

dios, Santo Espiritu, and S. Julian de los Guines. The territorial division most in favour among the inhabitants of the Havannah, is that of *vuelta de arriba* and *de abaxo*, east and west of the meridian of the Havannah. The first governor of the island who took the title of Captain-general (1601), was Don Pedro Valdes. Before him there were sixteen other governors, of whom the series begins with the famous *Poblador* and *Conquistador*, Diego Velasquez, native of Cuellar, who was appointed by Columbus in 1511.

In the island of Cuba free men compose '64 of the whole population; and in the English islands, scarcely '19. In the whole archipelago of the West Indies, the copper-coloured men (blacks and mulattos, free and slaves) form a mass of 2,360,000, or '83 of the total population. If the legislation of the West Indies and the state of the men of colour do not shortly undergo a salutary change; if the legislation continue to employ itself in discussion instead of action, the political preponderance will pass into the hands of those who have strength to labour, will to be free, and courage to endure long privations. This catastrophe will ensue as a necessary consequence of circumstances, without the intervention of the free blacks of Hayti, and without their abandoning the system of insulation which they have hitherto followed. Who can venture to predict the influence which may be exercised on the politics of the New World by an African Confederation of the free states of the West Indies, situated between Columbia, North America, and Guatimala? The fear of this event may act more powerfully on the minds of many, than the principles of humanity and justice; but in every island the whites believe that their power is not to be shaken. All simultaneous action on the part of the blacks appears to them impossible; and every change, every concession granted to the slave population, is regarded as a sign of weakness. The horrible catastrophe of San Domingo is declared to have been only the effect of the incapacity of its government. Such are the illusions which prevail amidst the great mass of the planters of the West Indies, and which are alike opposed to an amelioration of the condition of the blacks in Georgia and in the Carolinas. The island of Cuba, more than any other of the West India Islands, might escape the