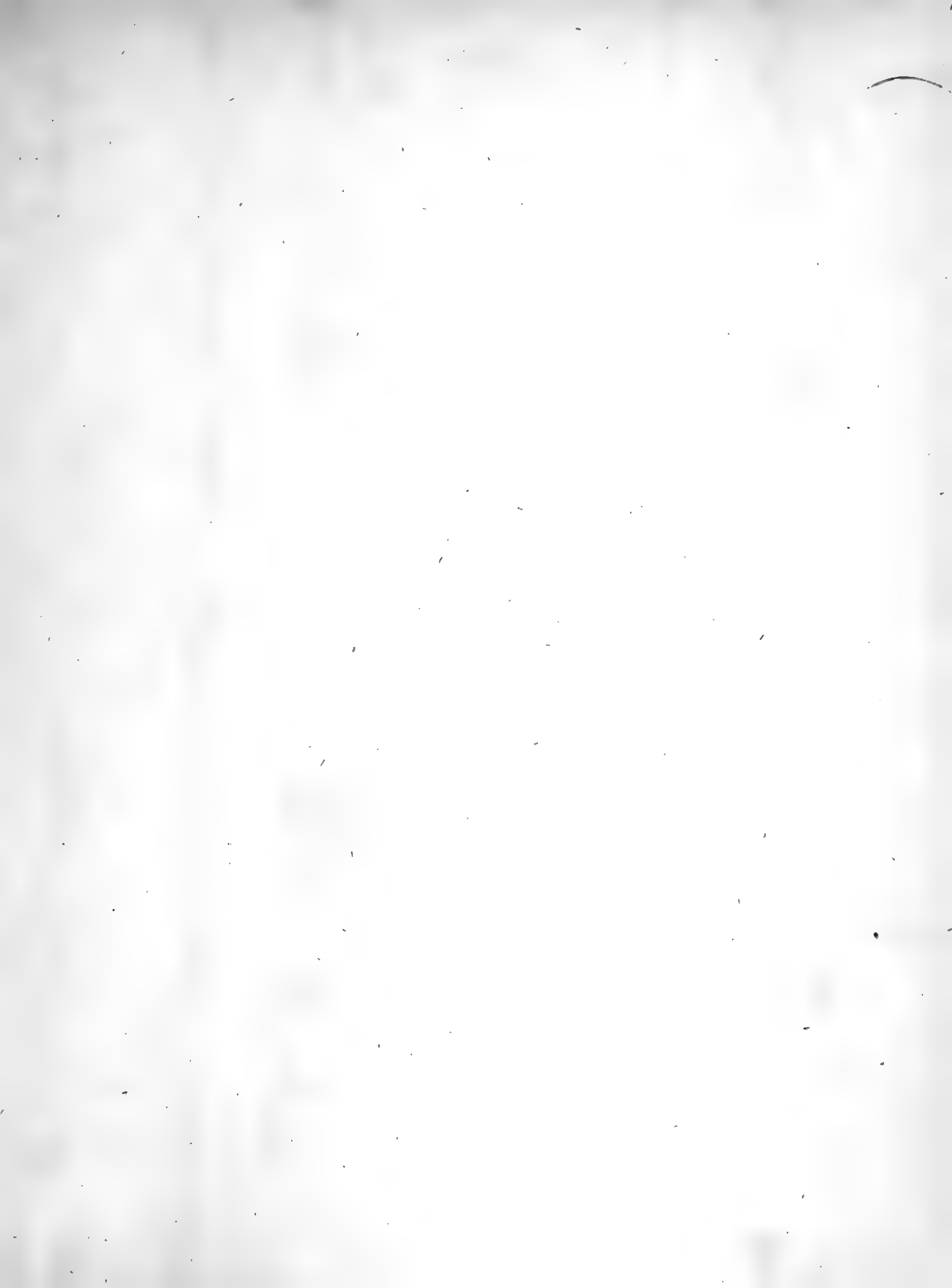
The Tide Ebbs & Flows 3 Feet  
E. N. E. & W. S. W. Moon makes a  
Full Sea.

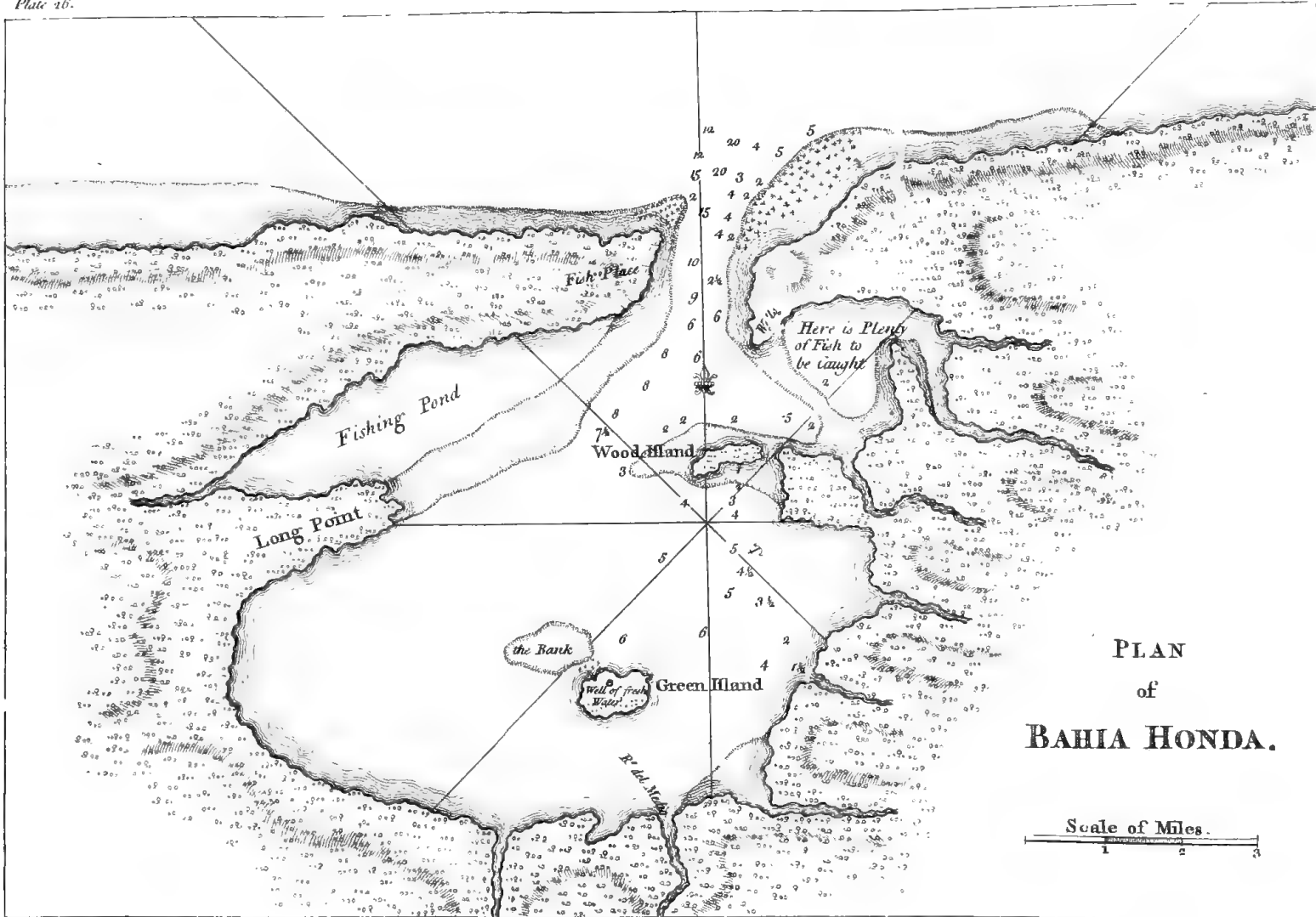
Seen by the *7<sup>th</sup> Cornwall*  
*Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1748.*



*T. Jefferys sculp.*







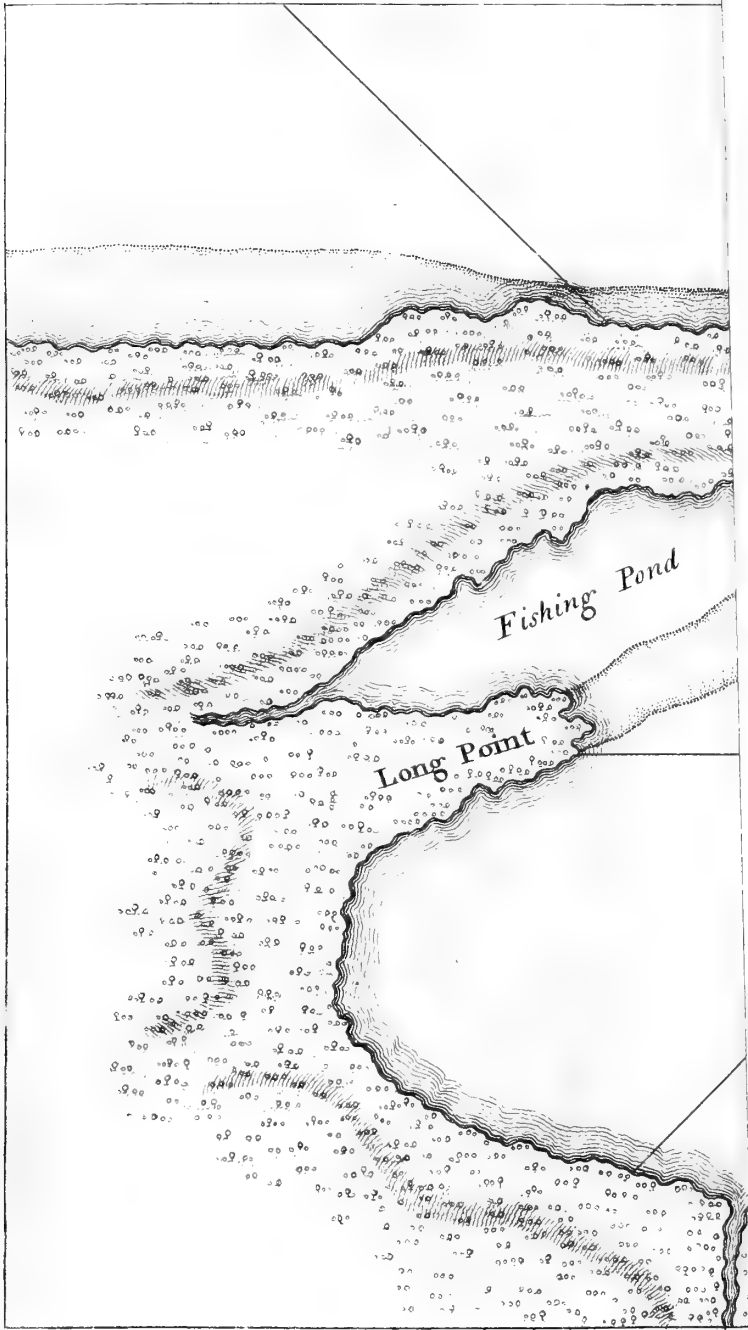
PLAN  
of  
**BAHIA HONDA.**



*A. J. Miller*



Plate 26.



