

one of the Bahama islands, now in our possession, and called by its discoverer San Salvador.

Cuba was the next island of importance discovered; then Haiti or St. Domingo, where the Spaniards formed a colony, and gave the isle the name of Española (Hispaniola.) It would be out of place to detail the further progress of maritime adventure: in the three succeeding voyages of Columbus, the main land near Trinidad, and several islands were explored, and as years rolled on, the Spaniards extended their colonies to Jamaica, Cuba, Trinidad, Porto Rico, &c. and finally to Mexico and Peru, under adventurers such as Cortez.

For some years the Spaniards were left in almost undisputed possession of the West Indies; but the French and English\* began to molest them, the former in 1536, the latter in 1565, under the command of Captain Hawkins; in 1572, by the celebrated Francis Drake; and in 1595, by Sir Walter Raleigh. The commencement of the 17th century saw the first British colonization on the West India islands, (the French and Dutch had been previously settling themselves on the main land at Guyana, and on several islands not occupied by the Spaniards,) and Barbadoes was occupied by the servants of Sir William Courteen, in 1624. (*Vide* chapter on Barbadoes.)

\* The first English vessels seen in the West Indies, were two ships of war, under Sebastian Cabot and Sir Thomas Pert, vice admiral of England, in 1517. They touched at the coast of Brazil, and then proceeded to Espanola and Porto Rico. The first trading English vessel that visited the islands, arrived at Porto Rico in 1519, being, as was said by the captain, sent by the King to ascertain the state of those islands, of which there was so much talk in Europe. The Spaniards at St. Domingo fired on her, and compelled her to return to Porto Rico. The Governor blamed them for not sinking her, and preventing any dissemination in England of a knowledge of the West Indies.