

THE  
ISLAND OF CUBA

IN 1850

BEING A

*Description of the Island, its resources, productions, commerce &c*

BY

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# PREFACE.

The beautiful island of Cuba, being but little known, in this great Republic, although lying as it were at our very threshold, I venture to present to the public, at this moment, when every one is asking for information about this interesting territory, a pamphlet, containing a briefly written statement of a few facts, a part of the result, of the gleanings of ten years' research in the island, during eight of which, I edited the Havana Weekly Report & Price Current, which occupation afforded me some facilities in pursuing an investigation, my natural inclination caused me to make, relative to many things that are interesting to know about a country.

My travels previous to my residence in Cuba, had made me acquainted with parts of the four Grand divisions of the Earth, besides which, by the fire side, I had, in reading very many books of travels, visited every part of the globe, to which our race has penetrated, which circumstances have prepared me in a certain degree for the task of gathering information.

I have studied many things in the island, with great attention, and have read every book I could find, having reference to it; and have pored over all the maps of it, of any merit, that I might be able to write a geography and draw a map of it, for an intelligent and interesting young friend, a native of Havana, whom I wished to make well acquainted with her native isle, and which it was impossible to do with the information to be found in any single map, and in fact some things I wished to show, which were not to be found in any map of the island. I first drew the small map, a copy of which, with a few additions, I have just presented to the public, after which I drew one upon a larger scale, accurately marking the rivers and mountains, which I omitted on the small one, for the sake of avoiding confusion. The large one I hope to present to the public soon. The geography, from which I take some of the information contained in the following sheets, I wrote, as I was unable to find any geography of the island, containing any considerable statistical information.

Shortly after the publication of this, I intend to publish a larger work upon the island, in which I shall endeavour to have all possible order, and accuracy, that it may be a kind of standard for reference; for not trusting too much to my own judgement, or research, I have solicited the aid of those persons in the island, who are considered to know most about it.

Should the public receive my poor efforts with favour and indulgence, then I will publish a book, the title of which will be "Ten years in Cuba," and which will describe the inhabitants, as well as the island.

*Thomas W. Wilson.*



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## CUBA.

This valuable island, it will be seen, by reference to a good map, approaches very near to the temperate zone, its northern part near Havana being in 23 12' North latitude, the most Southern part being in 19 43'.

The great extent of the island is from East to West, its most eastern part being in 74, the western extremity stretching to Longitude 84 57' West of Greenwich.

The distance of the western part, from Yucatan, is about 125 miles, and the eastern part is separated from Hayti, by the windward channel, which is 50 miles wide. The northern side near Matanzas is about 150 miles from the Southern extremity of Florida, and on the South it approaches to within about 90 miles of the island of Jamaica.

In length the island is 770 English miles, or 830 Cuban miles, and its breadth varies from 25 at the narrowest part, to 90 English miles at the widest part. The greatest distance one can get from the sea is about 45 miles; and that is in the Eastern Department. Two thirds of island is from 60 to 80 miles in breadth, and it measures on its surface about 44,000 English square miles. The Eastern part is very mountainous and some of the peaks are from 7 to 8,000 feet above the level of the sea. Potrerillo near Trinidad in the Central Department is about 3,000 feet in height. The ridges in the Western Department are not so high. The valleys in the Eastern Department are described as being exceedingly picturesque and fruitful.

The island was discovered by Columbus, during his first voyage, on the 27 of October 1492. Ocampo in 1508 first circumnavigated it, and Diego Velazquez in 1511 formed the first settlement upon the island by Europeans, at Baracoa, from which place he went to where Santiago de Cuba now stands, and commenced that city.

During the administration of Diego Velazquez in 1519, Havana was founded. The cultivation of the sugar cane was introduced about 1580, and negroes began to be imported about four years later.

The island when first discovered, is supposed to have had an Indian population, of about 200,000, but these poor creatures soon died off, under the hardships the Europeans imposed on them. There are a few half breeds in the Eastern Department, the only visible remnant of that once numerous people.

The history of Cuba contains few interesting records, until about the middle of the last century. The colony during the 16 & 17th centuries, suffered greatly from the depredations of the pirates or Buccaneers, who attacked Havana more than once, and Santiago repeatedly, and even on one occasion marched to Puerto Principe in the interior of the island.

