Madagascar.

Upon a Survey of this Island taken by the French it was found to be situated directly opposite the Eastern Coast of Africa, and to be 1120 Miles long, and 360 Miles broad in the widest Part, and to be distant from the Coast of Africa 300 Miles and upwards. On every Side of this Island, when a Ship approaches it nothing but dreary and barren Sands are to be seen near the Shore; but at a Mile in some Places, and a greater Distance in others up the Country, the Soil is black and sometimes reddish, and mostly fruitful; and there are a Number of Rivers and Lakes abounding with Fish, and likewise numerous Springs the Water of which is perhaps the best in the World. These Rivers which have their Sources in the interior Parts, flow to all the Shores of the Island and divide it's Coasts by discharging themselves into the Sea. The Bays and Gulphs are very numerous, and in general Good Roads and Harbours, so that the Island might be render'd of great Importance. It abounds with spacious Plains, extraordinary good Pastures and large Forests, always green, where Lemon Orange and Pomegranate Trees grow wild, and are agreeably intermixed with flowering Trees, which impregnate the Air with the most delightful Odours. Vegitation is here very quick, the Soil requires little Labour, and with a small Degree of Culture produces Rice, Potatoes, Bananas, Pine Apples, Indigo, Hemp, Cotton, Silk, Sugar, Palm Trees, Cocoa Trees, Gum Trees, and Timber fit for Building and every other Use, all which grow here in great Plenty. and by Cultivation the French have lately raised Pepper in great Quantities, and since the Year 1769 they have brought Grapes and Wheat to Perfection, and from the Grapes make a very rich and nourishing Wine; but Oats and Barley succeed better than Wheat. Wild and cultivated Tobacco grow in great Quantities, but the Wild is uncommonly strong and unpalatable. The Pastures are cover'd with Oxen and Cows of the largest Kind, Sheep exactly resembling those of Barbary, and

tame and wild Hogs.

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They have a kind of Nut which smells of all sorts of Spices, and is as big as a Nutmeg, but browner and rounder. The Soil produces two Crops of every thing in a Year, except Sugar Canes. The common Food of the Inhabitants is Rice, which multiplies a hundred fold tho' no Pains are taken in raising it. Their Drink is a Kind of Wine of which there are three Sorts, Honey which they call Sick, and tastes like Spanish Wine. Wine of Sugar Canes call'd Touack which has a bitterish Flavour, and the Wine of Bananas, which has a sharpish Flavour. Several Sorts of Oils, Gum of Tacamaca, Frankincense and Benzoin are found in Abundance in this Island. Ambergrease is gather'd in great Plenty on the Sea Coasts, particularly within a League and half of Fort Dauphin. There are also Mines of Coal, Satt Petre, and Iron peculiarly adapted for making Steel; and Copper which the French since the Year 1770 have work'd with great Success. This Island does not want for Precious Stones such as Topazes, Amethysts, Agates, &c. The Riches of the Inhabitants consist in Cattle, which the Men look after, and in Fields of Rice and Roots which the Women sow and Plant. Gold and Silver serve only for Ornament. They make Rans and Carpets of Cotton of divers Colours. The Island is divided into a great many Provinces, each of which has a Chief call'd DIAN, which answers to the word Lord; all the Ensigns of his Dignity are his Slaves and his Flocks, his Office is hereditary. The Province of Anossi alone differs from the general provincial Government of the Island, this province having been possess'd by the Arabs for several Centuries past who have divided it into 23 Districts each of which has a Chieftain of their own Nation, to whom they give the Name of Boundrian or descendant of Abraham, these petty Chiefs are continually at War with each other, but never fail to unite against the other Princes of Madagascar, who hold them in Detestation as Foreigners and Usurpers. This part of the Island is the most destitute of Morals, Honesty, Justice, Industry and Bravery. The Inhabitants of Madagascar are in general very tall, from 6 Feet to 6 Feet 5 Inches high, very nimble and of

First

a haughty Disposition, which they express both in their Appearance and Deportment: they will mask a treacherous Design or a strong Passion under a smiling Countenance, as artfully as any Knave in Europe. In December 1771 some of the French settled at Fort Dauphin in this Province, in their Excursions they discover'd a new Race of People call'd Kimos, the tallest of whom are not above 3 Feet 8 Inches high, they inhabit about 60 Villages in the interior Parts towards the North west of the Island, and are found to be much more mischievous than their Neighbours, and what appears very singular not so cowardly; they never stir out of their Territories nor suffer any others on the Island to approach them.

The only Places where the French have Settlements — are —

First — In the Province of Andovouche, which contains many fine Bays and Harbours, particularly the Bay of Antongil formerly call'd Maunghaubee, by the Inhabitants of the Country. This Bay is situated in the 16th Degree of South Latitude, and is near 23 — Miles broad at it's Entrance, near the Bottom of the Bay stands an Island extremely high above Water, where the French have Built a small Fort defended by a Battery of 8 Nine Pounders. There are on this small Island 80 white Inhabitants and about 200 Slaves, and it's about Eight Miles and a half in Circumference, and cover'd with delightful Verdure and abounds in all Kinds of Cattle, Grain, Plants, Vegetables, Fruits, Honey, Fowls &c. and has Plenty of fresh Water and a good Harbour for Shipping. The Dutch had formerly a Factory here, but were obliged to desert it, being driven from thence by the Natives whom they had cruelly treated, and who ~~had~~ massacred them on that Account. Beside this Island they have settled and cultivated Four other small Islands, in the Middle of the Bay from the Entrance on the North East Side, on some of which they raise Rice and Grain and on the others fatten their Cattle. The French carry on a great Traffick

with many

populous Villages bordering on the Bay, particularly with a very large Town call'd by the Portuguese St. Angelo, which stands on the North Side of a River which runs into the Bay. Upon advancing into the Bay deeply on the left Hand, stands another populous Town called — Spakenburg, built by the Dutch in 1595 in their first Voyage to the East Indies, containing within the Enclosure about 400 Houses. The circumjacent Soil is very rich from frequent Showers of Rain properly meliorated, the Mountains adjoining are peculiarly fruitful and the Towns in this Part are erected with great Regularity, and display a considerable Share of Taste in the Choice of Situation; as they are built on pleasant Eminences or by the Sides of Rivers, they are strongly surrounded with Pallisades and have only Two Gates or Entries, one for the usual or ordinary Goings in & out, and the other towards the Woods, to facilitate their Retreat when surprized by their Enemies or when too weak to resist.

The Second Settlement

Which is the most important on the Island, is call'd Full Point by the French, I take it to be Cape Long Point, which by most Writers is said to be in the Province of Voulovilou, the Country being well water'd is exceedingly fertile. There is a remarkable fine Harbour between very high Rocks which project a considerable Way into the Sea, and renders it very safe for Shipping at all Seasons of the Year. At the Bottom of the Harbour in the midst of a pleasant Valley stands a large regular Town built by the French, which is very populous and the Houses are equal in Elegance to those of any other of their Settlements in India. Gold, Silver, Iron, Steel, Copper, Tin; and all the Necessaries of Life abound here. The Country is very populous, the Soil fruitful, the Seasons for the greatest Part mild and temperate, and the Air salubrious!

