

and which, as it grows out of the Ground, bears a Seed, which it scatters every where. It grows in a Tuft; and by its Bulk, and its prodigious Fruitfulness, it so choaks the Indigo, that it kills it; so that when it has made the least Progress in a Field, it is entirely lost, and they must plant another.

The Coasts of *St. Domingo* have not Plenty of Fish; but if they go a little out to Sea, they find all Sorts. *Remark on the* We caught, especially coming from *Louisiana*, many *Doradoes*, on which our Sailors

pretend to have made a pretty singular Remark, which is, that when they take this Fish in the Increase of the Moon, the Flesh of it is firm, and of an exquisite Taste; whereas, if they take it in the Decrease of the Moon, it is insipid, its Flesh has no Consistence, and is like Meat that is boiled to Rags. It is certain, that we experienced both in the different Times before-mentioned; but that this happens always, and that the Moon is the Cause of it, is what I will by no Means affirm.

We departed from Cape *François* the 25th of September in a Merchant Ship of *Havre*, named *Louis de Bourbon*, commanded by one of the most skillful Navigators that I have known: But we had scarce got to Sea, when we discovered two Leaks in her; so that during all the Passage, which was ninety-two Days, they were obliged to pump Night and Morning; which, added to the Want of Provisions, though they had taken in Plenty, but which they never husbanded for the first Month, was the Cause that our Captain was several Times on the Point of stopping at the *Azores*. We had been still more embarrassed, if we had gone into the Snare that was laid for us by a Captain of an *English Ship*, whom we met half Way in our Passage.

He came out of *Jamaica* with a Fleet, of which he was at first, as he said, the best Sailor; but as in loading his Ship, he was so imprudent as to leave all his Provisions in one Place, it happened that by Degrees as they were consumed, the Vessel losing its Equilibrium, lost by little and little the Advantage that it had over the rest, and at last remained a great Way behind the Fleet. We fell in with him in Reality alone, and making so little Way, that in Comparison of him our Ship, which was far from being an extraordinary Sailor, went like a Bird; and he was afraid that his Provisions would entirely fail before he could arrive in *England*. He told us the Trouble he was in, and to explain it the better to us, he invited himself to dine on board us. They replied that he should be welcome, and our Captain ordered some of our Sails to be furled to wait for him.

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