“ lie N. and S. near the *Punta del Manglar*. A little to the east of it, begins  
 “ the passage that runs to the N. E. by the shoals of *St. Isabel*, and along  
 “ the coast as far as *Bahia Honda*. If you would take in water at this  
 “ cape, you may anchor in the said passage, for in this part of the *Punta del*  
 “ *Manglar*, there is a good spring or well; near it there is likewise  
 “ a lake of good water, and just by it, there is a pit called *De La Sorda*. Go-  
 “ ing to the east, by this passage, lies the bay of *Guaniguanico*, which af-  
 “ fords good shelter within, for vessels of a moderate draught; without  
 “ the said bay there are four or five fathom water, and some shelter from  
 “ the north, between the *Cayos*; but a man must be experienced that at-  
 “ tempts to pass between them, to come out near *Bahia Honda*. In sailing  
 “ without the shoals of *St. Isabel*, when you come upon cape *St. Antonio*,  
 “ endeavour to pass in sight of it, steering north; for to the N. W. of the  
 “ said cape, about five or six leagues distant, lies a shoal, called, *Don Sancho*  
 “ *Pardo*; but that course will carry you clear of it; and if you have a large  
 “ wind, go to N. E. passing by the *Cayos*, and shoals of *St. Isabel*, at some  
 “ distance from them (for they commonly are under water, and their reef is  
 “ not to be seen;) but when you are upon them, or have struck ground,  
 “ there is no getting back, for here the counter currents set towards the  
 “ S. W.”

## B A H I A H O N D A,

**O**R the *Deep Bay*, is large enough to contain a very considerable fleet: here is plenty of fish and sweet water; and near to the shore is a good conveniency for watering. Its entrance lies to the south, and clear, without any obstruction. In the bay, (which is asserted by some to be very little inferior to the *Havana*) is very good anchoring ground, near *Wood Island*. This bay lies very convenient for protecting the navigation of the gulph of *Florida*, being distant not above twenty-three leagues west of the *Havana*.

N

P U E R T O

THE ISLAND OF  
PUERTO CAVANAS,

**I**S a fine bay, and is known at sea by a round high hill, with a small break within land, has a little wood at the top, and another high hill, called *Pan de Cavañas*, or *The Loaf of Cavañas*, and near the sea-coast a double row of little hillocks, like unto shepherds cottages, from which they take their name; these run to the east of *Babia Honda*, where the *Loaf of Cavañas* is over the middle of these hills; there lies the *Puerto Cavañas*, which is fit for vessels of small burthen, having at the entrance, and within the harbour, from four to six fathom water. It lies six leagues from the *Babia Honda*, and about seventeen leagues west from the *Havana*.

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PUERTO DE MARIEL,

**L**IES ten leagues west from the *Havana*, and thirteen leagues east from the *Babia Honda*. This place affords very good shelter, and sufficient depth for any vessel: to enter which they must keep over to the lee shore till they are within the entrance, and then anchor on the windward side of the *Puerto de Mariel*, where there is safe shelter from the sea wind, and on which side there is fine sweet water, that runs clear from a rock.

With this we conclude the account of *Cuba*, from whence it plainly appears of what importance the conquest of this island must be to *Great Britain*: Nor is this a secret newly discovered, but has long since been observed and recommended by those acquainted with the *West Indies*, who have had the interest and welfare of their nation at heart; of which there needs no further proof than the letter of major *Smith*, governor of the islands of *Santa Catalina*, and *Old Providence*, when the *Spaniards* took them from us in 1665.\*

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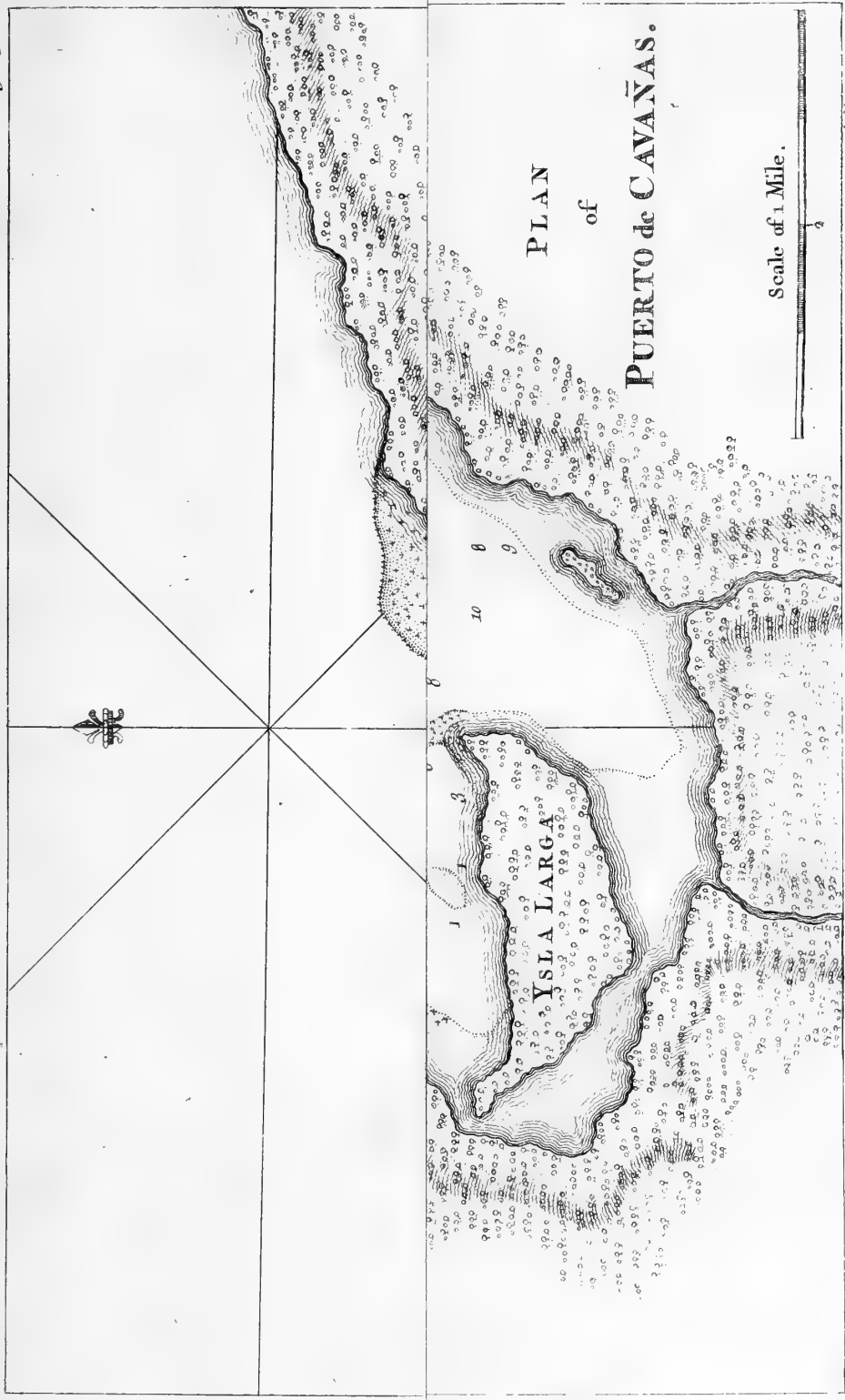
SAN DOMINGO, OR HISPANIOLA.

**T**HE natives called it *Hayti*; but the *Spaniards*, when *Christopher Columbus* first discovered it in 1492, named it *Hispaniola*, or *Little Spain*. The city which he founded in 1492 being dedicated to St. *Dominic*,

the

\* See Appendix.



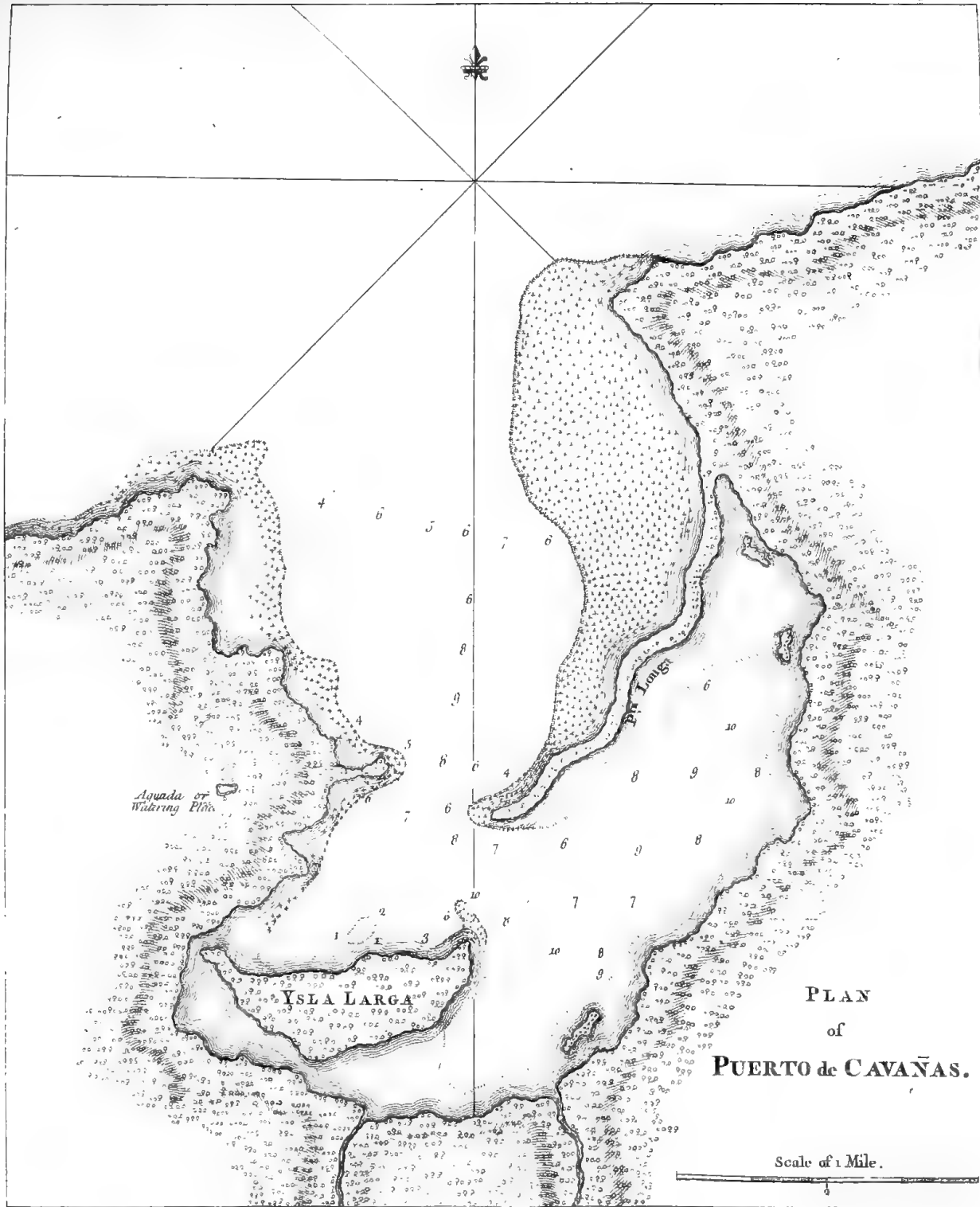


PLAN  
of  
PUERTO de CAVANAS.

