

(a) 31. Dec. 1802.

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Sketch of the present State of population, cultivation and produce of Sugars of the Jurisdiction of the Havana with the number of African Slaves imported.

The Island of Cuba, is divided into two Bishoprics and seven Jurisdictions, of which that of the Havana is of smallest extent containing only one thousand five hundred square Leagues, in which there are eight Cities or Towns and fifty seven rural Districts.

The Cities and Towns contain a population of one hundred twenty thousand Souls, of which there are about one half in the Havana and its Suburbs.

The rural Districts, are each one under the charge of a Civil Magistrate and his Deputy, who preserve Order and administer ordinary Justice without armed force; But, in many parts, there are no Towns or Villages to govern.

Fourteen of these Districts denominated the Thick-Forrest, are destined to serve as a Range for Cattle, comprehending about eight hundred square Leagues, with scarcely one thousand five hundred White People and about an equal number of Slaves.

Thirty Districts are in Tillage, having already three hundred and fifty Sugar Estates established, with large Pastures for pasturing; Fifty Coffee Estates, and a very considerable number of Farms. And there are vacant Lands sufficient for the settlement of five or six hundred Sugar Estates more.

Thirteen Districts which remain of the fifty seven, contain the Site of the Havana, its Suburbs, and Environs: The latter are cultivated to supply the City &c. with Vegetables for the Markets, and a prodigious quantity of Fodder for the vast number of Carriage Horses & Mules kept in it.

We cannot say, with exactness, what number of free People and Slaves are in the forty three Districts first mentioned, but, by an approximate calculation, we believe, there may be thirty thousand Slaves on the Sugar and Coffee Estates; and on the Farms and other Plantations twenty thousand free People of all Colours and fifteen thousand Slaves.*

x in 1801.

1802.

In the course of the Year 1802. Two hundred and four thousand four hundred and three Boxes of Sugars, were dispatched at the Customhouse of the Havana of which, two fifths ought to be Browns, and three fifths Whites and should weigh four hundred Pounds on an Average. Consequently, The two fifths Brown, being eighty one thousand, seven hundred Boxes, sold at six Dollars per Quintal, amount to one Million, nine hundred and sixty thousand, eight hundred Dollars. And the three fifths Whites, one hundred and twenty two thousand, seven hundred and three Boxes at eight Dollars per Quintal, Three Millions, nine hundred and twenty six thousand, four hundred and ninety six Dollars. Together with the price paid for the Boxes twenty six Reales each will be six hundred & sixty four thousand, three hundred

and nine Dollars. Thus the two hundred and four thousand, four hundred and three Boxes of Sugars legally shipped at the Havana in 1802, amount to Six millions, Five hundred and fifty one thousand, six hundred and five Dollars: Nett to the Planters, For, the Exporters paid the Duties, and the Mollasses paid amply for the Boxes.

The Produce of the Coffee, Cotton and other Plantations are not brought into this Account, being yet in an Infant State, nor do we attempt an estimation of Sugars illegally exported. We confine this Statement to the regular Returns from the Customhouse of the Shipment of Sugars of this Jurisdiction.

The Money brought hither for maintaining the Fortresses, the Marine, Troops, and Tobacco Factory, The balance in favour of the Havana and against New Spain for bleached Beech Wax, The Cash brought from thence by Contraband, The balances against the Floridas Louisiana and Porto Rico, forms on the whole the Sum of Four Millions and Five hundred Thousand Dollars.

The Products of the Sugars of this Jurisdiction, with the Treasure annually destined for the purposes before mentioned did spend in the Year 1802 to Eleven Millions and Fifty one thousand, six hundred and five Dollars.

We find from the intelligent Planters and Persons well informed that we may allow three fourths of the above Sum for Salaries to White Servants, Buildings, Mills, Carts, Oxen, Horses, Mules, Repairs & family expences, The remaining fourth part, Two Millions, seven hundred & thirty one thousand nine hundred and one Dollars, may pay for upwards of nine thousand Slaves at three hundred Dollars per head for the use of Planters, & Officers of the King. The Citizens of the Havana, and the other Towns, The Yeomen, & Husbandmen may buy one thousand more. From whence we conclude that Ten thousand New Negroes may be well sold and paid for Yearly in this Jurisdiction, (and not many more) in Seasons free from Hurricanes or other great Calamities.

The other Jurisdictions, although of very great extent yet being little cultivated, may purchase Slaves also, but we cannot give any precise Idea of their ability of payment, we therefore leave them out of our calculation and suppose them supplied chiefly by Foreign Colonies.

The Sugar Planters, purchase few Negresses, being unwilling to allow them the time requisite for Lying in & Nursing their Children, or to have the trouble of rearing the Infants; Nor will they allow the Slaves Grounds for Gardens, Live Stock &c. But keep them constantly employ'd in Manufacturing Sugars only, and feed them with dried Salt Beef from Buenas Ayres & the Main, called Sasajo (stewed Beef) some Plantains, but mostly with Ground Provisions purchased from Farmers & from the Havana which is imported from Mexico, Campechy, &c.

