

expences incident to the worst part of the law, and practised by the most corrupted lawyers, flourish here; at the same time that justice is so lax that the greatest crimes often pass with impunity. Formerly the judges could not legally punish any Portuguese with death. And it is not difficult to imagine, how much a licence in such a country must have contributed to a corruption, that it may be the business of successions of good magistrates, and ages of good discipline, to restore to soundness. Upon the river of Amazons, the people, who are mostly Indians and reduced by the priests sent thither, are still under the government of these pastors. The several divisions of this country are called missions.

As the Portuguese have been once dispossessed of this country by the Dutch, and once endangered by the French, their misfortunes and dangers have made them wise enough to take very effectual measures for their future security. St. Salvador is a very strong fortification; they have others that are not contemptible; besides a good number of European regular troops, of which there are two regiments in St. Salvador. The militia too is regimented, amongst whom they reckon some bodies of Indians, and free Negroes; and indeed at present Brazil seems to be in as little danger as the settlements of any power