

and in Norway. No volcanic rocks of a more recent period have hitherto been discovered in the island of Cuba; for instance, neither trachytes, dolerites, nor basalts. I know not whether they are found in the rest of the Great Antilles, of which the geologic constitution differs essentially from that of the series of calcareous and volcanic islands, which stretch from Trinidad to the Virgin Islands. Earthquakes, which are in general less fatal at Cuba than at Porto Rico and Hayti, are most felt in the eastern part, between Cape Maysi, Santiago de Cuba, and La Ciudad de Puerto Principe. Perhaps towards those regions the action of the crevice extends laterally, which is believed to cross the neck of granitic land between Port-au-Prince and Cape Tiburon, and on which whole mountains were overthrown, in 1770.

The cavernous texture of the limestone formations (saboruco) just described, the great inclination of the shelvings, the smallness of the island, the nakedness of the plains, and the proximity of the mountains that form a lofty chain on the southern coast, may be considered as among the principal causes of the want of rivers, and the drought which is felt, especially in the western part of Cuba. In this respect, Hayti, Jamaica, and several of the Lesser Antilles, which contain volcanic heights covered with forests, are more favoured by nature. The lands most celebrated for their fertility are the districts of Xagua, Trinidad, Matanzas, and Mariel. The valley of Guines owes its reputation to artificial irrigation (*sanjas de riego*). Notwithstanding the want of great rivers, and the unequal fertility of the soil, the island of Cuba, by its undulated surface, its continually renewed verdure, and the distribution of its vegetable forms, presents at every step the most varied and beautiful landscape. Two trees, with large, tough, and glossy leaves, the *Mammea* and the *Calophyllum calaba*, five species of palm-trees (the *palma real*, or *Oreodoxa regia*, the common cocoa-tree, the *Cocos crispa*, the *Corypha miraguama*, and the *C. maritima*), and small shrubs constantly loaded with flowers, decorate the hills and the savannahs. The *Cecropia peltata* marks the humid spots. It would seem as if the whole island had been originally a forest of palm, lemon, and wild orange trees. The latter, which