

times on that island, and also desirous of propagating the ever blessed gospel among its inhabitants, and to exclude the Hollanders from that island by establishing a friendly correspondence with the native princes, the viceroy Don Jerome de Azevedo sent thither, in 1613, a caravel from Goa commanded by Paul Rodrigues de Costa, accompanied by two jesuits, some interpreters, and a competent number of soldiers. This island is about 260 leagues in length and 600 in circumference<sup>1</sup>, its greatest extent being from N. N. E. to S. S. W. It is 80 leagues from E. to W. where widest, but considerably less towards the north, where it ends in a point named St Ignatius which is about 15 leagues from east to west<sup>2</sup>. It may be considered as divided into three parts. The first or northern portion is divided from the other two by an imaginary line from east to west at Cape St Andrew<sup>3</sup>. The other two divisions are formed by a chain of mountains running nearly south from this line to Cape St Romanus, otherwise Cape St Mary, but much nearer the east coast than the west. The island is divided into a great number of kingdoms, but so confusedly and ill-defined, that it were endless to enumerate them. It is very populous, the inhabitants having many cities and towns of different extent and grandeur<sup>4</sup>. The country is fertile and well watered, and everywhere diversified with mountains, vallies, rivers, bays, and ports. The natives have no general name for the island, and are entirely ignorant of those of Madagascar and St Lawrence, which  
are

1 Madagascar, between the latitudes of  $12^{\circ} 30'$  and  $25^{\circ} 45'$  S. and the longitudes of  $44^{\circ}$  and  $51^{\circ}$  W. from Greenwich, rather exceeds 1000 statute miles from N. N. W. to S. S. E. and is about 220 miles in mean width from east to west. This island therefore, in a fine climate, capable of growing all the tropical productions in perfection, and excellently situated for trade, extends to about 200,000 square miles, or 128 millions of acres, yet is abandoned entirely to ignorant barbarians.—E.

2 The north end of Madagascar, called the point of St Ignatius, is 70 miles from east to west, the eastern headland being Cape Natal or de Ambro, and the western Cape St Sebastian.—E.

3 Cape Antongil on the east coast is probably here meant, in lat  $15^{\circ} 45'$  S. as at this place the deep bay of Antongil or Manghabei penetrates about 70 miles inland, and the opposite coast also is deeply indented by port Masali. It is proper to mention however, that Cape St Andrew is on the west coast of Madagascar, in lat.  $17^{\circ} 12'$  S.—E.

4 There may be numerous villages, or collections of huts, in Madagascar, and some of these may possibly be extensive and populous; but there certainly never was in that island any place that merited the name of a city.—E.