

in these possessions, as about the present condition of the Spanish capital. Their exports of sugar and tobacco are undoubtedly very inconsiderable; for the chief article of exportation appears to be the hides of horned cattle. It seems probable, indeed, that the greater part of the Spanish property in this island, once the paradise of a happy people, is now abandoned to the beasts of the field, and the vultures that hover round them.

The accounts of their population are also scanty and unsatisfactory. By the earliest historians we learn, that there were at one period 14,000 Castilians in Hispaniola. Its mines were at that time a very productive property, yielding an annual revenue of more than 100,000*l.* Sterling; but when these were exhausted, the colony dwindled into penury, sloth, and depopulation.

The origin of the introduction of slaves has been traced in another place; but this does not seem to have augmented their population. In 1717, the number of all inhabitants, slaves and freemen, was only 18,410, and since that time their numbers have certainly decreased. Of pure whites the number perhaps is 3000.

The character of these Spanish colonists, if we may judge from their conduct during the present war, is not of the most unexceptionable kind. Their behaviour to the French loyalists was marked with the meanest national animosity, and to the English they were jealous and treacherous friends. On the whole, there is reason to suppose, that a great part