Immense Quantities of

European Produce and Manufactures might be exported thither, as the Natives in general are in great Need of European Commodities, and have the most valuable Returns to make for them. This the French experience from the very considerable Commerce they carry on with them at present. Cloaths here are made of the Rind of Banana Trees and are very near as fine as Silk, and by the Natives prefer'd to it; tho' at the same Time they make Garments of Silk. Grass grows here which is very curiously wrought into a fine Cloath, much lighter than persian Silk but much more serviceable. Near the Town is a hot Fountain of mineral Water, which is deem'd very efficacious in the Gout, and for the Gravel and many other Distempers; and within four Leagues of the Town it is said Gold and Silver Mines have been lately discover'd. It's Situation for Commerce is certainly beyond any other of the French Settlements on the Island, as all their present Settlements in India chiefly draw their Articles of Subsistance as well as Luxury from this Settlement. It supplies the Island of Mauritius with Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rice, Sheep, Hogs, Fowls, and Salt Provisions, which they cure here in the following Manner. They kill the Cattle after Sun set, then hang them up under a Range of Cocoa Trees close to a fine Canal of pure running Water, for two or three Hours, then cut them into Pieces, and convey the Pieces to Store rooms about 12 Feet under Ground, where the Stores are cured and kept 'till shipped for their other Settlements. They have not any other Settlement in India where they can cure Stores but this, notwithstanding they have attempted it at the Islands of Mauritius and Bourbon without Effect. They also export great Quantities of Timber for Building and repairing Ships, and Masts to the Island of Mauritius, taken from a Wood call'd Teak of a very tough and durable Texture, with which this Country abounds. Here they make great Quantity of Cordage, made of the Bark of Cocoa Trees, it is rougher and less pliable than ours, but at least as strong; as also Sail Cloth, which

they make, as they grow great Quantities of Hemp. Their first Attempt to make Sail Cloth was in the Year 1771, which was attended with great Success, I was shewn many Specimens of it the same Year, but it is less pliable and not so lasting as that made in Europe. There are great Plenty of Trees call'd Damar, from which issues a Gum which they use as Pitch, and prefer to it. The French have brought hither many Italians who are skill'd in various Arts, which they have establish'd, as the Country produces immense Quantities of Cotton and Silk which they use in the different Manufactures. a great Trade in Slaves is carried on between this Settlement and the other French Islands. The French purchase of the Natives all the unfortunate Men Women and Children whom the Chance of War or other Accident has put into their Power, as they are always committing Depredations on each other's Country, and have always a sufficient Stock to supply the French with Slaves to support their Trade. Beside Coffee, Pepper, Ginger and Indigo which are Objects that the French very ardently cultivate, Eaglewood is a Native, and in great Abundance in this Country, and is more or less esteem'd as it's more or less resinous, the Pieces that contain most of this Resin are taken from the Heart or Root of the Tree, they are call'd Calunbaac, which they send to China being esteem'd by the Chinese as the highest Cordial in Nature, and deem'd by them an infallable Cure for many stubborn Diseases; there is an inferior kind of Eagle Wood, which is also esteem'd as an extraordinary Perfume, which they barter with the Dutch at the Cape of Good Hope and the Island of Ceylon. Ambergrease is also found here in great Plenty. What prevents the Natives from becoming honest and industrious is that while

the French continue the Slave Trade it perpetually excites Hostilities among the Chiefs or Princes of every Province for the Sake of making Captives for Sale. This therefore will ever obstruct the civilizeing of these People, and extending their Trade into the Bowels of the Island, which by a different Conduct might be easily practicable. The Natives are well disposed towards the English Nation, and would rejoice to be under their Dominion. —

The Third Settlement

Is Fort Dauphin in the Province of Anofsi or Carcaufsi, and is call'd by the Natives Antenousa, and is situated in 25 Degrees 6 Minutes South Latitude, and was originally establish'd by a French Governor named Pronis in 1644. The Cape which runs out from the River Francheire is call'd by the French Cape St Romaine, but by the Natives Raunevaute; When you pass the Cape the Coast forms a fine Bay, almost in the Shape of a Cross as the Land projects into the Middle of it, and forms a Peninsula call'd Tholangaare. Fort Dauphin lies to the North of this Peninsula, and Port Dauphin over against it, and hence the French call this Dauphin Bay. The Situation is excellent, the Harbour commodious and finely shelter'd, and the Entrance very convenient for Shipping of any Burthen, having from Ten to Forty Fathom Water to ride on. A small Island call'd by the French St Clare, lies near it, and has another convenient Harbour. The Natives have an Abhorrence to the French, on Account of their Cruelties. This Province includes several less considerable Peninsulas and smaller Islands on the Coast, and is mostly surrounded by Mountains, and the Province is finely diversified with Hillocks and Plains, and abounds with Silk, Cotton, Honey, Wax, and

Fruit Trees such as Lemon, Orange, Grape of different Kinds, Pomegranate, Anana, Melon, Pine Apple and many others in the greatest Perfection. It is well water'd, and very rich in Pasture Grounds whereon they breed prodigious Herds of Cattle, and the Soil in general is well cultivated, and produces not only all the Necessaries, but many of the Luxuries of Life. The French say that in the Year 1770 they made in this Country 15000 Masses of Silk, which at half a Pound per Mass amounts to 7,500 Pounds, French Weight; 100 Pounds French Weight being equal to 109 Pounds English. It is almost incredibable to believe, but the French assert that in this Year several thousand Bags of Cotton each Bag weighing 250 Pounds were collected in this Province. The Tree that produces Cotton is of three Kinds. One creeps on the Earth like a Vine, the 2.d is like a bushy dwarf Tree, and the 3.d is almost as tall as a Pine; all three after yeilding beautiful Flowers, are loaded with a Fruit as large as a Walnut, whose outward Coat is entirely black, when fully ripe it opens and discovers a Down extremely white, which is the Cotton. Game is in great Plenty and Variety, particularly Bears, Boars, Buffaloes, and Deer of several Species. The Musk Cat which yields a most exquisite Perfume, is caught here and in great Esteem. The Mountains of this Province abound with Mines of Iron, Copper, Tin and Lead. I have been solemnly assured by several of the Natives, Slaves to the French, as well here as at the Island of Mauritius, that the French had discover'd Mines of Gold and Silver, and I am inclined to believe these Assurances because while I was at Fort Dauphin, in the Year 1771, I saw daily 3 or 400 Slaves going and returning to and from these Mines, the produce

of which they were obliged at the Peril of their Lives to conceal; and in attempting to visit these Mines, in Order to discover their Produce, I was intercepted by the French and within a few Hours after order'd on Board a Ship, and there detain'd till she left the Island. The other Produce of this Province consists in Abundance of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rice, Yams, Sweet Potatoes and Vegetables of all Kinds. Cocoa Nuts grow wild here in the Mountains, and in great Plenty. The Black Grapes do not ripen so kindly as the White ones and Muscadines. There is Abundance of Coffee, the Berry of which is remarkably Small and well flavour'd, and low Mulberry Trees in great Numbers, with which they feed their Silk worms. —

