

archipelago of the Lesser Antilles and Bahama Islands, we are surprised to find those islands desert, which are near the coast of Cumana, Barcelona, and Caracas. They would long have ceased to be so had they been under the dominion of any other government than that to which they belong. Nothing can engage men to circumscribe their industry within the narrow limits of a small island, when a neighbouring continent offers them greater advantages.

We perceived, at sunset, the two points of the *Roca de afuera*, rising like towers in the midst of the ocean. A survey taken with the compass, placed the most easterly of the points or roques at  $0^{\circ} 19'$  west of the western cape of Orchila. The clouds continued long accumulated over that island, and showed its position from afar. The influence of a small tract of land in condensing the vapours suspended at an elevation of 800 toises, is a very extraordinary phenomenon, although familiar to all mariners. From this accumulation of clouds, the position of the lowest island may be recognized at a great distance.

On the 29th November, we still saw very distinctly, at sunrise, the summit of the Silla of Caracas just rising above the horizon of the sea. At noon everything denoted a change of weather in the direction of the north: the atmosphere suddenly cooled to  $12.6^{\circ}$ , while the sea maintained a temperature of  $25.6^{\circ}$ , at its surface. At the moment of the observation of noon, the oscillations of the horizon, crossed by streaks or black bands of very variable size, produced changes of refraction from  $3^{\circ}$  to  $4^{\circ}$ . The sea became rough in very calm weather, and everything announced a stormy passage between Cayman Island and Cape St. Antonio. On the 30th the wind veered suddenly to N.N.E., and the surge rose to a considerable height. Northward, a darkish blue tint was observable on the sky, the rolling of our small vessel was violent, and we perceived amidst the dashing of the waves, two seas crossing each other, one from the north and the other from N.N.E. Waterspouts were formed at the distance of a mile, and were carried rapidly from N.N.E. to N.N.W. Whenever the waterspout drew near us, we felt the wind grow sensibly cooler. Towards evening, owing to the carelessness of our American cook, our deck took fire; but fortunately it was soon extinguished.