After the conquest of Mexico, all flocked to that country, in search of gold & silver, so that the island of Cuba was hardly considered in any other light, than that of a stopping place for the fleets, going to and returning from Mexico. As late as 1775 the exportation of sugar from Havana in a year, did not amount to as much as is shipped very often in one day, at present.

The English took Havana in 1763, and gave it up again to the Spaniards in 1763, in exchange for Florida. During the siege, great numbers of the

British fell victims to the vomito, and after getting possession of the city, besides the numbers that were carried off by sickness, many were poisoned, or assassinated by the people, who could not face them in the battle field. In this expedition were many brave lads from the New England Colony very few of whom returned to their homes.

Since Spain lost her Colonies on the Continent of America, Cuba has prospered so much, and has increased in wealth and population so rapidly, that from being, a neglected Colony, having to draw upon Mexico, for the funds necessary for her government, she has become the most flourishing spot on the globe, for which she is indebted to her climate, soil and situation, rather than to any great exertions on the part her inhabitants. The loss of Hayti sent many French inhabitants of that island to Cuba, where they settled in the neighborhood of Santiago de Cuba, and commenced the cultivation of Coffee. The cession of Louisiana & Florida induced many to go Havana, and the revolutions in the other colonies, and the expulsion of the Spaniards from them, added great numbers of the population of Cuba, and lastly, since that time, Cuba has been the principal place to which the people of the Peninsula have emigrated.

The position of the island is admirable, being within a few days sail from the Atlantic Ports of the U. S. and only two and half days steaming from New Orleans, so that when the telegraphic communications become completed throughout the States, the island will become, as it were, a grand manufactory and depot of sugar, to which orders for sugar may be sent from the most distant parts of the U. S. and which by steam, may be filled, in less time, than a little affair could have been accomplished between N. York and Philadelphia, in old times.

The soil is generally fertile, producing the sugar cane in the highest perfection, no part of the world is more favorable for its growth, and indeed, the climate and soil admit of the cultivation of all kinds of tropical fruits and productions, which might be cultivated in quantity, to reach ten times the present amount, as, of 24 million acres comprising the surface of the island only two million are under cultivation, about 3 million being in natural pasturage, 500,000 in artificial pasturage, 14 million in wood lands, and the rest 4 and half million are barren lands. In the western Department about one fourths of the land is barren, one fourth in woodlands and the remaining two fourth are equally devoted to cultivation and pasture. In the Central Department about one third is barren land, and only one 37th part is under cultivation, about an 11th part in pasture, and more than three fifths are woodlands. In the Eastern Department about a 12th is under cultivation, about 1/5 in pasture, 2/3 in woodlands, and only 1/6 barren.

Supposing the Island to be divided into 72 parts 13 would represent the size of the Western Dep. 31 the Central Dep and 28 the Eastern. Of the cultivated land, one half is in the Western Dep. 1/6 in the Central and 2/6 in the Eastern Dep. The principal agricultural productions are, the sugar cane, coffee, molasses, honey, rum, tobacco, wax, rice; cocoa and cotton are also produced with many other minor articles, of which, a statement will be given elsewhere.

I will now make some remarks about the production of sugar. The emancipation of the slaves in the British Islands, gave a great impetus, to the cultivation of the cane in Cuba, and consequently a demand for extra slave labor was created, which in spite of treaties and blockading squadrons, was fully supplied, which has facilitated the cultivation of it to such a degree, that it is estimated that about 1,500,000 boxes of sugar will be exported this year; whereas in 1832, the year in

which the British negroes were emancipated, the export did not amount to more than about 500,000 from the whole island. The box contains about 450 pounds. In 1839 the export from Havana and Matanzas amounted to 548,230 boxes, and in 1847 it had reached 1,006,767 boxes, from those two ports, and the exportation from the whole Island was about 1,350,000 boxes.