The Fourth and last Settlement

Is the Island of St. Mary, call'd by the Natives Nossi Ibrahim or the Isle of Abrahim, which lies in 17 Degrees South Latitude, about four Miles from the Shore of Madagascar, and almost opposite to the Mouth of the River Maunanghaaree, it is 47 Miles and a half in Lenght from North to South, and 12 from East to West, and almost surrounded with Coral and other Rocks, over which Boats may pass when the Sea is high, but at low Water they are scarcely cover'd with 2 Feet Water, which renders the Coast in general dangerous, and only accessible to Shipping at particular Places. Since the French have settled on this Island of St. Mary they have establish'd 4 Villages, mostly inhabited by Europeans, and also 9 other Villages inhabited by their Slaves. The Productions of this Island are in many Respects different from those of Madagascar and so luxuriant that I think it necessary to state them particularly. This Island produces Wheat, Barley, Oats, Yams, Millet, Fruit and Vegetables of all Kinds, and the

Tobacco Plant in the greatest Perfection; Sugar Canes grow spontaneously, Cattle are in great Plenty, which are remarkably fat and good as the Island is well water'd by several Rivers, Rivulets and running Springs, which give Fertility to the Soil. Ambergrease is found in great Plenty about the Eastern Shore; and so rich in Quality that several pieces of it which I have seen, appear'd to be equal in Brightness to Chrystal or Diamonds. The French and Natives carry on a great Commerce with the French Settlements on Madagascar for various Articles which are sent to the Islands of Mauritius and Bourbon. To the South of this Island lies another, seperated only by a narrow Channel, so fertile rich and abundant that the Governor of St. Mary's built a Town on it in the Year 1768, where there reside 50 Europeans and upwards of 200 Slaves, who have laid out large Plantations of Rice, Corn, Roots and Fruits and particularly the Vine, which has succeeded to great Perfection. They send from St. Mary's great Herds of Cattle to fatten there. It cannot be praised too much for it's Beauty and Fertility, or the Safety of it's Harbour, which was once much frequented by the Portuguese and Dutch in their early Voyages to the East Indies, and there is only a Battery of 4 Nine Pounders on it.

Bourbon.

This Island which lies in 21 Degrees South Latitude, and 54 Degrees East Longitude, is 387 Miles east of Madagascar, and 180 Miles South west of the Island of Mauritius. It is of an Oval Form, about 61 Miles long from East to West, and 47 Broad from North to South. It was discover'd in the Year 1545 by a Portuguese who

gave it the Name of Mascarenhas in Honour of his Family and stocked it with Hogs and Goats, and afterwards abandon'd it. In the Year 1613 it was visited by an English Ship of War, The Pearl Capt. Castleton, who call'd it the English Forest, but did not think fit to plant it; but it continued to be call'd Mascarenhas 'till the Year 1652, when Monsieur De Flacourt took Possession of it in the Name of the King of France, and gave it the Name of Bourbon in Compliment to the Royal Family upon the French Throne, which it still retains. He left there some French Men who had made their Escape from Madagascar to avoid the Cruelties the Natives had wreak'd upon their Countrymen at Fort Dauphin, and took Refuge here; not liking their Situation they were afterwards brought away by an English Trading Ship. The French however again form'd a Settlement there in 1672. At first they bred Cattle and afterwards they cultivated European Corn, asiatic and african Fruits, and Vegetables fit for that mild Climate. The Health Plenty and Freedom they enjoy'd induced several Sailors that touch'd there for Refreshments to settle among them. Industry brought on Population. In the Year 1718 they procured some Coffee Trees from Arabia, which succeeded so well that there is not an Island in the known World at this Time for it's Size produces more Coffee or better flavour'd. It produces also a vast deal of Cotton, excellent Pepper and Ginger and almost all other Spices, from Spice Trees which since the Year 1770 have been planted there and at the Mauritius, and have succeeded to great Perfection. Beside which the Island abounds also in Corn in vast Plenty of all kinds, and in Oxen, Cows, Hogs, Goats, Fowls, Pigeons and other Poultry. It produces also Pine Apples, Ananas, Lemons, Oranges, Citrons, Nuts, Cocoa Nuts, Millet, Melons, Tobacco, Parsnips, Carrots, Cabbages, Lettuce, Radishes, Sage, Beet and Parsley – Olive, Peach, and Almond Trees, Aloes, Ebony, Palm, and different Fruit Trees, some kind of Trees which

which produce odoriferous Gums, as Benzoin &c. and a great Many Trees proper for Timber. The Soil is well water'd by several small Rivers Rivulets and Springs of very good Water, which Nature has distributed better than could have been done by Art, and enliven the whole Scene. The Rivers abound with Fish, the Coast with Land and Sea Tortoises, the Woods with great Plenty of Deer and other Game. On the Sea Shore are gather'd great Quantities of Ambergrease, Coral, and fine Shells. Vines have been successfully planted here of late Years, and now considerable Quantities of of different Wines are annually made, particularly the Muscadine. This Culture and other laborious Employments are performd by Slaves had from Madagascar. The Bat of this Island is very singular, it resembles a Fox and is almost it's Size, the Flesh is so good to eat that they frequently hunt them. Some of the Trees here are fit for building Vessels, and when fell'd they send them to the Mauritius for that Purpose. In one of the Mountains there is a small Volcano, which at Times discharges Fire and fills the Neighbourhood with bituminous Matter, but there hath not been an Eruption since the Year 1767 as I was inform'd by the Natives. In 1770 the Population consisted of 9231 white People and 19729 Blacks of both Sexes, and the Cattle of 11022 Oxen, 7103 Sheep, 11605 Goats and 9614 Hogs, and upon a Space of 167847 Acres of cultivated Land, beside as much Cassava as fed their Slaves, 2474614 Pounds of Corn, 1521201 Pounds of Rice, 3241316 Pounds of Maize and 9792691 Pounds of Coffee, were raised and produced. These Calculations were copied in my Presence from the public Registers in the Commissary's Office at Saint Denis, which is the Chief Town on the Island, by Commodore Marion in the Year 1771, who was then on a Voyage to Otaheite. —

The First Settlement

Made by the French on this Island is the Town of Saint Paul, it is also the first Settlement you touch at if you sail from the Mauritius to it, It is a neat Town, pretty regularly buitt, there is a handsome Church with other public Buildings. The Town is populous and the People very affable and generous. The Road for Shipping is very good, and opposite the Town, where there is good Anchoring in 10 - 14 and 18 Fathoms Water, on a sandy Ground close to the Land. It has no other Fortification than a Redoubt buitt of Stone near the Shore, and a small Battery under Cover, advantageously posted on an Eminence, as the Land heightens from the Sea Coast to the Centre of the Island.

