

**Islands.** On his arrival at Lisbon, too hastily boasting of his discovery, the Portuguese immediately set sail, and took possession of them; and the number of hawks and falcons they observed when they approached these islands, gave rise to the appellation which they still retain, though they are sometimes called the Western Islands.

The Azores are nine in number; and are named Santa Maria, St. Michael, Terceira, St. George, Graciosa, Fayal, Pico, Flores, and Corvo; all which lie between 25 and 32 degrees west longitude, and between 37 and 400 degrees north latitude; being almost at equal distances from Europe and America.

All these islands enjoy a very clear and serene sky, with a salubrious air; but are exposed to violent earthquakes, and inundations of the sea, from both which causes they have suffered considerably. They are, however, extremely fertile in corn, wine, and a variety of fruits, and abound with cattle, fish, and fowl.

Santa Maria, which is only about four miles long, and three broad, contains nothing worth notice, except a small town called Porto.

St. Michael, the largest of the Azores, is almost an hundred miles in circumference, and contains upwards of fifty thousand inhabitants. It's two principal harbours are, Ponto Delgada, and Villa Franca. This island is luxuriantly fertile, and contains one city, five towns, and twenty-two villages.

The Island of Terceira is thirteen miles long, and six broad; and, on account of it's harbour, which is spacious, and has good anchorage, is the most important of any of the Azores.

Angra, the capital of this last island, which is situated on it's south-east coast, is a strong and populous place, containing several spacious streets, a cathedral, five churches, an hospital, and eight convents. This is the residence of the governor, as well as the see of the bishop of the Azores, who is dependent himself on the patriarch of Lisbon.

The Island of St. George is distant about eight leagues from Terceira, and in several places is little more than a ridge of rocks; however, in others, it is well cultivated, and populous, having three towns and four villages. The capital is named Vela de Velas, and is a small, inconsiderable place, containing only one church and one convent; but it possesses the advantage of a port.

The Island of Graciosa, which is said to have received it's name from the remarkable fertility of the soil, is about ten miles long, and seven broad, containing two towns, the principal of which is Santa Cruz, seated on a bay that forms a commodious harbour, called Calheta, and defended by a strong fort.

Fayal is nine miles long, and three broad. The principal place in this island is Villa de Horta, which has an harbour land-locked on all sides, except towards the east, and defended by several forts.

The Island of Pico appears at a great distance, on account of the extreme height of the mountainous Peak, or Pike, from which it derives it's name, and is about sixteen miles in length, and five in breadth. The principal port is at Villa des Lagens, from whence a considerable trade is carried on in excellent wines, and various kinds of wood, particularly cedar.

Flores,