

ing by manufactures and trade. The Japura fertilises a part of this province, but no more contributes to its salubrity than the great Amazonian river, which infects the air with its slimy deposits. Montalegre is a considerable town in the eastern division, and the neighbouring country is fertile and well cultivated: the clove-tree is said to prosper in this district.

AMERICAN ISLANDS, BELONGING TO DIFFERENT POWERS.

In the West-Indies, the largest island is CUNA, which still belongs to the declining and feeble monarchy of Spain. It was conquered by a very small army under Velasquez, in 1511. It is divided by a chain of mountains, from which, it is said, above a hundred streams pour down into the plains, some of them contributing gold to the avidity of the colonists. At the foot of each mountain, the country opens into extensive meadows, which afford abundant pasture to numerous herds of animals, both wild and tame. The air is less sultry than that of Hispaniola, being cooled by the breezes from the north and east. July, August, and sometimes September, are rainy months: the rest of the year, with the exception of a short winter, resembles a continued spring. The products are maize, manioc, aloes, cassia, mastic, coffee, ginger, sugar, honey, and the best tobacco. The country does not abound with mineral riches; but it appears, that some mines of copper and iron have been discovered. Havanna is the seat of government, and is so well fortified, that the Spaniards consider it as impregnable: but, if a new war should arise, the English would probably again convince them of their error. The houses of this city, in general, have only two floors, and are usually painted with some bright color. All the good houses are built in the following mode: a gallery, surrounded by a piazza, extends around the first floor, and forms, with the court below, a place of recreation in the evening, and a shelter from the heat during the day. The inhabitants are gay, and fond of amusement. Balls, plays, bull-fights, and other diversions, alternately enliven them; and the drawing of the national lottery, which takes place in every month, is so conducted as to resemble a fair or a festival. The men who compose the lower classes,—namely, the common Spaniards, the people of color, free negroes, and slaves,—are in general very dissolute and unprincipled; and the city (says Mr. Howison) “is the scene of more outrages and daring crimes than any other of its size in the civilised world.” The population of the whole island is supposed to amount to 410,000.

PORTO-RICO was reduced under the Spanish yoke, by Ponce de Leon, about the year 1509. It is beautifully diversified with woods, valleys, and plains; and is very fertile in the usual products of the West-Indies. It was on account of the gold that the Spaniards settled here; but there is no longer any considerable quantity of this metal found in it. The capital stands in a small island on the north side, forming a capacious harbour, joined to the chief island by a causey, and defended by forts and batteries, which render the town almost inaccessible. It was, however, taken by sir Francis Drake, and afterwards by the earl of Cumberland