

Benedictines, situated near its northern extremity: the structure affords an agreeable prospect, and contains an elegant chapel, ornamented with several valuable paintings. The second is that of the Carmelites, which forms the centre angle of the royal square, and fronts the harbour; its church was rebuilding in a very elegant manner, with fine free stone brought thither from Lisbon. The third is that of St. Anthony, situated on the top of a hill, on the fourth side of the town; before this convent stands a large basin of brown granite, in the form of a parallelogram, which is employed in washing. The fourth is situated at the eastern extremity of the town, and was formerly the Jesuit's convent, but is now converted into a military hospital.

In the right angle of the royal square stands the viceroy's palace; this with the mint, stables, goal, &c. compose one large building, which has two stories, and is 90 feet from the water. In passing through the palace, the first entrance is to a large hall or guard-room, to which there is an ascent of three or four steps. In the guard-room are stationed the viceroy's body-guards, who are relieved every morning between eight and nine; and adjoining to the hall are the stables, the prison being in the back part of the building. Within the guard-room is a flight of stairs for ascending to the upper story, which divides at a landing-place about half way, and forms two branches, one leading to the right, and the other to the left. The former leads to a saloon, where there are two officers in constant attendance; the viceroy's aid-de-camp at the same time waiting in the anti-chamber to receive messages and deliver orders.

The left wing of the royal square is an irregular building, which consists chiefly of shops occupied by trading people. In the centre of this square is the fountain, of which we have made mention, as being supplied with water from a spring at the distance of three miles, from which it is brought by an aqueduct. The place is continually crowded with negroes of both sexes waiting to fill their jars. At the corner of every street is an altar. The market place extends from the north-east end of the square along the shore, and this situation is very convenient for the fishing-boats, and those who bring vegetables from the other side of the river to market. Negroes are almost the only people who sell the different commodities exposed in the market, and they employ their leisure time in spinning cotton.

The form of government is in its constitution mixed, but in fact very despotic; the viceroy and civil magistrate of the town frequently committing persons to prison, or transporting them to Lisbon, at their own pleasure. In order to prevent the people from making excursions into the country, in search after gold and diamonds, certain bounds are prescribed them, sometimes at a few, and sometimes at many miles distance from the town; and if a man is taken up by the guard without the bounds, where they constantly patrol, he is immediately sent to prison.

The inhabitants of Rio de Janeiro are exceeding numerous, and consist of Portuguese, Negroes, and Indians, which last were the original natives of the country. The township of Rio is but a small part of the Capitanea, or province; yet is said to contain 37,000 white people, and 629,000 blacks, many of whom are free, making together 666,000, in the proportion of 17 to 1.

The military is composed of twelve regiments of regular troops, six being Portuguese, and six Creoles, and twelve regiments of provincial militia. The inhabitants are fervently submissive to the regulars, and it has been said, that if any of them should omit the compliment of taking off his hat, when he meets an officer, he would be immediately knocked down. But the subordination of the officers to the viceroy is equally mortifying, for they are obliged to wait three times every day to know, or receive his commands: the answer frequently is, "there is nothing new."

In Rio de Janeiro the gentry keep their chaises, which are drawn by mules; the ladies however use a sedan

chair, boarded before and behind, with curtains on each side, which is carried by two negroes on a pole connected with the top of the chair by two rods, coming from under its bottom, one on each side, and resting to the top. The apothecaries shops commonly serve the purposes of coffee-houses, as the people meet in them to drink capillaire, and play at back-gammon. When the gentry are seen abroad, they are well dressed, though at home but loosely covered. The shop-keepers have generally short hair, and wear linen jackets with sleeves. The women in general, as in most of the Portuguese and Spanish settlements in South America, are more ready to grant amorous favours than those of any other civilized parts of the world. As soon as the evening began, females appeared at the windows on every side, who distinguished such of the men as best pleased their fancies by throwing down nosegays; and Dr. Solander and two other gentlemen received for many of these love-tokens, that they threw them away by hat-fulls.

Without the Jesuits college on the shore, is a village called Neustra Señora del Gloria, which is joined to the town by a very few intervening houses. Three or four hundred yards, within the Jesuit's college, stands a very high castle, but it is falling to decay. The bishop's palace is about three hundred yards behind the Benedictine convent, and contiguous to it is a magazine of arms, surrounded by a rampart.

The inhabitants of Rio de Janeiro maintain a whale-fishery, which supplies them with lamp oil. They import brandy from the Azores, and their slaves and East India goods from their settlements in Africa, their wine from Madeira, and their European goods from Lisbon. The current coin is Portuguese, which is struck here; the silver pieces are called patacas, of different value; and the copper are five and ten ree pieces. This place is very useful for ships that are in want of refreshment. They water, as we have before observed, at the fountain in the great square, but the water is not good. We landed our casks on a smooth sandy beach, which is not more than a hundred yards distant from the fountain, and upon application to the viceroy a centinel is appointed to look after them. The harbour is safe and commodious, and distinguished by a remarkable hill, in the shape of a cone, at the west point of the bay. The entrance is not wide, but it is easy, from the sea breeze which prevails from noon to sun-set, for any ship to enter before the wind. The entrance of the narrow part is defended by two forts, La Cruz, and Lozia; they are about three quarters of a mile from each other. The bottom being rocky, renders it dangerous to anchor there, but to avoid it ships must keep in the mid-channel. The coast abounds with a variety of fish, among which are dolphins and mackerel. Provisions, except wheat bread and flour, are easily procured. Yams and cassada are in plenty. Beef both fresh and jerked may be bought at two-pence farthing a pound, but it is very lean. The people jerk their beef by taking out the bones, and cutting it into large but thin slices. They then cure it with salt, and dry it in the shade. It eats very well, and, if kept dry, will remain good a long time at sea. Mutton is scarcely to be procured. Hogs and poultry are dear. Garden stuff and fruit are in abundance, but the pumpkin only can be preserved at sea. Tobacco also is cheap, though not good. Rum, sugar, and molasses are all excellent, and to be had at reasonable prices.

The climate of Rio de Janeiro is healthy, and free from most of those inconveniences incident to tropical countries. The air is seldom immoderately hot, as the sea breeze is generally succeeded by a land wind. The seasons are divided into dry and rainy, though their commencement of late has been irregular and uncertain, for the latter had failed for near four years preceding our arrival; but at this time the rain had just begun, and fell in heavy showers during our stay: formerly the streets have been overflowed by the rain, and rendered impassable with canoes.