The Second Settlement

Is Saint Denis, the chief Town on the Island and is the Residence of the Governor and Council, there are several good Buildings there particularly the Governor's Palace and Council House. The public Granaries are well buitt and spacious, and the Inhabitants very numerous affable and wealthy, and there is a remarkably spacious Church beautifully ornamented. Near the Town are several Canals and running Streams planted with Cocoa Trees. This Town has encreased so considerably that it has been divided into Two Districts, namely the White Town and the Black Town. The White Town is better defended than any Part of the Island (as being exposed to greater Danger on Account of it's Wealth) by a Redoubt buitt of Stone and a Draw Bridge. On the right of the Town is a Battery of Nine Guns 4 of which are Twelve Pounders, quite invisible 'till you approach it, from Contrivance as well as from a Number of Trees that stand near it. Beyond the White Town lies the Suburbs or Black Town, which is larger and stitt worse fortified, and is the Quarter where the Slaves and Manufacturers reside. The Silk which this part of the Island affords is singular, it is found on the Trees where the

Silk Worms are produced, nourish'd and undergo their several Changes, the Inhabitants or Slaves have no other Trouble but that of collecting it. The neglected Cods produce a new Generation, during the Growth of which the Trees put forth new Leaves, which serve successively for their Nourishment.

The French trade with Twelve Vessels which belong to this Settlement, to Ceylon, Malabar, Goa, Surat, Cape of Good Hope, and other Places on the Coast of Africa, laden with the Products of this Island and Madagascar, such as Silk, Cotton, Coffee, Ambergrease, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rice, several kinds of Wines, Pepper, Ginger, Indigo, and Spices, as also Eagle Wood, Borax, and a Gum call'd Benzoin, which are esteem'd valuable. These Vessels would have been still more numerous from all the Settlements on the Island, but unfortunately for them this valuable ~~this valuable~~ Possession has no Harbour safe enough where their Ships can ride secure from violent Winds, which blow during the Monsoons, but there are several good Roads for shipping round Bourbon, particularly on the North and South Sides. The Climate here tho' extremely hot is very healthy, being refresh'd with cooling Breezes that blow Morning and Evening from the Sea and Land. In the Mountains on this Island are Slaves to the Amount of 5,700, tho' the French say but 3000, who have fled from their Yoke; and about 1300 white Soldiers, who have taken Refuge amongst them at different Times, to evade the Punishment their Crimes deserved. These Soldiers have taught the Madagascar Slaves the Use of Arms, which hath render'd them very formidable. These desperate People form'd into Tribes or Gangs fall unexpectedly sometimes upon one Side of the Colony sometimes upon another, in Order to carry off Supplies for their own Subsistance; which they too often effect, and lay waste the Wealth of their former Tyrants.

The Troops keep continually upon the Watch, to check or surprize so dangerous an Enemy, find it a vain Undertaking. They murder many Families and plunder the Plantations, they are also kill'd in Turn and many taken alive who are put on the Rack. Notwithstanding which by means of private Information they contrive to escape almost every Snare, and direct their Incursions towards those Parts which happen to be most defenceless. The French have adopted lately a Mode which keeps them in greater Awe than they have hitherto experienced from the Soldiery. They have given 500 Blacks their Freedom, with an uniform Dress, on the Front of their Caps they wear the Kings Arms, and on the Back of their Coats the same, they are arm'd with a light Tasee and Bayonet, with Cartouche Box, Bett &c. and well disciplined. They are sent in Pursuit of the Invaders daily, and receive a Reward of 200 Liv.s for each Slaves Head, and 300 if taken alive; for every White Man's Head 400, and if taken alive 500; so that there are continual Skirmishes going forward. —

The Third Settlement.

I call'd Saint Susanna, it is about the Size of the Settlement at Saint Paul's, regularly built, well peopled and fortified much in the same Manner; there are several Manufactories carried on there, I can say nothing more of this Settlement, as I never touch'd at it. —

The last and most Considerable of
The Islands,
is
The Mauritius; now call'd
The Isle of France.

Mauritius.

Is situated in the African Seas, just at the Entrance of the Indian Ocean, in 18 Degrees 30 Minutes South Latitude, and 56 Degrees East Longitude. It was discover'd by the Portuguese in their early Voyages to India, where they left some Quadrupeds and Fowls for the Benefit of such of their Ships as should chance to touch there, and gave it the Name of Cerne. The Dutch took Possession of it in the Year 1598, and call'd it Mauritius, in Honour of their Stadholder Maurice Prince of Orange. The Dutch erected Saw Mills upon it and supplied their Settlements in India with Plank from thence, and it was of the greatest Consequence to them before they possess'd The Cape, having no other Place to furnish them with Refreshments between Europe and India. The Rats were so numerous and destructive in this Island at that Time, that they absolutely abandon'd it on that Account when they became possess'd of the Cape. The Island was uninhabited when the French landed there in 1720, and changed it's Name from Mauritius to the Isle of France. The First People who establish'd themselves here were a few Husbandmen from the Island of Bourbon, and there they were forgotten for 15 Years. The French Company being during such Lenght of Time undetermin'd whether they should keep it or not, decided at last on the keeping it, but not before the Importance of the Island was made known to them from it's Situation in the Course from Europe to the East Indies. The French Company gave a Commission to an enterprizing Man, named La Bourdonnais, in 1735, with whom they sent out

a great Number of Dependants and others to inhabit and cultivate the Island. This new Regulation gave Rise to obvious Mistakes, that of sending Men from Europe to the Colony who neither ~~understood~~ Husbandry nor were accustom'd to Labour. The Lands were distributed at a Venture, and without distinguishing what was to be clear'd from that which did not want it. Money was advanced to the Planters, not in proportion to their Industry but to the Interest they could make with the Government. The Company who got Cent. p Cent. upon the Commodities the Colony drew from Europe and fifty p Cent. upon those that were sent in from India, required that the produce of the Country should be deliver'd into their Warehouses at a very low Price. The Oppression of the Monopoly was aggravated by the Tyranny of endless and needless Services. To compleat the Misfortunes of the Colony the Company who had kept all the Power in their own Hands, broke the Engagements they had enter'd into with their Subjects, or rather with their Slaves, therefore no Improvements could be expected under such a Government. At lenght in the Year 1765 The French East India Company yielded up to the King a Colony which had cost them so much Trouble and Expence, when the Ministry took this Opportunity to send several Officers who had deserved of their Country during the last War, as well as some of their Minions, Sycophants and Creatures for whom they could not provide in Old France, to this Island. Such are the People who have the Government of the Island at this Day. This Island lies 387 Miles East of Madagascar, and is about 163 in Circumference, the Form is certainly oblong tho'all Geographical Writers have thought proper to describe it Oval,

