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CUBA.

GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, AND HISTORICAL MAP OF CUBA AND THE BAHAMA ISLANDS.

BAHAMA ISLANDS, No. 40.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

Cuba is the largest and most fertile of the West India Islands. It lies between 19° 27' and 23° 30' N. lat. and 79° 57' and 82° 45' W. long. It is 700 miles long in the widest part 150 broad, containing about 50,000 square miles. It is separated from the Bahama bank on the north by the old Bahama channel, and from Hispaniola on the east by the Windward channel.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY, SOIL, AND PRODUCE.

A chain of mountains extends from east to west through the whole length of the island, dividing it into two parts. All the face of these mountains is covered by a dense and luxuriant forest. The soil is of great fertility, and the fields are always covered with flowers and verdant plants. Sugar is the principal production, and the quantity exported from 1861 to 1870, amounted on an average to 50,000 tons per annum. Coffee is also produced in N. Domingo, and in other provinces about 12,000 quadrals, or 40,000 quintals annually. Tobacco is raised in all the provinces, and is sold to Europe in leaf, and in cigars, and is held in great esteem by the natives of other parts of the world. Rum and wine are also among the exports. Numerous herds of cattle feed on the extensive prairies, and are brought chiefly for their hides, which are sold to the United States. Considerable quantities of gold were formerly produced in the hills of the small rivers which empty themselves into the sides of the mountains, and they will yield small supplies of this metal. There are some mines of iron, copper, and lead, and some other metals, but they are not worked, and there is a small but not a valuable produce of sulphur.

CAVES AND BAYS.

The most noted caves are the cave of the Virgin, on the eastern extremity of the island, where about 1000 monks and nuns were once confined. The largest bay is the bay of Sagua, in the south side of the island. Sagua Bay has an average width of 10 miles, and is on the north side of the island, 70 miles west of the bay.

ISLAND.

Plus island lies off the south coast, near the west end of the island, being separated by a channel about 20 miles wide. It is 10 miles long, and 5 miles broad, and is covered with pine, and inhabited only by a few fishermen.

POPULATION.

In 1774 the population amounted only to 171,000, including 40,000 slaves, and a 4000 free negroes. In 1810 there were 1,000,000 whites, 400,000 free negroes, and 1,000,000 slaves. In 1820 there were 1,500,000 whites, 500,000 free negroes, and 1,500,000 slaves. In 1830 there were 2,000,000 whites, 600,000 free negroes, and 2,000,000 slaves. In 1840 there were 2,500,000 whites, 700,000 free negroes, and 2,500,000 slaves. In 1850 there were 3,000,000 whites, 800,000 free negroes, and 3,000,000 slaves. In 1860 there were 3,500,000 whites, 900,000 free negroes, and 3,500,000 slaves. In 1870 there were 4,000,000 whites, 1,000,000 free negroes, and 4,000,000 slaves.

CHIEF TOWNS.

Havana, the largest town, is on the north side of the island, about 10 miles from the coast. It is a harbor of great extent, and is the seat of the government. It is situated in the western part of the island, and is surrounded by mountains, hills, and rocks. It is the only remaining part capable of receiving supplies. Accordingly, commerce must have been expanded in strengthening and increasing its foundation.



POLITICAL IMPORTANCE.

The island of Cuba has been a prize of the ambition of the Spaniards, and is considered as the key to the possession of the West Indies. It is situated in the western part of the island, and is surrounded by mountains, hills, and rocks. It is the only remaining part capable of receiving supplies. Accordingly, commerce must have been expanded in strengthening and increasing its foundation.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The island of Cuba was discovered by Columbus in the year 1492, and from its great extent was at first considered a part of the continent of America. It was named in honor of the Catholic King, Ferdinand, and Queen, Isabella. It was the first of the West India Islands to be discovered, and it was the first to be settled by Europeans. It was the first to be discovered, and it was the first to be settled by Europeans.

PLACES REMARKABLE FOR BATTLES AND SIEGES, INDICATED BY A STAR.

1762 Havana: taken by the British after a determined resistance of two months. 1763 Havana: restored to the Spaniards after a determined resistance of two months. 1795 Havana: taken by the British after a determined resistance of two months. 1895 Havana: taken by the Spanish after a determined resistance of two months.

SITUATION AND EXTENT.

The Bahama Islands lie directly north of the Greater Antilles, and are separated from Cuba by the old Bahama channel, and from Florida by the New Bahama channel, which is 100 miles wide. They are situated between 23° and 27° N. lat. and 79° and 82° W. long. They are 100 miles long in the widest part, and 10 miles broad. They contain about 50,000 square miles.

BANKS AND KEYS.

There are two noted banks in these seas; the Great and Little Bahama Banks. The Great Bahama Bank lies between 23° and 27° north, and between long. 79° 27' and 82° 45' west. Its length from North to South is 100 miles, and its breadth is 10 miles. The Little Bahama Bank lies between 23° and 27° north, and between long. 79° 27' and 82° 45' west. Its length from North to South is 10 miles, and its breadth is 10 miles.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY, SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.

These islands are fertile and fertile, and are covered with a dense and luxuriant forest. The soil is of great fertility, and the fields are always covered with flowers and verdant plants. Sugar is the principal production, and the quantity exported from 1861 to 1870, amounted on an average to 50,000 tons per annum.

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CHIEF TOWNS.

Nassau, the largest town, is on the north side of the island, about 10 miles from the coast. It is a harbor of great extent, and is the seat of the government. It is situated in the western part of the island, and is surrounded by mountains, hills, and rocks. It is the only remaining part capable of receiving supplies.

1805
1855
1874

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