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THE
HISTORY

OF THE

BRASILS,

FROM THE ORIGINAL DISCOVERY, IN 1500,

TO THE

EMIGRATION

OF THE

ROYAL FAMILY OF PORTUGAL,

IN 1807 :

COMPRISING EVERY INTERESTING FACT CONNECTED

WITH THE

GEOGRAPHY, EXTENT, BOUNDARIES, POPULATION, PROGRESSIVE
IMPROVEMENTS, RELIGION, SINGULAR CUSTOMS AND MANNERS,
SOIL, MINERAL AND OTHER PRODUCE, POLITICAL AND COM-
MERCIAL RELATIONS, ETC. ETC.

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SOUTH AMERICA.

CHAP. I.

**DISCOVERY AND POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE BRASILS, FROM THE FIRST DISCOVERY, IN 1500,
TO THE FINAL RESTITUTION BY THE DUTCH, IN 1661.**

BASIL, an immense continent in South America, is bounded on the north by the river of the Amazons, on the south by Paraguay, on the west by a long tract of mountains that divide it from Peru, and on the east by the northern ocean.

Had Columbus, in his third voyage, in 1499, turned his course to the South Sea, when he came to the entrance of the Oroonoko, he could

not have failed discovering the Brasils; but he preferred steering to the north-west, towards the gulf that lies between that river and Florida. The settlements already made there, the gold they produced, and the hope of finding a passage to the East-Indies, operating as inducements to pursue that tract.

Peter Alvarez de Cabral, a Portuguese Admiral, had the honour of discovering this country. He was going with a fleet beyond the Cape of Good Hope; and after passing the Cape de Verde Islands, stood so far out to sea, with a view of avoiding the calms, common on the coast of Africa, that on the 24th of April, 1500, he observed an unknown country on the west; but the sea running high, he was obliged to sail along the coast, as far as 15° south latitude; where, finding a good haven, he gave it the name of Porto Seguro, or the Safe Port; and the country itself he called the Land of the Holy Ghost; this name was afterwards changed to that of Brasil; from its abounding with Brasil wood, which had been so called in Europe about 300 years before this country was discovered.

Cabral sent some people on shore to examine the country; and they reporting that it was well watered and extremely fertile, he resolved

to go himself. On his landing, he was received by the peaceful inhabitants with great kindness; and judging the country to be of great importance, as he had several condemned criminals on board his ship, whose sentence had been changed from that of death to transportation; when he quitted the place, he left two of these criminals in the country, to learn the language, and acquire further information of this unknown land and its inhabitants, and prevailed on one of the inhabitants to accompany him to Europe. He also set up a stone cross, as a monument of his having taken possession of the country for the king of Portugal, and then dispatched a vessel to Lisbon with the information.

The court of Portugal, anxious to ascertain the value and extent of the country, sent several persons to visit the coasts, who soon found that this was part of the continent of that new world discovered by Columbus.

Affairs in the beginning went on very slowly; the first Portuguese inhabitants simply remarked, that the soil was fertile, the air temperate, and the country well watered, capable of furnishing the necessaries of life, and not

suspecting that it contained gold or diamond mines.

As this country was discovered in going to the Indies, the Portuguese were at first doubtful whether it was not a part of them; it was distinguished by the appellation of West-Indies, because the Portuguese went to India (properly so called) by the east, and to the Brasils by the west. This name was afterwards extended to all America, and the Americans were very improperly called Indians.

For several years, the Portuguese government contented themselves with transporting thither, from time to time, those persons whose crimes brought them under the censure of the law. But, as the fertility of the country became more known, the crown had recourse to making extensive grants to such as were disposed to settle there, which induced many to try their fortunes in the new colony. By this means the colony grew apace; and, in the space of fifty years, spread over a large tract of country, and erected many good towns: the principal of which were, Tamacara, Pernambucco, Ilheas, Porto Segura, and St. Vincent, each of which was surrounded by a populous and well cultivated territory.

Though the natives were resolved not to bear the yoke of slavery, and grew desperate at every attempt to bring them into subjection, yet the fertility of the soil induced many persons, from other parts of America, exclusive of the Portuguese, to settle there. By degrees, these erected a new kind of government, dictated by necessity, in which every master of a family was both a planter and a soldier. He laid out as much land as himself and his family could cultivate, and daily performed his military exercises, to enable himself to defend his property; and hence every district had the title of Captainship, which they still retain, though the state of affairs is absolutely changed.

The flourishing state of Brasil soon awakened the attention of the court; king John III. in 1549, concerned at the grants already made, ungenerously revoked all those of his predecessor; and, as the government were at that period ignorant of the extent of the country, he appointed Thomas de Sousa, governor-general of Brasil; who set sail with a fleet of six men of war, having on board many officers, civil and military, with a considerable body of soldiers, and six fathers of the new order of Jesuits, who were to convert the Indians. He had also a new plan of power, adjusted agreeable to the views

of the court, and was directed to build a new town in the bay of All Saints.

De Sousa, soon after his arrival in Brasil, entered upon the execution of what he was ordered to perform. He made war upon the natives; built the town of St. Salvador, and erected monasteries for the jesuits.

What De Sousa could not finish was completed by his successor, Edward Acosta, in whose time the number of towns, and inhabitants, were nearly doubled, to secure the territory, he was obliged to strengthen the towns; by erecting fortifications of brick and stone, furnished with artillery, the necessity of which was soon justified by experience.

At this time the affairs of France being in the greatest confusion, and the disputes between those of the church of Rome and the Calvinists, being carried to the utmost height, many of the most active and industrious Calvinists were desirous of leaving their native soil, and seeking an easier and more contented state in distant climates.

Among these was Nicholas Durant, Lord of Villegagnon, knight of Malta, and vice-admiral of Brittany, who, being treated ill at

Nantz, suddenly resolved to leave the kingdom, and carry a colony into some distant part of the world; and hearing some accounts of Brasil, he drew up a scheme for fixing a settlement in that country. This he presented to Gaspar de Coligny, admiral of France, desiring his assistance towards fitting out a squadron for that purpose.

The admiral made such a representation of the affair to king Henry II. that he had leave to fit out three large vessels, with a sufficient number of seamen and adventurers on board; and in May, 1555, this small squadron sailed from Havre de Grace for Brasil, where, after a tedious and troublesome voyage, they arrived in November,

This colony landed upon a rock, which they found uninhabitable; but marching farther within land, fixed upon a very commodious spot of ground almost under the tropic of Capricorn, where they erected a convenient fortress for their security both against the natives and the Portuguese, which they called Fort Coligny. From this place the Sieur de Villegagnon sent the admiral a long account of his proceedings and situation; described the country and its inhabitants, and observed that it was extremely

practicable to convert it into both a useful and thriving colony; but remarked that such as were sent to him must not expect the delicacies of Europe, that their bread was made of a certain root, ground to powder, that they had no wine, much fish, and some venison; and that those who could live contentedly upon such provisions, might find a secure retreat at his fort in Brasil.

This letter the admiral communicated to the famous reformer, John Calvin, of Geneva, who prevailed on a dozen zealous Protestants of that city, to engage in the design of improving this new settlement. Du Font, a man of sense, with a good character, was put at the head of this affair, and with him were joined two ministers, Peter Richer, who had been formerly a Carmelite, and William Chartier; these setting out together from Geneva, waited upon the admiral at Chatillon, who gave them a kind reception; and by his assistance, joined to their own interest, they soon got together three hundred men, who embarked at Harfleur on board three vessels, in November, 1556, and arrived at Fort Coligny on the 7th of March, 1557; where they were received with great joy.

Things, however, did not long continue in

this situation; for the Sieur de Villegagnon, who had pretended to be a rigid Calvinist, soon shewed, that he had only worn a mask. This produced a quarrel between him and the minister, Richer, in which the disputes rose so high, that he drove the latter and all his adherents out of the colony.

The Sieur de Villegagnon being thus abandoned, took the best measures he could for the security of the colony in his absence, and then returned to France; where he endeavoured to raise a belief of his being a zealous Calvinist, and published an apology for his own conduct. In the mean time, the Portuguese laid hold of this opportunity, to rid themselves of their new neighbours; and the next year Emanuel Sa, governor of Brasil, cut off the French that were left behind, and demolished their fort.

The Portuguese now for some time quietly enjoyed their settlements, till, at length, one Captain Riffaut, who had been cruizing on the Spaniards, touching at the island of Maragnan, on the coast of Brasil, contracted so great an intimacy with the Indian Chief of the island, that he invited him to bring a sufficient number of his countrymen to fix a settlement there, promising to give him all the assistance in his

power. This offer the French Captain readily embraced, and at his return to France, found means, by his credit and interest, to equip three ships, so effectually, that there was great reason to expect extraordinary success; but his men mutinying before he reached the island, and the largest of his ships running upon the coast as soon as he got to it, by which means she was lost, he was obliged to return to France; but some of his people, among whom was M. de Vaux, chose to stay with the natives, who made them extremely welcome: This young gentleman, was remarkably brisk and active; he liked the climate, and continued there some time. His behaviour to the Brasilians was very engaging, and he in many respects proved so useful to them, that they made the same applications to him, as the Indian Chief had done to Captain Riffaut, which at last engaged him to think seriously upon the subject, and to return home by the first opportunity.

