

it would be difficult to conceive how in thirty or forty years three or four-hundred thousand Indians could entirely disappear. The war with the Cacique Hatuey was short, and was confined to the most eastern part of the island. Few complaints arose against the administration of the two first Spanish governors, Diego Velasquez and Pedro de Barba. The oppression of the natives dates from the arrival of the cruel Hernando de Soto, about the year 1539. Supposing, with Gomara, that fifteen years later, under the government of Diego de Majariegos (1554-1564), there were no longer any Indians in Cuba, we must necessarily admit that considerable remains of that people saved themselves by means of canoes in Florida, believing, according to ancient traditions, that they were returning to the country of their ancestors. The mortality of the negro slaves, observed in our days in the West Indies, can alone throw some light on these numerous contradictions. To Columbus and Velasquez, the island of Cuba must have appeared well peopled,*

Juan Nuix, y traducido al castellano por Don Pedro Varela y Ulloa, del Consejo de S. M., 1782." [Impartial reflections on the humanity of the Spaniards, intended to contravert pretended philosophers and politicians, and to illustrate the histories of Raynal and Robertson; written in Italian by the Abate Don Juan Nuix, and translated into Castilian by Don Pedro Varela y Ulloa, member of His Majesty's Council.] The author, who calls the expulsion of the Moors under Philip III, a meritorious and religious act, terminates his work by congratulating the Indians of America "on having fallen into the hands of the Spaniards, whose conduct has been at all times the most humane, and their government the wisest." Several pages of this book recall "the salutary rigour of the Dragonades;" and that odious passage, in which a man distinguished for his talents and his private virtues, the Count de Maistre (*Soirées de St. Petersburg*, tom. ii, p. 121), justifies the Inquisition of Portugal, "which he observes has only caused some drops of guilty blood to flow." To what sophisms must they have recourse, who would defend religion, national honour, or the stability of governments, by exculpating all that is offensive to humanity in the actions of the clergy, the people, or kings! It is vain to seek to destroy the power most firmly established on earth, viz. :—the testimony of history.

* Columbus relates that the island of Hayti was sometimes attacked by a race of black men, (*gente negra*), who lived more to the south or south-west. He hoped to visit them in his third voyage, because those black men possessed a metal, of which the admiral had procured some pieces in his second voyage. These pieces were sent to Spain, and found to be composed of .63 of gold, .14 of silver, and .19 of copper. In fact,