Scale of 1 Mile.

*A. Peters: sculp.*





Aguada or Waking Place

Puerto Longo

YSLA LARGA

PLAN of PUERTO de CAVANAS.

Scale of 1 Mile.

A. J. Jeffers, engr.













the name was first extended to that quarter of the island, and in process of time to the whole; so that it is now generally called *Sant Domingo*. It is situated between *Cuba* and *Puerto Rico*, and it extends from lat.  $17^{\circ} 37'$  to lat.  $20'$  and from long.  $67^{\circ} 35'$  to long.  $74^{\circ} 15'$  being near 400 miles from west to east, and almost 120 where broadest, from north to south. The climate here is extremely hot, but cooled by winds that blow at certain seasons. It also rains excessively at some times, yet not in all places alike: but on the whole it cannot be said that the air is by any means comparable to that of *Cuba*; the soil also differs very considerably, being in some places exceedingly rich and fruitful, in others miserably poor and barren. The climate agrees but badly with new-comers, yet some of the inhabitants live here in great state and plenty, in good health, and to a great age, many of them exceeding 80, and some reaching to 120 years.

This island, which is next to *Cuba* for size, is allowed next to that to be the most fruitful, and by much the pleasanter in the *West Indies*; having vast forests of cabbage-trees, palms, elms, oaks, pines, juniper, caramite, acajou, and other trees still taller and larger, and the fruit more pleasing to the eye, and better tasted than in the other islands; particularly ananas, bananas, grapes, oranges, lemons, citrons, toronias, limes, dates, and apricots. Here are all the birds common in the *West Indies*; as also the musketto and fire flies. In the meadows or savanas are innumerable herds of black cattle. There are a sufficient quantity of horses in the *French* part of the island to supply all their neighbouring colonies; besides wild horses and wild hogs, of the breed first brought over by the *Spaniards*. The hunters shoot the beeves for their hides, as is done in *Cuba*; and with regard to the pork, they strip the flesh from the bones, and jerk it as they do in *Jamaica*. Scarce a country in the world is better watered by brooks and navigable rivers, in which are plenty of fish, and the coast abounds with crocodiles and tortoises. Its principal river is called *Ocoa*. In the sands of the rivers they used to find gold dust, and the island has many mines of gold, silver, and copper; which, though formerly worked with great profit, yet the *Spaniards* have found themselves too weak to carry them on to advantage, and take all the care they can to conceal them from others. The principal commodities of this island are hides, sugar, indigo, cotton, cocoa,

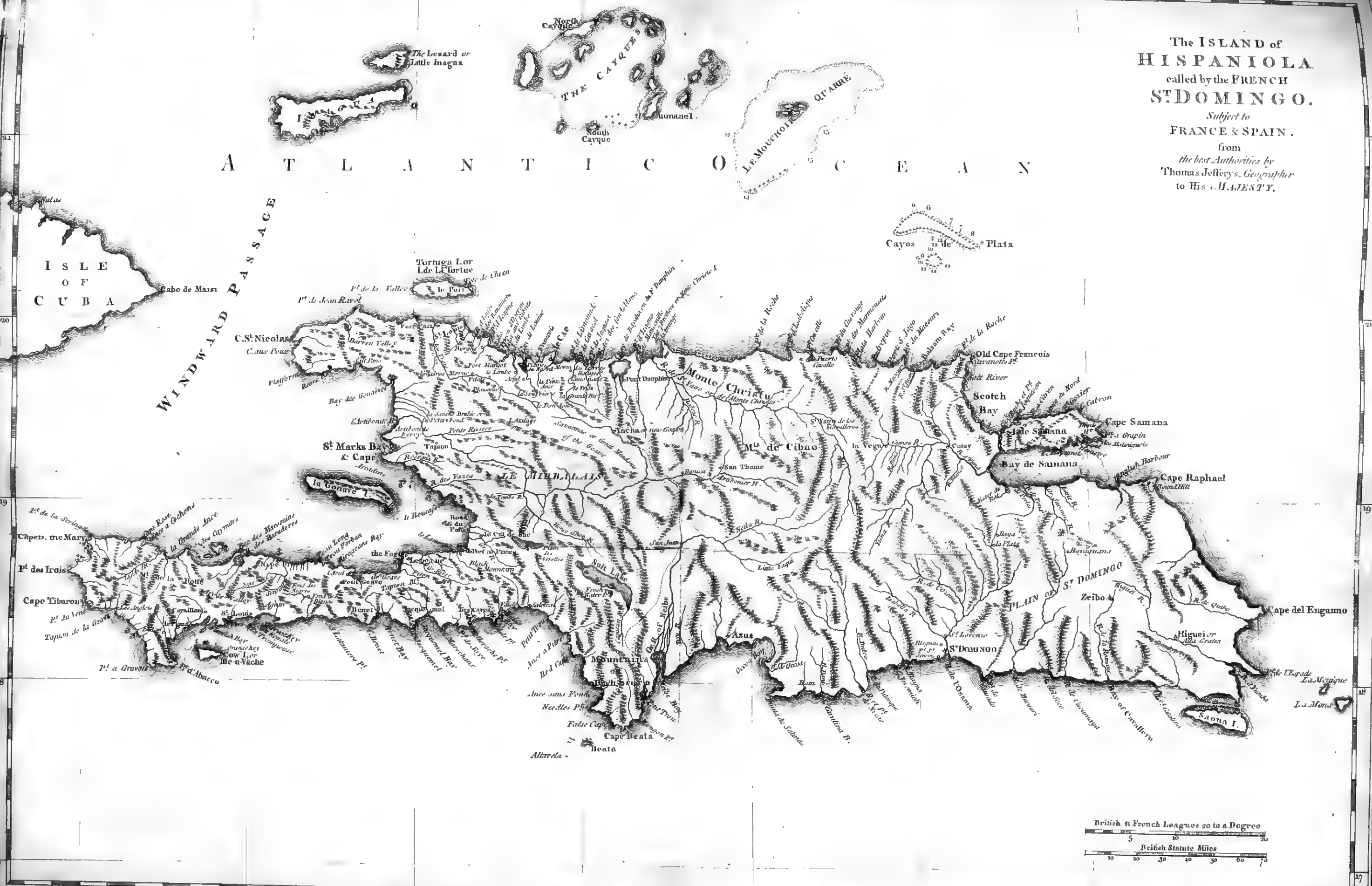
coffee, ginger, tobacco, salt, wax, ambergris, various sorts of drugs, and dyers wood. What corn they have ripens at such different times that it cannot be reaped with any profit. The number of *French* on this island is said to equal, if not exceed, that of the *Spaniards*; though both together are very far short of what the island is capable of maintaining. In 1726, the inhabitants were computed at 30,000 whites, and 100,000 negroes and mulattos, whose daily allowance is potatoes, though they have leave to keep hogs.

The *Spaniards*, by degrees, conquered the natives; and, in battle, and cold blood, destroyed no less than 3,000,000 of men, women and children. While the natives enjoyed their possessions, the *Spanish* inhabitants lived much more happily, and enjoyed much greater affluence than they have done since; for the people cultivated their lands, supplied them with fish, and some small quantities of gold, when they could find it; whereas now the far greatest part of what the *Spaniards* claim, rather than possess, is desert, and yields little or nothing. As this island was among the first discovered by the *Spaniards*, so it was the center of their commerce in these parts; and they were for many years sole possessors. During some part of that time it was a very flourishing colony. But after the conquest of *Peru*, and the considerable additions made to their territories on the continent of *North America*, they neglected this island, which encouraged the *French*, about the middle of the last century to fix themselves on the north side, where they have improved the settlements to such a degree, and have become so strong, that it is thought they might long before now have made themselves masters of the whole island, did they reap more benefit from the neighbourhood of the *Spaniards* than from their expulsion. The frequent descents both of the *English* and *French* on the west part of the island, by degrees, obliged the *Spaniards* to abandon all that part of it to the west of *Monte Christo*, on the north, and cape *Mon-gon* on the south. But though the *Spaniards* were glad to live upon good terms with the *French*, yet they always considered them as usurpers of a country to which they had no sort of right, till 1697, when the *Spaniards* yielded to them the west part of it, by the treaty of *Ryswick*. The boundaries between them and the *French* may be seen in the map. The *French* are convinced that in this part of the island are considerable mines  
of

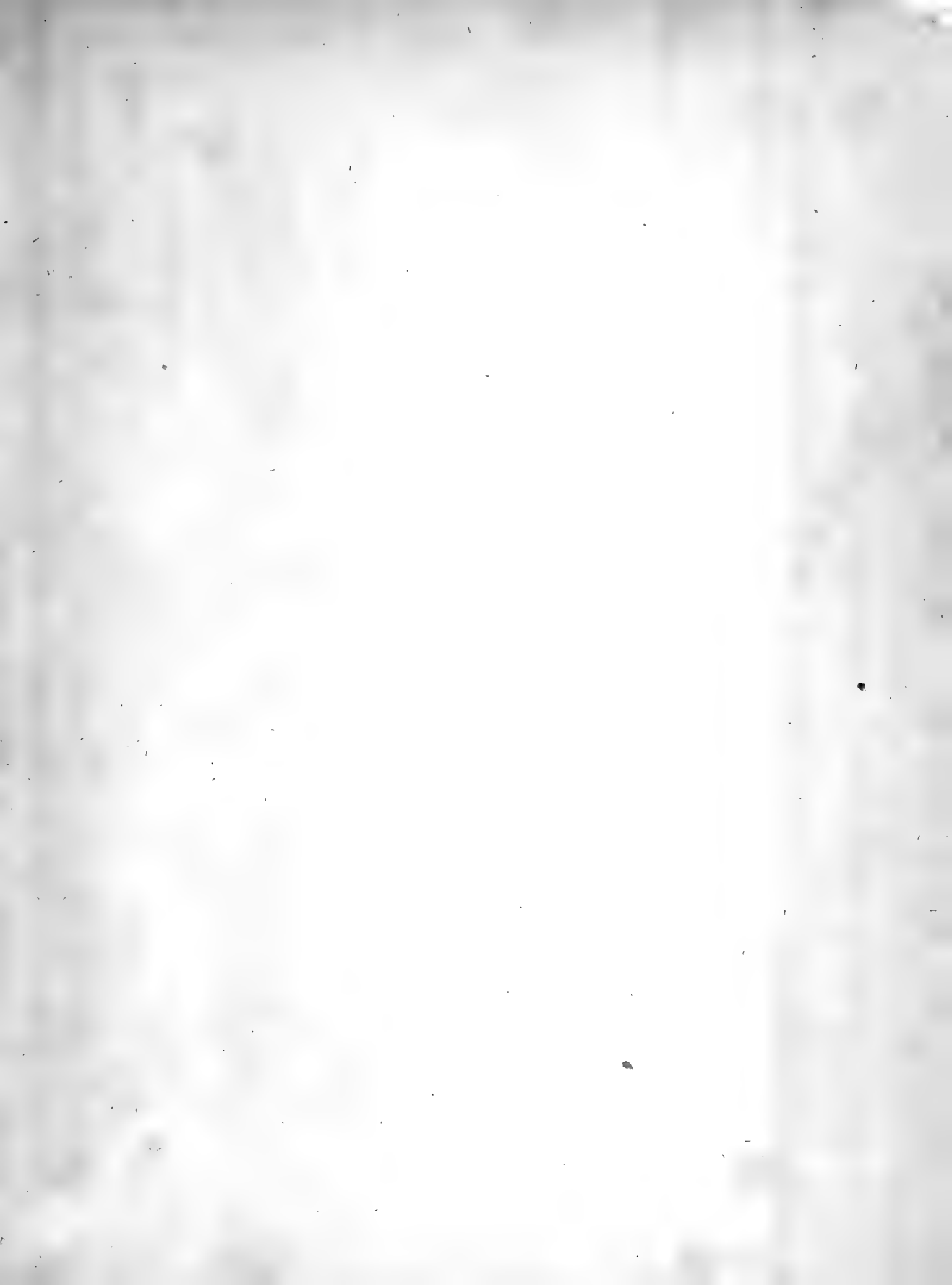




The ISLAND of  
**HISPANIOLA**  
called by the FRENCH  
**ST. DOMINGO.**  
Subject to  
FRANCE & SPAIN.  
from  
the best Authorities by  
Thomas Jefferys, Geographer  
to His MAJESTY.