This Island, tho' in the same Latitude as the scorching Coasts of Africa, is temperate and healthful. The Soil is Stony but singularly fertile, Experience has shewn that it produces the Necessaries and even the Luxuries of Life. There are many high Mountains, several of them are full of Reservoirs of Water, which pour down in streams upon a dark grey Earth, full of Perforations, and for the most part Stony. and other Rivers and Rivulets which are foul near where they fall, particularly in the rainy Seasons, but grow clearer as they flow farther from the Mountains, and are as transparent as Crystal before they disembogue themselves into the Sea. They abound with Fish of various Kinds. There is no establish'd whale fishery here, but the Negroes are not unacquainted with the Method of harpooning them. Sea Cows are sometimes Caught and their Flesh in some Measure resembles Beef in Taste. Mullet are caught in Abundance, all round the Sea Coast and Thornbacks and Flounders. There is a blackish Fish which bears a great Similarity to the Cod Fish in Taste and Make. There are Fish near this Island of a Poisonous Quality, which are not easily distinguished from the Bream and Old Wife, as they are also taken in great Plenty here. These poisonous Fish resemble them in Shape and Colour so exactly, that the eating of them by Mistake occasions the Death of Many; by contracting the Limbs of some, and distorting the Face Mouth and Eyes of others, in such a Manner that it's frightful to behold them. I saw eighteen at one Time in the grand Hospital, labouring under these severe Convulsions, 15 of whom died. It is not impertinent to mention here, that the eating of these poisonous Fish was the Occasion of the Death of 1500

English Men on Board our Fleet last War, when it was going against this Island. The Case was thus: The Fleet touch'd at the little Island of Rodrigue, so call'd by the Portuguese but now call'd by the French Isle de Grays, where the French have establish'd a Post ever since they have inhabited Mauritius. One french Family lives on this little Island, with a certain Number of Slaves to provide Turtle for the Hospitals on their Islands, which it abundantly supplies. This was the Situation of the Place where the English Fleet thought proper to refresh their Crews and prepare their Ships for the Undertaking intended against the Island of Mauritius, which was not very distant from thence, as the Island of De Grays is to the East of Madagascar, between the 19th and 20th Degrees of Latitude: as soon as the Fleet anchor'd off this little Island, the Men went to fishing, and caught a great Quantity of these poisonous Fish, which occasion'd the Death of the Number already mention'd in a few Days, so that the Fleet was obliged to Desist from attacking the Island of Mauritius. I think it but just to recite this Event, as it was grossly misrepresented that the French Family on the Island had poison'd the Water. The Eels at the Island of Mauritius are of the Conger Kind, and furnish but bad Food. Here are great Plenty of Lobsters, Cray fish and Crabs, the two former are of a fine blue Colour, marbled with black, and the latter is principally grey. Among the Shell Fish here is one of a very singular Species, for the usual order of Nature seems to be revers'd: The Animal is on the Outside of the Shell, the whole appearing as a Shapeless Mass soft and membranous, in the Middle of which is a single Bone or Shell, smooth and arched. Near the Sea Side are

found great Numbers of Toulouroux, they are a kind of Amphibous Crab that make barrows under Ground like Moles, they run very fast and when attack'd will snap their Claws by Way of Defence. The Island of Mauritius is water'd by above 37 Rivulets, some of which deserve the Name of Rivers, but others do not contain any Water in the dry Season, having their Sources principally in the Mountains as I have already mention'd. The Soil is indifferent for Pasture, and wants a necessary Attention from the Inhabitants for the Increase of Cattle both for Labour and Food. Some parts are marshy, in other parts the Ground is so stoney that it can scarce be improved by Labour, however great and useful Alterations have been made in the Island since it has been in the Hands of the French Government. The Culture of Coffee has since been introduced there, as it had long been at Bourbon; this has been attended with so much Success since the Year 1765, that it produced in the Year 1770 — 3749651 Pounds of Coffee. Further Hopes have been encouraged by the Prospect of another Advantage. It is well known that for these Two Hundred Years the Dutch have been enriching themselves by their sole Monopoly of Cloves and Natmegs. Monsieur Poivre Deputy Governor of this Island (who had travell'd all over Asia) incensed at this Monopoly, avail'd himself of the Authority that he was entrusted with, and sent Men into the least frequented Parts of the Moluccas, to search for what Avarice had hitherto withheld from the rest of the World. The Labours of these intrepid Navigators, in whom he confided, were crown'd with Success. On the 24th June 1770 they brought to this Island 600 Natmeg Trees, 15000 Natmegs, either growing or ready to grow, 97 Clove Trees, and two Chests of Cloves, some of which were growing and already springing up. This rich Prize was distributed among the Colonists, to try all the different Soils and every Aspect, except a few

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He sent to the Island of Bourbon, which succeeded beyond all Expectation. Several of the young Plants died on this Island, but the Rest throve exceedingly well. This Island produces Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rice, Yams, Cassava Roots, Sweet Potatoes, Bananas, Cocoa Trees, Orange Trees, Palm Trees, Pine apples, Indigo, Cotton, Sugar, Gum Trees, and Timber fit for Building. Experiments have been made with great Success, to propogate, Saintfoin, Trefoil, Hemp, Flax, Hops, and Grapes of different Kinds. Here are Peas, French Beans, Artichoaks, Pumkins, Melons, Water Melons, Cucumbers, Gourds, Pepper, Pomegranates, Strawberries, Spinnage, Garden Cresses, Sorrel, Chervil, Parsley, Fennel, Cellery, Leeks, Lettuce, Endive, Cauliflowers, Cabbage, Garden Purslain, Sage, Asparagus, Carrots, Parsnips, Turnips, Sassafras, Raddishes, European Potatoes, Saffron, Ginger, Chives, and Onions. Cassava Root, Maize in great Plenty. Millet, and a fine kind of Silk Grass brought from Madagascar. Myrtles flourish here, as do Rose Trees, Jessamine, and the Vine of Madagascar, which is only a Rattan to make Cradles and bears a yellow Flower. And here are found Oak, Pine, Fir, Cherry, Apricots, Medlar, Apple, Pear, Olive, Fig and Mulberry Trees. The Peach Tree, the Bambou, Gonyavo Tree, Almond Tree, Jaca Tree, Box Tree, and Iron Wood. The Ebony of this Island is allow'd to be the best in the known World. The only Quadrupeds natural to this Island are different Species of Monkies and Rats. among the Birds here is one call'd Corbigeaux, which is consider'd as the best Game on the Island, but they are very difficult to catch. Parrots are plentiful but not handsome. There are remarkably handsome Paroquets tho' small. The Woods abound with Black Birds which are a Game admired by the Natives. Pigeons and various kinds of Poultry, but the most common are Ducks & fowls which are mostly of the Moscovy Breed, they have also the Bantam Species, whose Flesh is exceedingly delicate. Chinese

