

the most westerly, to push forward the peaceful conquests of agriculture and civilization towards the banks of the Pabarando, the Rio Sucio, and the Atrato.\* The number of independent Indians who inhabit the lands between Uraba, Rio Atrato, Rio Sucio, and Rio Sinu, was, according to a census made in 1760, at least 1800. They were distri-

\* I will here state some facts which I obtained from official documents during my stay at Carthagena, and which have not yet been published. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the name of Darien was given vaguely to the whole coast extending from the Rio Damaquiel to the Punta de San Blas, on  $2\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  of longitude. The cruelties exercised by Pedrarias Davila rendered almost inaccessible to the Spaniards a country which was one of the first they had colonized. The Indians (Dariens and Cunas-Cunas) remained masters of the coast, as they still are at Poyais, in the land of the Mosquitos. Some Scotchmen formed, in 1698, the settlements of New Caledonia, New Edinburgh, and Scotch Port, in the most eastern part of the isthmus, a little west of Punta Carreto. They were soon driven away by the Spaniards; but, as the latter occupied no part of the coast, the Indians continued their attacks against Choco's boats, which from time to time descended the Rio Atrato. The sanguinary expedition of Don Manuel de Aldarete, in 1729, served only to augment the resentment of the natives. A settlement for the cultivation of the cocoa-tree, attempted in the territory of Urabia, in 1740, by some French planters, under the protection of the Spanish Government, had no durable success; and the court, excited by the reports of the archbishop-vice-roy, Gongora, ordered, by the cedula of the 15th August, 1783, "either the conversion and conquest, or the destruction (*reduccion ò extincion*) of the Indians of Darien." This order, worthy of another age, was executed by Don Antonio de Arebalo: he experienced little resistance, and formed, in 1785, the four settlements and forts of Cayman on the eastern coast of the Gulf of Urabia, Concepcion, Carolina, and Mandinga. The *Lele*, or high-priest of Mandinga, took an oath of fidelity to the King of Spain; but, in 1786, the war with the Darien Indians recommenced, and was terminated by a treaty concluded July 27th, 1787, between the archbishop-vice-roy and the cacique Bernardo. The forts and new colonies, which figured only on the maps sent to Madrid, augmented the debt of the treasury of Santa-Fé de Bogota, in 1789, to the sum of 1,200,000 piastres. The vice-roy, Gil Lemos, wiser than his predecessor, obtained permission from the court to abandon Carolina, Concepcion, and Mandinga. The settlement of Cayman only was preserved, on account of the navigation of the Atrato, and it was declared free, under the government of the archbishop-vice-roy: it was proposed to transfer this settlement to a more healthy spot, that of Uraba; but lieutenant-general Don Antonio Arebalo, having proved that the expense of this removal would amount to the sum of 40,000 piastres, the fort of Cayman was also destroyed, by order of the vice-roy Espeleta, in 1791, and the planters were compelled to join those of the village of San Bernardo.