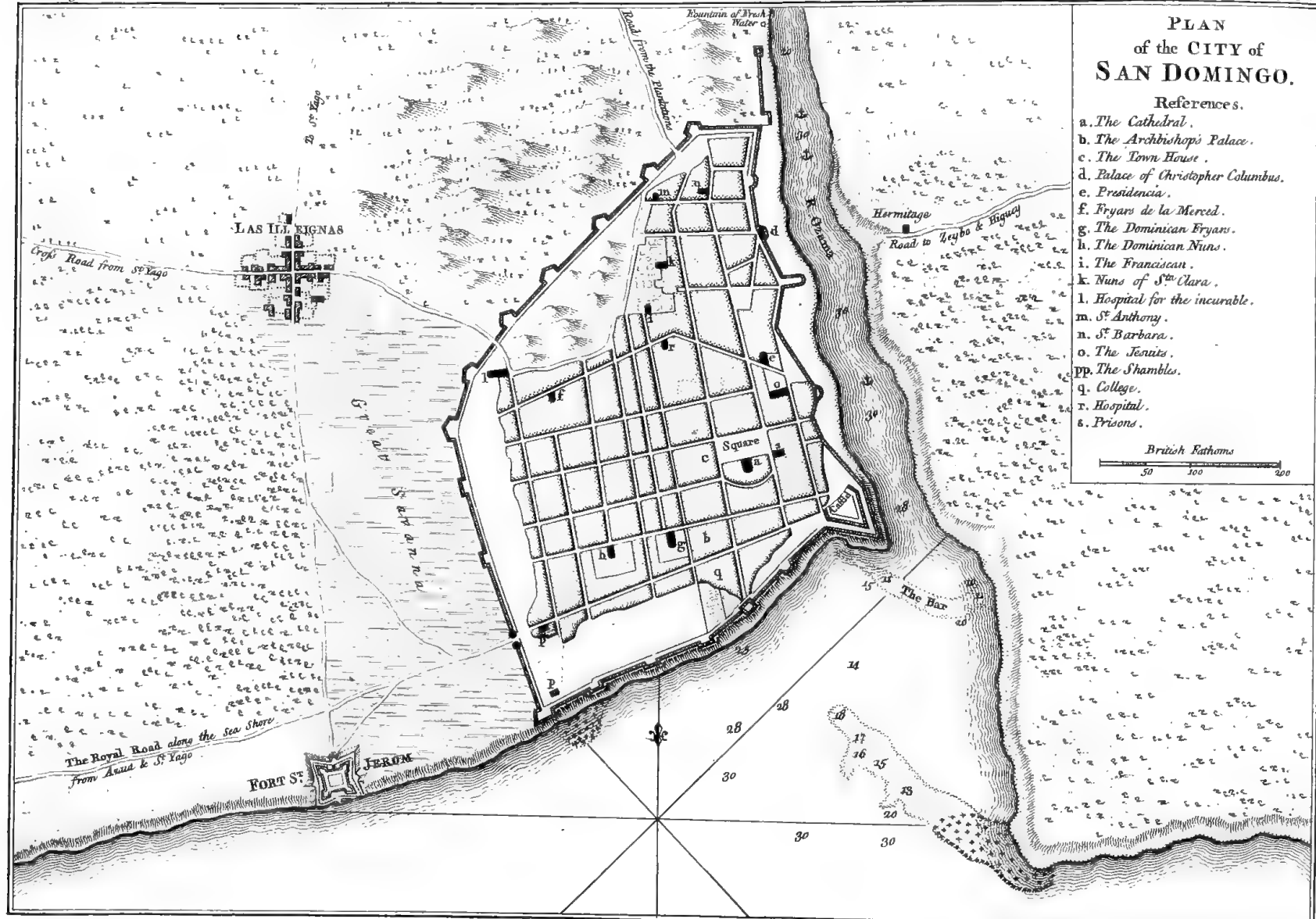




# PLAN of the CITY of SAN DOMINGO.

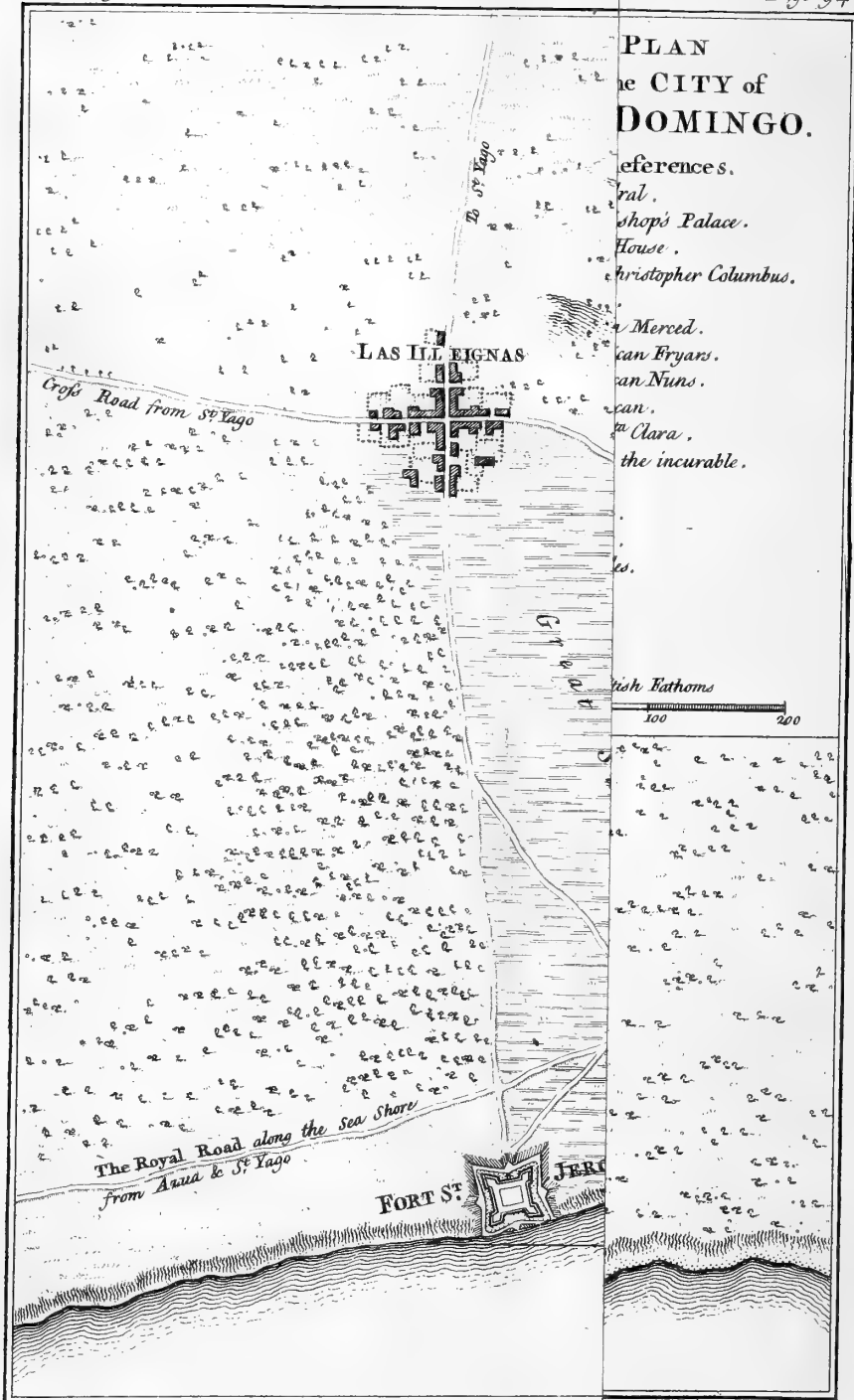
## References.

- a. The Cathedral.
- b. The Archbishop's Palace.
- c. The Town House.
- d. Palace of Christopher Columbus.
- e. Presidencia.
- f. Fryars de la Merced.
- g. The Dominican Fryars.
- h. The Dominican Nuns.
- i. The Franciscan.
- k. Nuns of S<sup>ta</sup> Clara.
- l. Hospital for the incurable.
- m. S<sup>t</sup> Anthony.
- n. S<sup>t</sup> Barbara.
- o. The Jesuits.
- pp. The Shambles.
- q. College.
- r. Hospital.
- s. Prisons.









**PLAN**  
**of the CITY of**  
**DOMINGO.**

- References.
- Palace.
  - Shops.
  - House.
  - Christopher Columbus.
  - Merced.
  - San Fryars.
  - San Nuns.
  - San.
  - Clara,
  - the incurable.

Fish Fathoms  
 100 200

T. Jefferys Sculp.

of several forts : but while the sugar and indigo mines, as one of their writers expresses it, are sure to produce such a quantity, they are never likely to look for any others. *Spanish* coin is much more current in this island than *French*. The smallest pieces are half rials, and the accounts are only kept in pieces of eight, and rials.

Though the slaves here are more numerous by far than their *European* lords, the *French* and *Spaniards*, who are not a fifth part of the people upon the island, yet the slavery is as intolerable as on the continent ; with this difference, that the *Spaniards* lead a lazy indolent life, entirely depending on their slaves ; whereas the *French* sometimes work themselves. The colony of the latter here is allowed to be the most considerable and important they have in these parts. They are already possessed of so many noble harbours and forts as give them an opportunity of disturbing and ruining the commerce of any nation which they happen to be at war with. And indeed so many harbours are all round the island, that sailors can scarce miss of one in which they may have fresh water and provisions.

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### SANT DOMINGO.

