

illicit means, amounts to fourteen millions of piastres, according to the actual price of those articles.

Three qualities of sugar are distinguished in the island of Cuba, according to the degree of purity attained by refining (*grados de purga*). In every loaf or reversed cone, the upper part yields the white sugar; the middle part the yellow sugar, or *quebrado*; and the lower part, or point of the cone, the *cucurucho*. All the sugar of Cuba is consequently refined; a very small quantity is introduced of coarse or muscovado sugar (by corruption, *azucar mascabado*). The forms being of a different size, the loaves (*panes*) differ also in weight. They generally weigh an arroba after refining. The refiners (*maestros de azucar*) endeavour to make every loaf of sugar yield five-ninths of white, three-ninths of *quebrado*, and one-ninth of *cucurucho*. The price of white sugar is higher when sold alone, than in the sale called *surtido*, in which three-fifths of white sugar and two-fifths of *quebrado* are combined in the same lot. In the latter case the difference of the price is generally four reals (*reales de plata*); in the former, it rises to six or seven reals. The revolution of Saint Domingo, the prohibitions dictated by the Continental System of Napoleon, the enormous consumption of sugar in England and the United States, the progress of cultivation in Cuba, Brazil, Demerara, the Mauritius, and Java, have occasioned great fluctuations of price. In an interval of twelve years, it was from three to seven reals in 1807, and from twenty-four to twenty-eight reals in 1818, which proves fluctuations in the relation of one to five.

During my stay in the plains of Guines, in 1804, I endeavoured to obtain some accurate information respecting the statistics of the making of cane-sugar. A great *yngenio* producing from 32,000 to 40,000 arrobas of sugar, is generally fifty *caballerias*,* or 650 hectares in extent, of which the half (less than one-tenth of a square sea league) is allotted to sugar-making properly so called (*cañaveral*), and the other

* The agrarian measure, called *caballeria*, is eighteen cordels, (each cordel includes twenty-four varas) or 432 square varas; consequently, as 1 vara = 0.835^m, according to Rodriguez, a *caballeria* is 186,624 square varas, or 130,118 square metres, or thirty-two and two-tenths English acres.