On M. de Vaux's arriving in France, he applied to king Henry IV. to whom he represented the vast advantages that would flow from such an establishment; upon which that prince, who had the good of his subjects at heart, and was unwilling to place too great a confidence on the credit of a young adventurer, sent a small vessel,

under the command of M. Rivardier, a person of great merit, upon whose report he could depend, who took M. de Vaux with him, and after remaining six months in Brasil, returned to France, from whence he made several voyages back, before the government could come to any resolution about settling a colony. Preparations were, however, at length actually made for sending a strong squadron thither; when a stop was put to them by the murder of Henry IV. But M. Rivardier was so fond of the place, and so fully persuaded that a settlement there would immediately turn to account, that he embarked his whole private fortune, and engaged several of his friends to do so to; by which means he equipped three stout vessels, and engaged about three hundred men to go to Brasil, with whom he embarked at Cancale, on the coast of Brittany, and in July following, arrived at the island of Maragnan.

He there erected a fortress on the summit of a hill near the best port in the island, between two fine rivers that washed both sides of the mountain, and ran from thence into the sea. Upon the bastions of this fort he mounted twenty-two pieces of cannon; and every thing seemed to promise all the success that could be desired, when, about two years after their first

arrival, a strong squadron, sent by Don Jerom de Albuquerque, the Portuguese governor of Brasil, appearing before the bay, soon forced them to surrender, and, according to his orders, the place was instantly demolished; since which the French have not made any further attempts to settle in that country.

In the year 1581, the crown of Portugal devolving on the head of Philip II. king of Spain, he not only became possessed of all the rich countries in America discovered by the Spaniards, but of Brasil, and all the Portuguese settlements in the East-Indies. These he left to his successors, together with the war he had carried on against the seven United Provinces, who had shaken off their dependence on the crown of Spain, and formed themselves into a republic, which, by attending to trade, made the most rapid progress. This new republic, by forming an East-India company, obtained such commercial advantages, that, in 1324, they were induced to set up also a West-India company, which, from its institution, proved fatal to the Portuguese.

The Dutch, being now sensible of the state of Brasil, and the small resistance they were likely to meet with in case they made a descent

on the coast, which was no less than 1200 leagues in extent, equipped a squadron under the command of James Willikens, which entering the bay of All Saints, the Portuguese were so frightened, that, instead of providing for their defence, they immediately used all possible methods to carry off and secure their effects.

The Dutch, observing the consternation into which they had thrown the enemy, instantly landed, and, without much difficulty, made themselves masters of St. Salvador, the capital of Brasil. Don Diego de Mendoza, the Portuguese governor, not having the courage to defend the place, fled; but Michael Texeira, the archbishop, who was of one of the best families in Portugal, notwithstanding his being in years, summoned all the clergy and monks about him, and representing the necessity they were under of laying aside their clerical capacities, prevailed on them to take up arms; and, though deserted by the governor, the soldiers and the inhabitants, they for some time made a very gallant defence, and at last retreated to a neighbouring town; where, after acting the part of soldiers, they turned pioneers, and, under the conduct of the archbishop, fortified the place, and gave the enemy as much trouble as if they had been the most regular troops in the world.

By the taking of this town, the Dutch not only acquired an immense plunder, but became masters of the largest and best peopled district in the whole country, and seemed in a fair way of making, in a short time, a complete conquest of the whole colony; which they would probably have done, had it not been for the heroic archbishop, who assumed the title of captain-general, an office which, he said, came to him from heaven, in the legible characters of public necessity.

The news of this misfortune no sooner reached Portugal, than it threw both the city of Lisbon and the whole kingdom into confusion. King Philip IV. in whose reign this happened, immediately sent orders to Portugal to equip a fleet for the recovery of St. Salvador; and accordingly, in February, 1626, the combined fleet of Portugal and Spain set sail for the Brasils, under the command of Don Frederic de Tolédo Osorio, marquis of Valduesa, with 15,000 men on board.

In the mean time, the Dutch, being in possession of St. Salvador and the adjacent country, began very rashly to extend themselves on every side, either from contempt of the Portuguese, or an extravagant thirst of plunder. The warlike

archbishop, however, had now assembled 1500 men, and, with these, not only cut off most of their parties, but at last forcing them to take shelter in the town, blocked them up, and reduced them to great distress; which he had no sooner done, than he resigned the command, first to Nunez Marino, and afterwards to Don Francis de Mauro, declaring, that his own commission expired with that of necessity, which had forced him to take it up.

Things were in this situation, when the united fleets of Spain and Portugal arrived in the Bay of All Saints. Don Emanuel de Meneszez immediately landed 4000 men, and joined the army before St. Salvador. The Dutch governor was, however, resolved to defend it to the last extremity; but the garrison mutinying, forced him to surrender on the 20th of April; when the Spanish and Portuguese commanders, supposing that the war was at an end, and that the Dutch, like the French, would be afraid of making any new attempts upon Brasil, returned home with the fleets in triumph.

The Dutch West-India Company, still desirous of possessing the country, fitted out a fleet of 46 sail, under the command of admiral Link, having on board a considerable number of

troops, under the command of Gen. Warderbourg. They arrived in sight of Pernambucco, on the 3d. of February, 1630, and succeeded in taking the place; and a short time after, reduced all the coast to the south of Olinda, securing and fortifying every place that fell into their hands.

The Portuguese and Spaniards, though they were greatly alarmed at the successes of the Dutch, yet were so long in equipping a fleet, that the Dutch, the better to secure their conquests, had time to fit out a second fleet, which arrived off the coast on the 1st. of May, 1631, and thus enabled the Dutch still further to extend their conquests.

At length, the combined fleets of Spain and Portugal, consisting of 54 large ships, under the command of Diendo, set sail, and came up with the Dutch fleet in 6^o south latitude. Ten of the Dutch captains, alarmed at the great superiority of the enemy, bore away, and left their admiral with only six ships to fight the enemy, who had almost ten times the number. The battle was long and bloody; but a ball unhappily falling into the Dutch admiral's powder-room, the ship was blown up, and that brave man lost; and another of the Dutch ships being sunk, the remaining

four retired, but did it with such courage and address, that they not only safely arrived at Olinda, but carried off a Portuguese man of war which they had taken.

The combined fleets suffered so severely in this engagement, as to be compelled to return; and soon after, falling in with four Dutch men of war, well manned, was so handled by them, as with difficulty to reach the port of Lisbon, the admiral having lost the captain of his own ship, with 22 other captains, his vice-admiral, three men of war, two frigates, and about 700 men.

As the Portuguese could not get another fleet ready for some time, the Dutch, profiting by the delay, reduced under their dominions Pernambuco, Tamaraca, Paraiba, and Rio Grande; and being resolved to place at the head of these conquests a person whose credit, power and talents would add strength to their interests, Count John Maurice, of Nassau, a near relation to the prince of Orange, was appointed governor of Brasil and South America, and took possession of his new office in 1637. He directly took the field; and, though opposed by the Portuguese, he compelled seven out of the fourteen provinces which composed the colony, to acknowledge

the dominion of the Dutch. His progress was stopped by the arrival of two gentlemen of distinction from the Portuguese viceroy of Brasil, with information of the unexpected revolution that happened in Portugal in December, 1669, which induced count Maurice to delay the prosecution of his plans, as the war in Brasil had not been carried on by the Dutch against the Portuguese, but against the Portuguese as subjects of the king of Spain.

The new king of Portugal, uniting his interests and his resentments with those of the English, the French, and the enemies of Spain, concluded a treaty of alliance with the united provinces. Nassau was recalled, and the government of the Dutch possessions in Brasil given to Hamel, a merchant of Amsterdam; to Bassio, a goldsmith of Haerlem, and to Bullestraat, a carpenter of Middleburg. These new administrators suffered the fortifications to decay; and, as their whole ambition was to save expences and increase the profits of their constituents, they even sold arms and ammunition to their rivals, and allowed part of the soldiers to return to Europe. To enlarge the profits of the company, they oppressed those Portuguese, whose large property, or other circumstances had induced to remain under their protection;

ries, as filled the Dutch with a consternation their tyranny was carried to such an excess, that in 1645, the Portuguese inhabitants formed a conspiracy for recovering Brasil; their scheme was to murder all the Dutch, who had any share in the government, at an entertainment in the midst of the capital of Pernambuccó. Their chief was a Portuguese, called Juan Fernandez de Viera. He was of obscure birth, and, from a butcher's boy, had risen to be a merchant.

This plot was proposed to be put in execution on the 24th of June, 1645, when one of the governor's daughters was to be married, and a great entertainment given, to which most of the officers and principal persons in the Company's service were invited, where they would doubtless have been seized, perhaps murdered, if the design had not been discovered the very evening before it was to have been executed; but, at this instant, a ship arriving from Amsterdam, brought letters from the directors of the West-India Company, containing an account that the Minister from the States-General at the court of Portugal, had discovered that a great conspiracy was carrying on in Brasil, and that they would do well to enquire what supplies had been lately sent from Lisbon to the Portuguese in that country. This enquiry produced such discove-

that gave Viera and his associates time to escape into the neighbouring woods, where they immediately took up arms.

