

trade of such merchaundies as are eyther brought owt of Spayne, or sent thither from this iland, which nowe so abundeth in many thynges, that it serveth Spayne with many commodities, as it were with usury requityng such benefites as it fyrst received from thence."

Sixty years afterwards it was attacked by Drake, who, after possessing it a month, thought himself justified to set it on fire. Of this barbarous transaction the following record is preserved in Hakluyt's Collection: "We spent the early part of the mornings (says the historian of the voyage) in firing the outmost houses; but they being built very magnificently of stone, with high loftes, gave us no small travell to ruin them. And albeit, for divers dayes together, we ordeined ech morning by day-break, until the heat began at nine of the clocke, that two hundred mariners did nought els but labour to fire and burn the said houses, whilst the souldiers, in a like proportion, stood forth for their guard; yet did we not, or could not, in this time, consume so much as one third part of the towne; and so in the end, wearied with firing, we were contented to accept of five and twenty thousand ducats, of five shillings and sixpence the peece, for the ransome of the rest of the towne."

It is difficult to obtain exact information respecting the present condition of this once flourishing city. It is certainly on the decline, but not, as Raynal asserts, absolutely in ruins. As little seems to be known about the state of agriculture