

future hopes of making any new discoveries, east, west, south, or north, in the whole habitable world!

In the second voyage Columbus visited the considerable isle of St. John de Porto Rico, where there was plenty of timber; but no European grain; their bread being chiefly cassada root. There were said to have been wild grapes, but they never made wine of them; they had also pimento and cotton. The Spaniards are said to have destroyed most of the natives, very few now being left in that fine isle, of late much neglected by Spain; although its situation be extremely happy, between Hispaniola on the west, the Virgin and Caribbee isles on the east, and Terra Firma southward; and its productions, natural and naturalized, said to be equal to any of the other isles, were they equally cultivated. From this year 1493, when they first began to bring home any considerable quantity of treasure from America to Spain, to the year 1724, Ustariz, an eminent modern Spanish author, asserts, that the gold and silver brought home amounted to five thousand millions of dollars or pieces of eight, being above twenty-one and an half millions yearly on a medium, equal to upwards of five millions Sterling yearly. Yet as all this treasure necessarily goes out every year to other European nations for their manufactures and product, with which Spain and its Indies are supplied in immense quantities, some have been of opinion, that it had been happier for Spain if she had never planted in America, without she had at the same time cultivated manufactures of all kinds; whereby she might have not only kept much of her American treasure within herself for the support of her manufactures, but also those manufactures would, by a necessary increase of people, have contributed to make up the loss of the native Spaniards transplanted in great numbers to America.

Authors compute, that soon after the planting of Mexico and Peru, the quantity of money in Europe was doubled, in respect to what it was before; wherefore the rates or prices of all things were also doubled: which proportionably decreased the profits of Spain by her American colonies. Baron Montesquieu is of opinion, that in about little more than 200 years, the specie or money of Europe has been doubled five times; and that it is now, to what it was before the Indian treasure came amongst us, as 32 is to 1. Yet this computation will probably seem much exaggerated to many, who know that a very great part of the silver annually brought from America has been every year transported to East-India, from whence no part of it ever returns to Europe; neither do the advanced prices of provisions, &c. at this time, bear any near proportion to that author's supposition. Before this grand discovery, the courts of princes in Europe had not the lustre of modern times, though more crowded with attendants, who however were sustained at a much smaller charge than could be done in our days. But when