

and the fort, which he had built here, was entirely demolished. The tattered garments, broken arms, and utensils, scattered about its ruins, too clearly indicated the miserable fate of the garrison. While the Spaniards were weeping over these relics of their countrymen, a brother of the friendly cazique Guacanahari arrived, and confirmed all their dismal apprehensions. He informed Columbus, that, on his departure, the men, whom he left behind, threw off all regard to their commanding officer; that, by familiar intercourse with the Indians, they lessened that veneration for themselves, which was first entertained, and, by indiscretion and ill conduct, effaced every favourable impression, that had first been made; that the gold, the women, the provisions of the natives, became subject to their licentious prey; that, under these provocations and abuses, the cazique of Cibao surprized and cut off several of them as they straggled about, heedless of danger; that then, assembling his subjects, he surrounded the fort, and set fire to it; that some of the Spaniards were killed in defending it; and that the rest perished, in attempting to escape by crossing an arm of the sea.¹

Leaving Navidad, he sailed eastwardly; and, at the same island, anchored before a town of Indians, where he resolved to plant a colony. He accordingly landed all his men, provisions, and utensils, in a plain, near a rock on which a fort might be conveniently erected. Here he built a town, which, in honour of the queen of Castile, he called Isabella. This was the first town, founded by Europeans in the New World.²

1493.

and finds it
in ruins.

Dec. 8.

Lands at
another
part of the
island;builds the
first town
in the
Indies.

¹ Robertson, i. book ii.

² Life of Columbus, c. ii. & xlv—li. Herrera, i. 106—113. Purchas, i. 731. P. Martyr, 11—13. European Settlements, i. 19, 20. Universal Hist. xli. 258. Robertson, i. book ii.