THE capital of this island, was first built by *Columbus*, on the south side of it, and is situated at the mouth of the river *Ozama*, in a fine plain, which shews it to a great advantage from the sea. *Bartholomew Columbus*, brother to the admiral, is said to have founded it in the year 1394, and gave it the name of *Domingo*. It was taken by Sir *Francis Drake*, who held it a month, and then burnt a part of it ; but spared the rest for a ransom of 60,000 pieces of eight. It soon recovered itself ; but the trade, which was considerable in sugar, hides, tallow, horses, hogs, and cassia, has decayed since the *Spaniards* have been tempted by later discoveries to *Havana*, &c. Nevertheless it still makes a good figure ; and its inhabitants, including the negroes, &c. are thought to exceed 25,000 ; and some reckon them many more. They consist of *Spaniards Mestizoes*, *Mulatos*, and *Saltatraces*, of all which together a sixth part is supposed to be *Spaniards*. *St. Domingo* is a large well built city, a bar port, and it has several structures more magnificent than is usual in the *West-Indies*, especially those of the king of *Spain's* col-

collectors. Here is a *Latin* school, and hospital with an endowment of 20,000 ducats a year, besides an university. They have one cathedral, seven large monasteries, and two nunneries, besides a mint, and a college, with a revenue of 4000 ducats. It is the see of an archbishop, whose suffragans are the bishops of *La Concepcion* in this island, *St. John's* in *Porto Rico*, *St. Yago* in *Cuba*, *Venezuela* in *New Castile*, and of *Tulucidd* in *Honduras*. Here also is the residence of the judges of the royal courts; it is an *audiencia real*, the most eminent royal audience of the *Spaniards* in *America*: so that the lawyers and the clergy keep this city from utter decay, since the declension of its trade. The greatest part of the commerce carried on by the *Spaniards* of this island is however from this port, which has 5 fathom water at the best: it is safe and large, and defended by several batteries, with a castle at the end of the pier, strengthened with two half moons. The president from *Old Spain* lives in a house in this city, that is said to have been built and occupied by *Christopher Columbus* himself. To this court, on account of prior settlement, appeals are brought from all the *West-India* islands, as formerly they were from every province of *Spanish America*, and his sentence is definitive, unless it is called by a particular commission into *Spain*. As he purchases his office, he consequently executes it with oppression; nor does he want instruments for that purpose. This place being the resort and harbour, of the most abandoned set of wretches in the *Spanish* Dominions.

*San Domingo* is built of stone, after the *Spanish* model, having a large square market-place in the middle, about which stands the cathedral and other public buildings: and from this square the streets run in a direct line, being crossed by others at right angles; so that the form of the town is almost quadrangular. It is most delightfully situated, between a large navigable river on the west, the ocean on the south, and a fine fruitful country on the north and east.

*MONTE CRISTO*, lies on the north side of the island, has a commodious harbour nineteen leagues west from *Puerto de la Plata*, and forty N. W. from *San Domingo*, near the river called *Yaguey*, on whose banks are many salt pans. This port has been the mart for a contraband trade, carried on between the *French* and *Spaniards* during this war.

PUERTO

PUERTO DE LA PLATA is thirty-five leagues north of *San Domingo*. *Ovando* fixed a colony here in 1502. It stands conveniently on the sea coast, has a castle, and was reckoned the second place of trade in the island; but has been so often destroyed by pirates, that it is now dwindled to a mere fishing-village.

THE CITY OF CONCEPTION *de la Vega* stands twenty-five miles north of *San Domingo*, was formerly a bishop's see, founded by *Columbus*, who had from this town the title of *Duke de la Vega* conferred on him and his posterity by the king of *Spain*. It has an abbey of *Franciscans*, a cathedral, whose bishop is suffragan to *San Domingo*, several parish churches and convents.

ST. JAGO DE LOS CAPELLEROS, twenty-nine leagues N. W. from *San Domingo*, is a very pleasant place, fortified with a castle, and was formerly inhabited by the *Buccaneers* or *Hunters*.

SAONA, or SAVONA, on the S. E. point of the island, has pleasant woods and pastures, abounds with tortoises and other fish, as also with guaiacum; and formerly supplied *Hispaniola* with cassavè, but is now uninhabited and frequented only by *Spanish* fishermen, at the time that the tortoises come to lay their eggs. It is but five miles from the nearest part of *San Domingo* island. The north and south sides of this island are rocky and foul, nor is the east side, where ships may ride in eight fathom, well sheltered.

MONA ISLAND, is very small, and is said not to be three leagues in circuit, lies between *Puerto Rico* and *San Domingo*, and its climate and soil are excellent. There is great plenty of good water; and the oranges that grow here are by much the largest and finest in *America*. It is well peopled, for its extent, and is under a particular governor for the king of *Spain*.

## PUERTO RICO,

CALLED by its antient inhabitants *Boriquen*, was discovered by *Columbus* in the year 1493, but it cost the *Spaniards* a great deal of trouble to reduce it, the inhabitants being a brave gallant people, and extremely

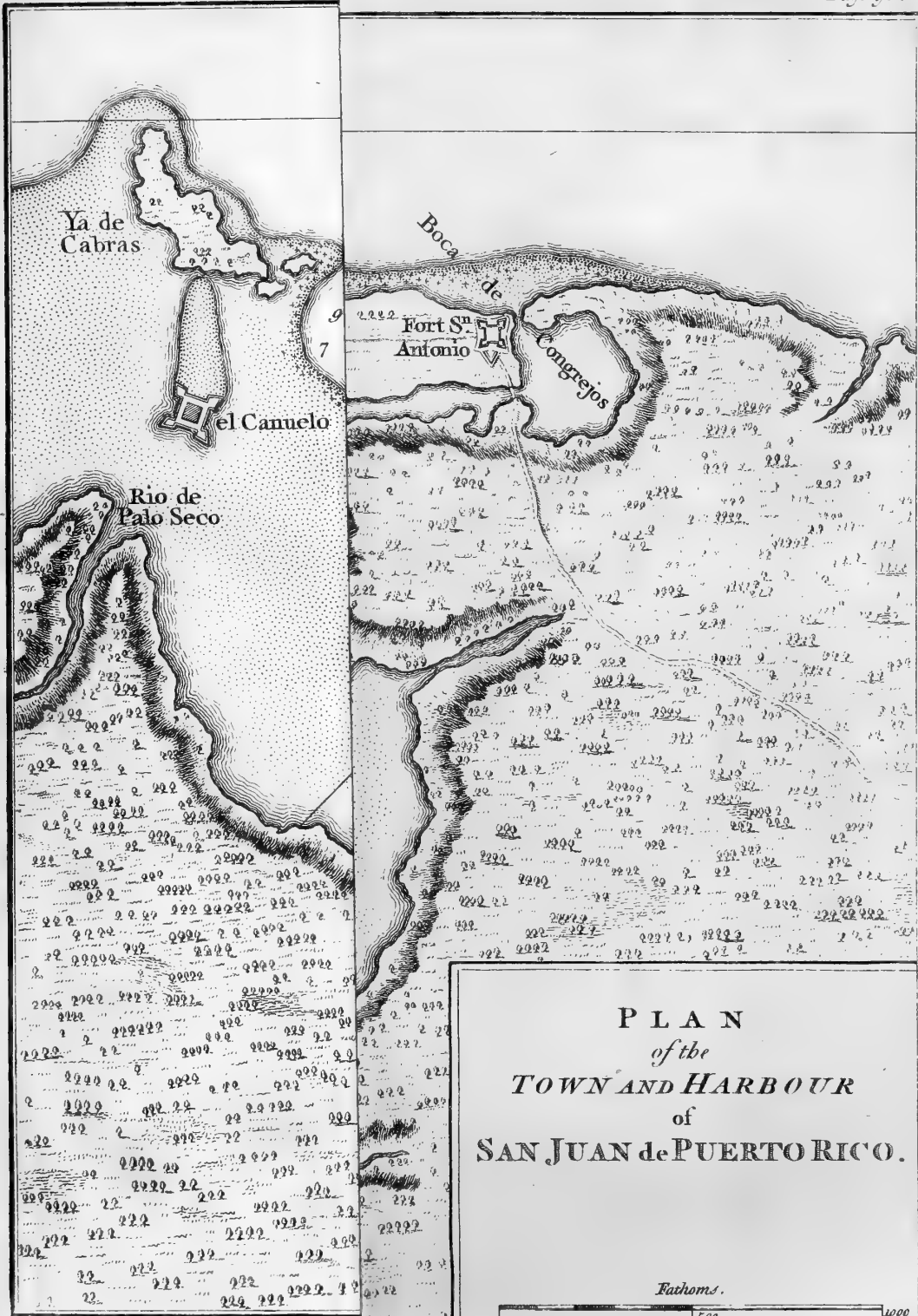
extremely fond of liberty. They however succeeded at last, and not only conquered, but extirpated the natives: who, at the first arrival of the *Spaniards*, are said to have amounted to 600,000. The natural consequence of such inhuman conduct was too soon visible; the destruction of the people proved the ruin of the island, and there is now no longer any quantity of gold found in *Puerto Rico*, where it formerly abounded, and for the sake of which the poor innocent natives were slaughtered. The rains which generally render the season unhealthy fall in *June, July, and August*, when the weather would otherwise be extremely hot. The soil which is beautifully diversified, is extremely fertile, abounding with fine meadows, well stocked with wild cattle, which were brought originally from *Spain*. A ridge of mountains runs through the island from east to west, from whence great numbers of brooks and rivers issue, which water the plains, and clothe them with the finest pastures. The sides of the hills are covered with trees of various kinds, proper for building ships and other useful purposes: but its principal commodities for commerce are sugar, ginger, hides, cotton, thread, cassia, mastick, &c. Great quantities of salt are also made on the island; which, with the great variety of fine fruits it produces, adds much to the value of its exports. The number of inhabitants, who are chiefly *Mulatos* at present on the island, amount to about 10,000.

The genius of the people, and the convenient situation of this island, would render it the most flourishing of all the *Spanish* colonies, if some great inconveniences did not keep the people under. These are principally three; great droughts, which are but too frequent, and which bring the inhabitants to the point of starving; hurricanes, which happen also very often, and do incredible mischief at sea and on shore; and, lastly, the descents of privateers, which have been so frequent, and so fatal, that all the sea-ports have been ravaged several times.

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### SAN JUAN DE PUERTO RICO,

**T**HE capital of the island, is situated on a small island, extending across the harbour, and is joined to that of *Puerto Rico* by a causey. This harbour is very capacious, and the largest ships may lie here with the utmost



PLAN  
of the  
TOWN AND HARBOUR  
of  
SAN JUAN de PUERTO RICO.

