

of kilogrammes of coarse sugar, that is, a fifty-eighth part of the actual consumption of sugar in France. Those two hundred factories are now reduced to fifteen or twenty, which yield a produce of 300,000 kilog.* The inhabitants of the West Indies, well informed of the affairs of Europe, no longer fear beet-root, grapes, chesnuts, and mushrooms, the coffee of Naples, nor the indigo of the south of France. Fortunately, the improvement of the condition of the West India slaves does not depend on the success of these branches of European cultivation.

Previously to the year 1762 the island of Cuba did not furnish more commercial produce, than the three least industrious and most neglected provinces with respect to cultivation, Veragua, the isthmus of Panama, and Darien, do at present. A political event which appeared extremely unfortunate, the taking of the Havannah by the English, roused the public mind. The town was evacuated in 1784, and its subsequent efforts of industry date from that memorable period. The construction of new fortifications on a gigantic plan† threw a great deal of money suddenly into circulation; later, the slave-trade became free, and furnished hands for the sugar factories. Free trade with all the ports of Spain, and occasionally with neutral states, the able administration of Don Luis de Las Casas, the establishment of the *Consulado* and the *Patriotic Society*, the destruction of the French colony of Saint Domingo,‡

* Although the actual price of cane-sugar not refined, is 1 fr. 50 cent. the kilogramme, in the ports, the production of beetroot-sugar offers a still greater advantage in certain localities, for instance, in the vicinity of Arras. These establishments would be introduced in many other parts of France, if the price of the sugar of the West Indies rose to 2 francs, or 2 francs 25 cents the kilogramme, and if the government laid no tax on the beetroot-sugar, to compensate the loss on the consumption of colonial sugar. The making of beetroot-sugar is especially profitable when combined with a general system of rural economy, with the improvement of the soil, and the nourishment of cattle: it is not a cultivation independent of local circumstances, like that of the sugar-cane in the tropics.

† It is affirmed, that the construction of the fort of Cabaña alone, cost fourteen millions of piastres.

‡ In three successive attempts, in August 1791, June 1793, and October 1803. Above all, the unfortunate and sanguinary expedition of Generals Leclerc and Rochambeau, completed the destruction of the sugar factories of Saint Domingo.