Viera now assumed the character of General and Commander in Chief, and being assisted by Colonel Diaz, with a few Portuguese troops, and Colonel Cameron, at the head of a numerous body of Brasilians, he fixed his head-quarters at Pojug, a town between the Receif and Cape St. Augustine; so that, to the misfortune of the Dutch, this unexpected war broke out in the very heart of their dominions.

To detail the series of warfare and ill success on the part of the Dutch, would be simply to give an uninteresting account of skirmishes between the Portuguese and Dutch. Weakened by famine and war, the few that remained of those Republicans, evacuated Brasil, in consequence of a capitulation, signed the 28th of January, 1654. It is impossible to describe the disappointment of the Dutch, or the outcry with which they demanded justice against General Sigismund Schuppen, who was commander in chief for many years, and was governor of the Receif when it surrendered. The States, to secure him and his officers from their resentment, sent them to prison, and granted the only

favour he asked, which was his being allowed to make a public defence. In this, he so clearly laid open his own long and faithful services recapitulated all the successes they had under the administration of Count Maurice, and gave so true and affecting a picture of the miseries, and misfortunes he himself and his men had suffered since he went last thither, that the people wept, and his judges acquitted him.

To conclude this subject : when Count Maurice, after residing eight years in Brasil, quitted the government, he left them seven captainships, one city, thirty great towns, forty-five regular fortresses, ninety sail of good ships, 3,000 regular troops, 20,000 Dutch, of all ages and sexes, 60,000 negroes, and above twice as many Brasilians. At that time the colony annually yielded 25,000 chests of sugar; and a carpenter, cooper, or smith, could earn five or six guikders a day, and live very comfortably upon one. But the above avaricious and parsimonious management, occasioned not only the loss of the invaluable colony; but the expending of millions upon it, for ten years together; and after the destruction of several thousands, from time to time, sent thither, there returned to Holland in 1655, no more than between six and seven hundred persons, few of whom were possessed of any property.

The treaty of peace, concluded between England and the United Provinces, in 1661, secured to Portugal the sole possession of all the Brasils, in consideration of eight millions, (350,600*l.*) which that crown engaged to pay to the United Provinces, either in money or goods.

“ A few years after the slaves in the neighbourhood of Pernambucco (now inured to hardships and warfare, and inflamed with the sentiments of liberty, which the Hollanders had diffused around them) determined to seek, in the woods and plains of the back country, the freedom which they so ardently desired. Forty of them put this resolution into effect; and, after purloining arms, and what other weapons they could conveniently secrete, fled from their masters, and retired to a chosen situation in about nine degrees south, near Porto de Calvo, and adjoining the rich cultivated country of Alagoas and Pernambucco. Here they were joined by considerable numbers of mulattoes, and other negroes. Part of them founded a town, while others dispersed to the most fertile spots around, and began the business of cultivation.

“ They soon, however, felt the want of the softer sex; and motives of policy for the conti-

* See “ *America Portuguesa*,” *Livro oitavo*, &c.

uation of their independence, with natural desires, determined them to supply their want by force, from the surrounding plantations.— Not the Sabine rape was more general or complete: through an extensive tract of country they took every female of colour; and, not confining themselves to this depredation, (perhaps irritated by reluctance), they violated the daughters and wives of the planters, carried away the most valuable effects, and retired to their town of Palmares.

The taste of plunder thus excited, soon demanded still further gratification; and during their separate existence, they constantly indulged it, and were in a short time too formidable to be resisted. Several considerable Portuguese of the adjacent parts, now solicited their friendship, by private supplies of powder, ball, musquets, and European manufactures; receiving, in return, assurances of protection, and part of the gold, silver, and specie, which the negroes had taken from others. A short time consolidated them into a nation; they adopted a personal designation from the name of their town, the Palmares; and, finding the incessant confusion which attends a body of people without regulations, they formed a political constitution, beginning by choosing a prince, whom

they saluted with the name of Zombi, or Powerful : this dignity was to last for life only : continuing elective ; from among the most experienced, brave, and prudent, of the nation, They next selected magistrates, made laws, and instituted a militia, of all, capable of bearing arms. Religion was not forgotten : they adopted the Christian ; but, as the priests assert, most barbarously mutilated, and wanting the sacrament of the priesthood, their costume, and other ceremonies of the Catholic church—to the eternal perdition of their souls,

'During this progressive improvement the population was immense, and the cultivation of the interior kept an equal pace ; but, fearing the final irruption of the Portuguese, they chose for each village a commanding situation, and rudely fortified it. Palmares was, by this time, near a league in circumference : and was surrounded with a double staccade of immense timbers, taken from the ponderous trunks of the largest trees in the surrounding woods : these they squared, and piled to a considerable height, forming in parts a regular bulwark ; with (for entrances) three extensive ports of the same wood, having platforms over each. These entrances were each guarded, in times of peace, by two hundred soldiers, and a chief of approved valour.

Within the walls the dwellings were dispersed and irregular, a great portion of ground being reserved for cultivation. The inhabitants were supplied with water from a lake, in which were fish, and rivulets spread in various directions. In the centre of the town was a singular mount; one of its sides rising perpendicularly, and so high that it commanded a view of the surrounding country. The palace of the prince was extensive; the houses of some individuals were, in their style, magnificent; and the whole population amounted to full twenty thousand souls. In short, the prosperity of the nation had risen to such a pitch, they were so powerful, their depredations so extensive, and their vengeance, when excited, so destructive, as to alarm the country in general, and seem finally to threaten the existence of the European colony. Government were seriously anxious, and bent their entire attention, to reduce the Palmareses; who at this time, (A. D. 1696) had continued sixty years unmolested, and saw their third generation. Ceatano Mello, governor of Pernambuco, accordingly sent a plan for this purpose to Don John de Lancastro, captain-general, and governor of Bahia; who, for its execution, immediately dispatched a thousand troops to join the forces of Pernambuco. The latter alone amounted to three thousand men; besides a

body of Indians, armed domestics, and volunteers : the whole thus forming an army of six thousand : supplied with every necessary for offensive war, except artillery.

The Palmaresé, on being informed of the intended invasion, had collected all their former resources, called in their militia, and the inhabitants of the villages, desolated the surrounding country, and thrown every hinderance to the march of the hostile troops. The Portuguese, however, soon arrived ; but, as they viewed the staccaded walls of the town, were struck with astonishment, not unmixed with dismay, at the appearance of the soldiers stationed on the bulwarks, and the firm preparations which they beheld in every part for a vigorous resistance.

While this was passing, and the army was yet unformed, the prince Zombi, with a strong detachment, made a rapid sally ; and brought on a partial engagement, which ended with considerable loss to the invaders.

The place was now formally invested ; and various attempts were made to cut an entrance by heavy hatchets, but without effect : while storming parties, with scaling ladders, were,

equally unsuccessful, meeting the most destructive fire from the besieged. Unfortunately, the Palmaresé were deficient of powder; but this did not abate their constancy; and they yet resisted with the remainder of their ammunition. At the same time also, they threw darts, immense stones, and scalding water, during the different assaults; thus killing and wounding such numbers, that the Portuguese began to slacken their ardour. Added to this, the want of necessaries and refreshments occasioned a general murmur in the besieging army; and they plainly saw that their expedition must prove abortive, without the assistance of fresh troops, artillery, and provisions. A courier was instantly dispatched to the governor of Pernambuco, requesting these supplies; which were with difficulty forwarded. In the mean time the Palmaresé were in hopes, from the discontinuance of attacks, that the enemy were on the point of retiring: and this expectation alone, kept up their spirits; for not only their powder was entirely exhausted, but they began to feel all the horrors of famine,—increased from the numbers that had retired into the town.

They endured these evils with great resolution: the townsmen in daily expectation of yet

enjoying their liberty ; and their country friends, of returning to their villages and their rural happiness. But these hopes were too delusive : for the detachment arrived with artillery, &c. for the besiegers. From the eminence in the centre of the town, the Palmarese saw these supplies approaching in each direction ; and, when they viewed the heavy guns, and fresh troops, then, and then only, their spirits sunk, and they foresaw the fate to which they were doomed.

A general storm took place ; and the resistance of the inhabitants was weak, from their feeling that it must be ineffectual. A port was forced, and the troops entered : the shock was violent but momentary, and the Palmarese gave way. Prince Zombi, with nearly the whole of his remaining comrades in arms, pre-determined not to outlive their freedom : they retired to the mount, and, self-devoted, precipitated themselves down its steep rocky side, finding liberty in death.

That part of Brasil which lies more to the south, and without the tropic of Capricorn, is, in all respects, one of the finest countries in the known world, but here the Portuguese dominions are narrow, being confined by the Spanish territories, and the river Plata.

The Portuguese were disappointed of their vengeance, but the object was attained: as by these means the victors succeeded in effectually preventing any future junction of men, animated with sentiments so hateful and dangerous to a despotic government.

CHAP. II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY—ITS INHABITANTS—THEIR
RELIGION — LAWS — CUSTOMS — TRADE — COMMERCE —
AGRICULTURE—SOIL—VEGETABLES—ANIMALS, &c.

THE Portuguese dominions in South America extend from the frontier of Dutch Guiana, lat. 3° N. to Port St. Pedro, S. lat. 32° . being 35 degrees, or 2,100 German miles, and the breadth from Cape St. Rogne, to the farthest Portuguese settlement on the river Amazons, called St. Paul de Omaguas, equals, if it does not exceed, that extent.