Pheasants and two Sorts of Patridges, and the Titmouse a small and beautiful Bird. There are several other beautiful Birds here, which were brought from different Parts of India, and from the Cape of Good Hope. The Insects in this Island are numerous, the most destructive of them are the Grashoppers; Ants are exceedingly numerous and very troublesome, it is a difficult Matter to secure the Provisions from being destroy'd by them. There are likewise Wasps, Spiders, various kinds of Flies, and Centipedes. Among those of the Quadruped kind which may be call'd domestick, are Horses, which are small and uncommonly dear, Oxen and Sheep not very plentiful, Hogs and Goats they abound with, but the Flesh sells very dear. In the Woods are great Numbers of Wild Goats, Hogs, Hares and Stags. The latter are particularly numerous, and of infinite Service to the Natives, their Flesh being exceedingly good, especially from the Beginning of April to the End of August. As this Island is the Seat of The French Governm.t in the East Indies civil and military, here are their Magazines as well naval and marine, as for Armies and Land Expeditions, and from hence upon some Emergencies they might fit out Ships of War when found needful, without the Expence Hazard and Delay of sending them from Europe. Nay here they are able to Build Ships as well as to repair their old Men of War at a cheap Rate of what Balk and Force they please, and for these Purposes they have Rope Walks to make Cordage, Forges for their Anchors, and Foundaries to cast their Canon, as the Island abounds with Iron, Lead, and Tin Mines, particularly. The Iron is found near the Surface in the Form of Grain, the Size of a Pea, and they have Mills to make Gun Powder, so that they can never be unprovided with Ammunition, or be obliged to wait for Supplies from Europe: as many other European Powers and Factories must do in such Cases. The People in general here are greedy of Gain, yet grasp what

they will they are never satisfied: an hundred ⅌ Cent. appears too trifling an Advantage to content them. The Women are pale but well made, and in general handsome, they have great Vivacity and are tolerably well educated, which renders them agreeable Companions, and are much less depraved than the Men, being of a domestick Turn, sober careful, and neat in the extreme. The Negroes or Slaves are brought from Madagascar, these are neither so black nor so badly featured as the Natives of Guinea, but nearly resemble the Europeans in Features, and in Complexion incline to a Copper Colour. They are in general in Height from 6 Feet to 6 Feet 5 Inches, very active, ingenious, grateful for Favours, and faithful when well used; and have a quicker Sense of an Insult done to any one they love, than of any personal Injury done to themselves! There are between 3 and 4000 in the Mountains, among whom are about 700 of the French Soldiers who have effected their Escape, they are continually plundering one Plantation or other. There are King's Slaves arm'd continually in Pursuit of them, who are allow'd so much for the Head of a Black and something more for the Head of a White Man: They have many desperate Engagements. The Soldiers who are mix'd with them, and are their Leaders, have taught them the use of Arms which they are very expert at, and are a continual Terror to the Settlement, as ten thousand Soldiers durst not approach them in the Mountains, being almost inaccessible. But whatever may happen, This Island must always be allowed to be one of the most valuable Possessions for any Nation desirous of Trading to Asia, as it is situated just at the Entrance of the Indian Ocean, and it lies a little out of the common Track therefore

it's Expeditions can be carried on with the greater Secrecy, and reach the Coasts of Malabar & Coromandel in a Month's Time, and the most distant Gulphs in two Months at most, which is an inestimable Advantage to a Nation that has no Sea Port in India. If the English Nation were possess'd of it, they might make a Mart of it where all Indian Goods should center, they might be brought thither on India Bottoms and then shipped on Board English Vessels which were never to go any further. A double Advantage might certainly arise from this Scheme: First in the lessening of Expences, as both the Pay and the Maintenance of Indian Sailors is very trifling; and secondly in the preservation of the Ship's Crews, which are but too often destroy'd by over long Voyages, and still more frequently by the Climate, especially at Bengal, Bombay and Bencoolen. This Island is at present one of the finest, as it was always one of the most Important and Improveable Spots upon the Globe, and of the Utmost Political Consequence. The greatest Clog to Trade here is Paper Currency, a French Crown will produce Nine Livres, by which Means they keep all the Gold and Silver that is brought to the Island in their own Hands. This Island contains Two Ports, the principal of which is to the South East, where the Dutch Settlement formerly was, the Remains of the Buildings are still to be seen. This Port may be entered with Ease before the Wind, but is of very little Consequence on Account of the regular and high Winds that blow to the South East, which make it impossible or at least very difficult to Sail out of it at any Season of the Year. They have here the finest Pasture Land on the Island, and better Productions of Cotton, Honey, Wax, Camphire, and several

valuable Spices, than on any other Part of the Island. The Town is pretty strong, having Forts to gaurd the Entrance into the Harbour, and the French maintain a Garrison of 700 Men here, against all Events.

The Second Port, named Port Louis, situated on the North West Side, is the Capital Part of the Island, but is smaller than the former and far preferable; tho' the Ships when they approach it, are obliged to lye too, and then be tow'd in thro' a tolerable Channel, between two Flats, and it will scarcely admit above 50 or 55 Ships. Within half a Mile of the Entrance, on the left, is the little Island of Tormellieres, on which is erected a half Moon Battery commanding the Entrance of the Channel that lies between the Flats, the Work is not above two feet or two feet and a half high, mounting 9 Eighteen Pounders and has no kind of Shelter whatever or Magazine, except at the Distance of about 200 Yards, where stands a House built of Stone and Slated, but one Story high, surrounded with a stone Wall about 5 Feet 6 Inches, within the Wall stands a Pole fix'd in the Ground, very near fifteen Yards high, on which the French Colours are hoisted on Sundays and Holidays; and a Man lives in the House for that Purpose. The House which is very long is laid out with Shelves, except the Bed room and Kitchen, on which are placed and arranged the most beautiful Branches of Coral perhaps in the World, with Lobsters of two Kinds, one of which is of a fine blue Colour marbled with Black, and the other is principally grey; both Kinds have the Eyes in two long Tubes like Telescopes, which when not in Use

are deposited in Grooves along the Side of the Shell. There are many other Prodigies of the Shell kind, unnecessary to mention. There is a Train carried from the Back of the principal Storehouse, which is situated at the farther End of the Dock yard on the Island of Mauritius, to this Island. Tho' this Island is half a Mile distant from the Island of Mauritius, and a Branch of the Sea passes between them, which is formidable at Low Water. I have often waded across it to procure Oysters and Cockles, which are found in Abundance round this Island. The Discovery of the Train was confirm'd to me by one Mills an English Man, who had been in the English East India Company's Service a great Number of Years before, and deserted to the French at Pondicherry: and was afterwards sent to this Island of Mauritius, whereon he had then been by his own Account 23 Years and 9 Months. This Piece of infernal Policy was executed during the last War, thinking that the English would land their Troops on this Island of Tormellieres, as they might wade across from thence at low Water to the Island of Mauritius, but when landed they would set fire to the Train and blow them up. This Mills shew'd me the Entrance to the Train, which was cover'd with a large square polish'd Stone, with an Iron Ring fix'd in the Middle. On the Right of the Harbour on a Neck of Land stands Fort Blanc, which commands the Entrance between the Flats above mention'd, mounting 12 Nine Pounders, having a small Magazine which is placed on the right within six feet of the Side and thirteen of the Front. I had a good Opportunity to examine this Fort while I was at the Grand Hospital

