

and shelves that lurk in the entrance of the harbour, stretches above sixty leagues along the sea-coast, and is subdivided into eleven smaller districts; among which those called Olinda and Garazu are the principal.

At a small distance from the Receif or Maurice town, on the north side, lie the remains of that once celebrated city Olinda; from whence formerly the whole trade from Brasil to Europe was carried on.

This city, which stood upon divers hills of easy ascent toward the sea, but steep and craggy toward the land, contained two thousand inhabitants, beside the clergymen and slaves; on the land side it was defended by several bastions, which, from the unevenness of the ground they stood upon, were not strictly uniform; however, their situation gave them additional force.

The whole district of Parnambuko is well stocked with various kinds of fruit and cattle; the vallies afford excellent pasturage, and the mountains teem with richer minerals than are to be found in any other of the captainships.

Garazu, properly stiled a village, lies about five leagues from Olinda, upon the shore opposite to the Isle of Tamarika, and upon a river of the same name; it was formerly inhabited by Portuguese mechanics, but being subjected to the Dutch in 1633, several rich families of that people settled there.

The Receif, from the Latin word *recipere*, to receive, in point of situation, is the strongest place in Brasil, beside that it has the advantage of several contiguous forts; but to give as clear an idea as possible both of this place and Maurice Town, it will be necessary to observe, that the whole coast of Brasil is bordered by a thick and flat ridge of rocks, which in some places is twenty, and in others thirty paces broad; however, there are passages through which the ships approach the shore, and one of these passages is about a quarter of a mile to the north of Receif.