

bear a small fruit, are probably anterior to the arrival of Europeans*, who transported thither the *agrumi* of the gardens; they rarely exceed the height of from ten to fifteen feet. The lemon and orange trees are most frequently separate; and the new planters, in clearing the ground by fire, distinguish the quality of the soil, according as it is covered with one or other of those groups of social plants; they prefer the soil of the *naranjal* to that which produces the small lemon. In a country where the making of sugar is not sufficiently improved to admit of the employment of any other fuel than the *bagasse* (dried sugar-cane), the progressive destruction of the small woods is a positive calamity. The aridity of the soil augments in proportion as it is stripped of the trees that sheltered it from the heat of the sun; for the leaves, emitting heat under a sky always serene, occasion, as the air cools, a precipitation of aqueous vapours.

Among the few rivers worthy of attention, the Rio Guines may be noticed, the Rio Armendaris or Chorrera, of which the waters are led to the Havannah by the Sanja de Antoneli; the Rio Canto, on the north of the town of Bayamo; the Rio Maximo, which rises on the east of Puerto Principe; the Rio Sagua Grande, near Villa Clara; the Rio de las Palmas, which issues opposite Cayo Galiado; the small rivers of Jaruco and Santa Cruz, between Guanabo and Matanzas, navigable at the distance of some miles from their mouths, and favourable for the shipment of sugar-casks; the Rio San Antonio, which, like many others, is engulfed in the caverns of limestone rocks; the Rio Guaurabo, west of the port of Trinidad; and the Rio Galafre, in the fertile district of Filipinas, which throws itself into the Laguna de Cortez. The most abundant springs rise on the southern coast, where, from Xagua to Punta de Sabina, over a length of forty-six leagues, the soil is extremely marshy. So great is the abundance of the

* The best informed inhabitants of the island assert, that the cultivated orange-trees brought from Asia, preserve the size, and all the properties of their fruits, when they become wild. The Brazilians affirm that the small bitter orange which bears the name of "loranja do terra," and is found wild, far from the habitations of man, is of American origin. (Caldcleugh, Travels in South America.)