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and defence of the colony. They are also obliged to send ministers thither, but these are paid by the colony.

The vast number of Dutch people, who have acquired plantations here, have raised the colony to a very flourishing condition, so that it has extended itself 30 leagues above the mouth of the river Surinam; but there is little probability of their settling higher, because the falls thereabout render the navigation of the river impossible. There is also a kind of natural wall of prodigious rocks, which at once bound the colony, and serve as a fortification to prevent the inroads of the savages, who inhabit the mountains, and cannot be civilized. The plantations in this colony are said to amount to above five hundred, and yield the proprietors immense profit.

All the plantations are situated on the banks of the rivers. Fort Somelsdyk stands at the conflux of the rivers Commewine and Cottica; the latter is an arm of the river Surinam. The rivers are well stocked with several kinds of excellent fish; and the woods abound with an amazing variety of beautiful birds.

From the end of November to the beginning of July, the weather is pretty temperate, on account of the clouds, which intercept, during the greatest part of the time, the sun's rays; a north-east wind also blows continually, and great quantities of rain fall. The rest of the year is very hot and sultry, especially when it does not rain.

The chief trade of this colony consists in the product of the country, namely, sugar, cotton, gum, tobacco, wood for dying, &c. The Dutch