

it is so small and sterile, that the acquisition appears to be one of very little value. The produce is confined to a small quantity of cotton, by the sale of which the poor in the interior principally subsist. Sour-sops, prickly pears, and some other wild fruits, grow here spontaneously, as also a few tamarind-trees, and the poisonous manchineel in great abundance.

ST. EUSTATIUS, or EUSTATIA, three leagues north-west of St. Christopher's, makes a remarkable appearance, as it rises out of the sea in the form of a huge pyramidal rock. The sides of the mountain are disposed in pleasant settlements; but the inhabitants have neither springs nor rivers. They raise sugar and tobacco, and rear hogs, goats, and poultry, in such abundance, that they can supply their neighbours as well as themselves. The population is said to exceed 20,000, of whom the whites comprise a fourth part. The island has a bay, but no harbour; and there is only one landing-place, which is therefore well fortified. The Dutch, in various wars with the English, have been dispossessed of this settlement; but they have never failed to recover it on the return of peace.

CURAÇAO is likewise a colonial dependency upon the kingdom of the Netherlands. It seems as if it were fated, that the ingenuity and patience of the Hollanders should every where, both in Europe and America, be employed in fighting against an unfriendly nature; for this island is not only barren, and dependent on the rains for water, but the harbour is naturally one of the worst in America. Yet they have in a great measure remedied that defect; and they have, upon this harbour, one of the best towns in the West Indies. The public buildings are handsome, the private houses commodious, and the magazines large, convenient, and well-filled. All kind of labor is here performed by engines, some of them being so well contrived, that ships are at once lifted into the dock. The island produces a considerable quantity both of tobacco and sugar; it has also good salt-works, for the produce of which there is a brisk demand from the English islands, and the colonies on the continent.

SAINTE CROIX, or SANTA CRUZ, and the isle of SAINT THOMAS, while they remained in the hands of the Danish West-India company, were ill managed, and of little consequence to the Danes; but, when the king had purchased the company's stock, and laid the trade open, both islands began to flourish, and they are now in a high state of cultivation. They were taken by the English in 1801, but were restored a few months afterwards. They were again captured in consequence of the war which followed the seizure of the Danish fleet in 1807; but they were replaced under their former government in 1814, when the Danes had consented to give up Norway to our Swedish allies.

Passing along the eastern coast of South-America, we find, almost at the southern extremity of that region,

The FALKLAND or MALOUIN islands, which were discovered by Sir Richard Hawkins in 1594. The name of Falkland was probably given to them by captain Strong, in 1639; but the French call them the Malouin islands, from the people of St. Malo, whom they consider as the discoverers. They occasioned a contest between Spain and Great Britain; but, being of very little worth, they were abandoned by the latter in 1774, to avoid giving umbrage to the Spanish court.

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