The extent of the sea-coast is said to be no less than twelve hundred leagues. The interior is intersected, from North to South, by hills, from whence issue many large rivers, some of which fall into the ocean, and others into Plata.

This vast territory, rivalling the empires of antiquity, is more unknown than the Spanish possessions, partly from the want of science and curiosity, and partly on account of the thick forests which cover the extensive plains of the Marañon, and its auxiliary streams. The chief city of Brasil was formerly Bahia, or San Salvador, which has since yielded to Rio Janeiro. The others are Para de Cayta, near the estuary of the Marañon, with some settlements on that river : Parnambucco, Sergippe, Paraiba, Villa Grande, &c.

The middle part of Brasil, from 59 of south latitude to the tropic, has the winds and seasons directly the reverse of those in other parts of the world, within the same latitudes ; for in them the dry season comes on, when the sun advances to the northward, and the wet season begins when the sun returns to the southward ; but here the wet season begins in April, when the south-east wind sets in, with violent tornadoes, thunder and lightning ; and in September, when the wind shifts to east-north-east, it brings with it a clear sky and fair weather. There is no country between the tropics where the heats are more tolerable, or the air more healthful, it being constantly refreshed with breezes from the sea, and cooled by the lakes and rivers which

annually overflow their banks ; and in the inland part of the country, the winds from the mountains are still cooler than those that blow from the ocean.

The river of the Amazons, so famous for the extent of its course, appears to be produced by innumerable torrents that rush down from the east side of the Andes, and unite in a spacious plain, to supply that immense river. Yet the common opinion is, that it comes from the lake Llauricocha, as from a reservoir of the Cordilleras, situate in the district of Guanuco, thirty leagues from Lima, about the 11th degree of south latitude. In its descent it proceeds forward, in a straight course, towards the fifth degree, to Jaen de Bracamoros. From thence it turns eastward, and runs parallel to the equinoctial line, till the North Cape, where it falls into the ocean, after having, from Jaen, where it becomes to be navigable, run through thirty degrees of longitude, which are equal to 750 ordinary leagues; but its course is estimated, on account of its windings, at 1000 or 1100 leagues, according to the observations of Messrs. Condamine and Maldonado, the only persons worthy of credit. In its progress, of a thousand or eleven hundred leagues, it receives the waters of a prodigious number of rivers, some of which

come from far, and are very broad and deep. It is interspersed with an infinite number of islands, that are too often overflowed to admit of culture. The most considerable of these is Joannes, which, it is said, is forty leagues in circumference, and is stocked with numerous herds of cattle; but they are lean, and their skins of little value. It falls into the ocean, under the line, and is there fifty leagues broad.

The entrance of this river was first discovered in 1500, by Vincent Pincon, one of the companions of Columbus; and its spring head is thought to have been discovered by Gonzalo Pizarro, in 1538. His lieutenant, Orellana, embarked on this river, and sailed from one end to the other. He was obliged to fight his way down, and to engage many nations, who obstructed his navigation with their canoes, and poured showers of arrows upon him from the shore. It was doubtless, then, that the sight of beardless savages, as are all the American nations, struck the lively imagination of the Spaniards, and suggested the idea of an army of female warriors, and induced the commanding officer to change the name of that river, which was then called the Meragnon, and to call it the river of the Amazons, which name it still retains.

The ancient inhabitants of Brasil differed very little in stature or complexion from the Portuguese themselves; but much exceed them in strength and vigour. Some lived in villages, and others moved about according to their humours. These villages consisted of only three or four very large houses; in each of which a whole family or tribe lived together, under the authority of the eldest parent. They procured subsistence by fowling and fishing, and made up the rest of their diet with the fruits of the earth; but though they had no luxurious plenty, yet, in so fertile a country, they were in no great danger of want. They were, however, continually at war with each other; but for what cause is not easily determined, unless we should admit, what some old writers affirm, that they made these wars chiefly that they might kill and eat each other, esteeming human flesh the greatest dainty.

The Portuguese and Dutch writers give the name of Tapuyers to the native inhabitants of the north part of Brasil, and that of Tupinambies or Tupanamboys to those who dwell in the south of Brasil: but divide these again into several petty nations, who speak different languages, though their manners and customs are much the same.

The Tapuyers are pretty tall, and as they live almost under the equator, are of a dark copper colour, their hair, which is black, hanging over their shoulders; but they have no beards; the men wear a cap or coronet of feathers; and their ornaments are glittering stones, hanging to their lips and nostrils, and bracelets of feathers upon their arms; while others, rubbing themselves with gums, stick beautiful feathers upon their skins, which, at a distance, make them look more like fowls than human creatures.

The Tupinambies, who inhabit the south of Brasil, are of a moderate stature, and not of so dark a complexion as their northern neighbours, who live nearer the line. They are indeed neither of them so dark as the Africans in the same latitude, for there were no negroes in America, till they were transported thither by the Portuguese and Spaniards. The Tupinambies, however, resemble the Africans in their flat noses, which being esteemed a beauty, are made so by art in their infancy. They have also black hair upon their heads, and, like the Tapuyers, paint their bodies.

The present inland Brasilians of both sexes still go entirely naked; but near the shore they put on different sorts of coverings, some wearing only shirts of linen or calico, and others dress after

the European manner. The wives always follow their husbands to war; but while the man carries nothing but his arms, the woman supplies the place of sumpter horse, and loaded with such provisions as are thought necessary, with a child or children, and a hammock, which at night they hang on trees, or fasten to poles, making a defence from the rain with palm-tree leaves. These hammocks are the chief part of their furniture, and are made of cotton, and formed like network, six or seven feet long and four broad: but the Tapuyers make theirs twelve or fourteen feet long, so as to contain four and sometimes six persons; their cans, cups, or mugs, are made of callabashes, some of which hold thirty quarts. The poorer sort use knives of stone, while the others purchase theirs of the Europeans. When at home, the husband generally goes abroad in the morning with his bow and arrows, to kill birds or beasts, or goes to fish, while the wife either employs her time in working at a plantation, or attends the husband to bring home his game.

The inland Brasilians have some knowledge of a supreme Being, whom they call Tuba, which signifies somewhat most excellent; and the thunder they stile Tubakununga, which may be interpreted, a noise made by the Supreme Ex-

cellency. They have a confused knowledge of the general deluge, and believe that the whole race of mankind were extirpated by it, except one man and his sister; which latter was pregnant before it happened, and that these, by degrees, re-peopled the world. With respect to a state of future existence, they believe that the soul does not die with the body; but is translated to some pleasant vales beyond the mountains, where they are to enjoy great pleasures, and spend their time in dancing and singing. These are those who have distinguished themselves by performing great actions in defence of their country, &c. but such as have been idle, are supposed to be tortured by evil spirits, whom they call by different names, and of whom they are excessively afraid; and though they pay them no religious worship, yet they sometimes endeavour to appease their wrath, by certain presents fastened to stakes, which they set in the ground.

They have priests among them, who are used as prophetic instructors, and are carefully consulted in all material transactions, especially those of war: and there are a class of people called Potiguaras, and accounted so well skilled in sorcery, as to be able to kill their enemies by their enchantments.

The general food of the Brasilians is the cassavi or mandioka root, dried to powder, of which they make cakes like our sea-biscuits. This flour they also carry with them on journeys, and it being infused in water, serves them both as meat and drink: they do not appear to have had any corn till the Europeans carried it thither. They also feed on other roots, fruit and herbs; on wild-fowl, the venison they take in hunting, and on fish, and with every thing eat a great deal of pepper. They generally drink spring water, of which they are said to have the greatest variety in the world; yet they have other kinds of liquors made of the fruits pressed and infused, or of honey, with which they sometimes get very drunk, sitting whole days and nights over their cups.

Before the arrival of the Portuguese, they were masters of the arts of spinning, weaving, and building their houses, and of forming their arms, which consisted of bows, arrows, lances, and darts; and they had some knowledge of the virtues of several herbs and drugs, which they frequently administered with success to the sick.

Hunting, fowling, and fishing were then rather their business than amusement, these being

absolutely necessary for the support of their families, in a country where they had no tame cattle or corn ; drinking, dancing, and singing were more properly their diversions, which they practised on their days of rejoicing for a victory, or on the birth of their children. At present they are great smokers; their pipes are a hollow reed or cane, and the bowl is a large nut-shell that almost holds a handful of tobacco.

The European Settlers are in general gay and fond of pleasure, extremely observant of the ceremonies of religion, or rather of the etiquette of the Virgin Mary, who is stuck up in a glass case at every corner. The convents and monasteries are numerous, and the superstitious veneration of the Portuguese Settlers to the outward forms of the Romish Church, is here carried to the greatest excess.

The women of all ranks, even to the negroes, adorn themselves with gold chains, suspended round their necks, and down the bosom ; these are generally from one to three yards in length, and pass three or four times, having pendant a crucifix, a saint, or two square gold scapularies, pierced and embossed with a cherubim, &c. and opening as a locket.

The workmanship of these chains, and the

weight of the ornaments attached, solely mark the difference of their bearers. It is not merely to religious purposes that these scapularies are assigned; they also serve as inclosures for charms to cure or prevent some particular illness, or alleviate a severe affliction.

