

S E C T. L X V I I I.



Coming in sight of the Ilands of Pearles, the winde began to fresh in with vs; and wee profited our selues of it : but coming thwart of a small Iland, which they call *la Pacheta*, that lyeth within the Pearle Ilands, close about the mayne, and some eight or ten Leagues south and by west from *Panama*, the wind calmed againe.

This Iland belongeth to a private man, it is a round humock, conteyning not a league of ground, but most fertile. Insomuch that by the owners industrie, and the labour of some fewe slaues, who occupie themselves in manuring it; and two barkes, which hee employeth in bringing the fruit it giveth, to *Panama*; it is sayd to bee worth him every weeke, one with another, a barre of silver; valued betwixt two hundreth and fiftie, or three hundreth pezos: which in English money, may amount to fiftie or threescore pounds: and for that, which I saw at my being in *Panama*, touching this, I hold to be true.

In our course to fetch the Port of *Panama*, we put our selues betwixt the Ilands and the Maine: which is a goodly Channell, of thre, foure, and fve leagues broad, and without danger; except a man come too neare the shoare on any side; and that is thought the better course, then to goe a sea-board of the Ilands, because of the swift running of the tydes, and the advantage to stop the ebbe: As also for succour, if a man should happen to bee calmed at any time beyond expectation; which happeneth sometimes.

The seaventh of Iuly wee had sight of *Perico*; they are two little Ilands, which cause the Port of *Panama*, where all the shippes vse to ride; It is some two Leagues west north-west of the Cittie, which hath also a *Pere* in it selfe for small Barkes, at full sea, it may haue haue some fixe or seaven foote water, but at low water it is drie.

The ninth of Iuly we anchored vnder *Perico*, and the Generall presently advised the *Audiencia*, of that which had succeeded in his Iourney; which vnderstood by them, caused bonfires to be made, and every man to put luminaries in their houses; the fashion is much vsed amongst the Spaniards in their feastes of Ioy, or for glad tidings

The Generall
certifieth the
Audiencia of
his successe.