

“valiant strangers”); but that, owing to a dispute respecting their religious rites, the Confachite-Caribs were driven from Florida. They went first to the Yucayas or Lucayes Islands (to Cigateo and the neighbouring islands); thence to Ayay (Hayhay, now Santa Cruz), and to the lesser Caribbee Islands; and lastly to the continent of South America.* It is supposed that this event took place toward the year 1100 of our æra. In the course of this long migration, the Caribs had not touched at the larger islands; the inhabitants of which however also believed that they came originally from Florida. The islanders of Cuba, Hayti, and Boriken (Porto Rico) were, according to the uniform testimony of the first *conquistadores*, entirely different from the Caribs; and at the period of the discovery of America, the latter had already abandoned the group of the lesser Lucayes Islands; an archipelago, in which there prevailed that variety of languages always found in lands peopled by shipwrecked men and fugitives.†

The dominion so long exercised by the Caribs over a great part of the continent, joined to the remembrance of their ancient greatness, has inspired them with a sentiment of dignity and national superiority, which is manifest in their manners and their discourse. “We alone are a nation,” say they proverbially; “the rest of mankind (oquili) are made to serve us.” This contempt of the Caribs for their enemies is so strong, that I saw a child of ten years of age foam with rage on being called a Cabre or Cavere; though he had never in his life seen an individual of that unfortunate race of people, who gave their name to the town of Cabruta (Cabritu); and who, after long resistance, were almost entirely exterminated by the Caribs. Thus we find

* Rochefort, *Hist. des Antilles*, vol. i. pp. 326—353; Garcia, p. 322; Robertson, book iii. note 69. The conjecture of Father Gili, that the Caribs of the continent may have come from the islands at the time of the first conquest of the Spaniards (*Saggio*, vol. iii. p. 204), is at variance with all the statements of the early historians.

† “La gente de las islas Yucayas era (1492) mas blanca y de major policia que la de Cuba y Haïti. Havia mucha diversidad de lenguas.”— [The people of the Lucayes were (1492) of fairer complexion and of more civilized manners than those of Cuba and Haïti. They had a great diversity of languages.] Gomara, *Hist. de Ind.* fol. xxii.