— By a very old law, which has often been broken, and which extended to the Brasils, since 1749, the Portuguese were forbidden to wear any gold or silver stuffs, or laced clothes, but the passion for finery, which no laws can eradicate, has induced them to contrive some substitute, and wear crosses, medals, and diamond chaplets, or beads, the rich ensigns of their religion.

The population of this large portion of South America has not been accurately detailed, but it would seem that the Portuguese and their descendents do not exceed half a million, while the Natives may be three or four millions.

CHAP. III.

~~VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS—ANIMALS—BIRDS—REPTILES—~~

&c. &c. &c.

IN describing the produce of this country, we shall begin with the vegetables, and first mention the mandioka, which is a knotted shrub, that runs to the height of six feet and upwards, but without branches ; the root, which is the only useful part, somewhat resembles a parsnip, but is much larger. It is planted by cutting the body of the shrub into short lengths, and sticking them into the earth, when they immediately re-shoot, and after growing for about twelve months, the root is perfectly formed, but varies in size according to the fertility of the ground, from one to twenty inches in diameter, and from six inches to two feet in length. The roots being pulled up, and the exterior bark cut off, a farinaceous substance remains, milky and glutinous ;

this is rubbed to small pieces against a rasping wheel covered with perforated copper, and received into a trough below ; it is then dried in shallow pans over a slow fire, till all moisture is evaporated, when it appears a dry granulated substance, and is ready for use. Tapioca is the juice of the root drained from the raspings, and granulated in like manner over a slow fire.

Farinha was in use among the Indians of South America at the time of its discovery, and imperceptibly adopted by its conquerors, wheat not agreeing with the soil, and mandioka being cultivated at an hundredth part of the labour and expense.

The Nara is also very remarkable ; it resembles the *Sempervivum* ; but its leaves are not so thick, and are full of prickles. In the middle grows a fruit like a pine-apple, which in taste resembles a melon, but is much more delicious, and has a very fragrant smell. The juice is esteemed good for the stone. This fruit is so very plentiful, that the Indians fatten their hogs with it ; and except some small quantities that are used for sweetmeats, they have no other way for the common spending of them, but carrying them to sea, where those who are sea-sick receive great benefit from them.

The Pacoba, also called Adam's fig-tree, is very large; the stalks are soft and spongy, and the leaves very long, smooth, and soft, like velvet; these are so cool and refreshing, that people, sick of fevers, have them applied to their bodies, to abate the violent heat of the distemper, and give them ease. The fruit grows in clusters, like figs, at every foot distance upon the main stalk, and one cluster generally contains two hundred. The fruit being gathered, and laid to ripen, becomes yellow; it then acquires a pleasant taste, and is not only grateful to the palate, but esteemed medicinal, particularly in fevers and spitting of blood.

The Pocaire is a shrub ten or twelve feet high, and has a stem much thicker than a man's thigh, and yet so tender, that it may be cut asunder with a sword at one stroke. The leaves resemble those of water-sorrel; they are generally six feet long, and very broad, but are extremely thin, and have only one strong middle rib to hold them together; on which account they are so torn by the winds blowing them about, that they hang in rags, and these shrubs, at a distance, appear as if stuck with feathers. The fruit, which has the name of Poco, is as long as a man's hands, and, both in colour and shape, are like a cucumber. In taste they resemble a fig, though they are much more delicate.

The Brasils abound with plenty of ananas, or pine apples, which, when ripe, are here of a gold colour, and discover themselves to those that walk in the woods, or the places where they grow, by their fine scent. In taste, they excel our richest preserved fruits; and the liquor drawn from them is not inferior to Malmsey wine.

Some authors mention a tree, which, if their accounts be true, is one of the most extraordinary in the world; it has very broad spreading branches, and grows wild in the woods. The thick branches of these trees have large holes, sometimes as long as a man's arm, full of a clear well-tasted water, which, when empty, fill again, and in this state continue winter and summer; so that a whole troop of weary travellers may refresh themselves under one of these trees; repose in the cool shade, and at the same time quench their thirst. The want of water being commonly one of the greatest inconveniencies that can be suffered by those who travel the inland parts of the country, it seems, as if Providence had kindly provided this remedy, by disposing it up and down in such quantities, and in a manner not exposed to the uncertainties that attend springs and rivulets.

The country produces various sorts of palm-trees, and other fruits, and also mulberries and dewberries; woods of various colours, and some which produce very fragrant scents; in particular the mastick, which, with the rest of the odoriferous plants and shrubs, perfume the woods in the most agreeable manner.

The Timbo is a plant that springs up like a string, and rises up to the top of the highest mulberry-trees, to which it sometimes grows close, like ivy. They are exceeding strong and tough, and even those as big as a man's leg, may be wound and twisted about without breaking. But the bark is an infallible poison to the fish, and being thrown into the water, leaves hardly any of them alive.

The Bombasine cotton shrubs are found in great numbers in this country: they grow to an indifferent height, and the fruit, when ripe, divides itself into four parts, each of which yields the cotton in flocks of the bigness of a little ball; and, in the midst of these flocks, are black seeds, closely pressed together.

The Mangaba-tree is an evergreen, and bears fruit twice a year: its flowers are like those of the jessamine, and smells as well: the fruit,

which is as big as an apricot, is yellow, spotted with black, and has several kernels within; these are eaten as well as the fruit itself, and are wholesome, well-tasted, and lie exceedingly light on the stomach.

The Araca is a sort of small pear, or, at least, it more nearly resembles that than any other fruit: it is of a red, yellow, or green colour; for there are of all these kinds in Brasil, and they are extremely beautiful. This fruit is very pleasant, and is admired by those who love but a small taste of the sour.

The tree Jabaticaba is remarkable for its being entirely beset with fruit, from the very root to the topmast bough. This fruit is of the size of a large lemon, it has a sour taste, and the Indians make a good wine of it.

The Cabueriba is a very large tree, and affords excellent timber for strength and service; but what renders it most valuable, is the balm it affords, which, like that of Gilead, heals all green wounds. This is obtained by making an incision in the bark, through which the balm distils into a vessel set to receive it. Both the balm and the tree itself have a very fragrant smell.

The Cupayba is a straight and tall tree, remarkable for its yielding, when cut, a great deal of oil, which serves both for lamps and the curing of wounds.

This country also produces many other trees and shrubs different from those of Europe, and among the rest, the Brasil-tree.

As to the beasts, the Tapirousson somewhat resembles a cow, in its shape and size, though in other respects it differs very much from it; it has long shaggy hair of a reddish colour, no horns, a very short neck and tail, long hanging ears, slender legs, and a whole hoof: but though it has very sharp teeth, it never makes use of them against man or beast. The natives sometimes catch them in traps, and at others pierce them with arrows, not so much for the sake of the flesh, (though that is good, and not much unlike beef) as for the hide, which, when dry, is in a manner impenetrable.

The Cuati is as grey as a badger, to which it has some resemblance. Its claws and snout are very long, and, by the help of the former, it climbs the trees like a monkey. These animals are so ravenous, that there is no creature which is not an over-match for them, that escapes be-

ing devoured by them ; though they chiefly live upon snakes, birds, and their eggs.

Apes and monkeys are very numerous in this country, and are of several colours. Wild boars are of several sorts, as are also the leopards, tigers, and ounces : some of these last are black, others grey, and others spotted.

One of the most extraordinary animals found in Brasil is the porcupine, called by the Brasi- lians Kuandu. It is about the size of an ape ; but instead of hair is covered with spikes of three or four fingers length.

The armadilla, or shield-hog, resembles our hogs in size and shape, but is covered with scales like a shield, which on the back has seven partitions, and between each of these appears a dark brown skin. The head is very like that of other hogs, and has a sharp nose, with which it grubs up the earth : its eyes are small, and lie deep in the head ; it has a small sharp tongue, and short ears, coloured of a dark brown, without hair or scales. This animal lives upon roots, and all kinds of carrion.

The Brazilian sluggard, so called from the slowness of his motion, it not being able to pro-

ceed a stone's throw in many days, is about the size of a fox. Its head is round, and its mouth, which bears a constant foam, is little and round; its teeth are small and blunt; its nose is black, high and smooth; its eyes are small, black and heavy, and its body is covered with ash coloured hair. It dwells upon trees, and lives upon their leaves, without ever tasting any drink; and is so much afraid of rain, that upon its approach, it hides itself.

The tamandua, or ant-bear, thus named from its food, is of two sorts, the great and the small. The former, which is about the bigness of a middle sized dog, has a round head, a long snout, and no teeth.

The senembi, or land crocodile, is very common in Brasil; but it seldom exceeds five feet in length.

Parrots are some of the most common birds of the country, for they fly together in large flocks, and are killed by thousands.

The guiranheugeta is of the size of a goldfinch. Its back and wings are blue: its breast and belly yellow, and it has a diadem of the same coloured feathers upon its head. This is

an admirable bird for the cage, for it has the notes of many other sorts of birds, and makes such a variety of changes and turnings in its singing, that it is a concert of itself.

In Brasil there is a kind of bats, of the size of a crow: these have very sharp teeth, and bite violently. They build their nests in hollow trees and old walls.