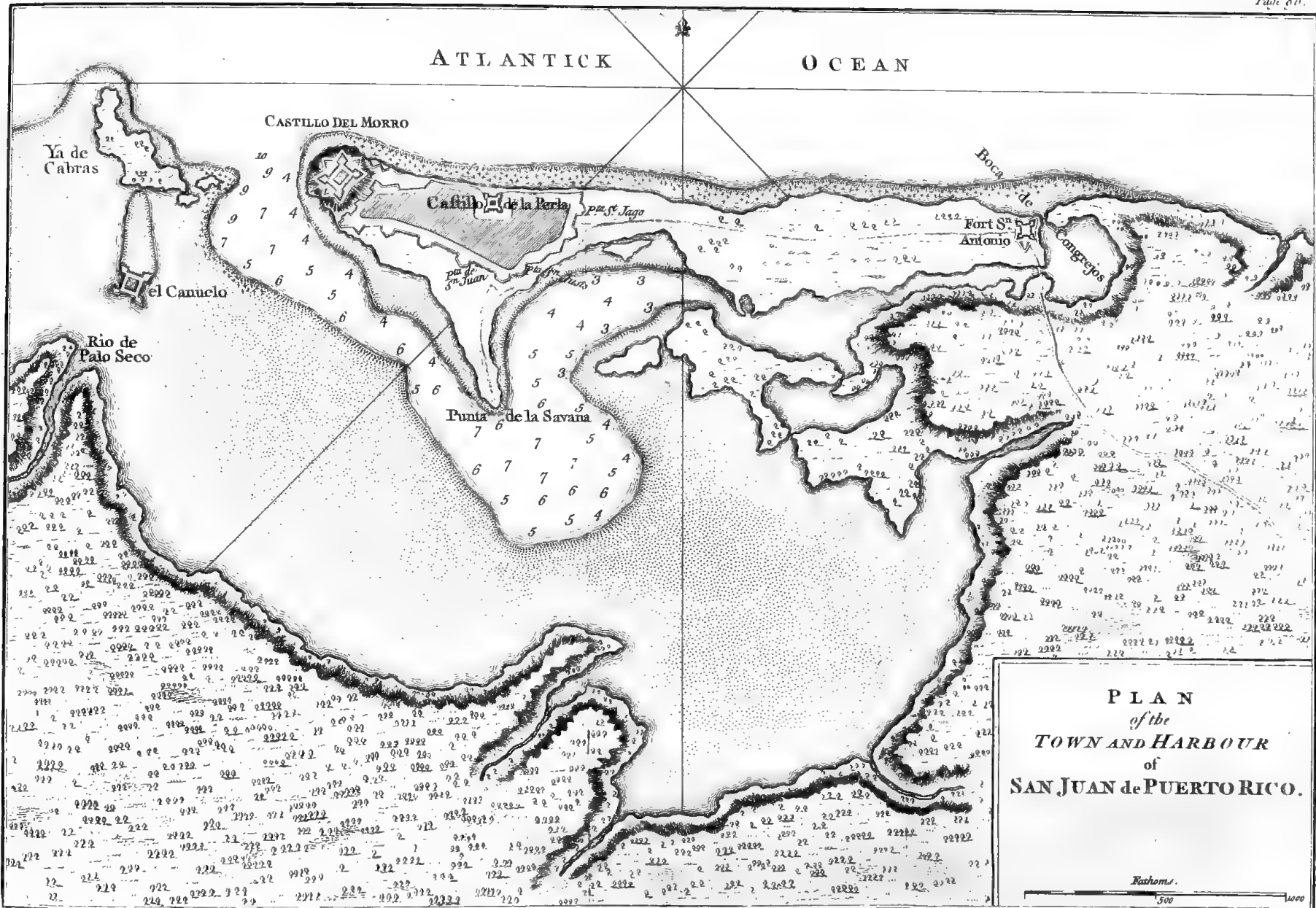
Fathoms.



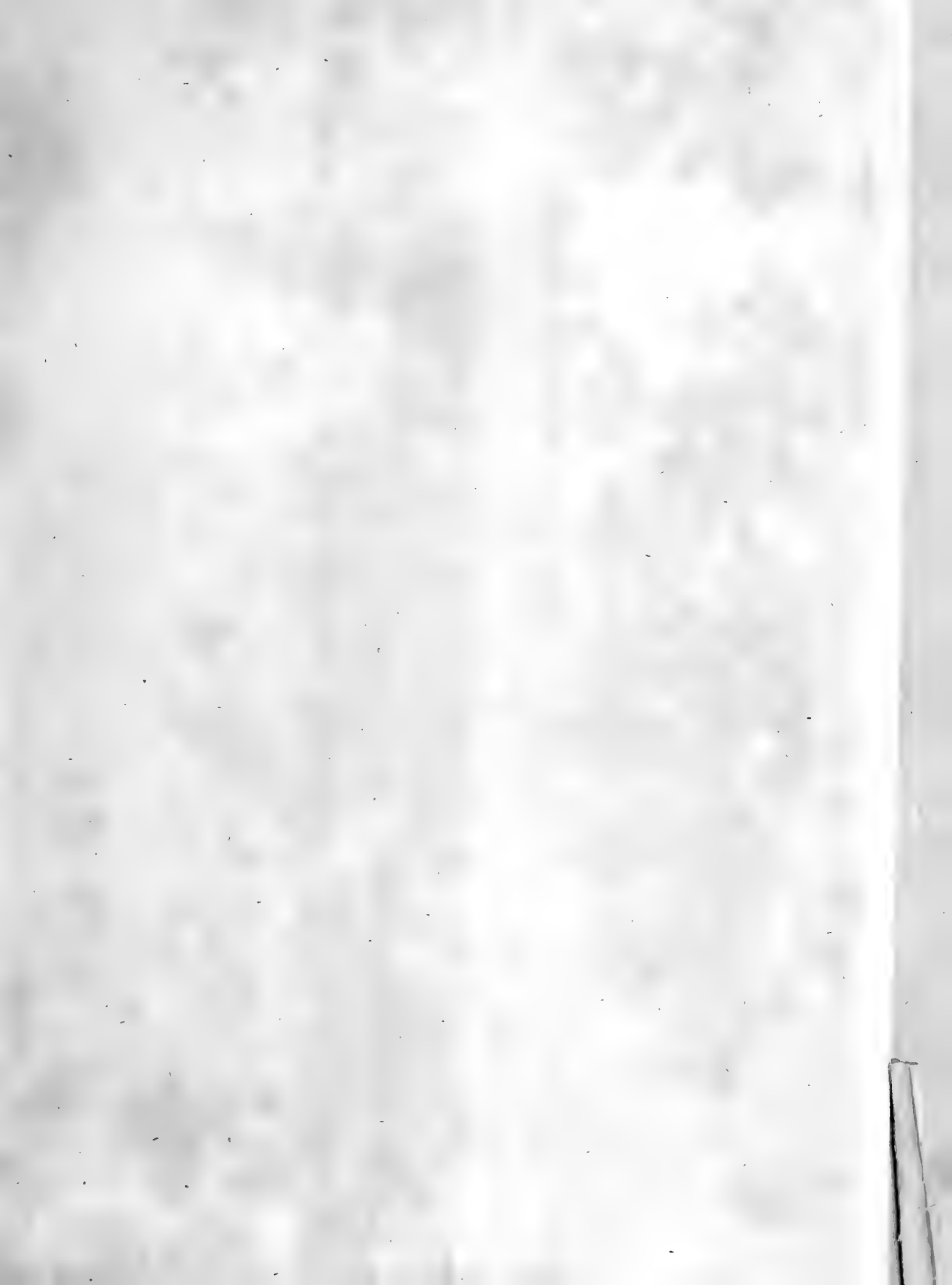
V. J. Jeffers. sculp.

