

stored it with hogs, goats, and poultry, and used to touch at it for water and fresh provisions in their return from India; but we do not find they ever planted a colony here; or, if they did, having deserted it afterwards, the English East-India Company took possession of the island A. D. 1600, and held it till 1673, without interruption, when the Dutch took it by surprize. However, the English, commanded by Capt. Munden, recovered it again within the space of a year, and took three Dutch East India ships that lay in the road at the same time. The Hollanders had fortified the landing place, and planted batteries of great guns to prevent a descent; but the English being acquainted with a small creek where only two men could go abreast, climbed up to the top of the rocks in the night time, and appearing next morning at the backs of the Dutch, they threw down their arms, and surrendered the island without striking a stroke: but, as we have before observed, this creek has been since fortified: so that there is now no place where an enemy can make a descent with any probability of success.

The affairs of the East-India Company are managed here by a governor, deputy-governor, and storehouse-keeper, who have certain settled salaries allowed, besides a public table, well furnished, to which all commanders, masters of ships, and eminent passengers are welcome. The natives sometimes call the result of their deliberations severe impositions; and though relief might perhaps be had from the company in England; yet the unavoidable delays in returning answers to addresses at that distance puts the aggrieved under great hardships; and on the other hand, was not the situation of this island very serviceable to our homeward-bound East-India ships, the constant trouble and expence would induce the company to abandon the island; for though it is furnished with the conveniencies of life, the merchants find no other profitable commodities there. The masters of the plantations keep a great many blacks, who, upon severe treatment, hide themselves