

## S U R

built with bricks. In the year 1640 the French seized upon this post, but finding the country too unwholsome, they soon after abandoned it, and the English took possession of it. The country however turned to little account, and the English ceded it to the Dutch, in exchange for New York, in the year 1674.

The whole country was at that time very unwholsome, being over-run with woods, which hindered the sun and wind from drying the earth, and purifying the air from noxious exhalations. This did not however hinder the people of Zealand from making settlements here, under the protection of the States of that province; and finding that the country would produce large quantities of sugar, they cut down so many of the trees that the sun and wind, by drying the soil, rendered the climate far more healthful.

The States of Zealand, to whom this country belonged, sold it to the Dutch West-India company; who not finding themselves in a condition to send over the necessary supplies, made over a third part of it to the magistrates of Amsterdam, and another third part to Mynheer Van Aarsens, Lord of Someldyk. Hence this colony has been called the Society of Surinam, because it is subject to three partners; but the sovereignty of it belongs to the States General. Since this division was made, several families have settled in the colony, where they have raised plantations of sugar-canes, which bring them very considerable profits. As the colony became populous, the air became more healthful, by cutting down whole forests, and cultivating the country, which drew thither a great  
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