There are here a kind of wild-geese, much like those in Europe, only somewhat larger, and their feathers vary more in colour; but, though they are water-fowls, they generally prove both fleshy and well-tasted.

The barn-bird has a very odd appearance, it having a bill of an astonishing length, and a crown of green and white feathers upon its head; one half of which, as well as half the neck, has no feathers at all. It is about the size of a stork, and, when skinned and boiled, proves tolerable food.

The bill-bird is about the size of a wood-pigeon, and has a saffron-coloured crop about the neck, of three or four fingers in compass. Its bill, which is altogether as large as the whole body, is yellow without, and red within; and

its feathers, which are yellow on the breast, and black on all the other parts, are tipped with red.

Brasil also produces many sorts of wild-fowl, that differ but little from those of Europe.— Among the small birds, the Brazilian humming-bird is the most singular; for though very small, it makes a loud noise, and is of so variable a hue, that turn it which way you please, it changes its colour. Some of the Brazilian women hang one of these at each ear, in the manner of a pendant.

There are lizards in Brasil four feet in length, which the negroes eat with safety, and scorpions of a very large size,

Among the spiders, there is one sort of a remarkable large size, generally found in dunghills, or the cavities of hollow trees, which weave webs like other spiders; if provoked, they wound with a sting so small, as to be scarcely visible, and yet so venomous, that it raises a blueish swelling, that is very painful, and even mortal, if not prevented by a timely antidote.

PRODUCE AND COMMERCE.

As the Portuguese government have, on every occasion, discouraged all commercial intercourse

between the Brasils and European nations, it is not to be wondered at that this fertile country yet possesses but few manufactories, and that the trade to it, clogged by innumerable regulations and imposts, should be comparatively trifling.

The most prominent articles which Brasil offers to the mercantile adventurer, are clayed sugars, Brasil wood, and tobacco ; for, though the coast abounds with numerous whales, yet no established fishery of that kind has yet received the sanction of the Portuguese government. Whether the recent changes in the political departments will give rise to more politic regulations, it remains for time to shew. They have manufactories of sugar, rum, and cochineal ; and several districts produce cotton, indigo, coffee, cacao, or chocolate, rice, pepper, and the noted Brazilian tobacco. The red, or Brasil wood, is the property of the crown.—The circumjacent rocks are granitic, white, red, or deep blue, the last being of a close and hard texture.

As the sugar of Brasil was the first sent to Europe, the Portuguese having set up their works in this country about the year 1580, it may not be amiss to remark, that the Jews, who, at that

period, had been stripped of their property by the inquisition, and banished to the Brasils, there found many kind friends, and by these means were enabled to cultivate the sugar canes, which they first procured from the island of Madeira, and at this period the clayed sugars of Brasil, are finer and whiter than ours ; though the manner of preparing it is extremely easy.

When their sugar is put into pots, and is sunk two or three inches below the brim, by straining out the melasses, they scrape off a thin hard crust, that is found on the top of the sugar, and then pour in their mixture for refining it, which is nothing more than a fine, soft, white clay, beat and mixed with water, till it is of the consistence of cream ; with this they fill up the pot or pan, and in ten or twelve days, the white water passes quite through, whitening all the sugar, while the thick body of the clay lodges at top, and is easily taken off with a knife.

They also bring from Paraiba, notwithstanding its being the least frequented port in Brasil, dying woods, several sorts of drugs, and other valuable commodities, and it is generally allowed that these northern captain-ships are the best peopled, and the inhabitants in very easy circumstances, though no mines have yet been wrought in these parts.

Next to Paraiba is Tamaraca, the trade whereof is carried on at the city of Olinda, which was rebuilt by the Portuguese, after its being demolished by Count Maurice. It is seated on the side of a hill near the sea, but this situation renders the streets very uneven and incommodious. The port is also narrow, and the entrance into it extremely difficult, yet ships continually resort thither from the other parts of Brasil and the Canaries, as well as the annual fleet from Lisbon, which generally consists of about thirty sail, escorted by a man of war.—These ships are chiefly loaded here with sugar and Brasil wood. Of this wood there are different sorts: as the Brasil of Japan, that of Lamon, that of St. Martha, and Brasiletto, from Jamaica, and the Leeward Islands; but the very best is produced in this country.

The Brasil tree generally grows in dry barren places, and among rocks; it is thick and large, and the timber is usually crooked and knotty. It bears flowers of a most beautiful bright red, that have a very fragrant smell, which, instead of hurting, strengthens and cherishes the brain. Though the tree is very large, it is covered with so thick a bark, that when the Brasilians have taken it off, a tree as bulky as a man's body, is left no thicker than the calf of his leg. The

wood is very hard, dry, and heavy ; it crackles much in the fire, and scarce raises any smoke. That is esteemed the best which is the soundest, thickest, and hardest. It ought also, upon splitting, to turn from a pale to a deep red, and, upon chewing the chips, the best sort yields a sweet taste, somewhat like sugar. This wood is put to various uses, by the turners, and takes a very good polish : but it is principally used in dying, in which it yields a very fine bright red.

The next Captain-ship is that called by the Portuguese the bay of Bahia, or the bay of All Saints : it is about twelve leagues over, but in several places is scarce navigable on account of the sand banks and shoals. In this bay there are several small islands, on which the Portuguese have a tobacco and sugar plantation, and they have also very good fisheries on the coast of these islands, and on the banks. At the entrance of the bay is the city of St. Salvador, which lies in 14 degrees south latitude, and is at present the centre of the Portuguese trade in this part of the world. It has a very fine port, which might be rendered still more commodious, if art and industry gave a little assistance to nature.

The city of St. Salvador, which is at present the seat of an archbishop, is divided into the Upper and Lower. The upper town is seated on the summit of a mountain. The houses are large and pretty convenient, but the inequality of the ground on which they stand, renders the streets very disagreeable. In the middle of the town is the great square, the four sides of which are taken up with the Viceroy's palace, the town-house, the mint, and other public buildings, built of stone, brought from Portugal. The Jesuits college is by far the largest and finest edifice in the city, particularly the sacristy, which is lined throughout with the most beautiful tortoise-shell, wrought and fixed together in the most elegant manner, so that nothing can be conceived more agreeable to the eye. There are several very fine churches, as that of the Benedictine-abbey, which rivals that lately possessed by the Jesuits; but the cathedral, which, at a distance, seems the noblest structure, upon being nearly examined, appears neither neat nor regular. However, in richness of gilding, it surpasses all the other churches. Among the convents in this capital, is a remarkable one of the order of St. Clare, and another for such young girls as are exposed, and abandoned by their parents. It is surprising to see how these foundlings are considered in this country; the

king adopts them all, and the ladies of the first quality frequently take them home, when at a proper age, and breed them up as their own.

The lower town, wherein all the merchants and people of business reside, is situated at the foot of the hill, which is excessively steep, though not very high, and is a place of the greatest hurry and trade. There are here a royal arsenal, the king's warehouses and magazines, which are large, well filled, and kept in excellent order. There is also a fine yard for building of ships, which is of considerable advantage. These ships are not only built at an easier rate, but are more serviceable than others, the timber being excellent in its kind, from its having the peculiar advantage of the worms being unable to penetrate it.

With respect to the fortifications of the city, there is a large square fort, and below it a smaller, with ten large pieces of cannon. These two fortresses command the mouth of the bay. They have a new fort called St. Peter's Castle, which is also very strong; and in the middle of the harbour is a large fortress. At the point of Montserrat they have a small but strong fort with twelve pieces of heavy cannon. Between Montserrat and the city is a fine citadel, which is a re-

gular square admirably fortified, and well furnished with brass cannon, and the arsenal is flanked by two strong bastions that command the whole fort. There are yet two other fortresses to be mentioned ; one between St. Antonio and the city, where they make their gunpowder ; and the other the powder-house, which lies on the other side of the city, and commands a large artificial lake, made by the Dutch, by which the city of St. Salvador is covered on one side, as it is by the sea on the other.

The fleet, sent annually hither from Lisbon, consists of about thirty ships, escorted by two men of war, which usually sail about March, and in this bay the whole Brasil fleet generally assemble, in order to return together to Europe. From this port they bring home gold, amethysts, diamonds, and the best tobacco in Brasil, which is much esteemed : indigo, sugar, balsam of capivi, ipecacuanha, pereira brava, cinnamon, long pepper, ginger, woods for dying, and some for inlaying, ambergris, and other rich drugs and perfumes. They also export raw hides, train oil, and whale-fins.

All the rest of the captainships lie farther to the south, and carry on their trade by the Rio Janeiro, so called from its being discovered in

January, 1550; at present one of the most considerable rivers in the world. Its banks are as beautiful as can be imagined, the climate is fine, and the soil extremely fertile, producing sugar, indigo, tobacco and cotton, in very great perfection, and European corn has been found to grow there with very little trouble. But this and all other improvements have been discouraged on account of the gold mines that have been discovered in this and the neighbouring Captainships of St. Vincent; though independantly of these mines, this may be considered as the richest part of Brasil. The Portuguese settled here, are very different in their manners from those in the Bay of All Saints, for they are active and industrious, and suffer the Indians, who live among them, to enjoy as much freedom as themselves.