In 1841, when the number of sugar Estates on the island amounted to 1,238, upon which were employed, according to the census, but 138,701 persons, giving an average of 112 hands to each Estate, the exportation of sugar from all the ports of the island amounted to about 850,000, lbs. according to the Custom House returns, which would allow upon an average, 686 boxes to each estate, or six boxes to each hand; however, making allowance for the sugar not entered at the Custom House, as the article then paid an export duty of \$1 per box, and also taking into consideration, that which was consumed in the island, the produce of each estate upon an average might be about 900 boxes, or 8 to each hand; nor does this amount appear too great to allow, when the best lands afford upwards of 6,000 pounds of dry sugar, to the acre. In Louisiana where the best lands produce about 3,000 pounds to the acre, the average produce of each hand is about 5000 pounds.

From what I have written, it may be supposed that the number of Estates has increased since 1841, and certainly it has so, as in 1846 there were 1442 estates against 1238 in 1841, so that if the increase has been as great, during the last four years, there must be at present about 1,650 Estates in the island. Of the 1442 Estates in operation in 1846, 286 had steam machinery upon them, the rest expressed the juice, with machinery worked by cattle. Some of the Estates must be very small, as we find some with as few hands, as 8, and numbers with from 16 to 60. On the other hand there are many with from 300 to 400 hundred hands upon them. The largest production of any one estate I have ever heard of, was that of one near Trinidad, which is said to have produced about 10,000 boxes in one year. To the eastward of Matanzas, where the soil is new, I know of 6 Estates which have produced 8,000 boxes each. In a good season such Estates will yield a profit of upwards of 20 per cent upon their full value. The sugar making season begins in November, and ends in May. The sugar as it is made, is sent to Havana, etc., where it is stored, either in the basement of its owner's house or in the public warehouses, of which there are now some very extensive ones. Brokers take samples to the merchants, and after the usual preliminaries, it is sold and the cash paid down.

Besides the cultivation of the sugar cane, large quantities of coffee are produced, however, this article is not so extensively cultivated as it was some ten years since, when upwards of 50 million pounds' weight was exported from the different ports of the island. Last year the most favorable, during the last few years, showed but an export of 35 million pounds of coffee. Brazil has been able to furnish this product at a lower rate, and consequently that of Brazil has taken the place of Cuba coffee, in the markets of the United States; therefore sugar is now produced in many parts where coffee was once cultivated, or the hands have been turned over to new Estates, in the fertile regions in the neighborhood of Cardenas, etc.

The climate and soil of Cuba in general, is not so favorable for the cultivation of coffee, as it is for the sugar cane, tobacco and the others articles; however, the Eastern District appears to be well suited to the production of coffee, the crop there, being more certain, and the quality of the bean is infinitely superior. A hilly or rather mountainous country seems to be the most favorable to the tree

The celebrated Mocha Coffee, which is indigenous to Arabia and to that part of Africa on the opposite side of the Red Sea, grows, without cultivation on the rocky sides of the mountains.

After coffee, tobacco is the next article of consequence produced. There are various kinds, which derive their different qualities from the peculiarities of the soil in which they are cultivated.

The most esteemed is that which is produced in the Vuelta Abajo, about a hundred miles west of Havana, in the jurisdiction of New Filipina, of this, the finest Havana segars are made. It costs from 40 to 120 dollars per bale; according to the quality and the crop. Some years the crop is very inferior, so that it is impossible for a manufacturer always to supply the same quality of segars. The next to the tobacco of the Vuelta Abajo, is that called "Partido" some of which is very good, and is used in making those segars, of which astonishing bargains are very often obtained; by those who are little experienced in the purchase of segars. It is true, they are just as good as the best segars made of the Vuelta Abajo tobacco, to such persons, for their own use. The color of the tobacco is good, they smell well, and as all tastes do not find any particular difference in tobacco, whether it be Virginia or Havana, why then, they are very good for their own use, and to give away to certain friends; however, a person might find them rather difficult to sell, even at a loss, to those who are judges. There is another tobacco grown in the Western Department, in which the two classes I have mentioned are grown, it has a coarse leaf, and is called "De Vuelta Arriba," also the tobacco grown in the Eastern Department goes by that name, of which there are two kinds, the Santiago de Cuba tobacco and the Yara. The Yara tobacco is sometimes very fine, and of this the best Principe segars are made. Many persons have sown the Vuelta de Abajo seed in the States, but never; have they been able to raise tobacco from it in any respect similar in flavor to the original kind. The soil gives the flavor, and its cultivation cannot be extended even in Cuba.

