

basin communicates with three creeks, those of Regla, Guanavacoa, and Atares; in this last there are some springs of fresh water. The town of the Havannah, surrounded by walls, forms a promontory bounded on the south by the arsenal, and on the north by the fort of La Punta. After passing beyond some wrecks of vessels sunk in the shoals of La Luz, we no longer find eight or ten, but five or six fathoms of water. The castles of Santo Domingo de Atares and San Carlos del Principe, defend the town on the westward; they are distant from the interior wall, on the land side, the one 660 toises, the other 1240. The intermediate space is filled by the suburbs (arrabales or barrios extra muros) of the Horcon, Jesu-Maria, Guadaloupe, and Señor de la Salud, which from year to year encroach on the Field of Mars (Campo de Marte). The great edifices of the Havannah, the cathedral, the Casa del Gobierno, the house of the commandant of the marine, the Correo or General Post Office, and the Factory of Tobacco, are less remarkable for beauty than for solidity of structure. The streets are for the most part narrow and unpaved. Stones being brought from Vera Cruz, and very difficult of transport, the idea was conceived a short time before my voyage, of joining great trunks of trees together, as is done in Germany and Russia, when dykes are constructed across marshy places. This project was soon abandoned, and travellers newly arrived beheld with surprise fine trunks of mahogany sunk in the mud of the Havannah. At the time of my sojourn there, few towns of Spanish America presented, owing to the want of a good police, a more unpleasant aspect. People walked in mud up to the knee; and the multitude of caleches or volantes (the characteristic equipage of the Havannah), of carts loaded with casks of sugar, and porters elbowing passengers, rendered walking most disagreeable. The smell of *tasajo* often poisons the houses and the winding streets. But it appears that of late the police has interposed, and that a manifest improvement has taken place in the cleanliness of the streets; that the houses are more airy, and that the Calle de los Mercadores presents a fine appearance. Here, as in the oldest towns of Europe, an ill-traced plan of streets can only be amended by slow degrees.

There are two fine public walks; one called the Alameda,