

abundance of *Juca* (a Root whereof the *Savages* once made their bread) that it was deemed the *Granario* of the neighbouring Islands. And were it not disurnished of convenient Ports (which is all the want of it) would be as much frequented by the sea-faring men, as any other in those parts. Once very populous, now destitute of all the natural Inhabitants: this Island, and that of *Porto Rico*, losing in few years 600.00 by the *Spaniards* cruelties. Cruelties which not only raged upon the men, but destroyed posterity: the *Women*, here and elsewhere for abominating their sad condition, that they strangled their Children in the birth, to the end they might not live to serve such a cruel Nation.

Chief Towns hereof (for though it be well watered, it hath no great Rivers) 1 *Sevilla*, in the North-part of the Island, beautified with a goodly Monastery, the Abbot whereof hath all *Episcopal* jurisdiction, and is privileged to wear a *Miter*; in nothing more enobled, then that *Peter Martyr* the Historian (to whose *Decades* all succeeding Ages are to be beholding, for the *Chorography*, and *History* of these parts of the World) was once Abbot here. 2 *Melillo*, a small Town, but memorable for the unfortunate shipwreck of *Columbus*, on the shores adjoining. 3 *Orysten*, on the South of the Island, fourteen Leagues from *Sevil*. 4 *De la Vega*, now a ruine only, once a *Spanish* Colonie; and of great fame for giving the title of *Duke* to *Christopher Columbus*, and his brother *Bartholomew*. Since whose time nothing hapned prejudicial to the State of this Island by the hands of any but the *Spaniards*; till conquered, but not held by Sir *Anthone Shirley*, An. 1596.

Thus having took a short Survey of the several parts of this great Body; we now briefly take a view of the Government and Forces of it. The Government committed chiefly to two great *Vice-Royes*, the one of *Nova Hispania*, who resides at *Mexico*; the other of *Peru*, who abideth at *Lima*; the principal Cities of those Kingdoms. The first hath jurisdiction over all the Provinces of *Nova Galicia*, *Nova Hispania*, *Guatemala*, *Castilla Aurea*, and the Provinces of the *Metacal* Islands: the other over those of *Peru*, *Chile*, *Rio de la Plata*, and the new Realm of *Granada*. Such scattered pieces as they hold in *Guayana*, *Paria*, and the *Caribee*, with their Forts in the South, being reduced to some of these. Of these the *Vice-Roy* of *Peru* is of greatest power, because he hath the nomination of all the *Commanders* and Officers within his Government: which in the other are reserved to the King himself. But that of *New Spain* counted for the better preference, because of its nearness unto *Spain* (in respect of the other) the beauties of the City of *Mexico*, and the Civilities of the People. For the administration of *Justice*, and ordering the Affairs of the several Provinces, there are ten chief Courts, from which there lieth no Appeal: that is to say, 1 *Guadalajara*, for *Galicia Nova*. 2 *Mexico*, for *New Spain*. 3 *S. Domingue*, for the Province of the Islands. 4 *Quatemala*, for the division so named. 5 And *Panama*, for *Castilla Aurea*. Then for the other Government, *Quito*, *Lima*, and *Charcas*, in the Realm of *Peru*. 6 *Imperial*, for *Chile*. 7 *S. P. de*, for the *New Realm* of *Granada*. From these, though no Appeal doth lie in matter of *justice*; yet both from them and the two *Vice-Royes* an Appeal may lie in affairs of State, or point of *Grievance*. And to this end there is a standing Council in the Court of *Spain*, which is called the *Council of the Indies*, consisting of a *President*, eight Counsellors, two *Proctors Fiscal* (which we call the *Solicitors* General) and two Secretaries, besides other Officers: to whom it appertaineth to take care of all matters which concern the Government of these Countries; to appoint the *Vice-Royes* dispose of all the great offices (except those of the Government of *Peru*) and spiritual Dignities; to appoint *Vicars* to go into those Provinces for the examining the actions of all Officers, hearing the grievances of the People, and to displace or punish as they find occasion; but with the Kings privacy and consent.

As for the Estates of private men, they which hold Lands or *Royalties* from the Crown of *Spain*, hold them but for life (except it be the *Marquess of Valde* in *New Spain*, of the race of *Cortez*) after their deaths returning to the King again; who gives them commonly to the eldest son or the next of blood; but so that they receive it as a mark of his favour, and not for any right of these. And though they have many times attempted to make these *Commanderies* and Estates hereditary, and offered great sums of money for it, both to *Charles* the Fifth, and *Philip* the second; yet they could never get it done; the Kings most prudently considering, that these great Lords having the command of the Estates and Persons of their several *Vassals*, would either grind them into powder without any remedy; or upon any *Inquisition* into their proceedings, take an occasion to revolt. Both dangers of no small importance, both by this uncertainty of their present Tenure, exceeding happily avoided.

The Revenue which the King receiveth hence, is said to be three Millions of Ducats yearly: most of it rising out of the Fifths of the Mines of Gold and Silver: the rest by Customs upon Manufactures and all sorts of Merchandize, and the Acknowledgments reserved upon Lands and Royalty. But out of this there goeth great Exports, that is to say to the two *Vice-roys* 12000 Ducats; to the President and Officers of the Council of the Indies in *Spain* 20000 Ducats; to the Judges and Officers of the several Courts of Judicature very liberal Penfions; to every Arch-bishop and Bishop, of which there are 29 in all, 2000 Ducats at the least, and to some much more to mend their Benefices. Then reckoning in the infinite Charges, in maintaining Garrisons, and entertaining standing Bands both of Horse and Foot, in several parts of this Estate; and the continual keeping of a strong *Armada*, to conduct his *Plate fleets* to *Spain*, there must be made a great abatement, and the sum will bear it. For howsoever at the first his Revenue came from thence without any great charge more then the keeping of a few Souldiers to awe the *Savages*; yet after he fell fowl with *England*, and startled the *Hollanders* to rebellion, he was compelled to fortifie all his Havens, and secure his Ports, and to maintain a strong *Armada* at the Sea to Convey his Treasures. Before which time, the English (as is intanced in several places) did so share in his Harvest, that they left him scarce enough to pay his Workmen; which if they should attempt again upon any breach, they would finde it very difficult, if not impossible, to effect any thing on the Coasts, as in former times; or indeed any other way but by making themselves too strong for him at Sea, and thereby either intercept his Fleets, or hinder them from coming to him to supply his needs.

And so much for the AMERICAN Islands.

Having thus travelled over (with Gods blessing) the known parts of the World, and failed through the most difficult Seas which embrace the same: we should now man our Barque again, and try what discovery we can make of the Parts unknown, or not so fully known to us as the others are.

atque
Quo properat mea cymba? redit, satis ardua Pontus
Nevimus, ecce Ausser pluvias jam cingere nubes
Incipit, hic tutum non est (mibi crede) morari.
Dum licet in Portum tendamus, nubes clarum
Reddidit nobis palus, dicam, revocabis ab Alto
Nos Triton Scopulo, aique iterum tentabimus aequor.

That is to say,
But whether goe, my Bark? Return, for we
Have slied the capering Brine enough; see, see,

The Southwind 'gins to gather clouds apace,
Tis no safe tarrying in so fierce a place.
While thou halt time retire thou wearied Bark
Into safe Harbour, when the clouds which dark
The Worlds bright eye shall be dispelled away,
And shining Phœbus make a lightsome day,
Tritons shall Trump shall then recall again,
From the safe Harbour to the foaming main;
And we with all our powers will boldly try,
What of this UNKNOWN WORLD we can descry.

A TABLE