The other articles of consequence produced, are wax, honey, and rice. The two first of these articles are exported in very large quantities, the last mentioned article is produced to the amount of 40,000 tierces or about 24 million of pounds, but is insufficient for the consumption of the island, so that large quantities of rice are imported from Charleston, Savannah, Spain, South America and latterly from Manilla, however that from Charleston is most esteemed, and from that place the largest quantity is imported. Wax is produced to the amount of about 800,000 pounds and honey to the amount of 2 million gallons. Cotton is little cultivated, 650 bales is as much as is produced.

The other vegetable articles are, all kinds of tropical fruits, sweet potatoes, yams, arrow-root, cocoa, indian corn, castor-oil, and different kinds of woods, such as cedar, mahogany, lancewood, and other hard woods used by turners, etc.

Cattle to the number of about 900,000 head are owned in the island, and there are about 200,000 horses, 50,000 mules and large numbers of smaller animals.

The annual product of the vegetable and animal creation, on a moderate calculation may be set down at about 75 million of dollars.

In minerals, the island is very rich; of Copper mines, no less than 114 mines have been discovered in the island, 57 in the Eastern Department 18 in the Central and 45 in the Western. The mine at Cobre worked by an English Company has shipped from 27,000 to 43,000 tons per annum, valued at from 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 million of dollars. The other Departments have not as yet shipped more than about 2,000 tons per annum. Coal, iron, silver and amianthus have been discovered.

Having spoken of the productions of the island, I now give a statement of the quantity and value of the several articles exported from it in 1847.

Sugar	1,342,001	boxes of 400 lbs.	\$21,063,000
Coffee	239,000	quintals	1,800,000
Molasses	245,000	hhds.	2,450,000
Honey	6,127	tierces	500,000
Rum	16,336	pipes	400,000
Wax, white	430	tons	320,500 } 429,000
Ditto, yellow	193	ditto	108,500 }
Tobacco	30,000	quintals	750,000 } 1,477,000
Ditto	72,740	bales	727,000 }
Segars	250,000	mille	3,000,000
Ditto, paper			150,000
Cotton	2,500	quintals	20,000
Copper ore	31,000	tons	3,700,000
Mahogany, etc.			400,000
Fruits and sundry articles			250,000
			<hr/>
			\$38,639,000
			764,362
			<hr/>
			Total . . . \$39,403,362

It will be seen by the foregoing table, that the value of articles exported, the produce of island was, in 1847, about 38 million of dollars, however, the official returns of the government, do not show near so large an amount, but it is well known that they only refer to the amount entered at the Custom House, at a nominal rate of value.

The revenue of the island is about 12 millions, 7,500,000 of which is derived from the duties on imports and exports, 6 1/2 millions is levied upon importations valued by the Customs at 25 million dollars, and about 800,000 dollars on exports valued at 26 million of dollars Custom House valuation.

The amount I have mentioned, (i.e.) 12 million of dollars, as the revenue of Cuba, is magnified by the author of the work entitled *Cuba and the Cubans*, to appear as 24 million of dollars, but on inspecting the statement, it is seen that he has multiplied the real amount by two.

*Cuba and the Cubans*, is about as correct, as most of the works, written about the United States, by certain consequential gentlemen of the Gawky family —shire —land, who are whisked through this country, on railroads and by steamers &c. during three or four months in summer, and afterwards return home to give their vast experience, as a picture of the true state of things in the country they have visited. Now any person with the least experience, knows very well, that it is impossible to gain much knowledge during a few months spent, as a few months must be, in flying through a vast extent of territory. I have seen many of these gentlemen in their travels, and it appears to me that their time is spent principally in pleading at the bar, in discussing politics with some funny old quiz, who has engaged them in conversation, or in discussing the merits of the os flesh of two countries. I suppose that Old Harry will next write a book of travels. "Travels up and down Pennsylvania Avenue. W. D. C."