which is about a Mile and a half from the Fort on a Line with it. It is a Place of no Strenght, tho' it cost the French a considerable Sum as the Inhabitants told me, a Single Ship would level it in the Space of two or three Hours, being able to bring her Guns to bear on it, with the Advantage of a smooth Sea. To the left of the Fort, a Landing Place would be subject to great Inconveniences, on Account of it's being a soft Ground which will sink 12 or 14 Inches every Step a Person takes, it is cover'd with Bull rushes and a kind of long Grass. On the Right of the Fort the Ground is hard and Rocky and cover'd with the same kind of Herbage, When you enter the Port the Dock Yard is on your Left, which is almost three Quarters of a Mile in Lenght and wide in Proportion, of which I will speak more fully hereafter. On the Right when you advance about two Thirds of the Bay, there is a Quay half built, which they intend to run a great Lenght, by which they will gain several Acres of Land, which at present is waste and cover'd with 4 or 5 feet Water at Ebb Tide. This Quay is very serviceable for Shipping, they send their Boats along side the Quay, and fill every Cask as placed in the Boat in the Space of five Minutes, with excellent Water, by the Assistance of a Leathern Pipe contrived for that Purpose, as the Well is near the Landing Place, extremely well constructed for the Dispatch of watering their Ships. At the Bottom of the Port, on the Beginning of the Quay are placed 39 Pieces of Canon, chiefly 42 Pounders, wch. command the Entrance of the Port but left in a Naked Situation, without the Help of Art or Nature; about the Distance of 700 Yards beyond, stands a large Arch or Gateway, very lofty and very spacious, on the Left Hand under this Arch Way is a Gaurd-

Room,

where between 50 and 60 Soldiers are on Duty, adjoining it is another spacious Room where the Officer of the Gaurd attends. On the right Hand is the common Prison, or rather a Dungeon, having but one Place that affords Light, and that only a Foot Square and full 7 feet high from the Floor. When you pass thro' this Arch you come into a very large Square, where the Army is exercised. On the Right and Left are Walls at least 60 Feet high, which inclose several Store Houses; fronting you is the Governor's House, which is reckon'd a most magnificent Building, having two Fronts one to the Square and the other towards the Opening of a Valley; in this Palace, so I may call it, is their Courts of Justice. There are spacious Court Yards before each Entrance, inclosed by a Wall of at least 20 Feet high, with a Gaurd Room containing about 30 Soldiers. On the Top of this Palace is laid out a handsome Garden, consisting of a great Variety of Flowers and Fruit Trees, with several Walks properly gravell'd. The Town, which is call'd the Camp, stands on the Left of the Square and Bottom of the Port, opening towards a Valley which is form'd by a Chain of Mountains, whose Summits are rocky, cover'd with Trees and Bushes, but mostly with a dingy Shrub; which makes the Country appear black like a Colliery. One of these Mountains which is within one Mile of the Port, rises 800 Feet above the Level of the Sea, on the Top of which stands a small House, inhabited by a Black whose Business is to report to the Settlement, by firing a Gun, any Sail that he can descry by the Assistance of a Telescope. If more than One Sail, the Signal is to fire a Gun for every Sail. This Mountain is a Guide to Ships at the Distance of 7 or 8 Leagues, which is a very considerable Advantage upon so flat a Coast. The Town

itself call'd The Camp, is built with tolerable Regularity, most of the Houses and and Streets near the Bazar are built of Stone, chiefly two Stories high, very few are three Stories. The principal or main Street from the Bazar may be compared to one of our small Villages. The Houses consist but of One and two Stories in Height, some built of Stone, others of Wood, a great Number of them stand seperate from each other, and are surrounded with Pallisades. The Streets are paved but indifferently, nor are there any Fortifications, except towards the Sea, which I have already mention'd. The Dock Yard I have observed is on the Left, when entering the Port, here they are able to Build Ships as well as to repair Ships of War, and for these Purposes have brought up the Madagascar Slaves to all the Laborious Occupations in the Art of Ship building; who are deem'd excellent Workmen. There are 500 Shipwrights, 400 Smiths, 250 Carpenters, 150 Caulkers, 100 Sawyers, 200 Sail makers, 250 Rope walks making Cordage, and 350 Madagascar Women who pick Rope Yarn, besides 300 Slaves whose Business it is to attend on these different Tradesmen: making 2500 Slaves who work daily in the Dock Yard, beside 100 White Men, who superintend and direct the Whole. There are also 3000 Slaves employ'd in Casting Cannon at the Foundaries, and making Gun Powder at the Mills, and likewise at the Sugar Mills, Paper Mills, and Saw Mills. The most remarkable public Edifices are — The Governor's House above mention'd, the Grand Church which is reckon'd the most magnificent Building of the Kind in the East: The Church situated in the Center of the Bazar, the Store Houses which are lofty and

spacious, and the Grand Hospital which is situated three Miles from the Town, and a Mile and a half from Fort Blanc, and is built on a high Ground in a fruitful and healthy Situation; it will contain 3000 Patients. In 1771 the Population amounted to 4725 White People, beside 6000 Troops that were on the Island, 2146 Free Negroes, 23502 Slaves; and between 4 and 5000 Slaves and French Soldiers, who have taken Shelter in the Mountains as above related. Notwithstanding the great Improvements that are made on this Island since the French Governm.t have taken it under their Care, it does not produce the sixth part of the Provisions that are annually consumed in it, therefore it draws many Parts of it's Supplies from Bourbon, but principally from Madagascar; notwithstanding Provisions are very dear and scarce. The only Flesh I remember to have seen exposed for Sale, in the Bazar or Market, was that of Swine and Goats, during a Stay of Seven Months on the Island, which sold at the enormous Price of three Livres per Pound, and every thing else proportionably dear. —

Reflections and Observations.

