

but not retained. This island is no longer in the humble state of a Spanish colony; for the people, some years ago, shook off the degrading yoke.

HAYTI, the Hispaniola of Columbus, (also called **ST. DOMINGO**), was for a long period possessed by the Spaniards alone; but the Buccaneers subsequently settled on various parts of the coast, and the treaty of Ryswick gave an establishment to a French colony, with which the piratical adventurers were incorporated. The face of the island presents an agreeable variety of hills, valleys, woods, and rivers, and the soil is exceedingly fertile, abundantly producing sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco, maize, and cassava. The European cattle have become so numerous here, that they run wild in the woods, and, as in South-America, are hunted for their hides and tallow only. In the most barren parts of the rocks silver and gold were formerly discovered; but the colonists are now content with procuring those metals in the way of trade.

The most ancient town in this island, and in all the New World, built by Europeans, is **St. Domingo**. It was founded in 1504 by Bartholomew Columbus, who gave it that name in honor of his father Dominic. It is situated on a spacious harbour, and is a large well-built city. While the French continued to occupy the most fruitful part of the island, the town which took its name from Cape François, situated on the northern coast, was their capital. It stood on the borders of a well-watered and highly-cultivated plain, 50 miles long and ten in breadth, intersected by straight and wide roads, lined with hedges of lemon and lime-trees, leading to plantations which produced a greater quantity of sugar than any other spot of the same extent in the world. Before the year 1793, it had a population of 8000; but it was then set on fire amidst the commotions of the colony, and the white inhabitants were massacred by the negro revolters, who were encouraged to insurrection by the affected zeal of the national assembly of France for the emancipation of all slaves. After the French division of the island had been for some years convulsed with civil war, the English inconsiderately interfered, and took possession of various posts; but, after a dreadful loss of men in that sultry and unhealthy climate, they at length abandoned their acquisitions. An African, who had received the French name of Toussaint l'Ouverture, was afterwards invested with the chief command of the negroes and mulattoes. He appears to have been a man of some ability, and to have exercised his authority in many instances with prudence and moderation. Bonaparte sent out an armament to reduce him to a state of dependence upon France, and restore order in the colony. After several encounters, the negro chief was induced to submit, and to accept terms apparently favorable: but the French perfidiously seized him, under an ill-founded charge of treacherous practices, and sent him to France, where he perished in a dungeon. The other black chiefs who had submitted (Christophe and Dessalines) saved themselves by flight; the negroes and mulattoes again flew to arms, and the French troops rapidly fell victims to the climate. The survivors were given up as prisoners to a British fleet; and Dessalines obtained the chief sway. When that tyrant had lost his life by the indignation which his conduct had provoked, Christophe assumed the title and authority of a king; and this adventurer was not so unenlightened as to neglect the means of promoting the civilisation of his people; for he endeavoured to subject them to the restraints of judicious laws, and established a number of schools for their instruction. For his occasional

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