Our every day experience shows at least, that much time is necessary to judge of the character of an individual, with whom we may associate, also

It is known; that much intimacy is necessary to find out his manners and customs, still there are men, who pass for sensible men, who pretend to be able to judge and to speak of the manners and customs of a whole nation, by merely seeing some indifferent specimens of the people; in some out of the way place. In many instances their information is from some old negro, who knows how to bleed massa's purse, assisting himself by some dismally black tale, which is listened to by the long ears of the philanthropist, whose dilated eyes show his wonder and his gullibility.

A philanthropist appeared in Havana some ten years since, and after sneaking about the British consulate some time, got hold of some statistics, the result of Mr. Tolme's experience. How he got them from the well liked Consul Tolme, Heaven knows. I do not; however, I know that he published them in his book, as his own, and now we have these old figures served up in Gazetters &c., and lately in Cuba and the Cubans, just as if Mr. Turnbull had brain sufficient for that kind of work. Mr. Turnbull however was, very expert in one thing, that is, in pushing Mr. Tolme out of office, and getting in himself, however, he did not keep it long, and probably he is now working for some country tailor, for after nearly coming to the Garrote in Havana, "equivalent to nearly coming to the gallows", for having been caught in the interior of the Island, amongst his favorite people, with whom he desires so much to amalgamate his fair skinned countrymen. Poor man! had any other than Valdez been governor, he would not now have been in this world of trouble. It is said that he presented a most deplorable sight when in the Morro-Castle, a prisoner, I can well believe he did, for at no time did he ever appear otherwise than pitiful, particularly when shuffling along the street, with one shoulder presented in advance of the other, as if he were desirous to get in somewhere at the expense of his neighbor.

**IMPORTS.** Dry goods of all descriptions come from France, Germany and England, Hardware also. From the U. S. all kinds of provisions and lumber are received. The following are the quantities of some of the principal articles imported from the U. S. &c.

Salt Fish from 150 to 200 thousand quintals  
 Jerked Beef 175,000 quintals.  
 Flour 170,000 to 180,000 barrels.  
 Lard 68,000 to 82,000 quintals.  
 Hams 11,000 quintals.  
 Cheese 6000 to 13,000 quintals.  
 Butter 4000 quintals.  
 Whale-oil 10,000 to 14,000 quintals.  
 Olive oil 175,000 to 200,000 arrobas.  
 Do. in bottles 5000 to 10,000 dozen bottles.  
 Cocoa 2200 to 5000 quintals.  
 Soap 40,000 to 50,000 quintals.  
 Salt 40,000 to 60,000 sacks.  
 Wine 30,000 to 40,000 pipes.  
 Do. French 2000 casks.  
 Gin 180,000 to 430,000 gallons.  
 Beer 80,000 dozen.  
 Nail 24,000 quintals.

The number of vessels that arrived from foreign ports in 1847 was 3741, of which 875 were Spanish, 1733 American, 670 British, 85 French, 72 German, and 113 belonged to other nations.

The population has increased lately more rapidly than might be expected. In 1582, there were 15,000 whites in the Island, 8 of whom resided in Havana, in 1650 the Island contained 30,000 whites, and in 1775 the whole population amounted to 172,620, in 1791 to 272,300, in 1817 to 505,033, in 1827 to 704,487 and in 1841 to 1,045,624.

The following table shows the proportion of colors at the time of the first census, and at that of the last.

	1775	1841
Whites	96,440	Whites including Troops &c., 456,290.
Colored	75,180	Colored 589,330.
	171,620	1,045,624.

A census is said to have been taken in 1846, but although I was there, I heard nothing of it at the time, I place no reliance on the result of it, for the purpose of calculating the probable number of inhabitants in the Island at present. From calculations I have made, taking the census of 1841 as a basis, I give 1,250,000 as a low estimate of the present population of Cuba. At the ratio of increase previous to 1841 it should be now, 1,400,000, however, various causes have prevented the slave population from increasing so rapidly as it did a few years back. The following is a classification of the present population:

Whites, including troops &c.,	605,560
Free Colored	205,570
Slaves	436,100
	1,247,230

From these statements it will be seen, that in 1775 the whites outnumbered the blacks, but that in 1841 the blacks outnumbered the whites, and now, that the numbers are about equal.

