

Island. In 1723, George I. granted this Island and St. Lucia to the Duke of Montague, who made a feeble attempt to take possession of it, but his expedition failed; and, by the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, in 1749, it was declared neutral and the ancient proprietors left in unmolested possession. The French, however, continued in their settlements until 1762, when it was taken by General Monckton and Admiral Rodney; and in 1763, by the peace of Paris, the Island was ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain, without much consideration for the native proprietors. The lands were directed to be sold, to defray the expences of the war, and 20,533 acres produced £162,854 sterling. In 1772, a war with the Caribs commenced, which was terminated by a treaty in 1773, when certain lands were allotted them. In 1779, the Island was taken by a small body of troops from Martinico, who were joined by the Caribs, which circumstance, coupled with unfortunate political differences, caused the surrender to be made without a struggle. The conquerors, however, made no alteration in the Government, probably contemplating only a temporary possession. In 1780, the dreadful hurricane occurred, which destroyed the Church and a great proportion of the buildings in the Island, besides occasioning serious loss to the planters. St. Vincent was restored to Great Britain at the general peace, in 1783; at which time it contained sixty-one sugar estates, besides other small plantations, of cotton, coffee, and cocoa. In 1785, the doctrines of liberty and equality, which prevailed in France, were disseminated in the West India Islands, through the agency of Victor Hugues, whose emissaries excited the Caribs, and some of the French inhabitants, to an insurrection, which continued for upwards of two years. Many sanguinary contests took place, with various success, which cannot be detailed within the limits of this article; but, ultimately, by the measures of Sir Ralph Abercrombie and General Hunter, the French were subdued, and the Caribs removed to Rattau, an Island in the bay of Honduras. The devastation occasioned by the enemy, cost the proprietors, at least, one-third of the value of their properties; but uninterrupted tranquility has since prevailed, and the fine tract of land, in Charlotte Parish, called the Carib country, consisting of 5,000 acres, has been put into cultivation, and greatly increased the prosperity of the Island. In 1812, the Island suffered from an eruption of the Soufriere mountain. This volcano is reported by Humboldt to have thrown out flames in 1718. It was about 3,000 feet high, with a crater half a mile in diameter, and 500 feet in depth; in the centre was a conical hill, 200 feet in diameter, and 300 in height, the lower half covered with brush-wood, the upper with virgin sulphur.—From the fissures of the cone, a thin white smoke exuded,