The Motives which induced me to attempt the Liberty of laying these Representations before Your Majesty, arose from the purest Zeal for the Service of that State of which I am a Member, and the humblest but most affectionate Wishes for Your Majesty's Welfare and Prosperity, as well as a sincere Desire for the Advancement of the Glory and Dignity of Your Crown, by an Addition to It's Territories: and which, with the greatest Diffidence, I beg Permission to present, that they may meet Your Majesty's Royal Consideration. I propose by

by them to shew the easy Practability of subduing these Settlements; and in the present Situation of Affairs, it may be a well judged Conduct, to give this Idea the most candid Consideration. —

In Order to effectuate so important a Purpose, it may be adviseable to begin the Reduction, by attempting the Conquest of the Settlement call'd Fall Point, and this is presumed to be very practicable, as the Natives as already represented, are well disposed towards the English Nation, and would rejoice to be under their Dominion; and it appears from the local Circumstances now stated, that a Body of Troops might be landed without Opposition, and a few Line of Battle Ships might be brought to bear against the Fort, and then the Army and Navy by mutual Efforts would soon reduce it: as the Resistance could be but very little, the French having no regular Troops there to Garrison the Fort. —

The next Object may be the Conquest of Fort Dauphin, and this it is likewise presumed would be very easily accomplish'd as it is a Place of very inconsiderable Strenght, and rather calculated as a Retreat from the Natives in Case of an Insurrection, than a Place to make the least Opposition against an European Power: particularly as Line of Battle Ships could ride on 10 fathom Water within a Hundred Yards of the Fort, which they must effectually destroy in the Coarse of a few Hours. — Very near the Peninsula whereon Fort Dauphin is built, is situated the small Island of Saint Clare, which has an excellent Harbour, that would be found useful to ensure the Reduction of this Settlement. I cannot help taking Notice here of a rooted Aversion the Natives have to The French, and of so long standing as since the Year 1650; when the Natives burnt the Fort and banish'd such as escaped the Flames. The French found Means to rebuild

it some Years after, upon which they had Recourse to their former Depredations on the Natives, which roused in them such a spirit of Resentment that they form'd a Conspiracy to cut off all the White Men in the Garrison; which they accomplish'd in the following Manner. The White Men went to Midnight Mass, on a Christmas Eve, which is a Custom in Catholick Countries, this was the favourable Opportunity that the Natives agreed on, with the Slaves in the Garrison, to free themselves from the Tyranny and Oppression of The French. Accordingly the Gates were open'd by the Slaves, and there enter'd the Garison 7 or 800 of the Natives, variously arm'd, who surrounded the Church where the French were at Prayers, and consequently without Arms; and put every Soul to Death. The Reduction of this, and the Settlement at full Point, would be severely felt by the Islands of Bourbon and Mauritius, particularly the Latter as it receives the most of it's Supplies from these Settlements; and the Two Islands of Bourbon and Mauritius all their Salt Provisions from the Settlement at Full Point.

The next Object may be the Conquest of the small Island at the Bottom of the Bay of Antongil, which has a good Harbour, and is only defended by a Battery of 8 Nine pounders as mention'd, and could make but very little if any Resistance, having only as stated 80 White Men, and about 150 or 200 Slaves, which are scatter'd among the Four other smaller Islands in the Bay.

The next Object may be the Reduction of the Island of Saint Mary, to accomplish which it would be necessary to reduce the Island which is situated to the South of Saint Mary, having a fine Harbour, which is only defended by a Battery of 4 Nine pounders, which a Frigate might silence in a very little Time: it's Vicinity to Saint Mary's, which is not above 50 Yards, must contribute much to the Reduction of Saint Mary's.

especially as the Slaves on Saint Mary's are numerous and cruelly treated by the French, and have often attempted Insurrections; which was the Reason of Building Towns for them apart, to prevent the like in future.

The next Object may be the Reduction of the Island of BOURBON, various have been the Opinions with Respect to the Dangers which would attend an Attempt of this Kind. In my Opinion the Conquest of this Island would be easily effected. The Redoubt and Two Batteries that protect Saint Denis, the best fortified Settlement on the Island, could not withstand Line of Battle Ships for Six Hours, which might range against them in 7, 10, 14 and 18 Fathom Water on a Sandy Ground within a Cables Lenght of the Shore. Moreover Troops might be landed near the Town of Saint Paul, where there is a very convenient Place named Le Grauge, within One Mile and three Quarters to the Left of the Town, where Boats may land Troops under the Protection of their Ships' Guns, there being no Battery or other Fortifications to oppose them; and five Fathom Water within 12 Yards of the Land: nor is there the least Necessity for making any Approaches on any Part of this Island, that is fortified, for whoever surveys the Coasts of this Island must be astonish'd, to see them every where accessible to Boats, in very good Bays, where Troops may be Landed under Cover of the Ships' Guns with the greatest Safety. A Retreat will be more easily secured in Case of Resistance, and the Boats will be less exposed while the Landing is carried on. I apprehend that the Opposition to the Landing would be but slight, and that the Forces in India without any Succours from Europe would succeed in this Undertaking; especially as the Black and White Men in Arms in the Mountains of this Island above mention'd, would one may naturally presume ardently seize such

an Opportunity, to free themselves from this present deplorable Situation. If it may be thought politick to adopt this Undertaking, it will be judicious to employ several of the Madagascar Blacks, to communicate to these Black Men in Arms, the Liberal and Noble Sentiments of the English Nation to restore them to Freedom, and such a Plan will ensure Success. —

The ultimate Object may be the Reduction of the Island of Mauritius, which I think is far from being impractible when it is consider'd that the French have hitherto not succeeded in any settled Plan for fortifying this Island, as they have always misapplied or wanted the Means, and as the Batteries which they have erected in different Parts at a great Expence, serve no other Purpose but to divide their Forces; and as it was discover'd by their Engineers during last War that these Batteries were of no Use, as they could only fire at Ships anchor'd at a Distance, or under Sail, and as the Coasts of this Island are every where accessible to Boats. Tho' this Island is surrounded with Reefs of Coral Rocks, there are many good Bays, where Troops may be Landed, under Cover of the Ships' Guns; particularly at the Settlements call'd the Flag and Black River.

In those Parts of the Island where Vessels are obliged to keep farther out, the Sea is so calm and smooth between the Reef and the Land, that Boats can approach the Shore even in the Night, without the least Danger. In many Places between the Reef and the Land the Water is too shallow for Boats to go a shore, there the Troops may land, because the Water will not be up to their Knees. It is true there are many Points where a Boat cannot Land, but there are Openings within 10 or 12 Yards of such Places, to the Right or Left; nor can it be presumed that a Landing would be attempted but where the Shelves would be certain: as it is impossible to gaurd a Coast which is about 170 Miles in Circumference. I take it the Harbour, on the North west

Side, where the capital Town of the Island stands, would be the Principal Object for an Attack: the Situation, as well as the Nature of the Ground, will not admit of fortifying the Town in such a Manner as to Enable it to stand a Siege. When the Landing is effected, there is nothing to obstruct the Troops in joining the disaffected, who are numerous in the Mountains, in the inland Parts especially; as the French have no Central Spot to secure them from a Surprize. —

I beg Permission in this Place to say, that the Facts and Circumstances here stated, are as near the Truth as they can possibly be represented, from any Investigations whatever; having been myself on each of these Islands, tho' not in each Settlement, and therefore taken the greatest Part from my own personal Examination, and Animadvertions which I have endeavour'd to relate with Accuracy: and the Residue are transcribed by me, from Records and other Writings in the French Settlements, in which I am certain I can place the greatest Confidence. —

There are many Accounts pretended to be given of the French Settlements which I have now described, but I venture to assert that they are very defective, and gross Misrepresentations; and it is very remarkable that there is not the least Notice taken, by any Geographical Writer whomsoever, that the French have any Settlements on the Island of Madagascar; on the contrary they positively declare, that The French have long forsaken this Island. —