

islands, speaks of them as 'being in an equal elevation with that of the Holy Land, and in particular very near with the very city of Jerusalem, which is a clime of the sweetest and most pleasing temper of ali others.'

A letter written in 1611-12 alludes to their being called 'Sommer islands as well in respect of the continual temperate air as in remembrance of Sir George Sommers that died there¹.' Their climate, beauties, and products became a favourite theme for English poets.

Andrew Marvell writes of—

' This eternal spring
Which here enamels everything².'

Waller's³ description is equally glowing,—

' So sweet the air, so moderate the clime,
None sickly lives, or dies before his time;
Heaven sure has kept this spot of earth uncurst,
To show how all things were created first.'

While in our own century, Moore⁴, whose poetry is inspired by the genius of the place, has sung of—

' These leafy isles upon the ocean thrown,
Like studs of emerald o'er a silver zone;'

¹ Quoted in the *Memorials of the Bermudas*, vol. i. p. 57. The false etymology no doubt helped to perpetuate the name. Writing in the middle of the seventeenth century, after the mistake had taken root, Fuller says, 'Possibly in process of time these Summer islands may be conceived so named because there winter doth never appear.' See the reference given in the note above, p. 8.

² From the singularly beautiful little poem beginning—

' Where the remote Bermudas ride
In ocean's bosom unespied.'

It was probably written about 1645.

³ From the burlesque poem *The Battle of the Summer islands*. It was probably written before 1639. The tradition that Waller visited the Bermudas is shown to be groundless in App. 8 to vol. ii. of the *Memorials of the Bermudas*. Moore commemorates his supposed visit in the lines (Odes to Nea)—

' May spring to eternity hallow the shade,
Where Ariel has warbled and Waller has strayed.'

⁴ Moore was appointed Registrar of the Court of Admiralty in the Bermudas in the year 1803, but he only stayed a few months in the islands. He held the office, however, the duties being discharged by a deputy, till 1844.