The city of St. Sebastian, the capital of this country, is very commodiously situated on the west side of the river, about two leagues from the sea, and in the 23° south latitude. This city, which is well fortified, is the seat of a Portuguese governor, and is a bishop's see, suffragan to the archbishop of St. Salvador.

There are also several other considerable towns on the Rio Janeiro, all of which carry on

a considerable trade, as appears from the number of ships annually sent thither from Portugal. These consist of between 20 and 30 vessels, of 500 tons each, usually escorted by two men of war. The commodities brought from thence are generally the same as those exported from St. Salvador; besides these, gold and diamonds are found in this province.

With respect to the gold, diamonds, and minerals of Brasil, which mankind hold in the greatest esteem, and exert their utmost art and industry in acquiring; the former was first found in the mountains near the city of Rio Janeiro. The manner, however, in which this discovery was made, is differently related; but the most common account is, that the Indians, on the back of the Portuguese settlements, were observed to make use of this metal for their fish-hooks; and enquiry being made of their manner of procuring it, it appeared that considerable quantities of it were annually washed from the mountains, and left among the gravel and sand that remained in the valleys, after the running off, or evaporation of the water.

This discovery being made, considerable quantities of gold were imported from Brasil to Europe, and the annual imports have been conti-

nually augmented by the discovery of places in other provinces, where it is to be found in as great plenty as at first about Rio Janeiro ; and it is even said, that a slender vein of this metal runs through the whole country at about twenty-four feet from the surface, but is too thin and poor to answer the expence of digging. However, gold is always to be collected, when the rivers or rains have had any course for a considerable time, and therefore the being able to divert a stream from its channel, is esteemed an infallible source of gain.

The employment of searching the bottoms of rivers and torrents, and washing the gold from the dirt and sand, is principally performed by slaves, who are chiefly negroes, of whom the Portuguese have great numbers kept for that purpose. By a very singular regulation, each of these slaves are obliged to furnish their master every day with the eighth part of an ounce of gold ; and if by their industry or good fortune, they collect a larger quantity, the surplus is considered as their own property, and they are allowed to dispose of it as they think fit ; by which means some negroes, who have fallen upon rich washing places, have, it is said, purchased slaves of their own, and lived in great splendor. Their original master having no other

demand upon them than the daily supply of an eighth of an ounce, which amounts to about nine shillings sterling; the Portuguese ounce being somewhat lighter than our troy ounce.

The annual return of gold to Lisbon may be computed from the amount of the king's fifth, which, one year with another, is estimated at 156 arroves, of 32 pounds Portuguese weight each, which, at 4l. the troy ounce, is near 300,000l. sterling; and therefore the capital, whereof this is the fifth, is about a million and a half sterling. To which, if we add the gold exchanged with the Spaniards for silver, and what is privately brought to Europe, without paying the duty, which may amount to half a million more, the annual produce of the Brazilian gold must be about two millions sterling. An immense sum to be found in a country, that a few years ago was not known to produce a single grain.

It is little more than a century, since the first diamonds were brought from this country into Europe. These valuable stones are, like the gold, found in the beds of rivers and torrents, but not so universally. They were frequently perceived in washing the gold, before they were known to be of any value, and were conse-

quently thrown away with the sand and gravel; and numbers of large stones, that would have enriched the possessors, have passed unregarded, through their hands, ignorant of their value. However, at length, a person acquainted with the appearance of rough diamonds, imagined that these pebbles were of the same kind; but it was difficult to persuade the inhabitants, that what they had been so accustomed to despise, could be of such immense value; and, in this interval, it is said, that a governor procured a considerable number of these stones, under the pretence of using them as counters to play at cards. But the most skilful jewellers in Europe being consulted, they declared, that these stones were true diamonds, and that many of them were not inferior, either in lustre or any other quality, to those of the East-Indies. Upon this, many of the Portuguese, in the neighbourhood of the places where they had been first observed, began to search for them with great assiduity, and as large rocks of chrystal were found in several of the mountains, where the stream flowed which washed down the diamonds, they flattered themselves with the hopes of discovering diamonds of a prodigious bulk. But the king of Portugal being told that this would debase their value, ruin the Europeans, who had in their possession a great quantity of Indian diamonds, and

tender the discovery of no importance, his Majesty thought proper to restrain the search after them; for which purpose, he erected a diamond company with an exclusive charter; which, in consideration of a sum annually paid to the King, has the property of all the diamonds found in Brasil; but to prevent their reducing their value, by collecting too large quantities of them, they are not allowed to employ above 800 slaves in searching for these jewels. To prevent interlopers in this trade, a large town in the neighbourhood of the place where the diamonds are found, and a considerable distance round it have been depopulated, and the inhabitants removed to another part of the country.

Southward from the Captainship of Rio Janeiro lies the Captainship of St. Vincent, which is supposed to be the richest country in Brasil, and perhaps in all South-America. It is bounded on the north by the Captainship of Rio Janeiro; on the east, by the ocean; on the south, by the new Captainship, or that stiled Del Rey; and on the west, by the mountain of La Plata, and the countries inhabited by various savage nations, extending from 22° to 27° south latitude. It is in length, from north to south, about 300 miles, and in breadth, from east to west, in some places, near 186; though, for

the greatest part, it is not above half that breadth.

The town of St. Vincent is situated in a very fine bay of the Atlantic ocean, and is well fortified. A little to the north-west lies the town of Santos, which some consider as the capital of the province; and it has as fine a port as any in the West-Indies, it being capable of holding the largest ships, and of being fortified in such a manner, as to be able to resist any force that could be brought against it.

The only Captainship to the southward of that of St. Vincent, is Del Rey, which extends from 28 to 34° 30' south latitude, and is about 400 miles in length, but not above 100 broad in any part of it. Though this country is pleasant and fertile, it was entirely neglected by the Portuguese, till the discovery of the mines of St. Vincent put them upon planting it, and erecting several forts on the north side of the river La Plata.

**Amount of the Separate Articles of the King's Revenue,
at Rio Janeiro, taken at a medium, in Spanish Dollars.**

One hundred and fifty arrobas of gold, of which, in common years, all the fifths amount to....	1,125,000
The duty on diamonds.....	240,000
The duty on the coinage	400,000
Ten per cent of the Custom House.....	350,000
Two and a half per cent free gift	87,000
Poll-tax, sale of employs, offices, and other pro- ducts of the mines.....	225,000
The duty on negroes.....	110,000
The duty on train-oil, salt, soap, and the tenth on the vessels of the country.....	130,000
Total in dollars, or piastres	2,667,000

The former expenses of the King, at Rio Janeiro,
for the payment of the troops, or civil officers,
the carrying on of the mines, keeping the pub-
lic buildings in repair, and re-fitting of ships;
amounts (exclusive of any expense for construct-
ing ships of the line, or frigates) to about..... 600,000

Leaving a surplus of above two millions of dollars, or
about 450,000l. sterling.

The military force at Rio Janeiro, previous
to the late arrivals, consisted of five regiments
of infantry, each of seven companies; which,
at one hundred men, amounts to three thou-
sand five hundred. Three of these regiments
were originally from Europe; but not hav-
ing been supplied with any recruits from
Portugal, since their first establishment, above

twenty years ago, and the casualties having been supplied with Creoles, or the children of the Portuguese settlers, they must have considerably degenerated both in spirit and discipline, and are hardly to be distinguished from the two regiments at Rio, which are composed of the European inhabitants, and may be denominated the militia of the place. The corps of artillery is said to consist of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, and 1000 men; besides which, there was a small body of cavalry, whose principal duty it was to attend on the viceroy. There is also a provincial regiment of native Americans employed as guards over the slaves at Rio and other mines. This statement does not include the force stationed in the interior; of which no correct information has yet been obtained.

The fortifications for defending the entrance to the harbour of Rio Janeiro are more numerous than respectable. On the right, or east point of the bay, there is a fort called Santa Cruz, which mounts from forty to fifty guns. The distance from this fort to the foot of Sugar-loaf, (a high inaccessible mountain, nearly opposite) is about one thousand yards. Another fort, called Fort Suzia, on the western side presents itself, and a chain of fortifications all along

the harbour, from the entrance to the town, shows how anxious the Portuguese have been to secure it from any attack by sea. It, however, appears, that in defiance of these fortifications, and the hidden dangers which are politically held out by the Portuguese pilots, that the harbour may be entered by a person who was before a perfect stranger to it, without risk. In the middle of the bay there are nineteen fathoms, and excellent anchorage. Captain Cook says, there are sunken rocks off each fort, (Santa Cruz and Suzia) and that in this part alone there is danger. The distance between the forts is about three quarters of a mile; and the narrowness of the channel causes the tide to ebb and flow with such considerable strength, that they cannot be passed without a fresh breeze.

The Portuguese Government having refused to execute the arbitrary decrees of Buonaparte, by the confiscation of all British property in their dominions, and the shutting their ports against the produce of this country; a body of French troops, under the command of General Junot, received positive instructions to take possession of Portugal. This measure had been long expected to take place—to prevent it was impracticable as the Portuguese were unable to bring a sufficient force into the field to warrant

risking a battle. The British Government anxious to secure British Property, and to save the royal family of Braganza from the humiliating disgrace of subsisting on the bounty of Buonaparte, proposed so far back as August 1807, to the Prince Regent, the propriety of emigrating to the Brasils.