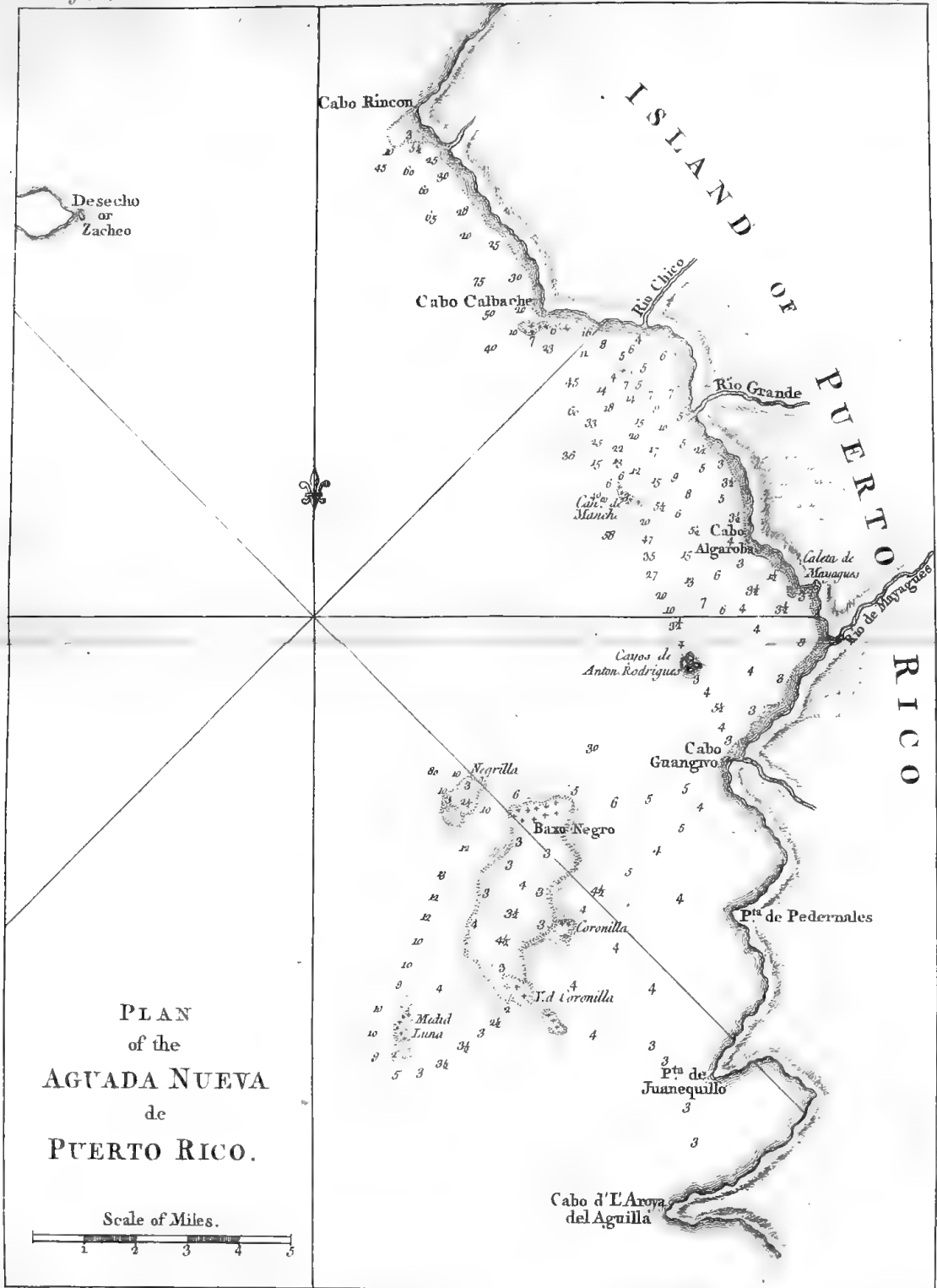










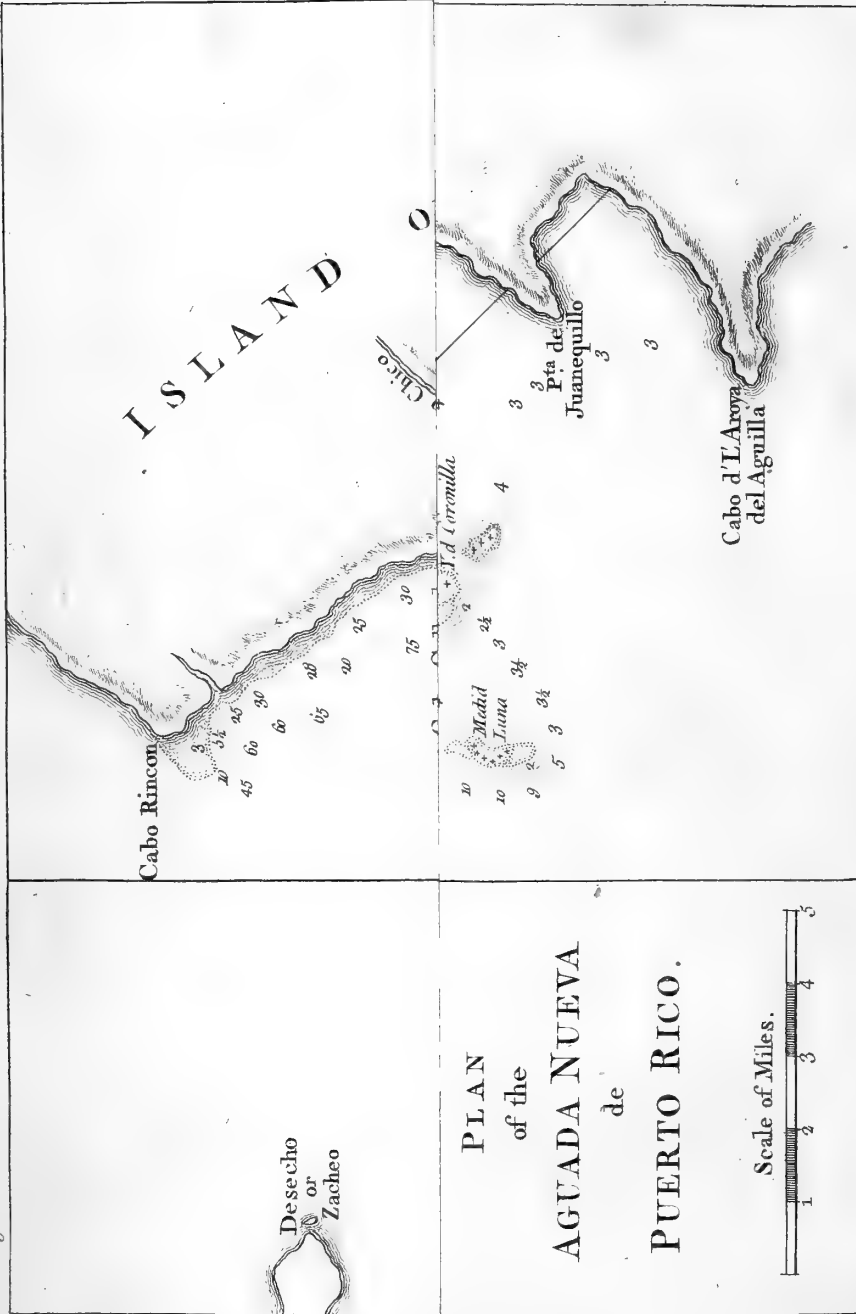


PLAN  
of the  
AGUADA NUEVA  
de  
PUERTO RICO.

Scale of Miles.







utmost safety. It is the see of a bishop; large, and well built; though the beauty of the city is greatly diminished by the canvas, or wooden lattice, that they use instead of glass windows; they have no water, except rain, which they preserve in cisterns.

This place is better inhabited than most *Spanish* cities, being the centre of the contraband trade carried on by the *English* and *French* with the subjects of *Spain*, notwithstanding the severity of the laws, and the extraordinary precautions taken to prevent it. On the W. side of the city is the *Castillo del Morro*, a very strong citadel, which at once commands and defends it; while the mouth of the harbour is protected by the *El Canuelo*, a large well fortified castle. In the year 1595 Sir *Francis Drake* burned all the ships in the harbour; but finding it impossible to keep the place, without abandoning all his other designs, he did not attempt to make himself master of it. Three years after the Earl of *Cumberland* reduced the island, and had some thoughts of keeping it; but losing 400 men in the space of a month by a contagious disease, which he ascribed to the heavy rains that his people were exposed to in the wet seasons, and the fatal dews that fell in fair weather, he was glad to depart, carrying away with him 70 pieces of cannon, and an immense booty in plate. In 1615 the *Dutch* sent a strong fleet against *Puerto Rico*, but with no great success; for they only took and plundered the city, not being able to reduce the castle, which, with its forts, are now in a better condition than ever, this harbour being of great utility to the *Spanish* commerce.

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### The AGUADA NUEVA DE PUERTO RICO,

**I**S one of the finest roads for shipping in all the *West-Indies*, being sheltered from the trade winds by the island of *Puerta Rico*; here the galleons and flota, generally anchor when they come from *Spain*, and the *Barlovento* fleet, after they have been at *Cumanagota*, come here for fresh water and provisions, before they return to *La Vera Cruz*.

## A D D E N D A.

The following Articles were communicated to the EDITOR too late to be inserted in their proper Places.

To follow after Maracaibo, page 9.

### G I B R A L T A R,

IS situated 30 leagues almost south from *Maracaibo* at the bottom of that lake; this town is the centre of trade between *Merida*, *Varinas*, and *Maracaibo*, there being many rivers which enter the lake near it; this place is often overflowed, in the rainy season, that makes it very unwholsome; at that time the richest inhabitants retire to *Maracaibo* and the others to their plantations; of which there are many in this country both of sugar and cacao: the plantations at *Varinas*, about 120 miles from hence, are famous for tobacco, being esteemed the best in the universe, which for its goodness is called *Tobacco de Sacerdotes* or Priest's Tobacco; large quantities of which are sent hither to be exported for *Maracaibo*, &c.

Though this town was defended by a fort and intrenchments, yet the *French* buccaniers in 1679 took and plundered it, offering to save the town for 10000 peices of eight, but the *Spaniards* being dilatory, the *French* set fire to it, and it was a great part destroyed before they brought in the ransom. This place was a second time taken by Captain *Morgan*, whose people exercised great cruelty to force the *Spaniards* to discover their effects, but after having stayed here for many days, were obliged to take 5000 peices of eight in part of the ransom for this town.

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To follow after St. Martha, page 12.

### R I O G R A N D E D E L A M A D A L E N A,

IS a very large noble river, and by far the best in all *Tiera Firma*, rises in the Mountains of *Popayan*, and is navigable almost from its source; it receives the *Rio de Cauca*, which springs from the same mountains, and is very little inferior to it in extent or magnitude; this river enters the north sea by several mouths, the principal of which is *Boca Grande*, about 10 leagues S. W. from *Santa Martha*; and there is a branch of this river called *el Dique*, which enters the



the sea about 12 leagues to the south of *Carthagena*, which tho' filled with reeds, is navigable thro' a very fine populous country.

By this river the produce and treasure of all the country between *Popayan* and *Carthagena* is carried on; and for more than 300 miles from the sea this river runs through a very fine plain extremely well settled, with several considerable towns and villages on its banks; from some of the principal of which are many very good roads to *Carthagena*, and other parts on the western coast of this province, but the finest is that from *el Retiro* to *Tolu*, through a very pleasant valley for about 20 leagues.

*To come before Costa Rica, page 41.*

### B O C A D E L T O R O ,

**T**HIRTY eight leagues to the west of *Puerto Velo*, and about 70 almost due south from the mouth of *Nicaragua* river, lies this bay, which is in the province of *Veragua*, and is about 10 leagues in compass, surrounded with several little islands, under which vessels may ride secure from violent winds: this place was often resorted to by the buccaniers, especially after they had taken and plundered *Puerto Velo* a second time; here they victualled and refitted their fleet, consisting of nine vessels, for a south-sea expedition. Adjoining to this place is a very large bay called *Babia del Almirante*, where there is safe anchoring, and a very good shelter for ships.

The *Indians* which inhabit the country round these bays are very fierce, and whom the *Spaniards* could never conquer; on which account they are called by them *Indios Bravos* or wild *Indians*, who have often shewed an inclination to trade with the *English*; but the *Mosquitos* being jealous, it has been thought more prudent to decline it, tho' a settlement erected here with a fort, would be attended with a very lucrative trade to the *British* nation. Near this coast is found a small shell fish, which is the true *Tyrian dye*. The country is very fruitful, and produces great plenty of mango, equal to that of the *East-Indies*, with several sorts of spices, in particular the wild nutmeg, many of which have been brought by the *French* (who it is said have long had a design of settling here) from thence to *Jamaica*.

*Add to the account of Rattan Island page 51.*

**T**HIS island in the last war was settled, and garrisoned by *British* troops from *Jamaica*; but at the solicitation of the court of *Spain*, was evacuated after the peace in 1748; and tho' then the *Spaniards* issued several placarts, inviting people to come and settle on the island, yet it is uninhabited; and the reason given by a *Spaniard* of great sense, and very large property on the continent, was, that they were all truly sensible that they could never expect any assistance or protection from their unweildy government, and therefore must be defenseless and liable to be insulted and plundered by the first enemy that comes, and that as long as they were a little more secure in their settlements on the main, it would never be worth the expence or hazard of any *Spaniard* to settle on the islands, which is a very cogent reason why all the islands on this coast and bay, as well as on the coast of *Tierra Firma*, are mostly uninhabited.

*Add to the account of La Vera Cruz, page 61.*

**T**HE *Barlovento* fleet, seldom consists of more than two or three men of war, and three or four sloops; they are employed in carrying the *Situado* to the distant places on the coast, that is, to relieve the garrison, pay the forces, &c. and to see that there is no contraband dealings: they generally set out from *Vera Cruz* in *May*, and go through the gulph, as high up as *Cumanagota* to *Puerto Rico*, watering at the *Aguada Nueva*; from thence coasting it, they return to *la Vera Cruz* early in *October*, being generally absent from thence four months.

On account of the unwholesomeness of the climate, many of the most substantial merchants and nobles of *Mexico* will not run the risk of their health in coming to *Vera Cruz*, but have sent their factors; this has often induced the king of *Spain* to send his mandate for removing the fair to *Pueblo de los Angeles*, and other places within land, that country being the finest climate in the known world.

The trade of *la Vera Cruz* has of late been very uncertain; the flota having been sometimes suspended for two or three years, and all the produce and treasure of this country exported in a single bottom called the *Sola* ship.

The

The trade between *Acapulco* and the *Philippines* is carried on very regular on account of conveying the missionaries there in three ships; thus, whilst the first ship has taken in her lading, and ready to sail from *Acapulco*, the second is refitting and loading at *Manilla*, and the third is on her voyage home for *Acapulco*: by this means is that trade kept up very regular, and seldom known to miscarry but when interrupted by an enemy. As for the *East-India* goods brought in this ship, most of them are consumed in *Mexico*, very few being sent to *Vera Cruz*, except for presents to some great personages in *Europe*.

