

The whole divided, when the *Spaniards* first came amongst them, into several Provinces or Kingdoms, as 1 *Higüey*, 2 *Jacaguá*, 3 *Samana*, in the Eastern parts; 4 *Taquimo*, 5 *Baracoa*, and 6 *Xaragua*, towards the South; 7 *Guabalú*, and 8 *Cabaye*, in the West; and in the North, 9 *Cibao*, rich in Mines of Gold; 10 *Maricao*, the Landing place of *Columbus*; and 11 *Maguana* in the center of the Island, the King whereof in the time of *Columbus* was named *Canabo*; of greatest power of any of those petty Royalties. Another division of it hath been made by Nature, parting it by four Rivers, all rising from one Mountain in the midst of the Island into four Divisions: the River *Juche* running towards the North; 2 *Nubiba* hasting to the South; 3 *Yuna*, or *Junna* towards the East; and 4 *Hatibonica* to the West. But these divisions being long since grown out of use, we will survey the chief of the Towns and Cities of it, as they come before us.

And they are 1 *S. Domingo*, first built by *Bartholomew Columbus* Anno 1484. on the East bank of the *Ozama*; and afterwards (in the year 1502) removed by *Nicholas de Obando*, then Governour of the Island to the opposite shore. Situate in a pleasant Country, amongst wealthy Pastures, and neighboured with a safe and capacious Haven: the houses elegantly built, most of them of stone, and the whole well walled, beside a Castle at the West end of the Peer to defend the Haven: enriched by the residence of the Governour, the Courts of Justice, the See of an Archbishop (and besides many Convents and Religious houses) an Hospital endowed with 20000 Ducats of yearly Rent. Esteemed of greatest Trade and concourse of Merchants till the taking of *Mexico*, and the Discovery of *Peru*; since that time sensibly decaying; and now reduced unto the number of 600 Families of *Spaniards*; the greatest part of the City, and all the Suburbs, inhabited by *Negros*, *Mulatos*, and other Strangers. Not yet recovered of the hurt it had by Sir *Francis Drake*, who in the year 1586. took it by force, and held it for the space of a month, burning the greatest part of the houses, and suffering the rest to be redeemed at a certain price. 2 *St Salvador*, 28 Leagues to the East of *Domingo*. 4 *Jaguana*, called also *Santa Maria del Porto*, from a safe and beautiful Haven adjoining to it; situate in the West part of the Island, of no great bigness, consisting of no more than 150 houses, when it was at the greatest; but made much less by Captain *Newport*, who in the year 1591, burnt it to the ground. 4 *Cotuy*, in the North of the Island, opposite to *S. Domingo*, from which distant almost 60 Leagues: a little Town, but formerly of great esteem for its Mines of Gold. 5 *Concepcion de la Vega*, the foundation of *Christopher Columbus*; for whose sake afterwards adorned with a See Episcopal. 6 *Puerto de la Plata*, 40 Leagues from *Domingo* on the Northern shore; where built on a commodious Bay by *Nicholas de Obando* before mentioned, by whom also fortified: the second Town of Wealth and Trade in all the Island. 7 *Azuá*, now called *Compostella*, a noted Haven, and resorted to for *Sugar*, which it yields abundantly.

This Island was first discovered by *Columbus* (for I believe not that it was any of the *fortunate Islands* which we read of in the life of *Sertorius*) in the first voyage which he made: conducted thither by some of the Inhabitants of the Isle of *Cuba*. Landing, and gaining the good will of the *Savages*, by gentle usage, he obtained leave of one of their Kings or *Caciques* to build a Fortress in his Country, which he called *Navidad*, or *Natividad*, leaving in it 36 *Spaniards* to keep possession: whom he found both maltreated & murdered at his coming back. Being now better furnished for a new Plantation, he built the Town called *Isabelle*, in honour of *Isabella* Queen of *Castile* near the Mines of *Cibao*; which afterwards was deserted also, and the Colonie removed unto *S. Domingo*; the *Spaniards* sending one Colonie after another, till at last their number was increased unto 14000. besides women and children. But having rooted out the *Natives* by their infinite cruelties, and exhausted the riches of the Country with as infinite covetousness, they betook themselves to fresher Quarters, abandoning the Island to devour the *Continent*. Once had the Islanders rebelled, and fortified themselves in the Province of *Baruco*; a place so naturally strong, that there was little need of the helps of Art. Not brought to leave that fastness but on such conditions as made the *Spaniards* less insolent, and themselves less slaves.

## S. CUBA.

**CUBA** lyeth on the West of *Hispaniola*, from which parted by a *Firth* or narrow Channel, interposed betwixt the two Capes of *S. Nicholas*, and that of *Maya*, Backed on the North with a frile of Islands, called the *Lucayos*, and some part of the *Peninsula of Florida*; extended towards the East to the extrem point or Foreland of *Jucatan*, called *Cape de Corache*, from which distant about 50 Leagues, and neighboured on the South with the Isle of *Jamaica*.

It is in length from East to West, that is to say, from *Cape Maxie* towards *Hispaniola*, to the Cape of *S. Anthony*, 230 Leagues; in breadth where broadest hardly 40, but fifteen in others. For the fertility of the soil contending with *Hispaniola* for the preheminance; but in the temperature of the Air a great deal before it. Liberally stored with *Ginger*, *Cassia*, *Mastic*, *Aloe*, *Cinnamon* and *Sugar*, (not reckoning such commodities as are common unto this with others) besides great plenty of *Flesh*, and *Fish*; and of *Fowl* no scarcity. The Gold more drossie in the Mine, then in *Hispaniola*, but the *Brass* more perfect. Hilly, and full of lofty Mountains; but those Mountaines clad with divers trees, some of which drop the purest *Rosin*, and the Hills sending to the Valleys many notable Rivers. Peltured with many sorts of Serpents, not so much out of any ill condition of the Soil and Air, as by an old Superstition of the *Savages*: in former times not suffered to kill them when they might (this being a *Dish* reserved for the higher Powers) not able afterwards to destroy them when it would have been suffered.

What other *Savage* Rites they had, is not now material, the *Spaniards* having took an Order that they should not trouble us in that particular. Yet thus much we may add in memory of the first Inhabitants