This severe economy is heavily counterpoised by the rapid and continual decrease of Slaves; their annual mortality, cannot be under twelve to fifteen per Cent.^m And by the want of Corralle Negroes born on the Plantations & attached to their Owners Parents, &c. the diminution must be repaired by incessant recourse to the purchase of African Slaves.

In the last Year, 1802, between the first Day of January, and the last of December, Thirteen thousand, eight hundred, and thirty two African Negro Slaves, were imported, and entered, at the Customhouse in the Havana. out of which, about five hundred were exported. And ^{the} hot Months were sickly, we do not overrate the mortality, at five per Cent during the Sales, which will be a reduction of seven hundred. Besides, as Newly imported Slaves are fully as susceptible of fatal disorders, as seasoned ones, ^{for Mortality} we cannot deduct, from the twelve thousand, three hundred and thirty two purchased by the Planters less than the same rate. Therefore as the abovementioned whole number, was imported successively throughout the Year (perhaps one half in each six Months) we will for that reason calculate an half the number at 12 per Cent. which is eight hundred Slaves lost in the same Year after their Sale. The result is, that at the close of 1802, there was an augmentation of about Eleven Thousand and eight hundred Negroes to work at the ensuing Crop.

It is said, that taking the average of many Plantations, each & every Slave employed thereon, will make three thousand Pounds of Sugar. If it be so (and we do believe it to be true) there ought to be Eighty Eight thousand Boxes of Sugar more made in 1803 than the preceding Year. But, we cannot reckon on such an increase, by reason of a Drought, which prevailed nine Months in part of 1801, and 1802, and checked Vegetation to such a Degree, that the Effects are still visible throughout the Colony.

Strangers are led to suppose this Island blest with better Soil than any other in the West Indies; by the great quantity of Sugar, made with so few hands, but, when they are informed, that none but Men Slaves, are employed in its cultivation, and in nothing else; they will perceive, that more is to be attributed to the Cruel Economy of the Masters, than the fertility of the Land or the favour of the Climate; For, although both are good the scarcity of Running Streams, renders Cuba (or at least the Jurisdiction of the Havana) less fortunate than Hispaniola.

Lands are commonly purchased on long Credit, or rather a term for payment at the option and convenience of the Purchaser; The value of them is fixed and the Buyer pays yearly a Rent, or Tribute after the rate of five per Cent until it suits him to pay off the Principal: The prices vary, in proportion to the distance from the Havana; from water-carriage, from being to windward, or leeward, of this Port; and the quality of the Soil, as well as having running Water: insomuch, that the difference may be said to be from twenty to forty Dollars per Acre (British (say English) Statute measure).

This facility of acquiring Lands enables the Planter to invest his Capital in Buildings, Machines, Negroes, Cattle &c. and induces many to establish new Plantations consequently Produce must increase in proportion. But, at same time it keeps the Planter needy, and without ready Money, to pay for a sufficient number of hands for working the Ground to advantage because the same facility induces him to undertake to too great an extent, and this is one great cause of bad payment. But when the Estates shall be disencumbered, and the inter course with New-Spain free and open, This Colony must flourish in a degree unparaleled by any other, without Credit or Assistance from the Mother Country.

The foregoing Facts clearly exhibit the natural, political and adventitious, resources of this Jurisdiction at the present period, And at the same time proves sufficiently that out of the twelve thousand six hundred ^{and} Negroes and Slaves sold in 1802 more than two thousand, must remain unpaid for, at the latter end of that Year.

The most favourable time for the importation of Slaves at the Havana is from October to the last of January; Ground Provisions then abundant and the new Crop of Sugars is approaching or begun. But in laying in a Cargo for this Place all possible care and circumspection must be taken. No aged or ordinary Slaves should be bought, nor many Females although Young or handsome. But as many young Men as could by any means be procured, even tho' it were by bartering five Negroes for four Negroes or the like. For besides the languishing retail Sales always attendant on the disposal of Females, the difference of Price between them and Males is from thirty to forty Dollars per head less, and when the Women are old or ordinary it is often equal to the prime Cost in Africa. Therefore the purchase of Prime young Negroes cannot be too much recommended.

Foreign Vessels, bringing Slaves, cannot bring with them any other Merchandise whatsoever except the remains of the Cargo carried out to purchase Slaves in Africa, or Elephants Teeth, Palm Oil &c. from thence and if any such Vessel hath touched at any foreign Port and bartered or sold part of her Slaves, although she may bring the remainder of them she may not bring the proceeds of them or any part of them in any kind of the Produce of the West Indies on pain of confiscation of Ship & Goods.

On arrival off this Port every Master must have a written Manifest ready to deliver to the Governours Adjutant who will board him, and a Duplicate thereof for the Custom house Officer who will board him also; in which besides the names of the Vessel and Master, the number of Slaves on board, the names and number of Returned Goods, and the number of Elephants Teeth, quantity of Bees Wax, Palm Oil &c. must also be inserted These will be deposited in the Kings Stores until the Vessel is ready to depart when they will be restituted without paying any Duty.

Havana 5th October 1803.