The cochineal that is shipped at *la Vera Cruz*, is brought chiefly from *Guaxaca*, where there are regular plantations of the *Nopal*; they decay in three years, during which time they take great care to raise new plantations to succeed those worn out by the cochineal; the traders and shopkeepers of *Guaxaca* buy it of the *Indians* in any quantity they bring them, this they put into a tub, for which reason the three sorts of cochineal are now reduced into one.

Of late years the inhabitants of *la Vera Cruz* get much out of the rigid stiffness of the *Spaniard* growing more polite, by imitating the manners of the *French*, their ladies appearing more in public places, giving and receiving visits, as in other polite nations.

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*The following receipts for planting Cacao and Coco, the first used by the Spaniards, and the latter in the East-Indies, were communicated to the Editor, by a Gentleman who resided many Years the West-Indies.*

## C A C A O.

**T**AKE the largest and finest cods when full ripe, and let them lie three or four days, then open them and take out the grains, and put them in a vessel of water; those which swim reject, the others wash clean from the pulp, take off the skin, and let them lie in the water till you just perceive them to sprout; then having the land you propose for planting very clean,

clean, and well burnt from weeds and trees, make a hole where you intend to plant your tree about a foot diameter, and six inches deep: split in the middle a Waha leaf, and place it within the circumference of the hole, which will then be about eight inches above the ground, and reach to the bottom of the hole; into that leaf rub the mould very light, till it is filled as high as the surface of the ground; then take your nuts and plant three triangularly, by making a hole for each nut with your finger about two inches deep, and put in the nut which just began to sprout, with the end downward, shake in a little more mould just to cover it, then fold over the leaf close, and lay a small stone on the top to prevent its opening; in about eight or ten days the nut will rise out of the mould; then open the leaf, and place some other leaves round it, to screen it from the sun: leaves of the palm kind are generally used, as you may fix them best in the ground; and these must be renewed as often as they decay, for about six months, at which time take a bough of the madre of Cacao, and plant it about south south west of the tree, which will grow up with the cacao; from this time be not too fond of cleaning the herbage or grass in the cacao walk, because that keeps the ground cool, but cut down every thing of the vine kind, or any other weeds that grow high: if all the nuts you plant in one hole grow up, when they are about eighteen inches high, transplant one of them, or draw it and throw it away; the other two, if they spread different ways, may grow; but if you find them intermingle, it is better to cut down one of them; the fifth year they will begin to bear; but it is best to pluck off the fruit, except a few cods, and at the next crop also suffer not too many; the eighth year let all come to perfection that will. A black mould and level bottom, well screened from the winds, especially the northern ones, is best. The tree will generally bear two crops a year; when you gather it, or pluck the cods off, let them lie about three days, then take out the nuts, and put them upon mats or skins to dry in the hot sun; it is best not to wash off the pulp, as they will then keep the longer. A tree will remain good about twenty years, and produce the value of from three or five pieces of eight annually to eighteen. The *Spaniards* find from experience, that trees transplanted neither bear so soon nor so well as those never moved; about six yards from tree to tree is a good distance to plant them. If the cacao walk be

be extensive, it is best to let a few large timber trees stand at a good distance from each other, it in some measure breaks the violence of the wind. The clearing the cacao walks from grass, and cutting away the trees which shade the cacao, is the reason that great numbers of them died in *Jamaica*, even after they had begun to bear. A plantain leaf may be used instead of the waha leaf, and other trees may be used instead of the madre of cacao: the *Spaniards* use more than one tree for that purpose. I recommend such trees as do not drop the leaf, or require great nourishment, as the orange tree (and the coffee tree) I believe would likewise be sufficient.

## C O C O.

THE coco-nut tree is propagated in the *East-Indies* for many uses; the pulp on the inside of the nut is very agreeable to eat, and the water contained in it is the most agreeable and wholesome drink in the world. From the pulp, when old and grown hard, they press and get a very useful oil, and the dry pulp remaining, they fatten hogs and poultry with, and when rice is scarce, it is used in some parts as bread or provision for the poorer sort: the leaves make covering for their houses. The outside husk of the coco-nut is soaked in water and beaten, from thence is made all the ropes and rigging for their ships, being the best cables in the world for holding a ship in a hurricane; and from the coco-nut tree is made wine, or, as they call it, tody, and likewise arrack; but then the tree must be kept from bearing fruit, which they do by cutting off part of the sprout which shoots out every month, in order to produce the nut, and tie jars to them, from whence distils the liquor they either drink for wine, or foment to distil for arrack.

*N. B.* The best coco grows wild in the wood, at or near the *Musqueto* shore; and the vinella and sarsaparilla grow wild likewise there; and the nicaragua wood, which is much more valuable than logwood, might easily be propagated in *Jamaica*. Along that coast are several fine harbours fit for ships of any burthen, which we have been put in possession of by the original and only owners and possessors of the land, and our constant and faithful friends, the *Indians* of that country, and who have to this day such a dis-  
like.

like to the *Spaniards*, that they would kill every one of them they meet with (as was their former custom) if they were not restrained by the *English*. They are a numerous, bold, and warlike people, and are to a man used to arms; but the *Indians*, who are under the *Spanish* government, are oppressed with taxes, and a variety of hardships, not suffered to have any arms in their houses, or so much as a knife, except one which is chained to a table.

## A P P E N D I X.

*Major SMITH's Account of CUBA, in a Letter written in 1665.*

“ *CUBA* is a very good island, and in it is generally, for so large a country, the best land I have seen in *America*, although I have travelled the main continent in several places, and crossed from the north to the south seas, as also the north-side of *Hispaniola*, and most parts of *Jamaica*.

“ This great island is easily to be conquered, and would make the best plantation, besides the prejudice it would be to the *Spaniards*, and the great advantage to our nation: for instance, had we the port and city of *Havana*, which might in all probability be reduced with two regiments of good soldiers from *Jamaica*, carrying with them two or three sloops or shallops for landing men, provided with good arms and other necessaries for an assault. *This descent is to be undertaken* presently after their *armada* hath passed out of the *Indies*, which is once in two years, towards the end of summer.

“ There is a good landing on the west side of the city, where it lies open, and you need fear no ambuscades; but not on the east side of the harbour, for there you will be galled by the *Morro* until the city be secured: but when once that is taken, you may easily reduce the castle also, there being no danger of their retaking it till the next *armada* arrives, which will be almost two years; in which time you will have planters enough from other of our islands to manure the land and assist the soldiers in defence of the place.

“ This

“ This conquest being once effected, would utterly ruin the *Spaniards*,  
 “ for these reasons : our ships lying both here and at *Jamaica*, would be at  
 “ all times ready to gather up their straggling fleet, which it is difficult to  
 “ keep embodied without the help of that port of *Havana* ; it being im-  
 “ possible for their great unruly ships to turn up to windward from the bay  
 “ of *Mexico*, or *Puerto Bello*, without separation : and on the other hand,  
 “ to pass the gulph of *Florida* is for them impossible, should they lose the *Ha-*  
 “ *vana*, where they always rendezvous, victual, water, and provide all  
 “ things necessary for their return into *Spain*. When this is done, they wait  
 “ for a convenient season of wind and weather, (being much observed from  
 “ the changes of the moon) in order to pass that dangerous streight : for to  
 “ say truly, the *Spaniards* are neither very fit for sea nor land-service, ex-  
 “ cepting some officers and soldiers bred in *Flanders*, for the latter, and a  
 “ few *Biscaniers* for sea affairs.

“ They are so sensible of their weakness, and jealous of their riches in  
 “ those parts, that it is very difficult for any ingenious man, once taken by  
 “ them, to get his liberty, fearing he might give such intelligence as would  
 “ be the cause of their ruin ; witness their blind-folding of all strangers,  
 “ when they pass their cities and castles : for they much dread an old pro-  
 “ phecy among them, *That within a short time the English will as freely*  
 “ *walk the streets of the Havana, as the Spaniards now do* ; which indeed  
 “ had been easily performed with a third part of the army sent to *Jamaica*,  
 “ and a far greater advantage to the nation : for I esteem that port and har-  
 “ bour of the *Havana* in the *West-Indies*, to be as great a check upon the  
 “ *Spaniards*, as *Tangier* in the *Streights of Gibraltar* ; and if we were once  
 “ masters of both, they would without doubt be so straitened, as absolutely  
 “ to admit us a free trade into their ports of *America*, where they import  
 “ our commodities, and sell them for ten times more than they first cost  
 “ in *Spain*, by reason of the great plenty of silver : which trade would not  
 “ only be a great advantage to us, but also prevent their future enslaving our  
 “ nation in chains, as they now do : for being employed about their forti-  
 “ fications, they are worse used, all things considered, than if they were  
 “ taken by the *Turks*.

“ I have seen other parts of the *West-Indies*, where the *Spaniards* might  
 “ be fleeced of considerable quantities of riches : as at *Panama*, where their

“ silver-bars lie piled up in heaps in the open streets day and night, without  
 “ guard, for five or six months together, waiting the arrival of the *armada* ;  
 “ which when arrived in *Puerto Bello*, they transport it thither with so slender  
 “ a guard for so great a treasure, that it would be an easy prey for a  
 “ thousand resolute men, the expence of whose expedition would be small  
 “ in comparifon of the prize. But there is no resting, or long-tarrying *about*  
 “ *the business*, the *Spaniards* being numerous here, as in all other places of  
 “ the main-land : although they are of great wealth, it might easily be  
 “ gotten with a catch and away.

“ This island of *Cuba* hath, adjacent to it, great conveniences of salt and  
 “ fishing ; and in it is very great plenty of horses, neat, sheep, and hogs  
 “ both wild and tame, of a far larger and better breed than in other part of  
 “ *America*. It hath also many very rich mines of copper already open ; and  
 “ is the only place that supplies all the *West-Indies* with metal for the infinite  
 “ number of ordnance they have in all their ports and castles, both in the  
 “ north and south seas ; but whether it hath any mines of silver or gold, I  
 “ know not : but if there were any such, they would not adventure their  
 “ opening and discovery, fearing the invasion of that island, which is of so  
 “ easy access by sea, and of such great importance to their whole interest in  
 “ *America* : for which reason also they refuse to work any mines in *Florida*,  
 “ that are near the north sea, (although they have there very many) but do  
 “ rather employ themselves about others farther up in the country, although  
 “ with great labour and cost, for conveyance of the produce by land to  
 “ *Mexico*.

“ Lastly, this island (to compleat its praise) hath many very good ports  
 “ and harbours of great advantage to ships for safe passing the gulf ; and  
 “ should the *Spaniards* keep two or three frigates always plying off and on  
 “ between the western end of *Cuba* and the *Havana*, it were impossible for  
 “ any ships of ours that came from *Jamaica* to escape them. The scales  
 “ turned would be their case to all *America*. Neither wants it great sugar-  
 “ work, which have both water-mills and horse-mills, and very many large  
 “ *cocoa-walks* ; the most and best tobacco : in short, it produces all other  
 “ commodities that any of our *American* islands have knowledge of.”

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