Towards the close of this year, it being clearly ascertained that no honorable arrangement, for securing the safety of the Portuguese Government, could be obtained, the British Government dispatched Sir Sydney Smith, with a small fleet to the Tagus, with directions to act according to the necessity of the case.

Sir Sydney on his arrival at the Tagus in November, being informed by Lord Strangford, the British Minister at the court of Lisbon, that the French party in that city were sedulously employed in persuading the Prince Regent to adopt the principles of the French court, it became necessary both for the security of the lives, liberty, and property of the British subjects then at Lisbon, and also to prevent the naval force of Portugal from being added to that of France, to adopt the most decided measures.

Accordingly Lord Strangford, after several ineffectual applications to the Portuguese Go-

vernment, removed the British arms from his hotel, demanded a passport, and went on board Sir Sydney Smith's ship.—A direct blockade was resolved on, and to ascertain the effect of this rigorous measure his lordship on the 27th of November proceeded in a flag of truce to the shore, and had a long and successful conference with the Prince Regent, the result of which was the determination to embark for the Brazil. The next day a proclamation was issued, in which this intention was notified to the public.

On the first of December, the anniversary of the day on which the house of Braganza rose against the Spaniards, the French flag was hoisted at Lisbon, and the royal family, attended by a considerable number of nobility, officers of state, heads of the church, and law, and the royal body guards, a great number of wealthy inhabitants, together with a large military force, and an immense quantity of treasure, jewels, specie, archives and records were embarked on board the fleet for the Brasils; and as our readers will doubtless wish to preserve an official account of this remarkable occurrence, we have subjoined a copy of Lord Strangford's dispatches.

From the London Gazette Extraordinary, Tuesday, Dec. 22.

His majesty's ship *Hibernia*, off the Tagus,
Nov. 29, 1807.

SIR,—I have the honour of announcing to you, that the Prince Regent of Portugal has effected the wise and magnanimous purpose of retiring from a kingdom which he could no longer retain, except as a vassal to France; and that his Royal Highness and family, accompanied by most of his ships of war, and by a multitude of his faithful subjects and adherents, have this day departed from Lisbon, and are now on their way to the Brasils, under the escort of a British fleet.

This grand and memorable event is not to be attributed only to the sudden alarm excited by the appearance of a French army within the frontiers of Portugal. It has been the genuine result of the system of persevering confidence and moderation adopted by his majesty towards that country; for the ultimate success of which I had, in a manner, rendered myself responsible; and which, in obedience to your instructions, I had uniformly continued to support, even under appearances of the most discouraging nature.

I had frequently and distinctly stated to the Cabinet of Lisbon, that in agreeing not to resent

the exclusion of British commerce from the ports of Portugal, his Majesty had exhausted the means of forbearance; that in making that concession to the peculiar circumstances of the Prince Regent's situation, his Majesty had done all that friendship and the remembrance of an ancient alliance could justly require; but that a single step beyond the line of modified hostility, thus most reluctantly consented to, must necessarily lead to the extremity of actual war.

The Prince Regent, however, suffered himself for a moment to forget that, in the present state of Europe, no country could be permitted to be an enemy to England with impunity, and that however much his Majesty might be disposed to make allowance for the deficiency of the means possessed by Portugal of resistance to the power of France, neither his own dignity, nor the interests of his people, would permit his majesty to accept the excuse for a compliance with the full extent of her unprincipled demands. On the 8th inst. his Royal Highness was induced to sign an order for the detention of British subjects, and of the inconsiderable portion of British property which yet remained at Lisbon. On the publication of this order, I caused the arms of England to be removed from the gate of my residence, demanded my passports, presented

a final remonstrance to the Court of Lisbon, and proceeded to the squadron, commanded by Sir Sidney Smith, which arrived off the coast of Portugal some days after I had received my passports, and which I joined on the 17th inst.

I immediately suggested to Sir S. Smith the expediency of establishing the most rigorous blockade at the mouth of the Tagus ; and I had the high satisfaction of afterwards finding, that I had thus anticipated the intentions of his Majesty ; your dispatches (which I received by the messenger, Sylvester, on the 23d) directing me to authorize that measure, in case the Portuguese Government should pass the bounds which his Majesty had thought fit to set to his forbearance, and attempt to take any further step injurious to the honour or interests of Great Britain.

Those dispatches were drawn up under the idea that I was still resident at Lisbon ; and though I did not receive them until I had actually taken my departure from that Court, still, upon a careful consideration of the tenor of your instructions, I thought that it would be right to act as if that case had not occurred. I resolved, therefore, to proceed forthwith to ascertain the effect produced by the blockade of Lisbon, and

to propose to the Portuguese Government, as the only condition upon which that blockade could cease, the alternative (stated by you) either of surrendering the fleet to his Majesty, or of immediately employing it to remove the Prince Regent and his family to the Brasils. I took upon myself this responsibility, in renewing negotiations, after my public functions had actually ceased; convinced that, although it was the fixed determination of his Majesty not to suffer the fleet of Portugal to fall into the possession of his enemies, still his Majesty's first object continued to be the application of that fleet to the original purpose, of saving the Royal Family of Braganza from the tyranny of France.

I accordingly requested an audience of the Prince Regent, together with due assurances of protection and security: and upon receiving his Royal Highness's answer, I proceeded to Lisbon, on the 27th, in his Majesty's ship *Confiance*, bearing a flag of truce. I had immediately most interesting communications with the Court of Lisbon, the particulars of which shall be fully detailed in a future dispatch. It suffices to mention, in this place, that the Prince Regent wisely directed all his apprehensions to a French army; and all his hopes to an English fleet; that he

received the most explicit assurances from me, that his Majesty would generously overlook those acts of unwilling and momentary hostility to which his Royal Highness's consent had been extorted: and that I promised to his Royal Highness, on the faith of my Sovereign, that the British squadron before the Tagus, should be employed to protect his retreat from Lisbon, and his voyage to the Brasils.

A decree was published yesterday, in which the Prince Regent announced his intention of retiring to the city of Rio de Janeiro, until the conclusion of a general peace, and of appointing a Regency to transact the Administration of Government at Lisbon during his Royal Highness's absence from Europe.

This morning the Portuguese fleet left the Tagus. I had the honour to accompany the Prince in his passage over the bar. The fleet consisted of eight sail of the line, four large frigates, several armed brigs, sloops, and corvettes; a number of Brasil ships, amounting, I believe, to about thirty-six sail in all. They passed through the British squadron, and his Majesty's ships fired a salute of twenty-one guns, which was returned with an equal number. A more interesting spectacle than that afforded by the junction of the two fleets has been rarely beheld.

On quitting the Prince Regent's ship, I repaired on board of the *Hibernia*, but returned immediately, accompanied by Sir Sidney Smith, whom I presented to the Prince, and who was received by his Royal Highness with the most marked and gracious condescension.

I have thought it expedient to lose no time in communicating to his Majesty's Government the important intelligence contained in this dispatch. I have therefore to apologise for the hasty and imperfect manner in which it is written. I have the honour to be, &c.

STRANGFORD.

Rt. Hon. G. Canning, Esq. &c. &c.

Sir Sydney Smith, in his letters to the Hon. Wellesley Poole, secretary to the Admiralty, after recapitulating most of the occurrences in Lord Strangford's dispatches, concludes with the following remarks :

"I have now the heartfelt satisfaction of announcing to you, that our hopes and expectations have been realised to the utmost extent. On the morning of the 29th, the Portuguese fleet (as per list annexed) came out of the Tagus, with his Royal Highness the Prince of Brasil and the whole of the Royal Family of Braganza on board, together with many of his faithful counsellors and adherents, as well as other persons attached to his fortunes.

This fleet of eight sail of the line, four frigates, two brigs, and one schooner, with a crowd of large armed merchant ships, arranged itself under the protection of that of his Majesty, while the firing of a reciprocal salute of twenty-one guns, announced the friendly meeting of those who, but the day before, were on terms of hostility; the scene impressing every beholder (except the French army on the hills) with the most lively emotions of gratitude to Providence, that there yet existed a power in the world able, as well as willing, to protect the oppressed.

List of the Portuguese Fleet that came out of the Tagus, on the 29th of November, 1807.

Principe Reale, 84 guns; Rainha de Portugal, 74; Conde Henrique, 74; Mendu, 74; Affonso d'Albuquerque, 64; D. Joao de Castro, 64; Principe de Brazil, 74; Martino de Freitas, 64.

Frigates—Minerva, 44 guns; Golfino, 36; Urania, 32; and one other, name not as yet known.

Brigs—Voader, 22 guns; Vinganea, 20; Lebre, 22.

Schooners—Cariaza, 12 guns.

List of Portuguese Ships that remained in Lisbon.

St. Sebastiano, 64 guns; unserviceable without a thorough repair.

Maria Prima, 74 guns unserviceable; ordered to be made into a floating battery, but not yet fitted.

Easco de Gama, 74 guns, under repair, and nearly ready.

Princesa da Beira, 64 guns, condemned; ordered to be fitted as a floating battery.

Frigates—Fenix, 48 guns, in need of thorough repair; Amazona, 44 guns, in need of ditto; Percla, 44 guns, in need of ditto; Tritao, 40 guns, past repair; Veney, 30 guns, past repair.

W. S. SMITH.

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