The blacks at one time increased rapidly, because the importations were large, but now that the trade is not brisk, the reverse of that is the case, as they do not increase from natural causes, the numbers of the sexes, being unequal.

The climate of course is warm, however, the heat is not so oppressive as it is in the Northern cities of the U. S., during what are called the hot days, and of which, from time to time there are from 10 to 15 during the summer.

During 6 years that I occupied a very cool room in Havana, I never saw the thermometer above 90 Farenheit, nor during the same period did I ever see it below 59 degrees, in the open air, at the coolest time of the year, at daybreak; after a norther had been blowing for some three days. The thermometer generally ranges during the day between 78 and 86 during the summer months, and between 68 and 78 during the winter months.

A stranger arriving from the North in winter, finds the climate very agreeable, It is true that at midday, the sun's rays are always powerful, but generally speaking, in the shade, at that season, the air is neither too warm nor too cool; one may either wear drill or fine cassimere, except when a strong norther blows, when a good cloth dress is found to be very agreeable wear.

These cold periods occur some seasons, two or three times every month, and last about three days each time, but some winters pass over with scarcely an interval of cold weather.

The month of March is generally very disagreeable during the day time, when clouds of dust are raised by the south wind, which prevails at that season. The end of April brings us to the warm season, and at the latter part of May the rainy season commences. Some years, the rain, in the month of June, falls without intermission for days together, but generally it falls for about one hour each day, for a number of days in succession, after which an interval of seven to ten days is experienced of fine weather, which is succeeded by another wet interval. The diurnal rains at any period, generally fall at the same hour each day: thus should it rain today at 12 M., tomorrow it might be expected to rain at the same hour.

### POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

Cuba is divided into three departments: the Western, the Eastern and the Central. And the departments are subdivided into twenty five jurisdictions, which contain 279 partidoses.

#### WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

This department contains ten jurisdictions, viz: Havana, Matanzas, Nueva Filipinas, San Antonio, Bejucal, Santiago, Guines, Guanabacoa, Rosario and Jaruco. It also contains 6 cities, 3 towns and 148 villages, 735 sugar estates, 1,012 coffee plantation. Its population consist of 225,500 whites, 88,300 free people of color and 320,500 slaves, total 734,300 souls.

#### *Nueva Filipinas.*

This is the most western jurisdiction of the Western Department, which after the jurisdiction of Havana is by far the the largest in this department. It is surrounded by water in all direction except in the East, where it is bounded by the jurisdiction of Havana. The length of this division from Cape San Antonio to its boundary line three miles east of San Diego de los Baños is about 42 English leagues, and its mean breadth is about 18 leagues.

This large district, in the least populous and cultivated part of the Western Department. It contains but 13 small towns and villages, the most populous of which is Pinal del Rio, with a population of about 1,000 souls, the rest, altogether contain about 1,800 inhabitants. There are but four sugar estates and one coffee plantation in this large extent of country, however, the Vegas or plantations of the fine Vuelta Abajo tobacco are in the south eastern part of it.

The population of this jurisdiction is about 47,500 persons, 26,000 of which are white, 5,500 free colored, and 10,000 slaves.

This district is mountainous, a ridge commences at the Ensenada de Gadiana and runs through the whole length of it. By mariners one part of it is called Los Organos. The principal elevation the Pan de Guayabon attains a height of about 2,600 feet.

Rivers, these lie on the south side, that is the principal ones, which are, the Cuyaguataque the San Juan, Rio del Pinal, the Hondo, and the San Diego. The longest does not exceed twelve leagues in length.

#### *Jurisdiction of Havana.*

This jurisdiction is largest in the Western Department, and the most populous and best cultivated, in the whole island. It extends from Nueva Filipinas to the Central Department, being in length about 72 English leagues. In breadth it varies from 8 to 20 leagues.

This jurisdiction is bounded on the north by the sea, and on the south by the small jurisdictions of San Antonio, Bejucal, Santiago, and Guines, and the sea. <sup>NO</sup> the East it has the Central Department, and on the West Nueva Filipinas.

This district contains 1 city, 60 small towns, and 35 villages, 437 sugar estates, 520 coffee plantations, and is inhabited by 451,000 person, of whom 200,000 are white, 65,000 free colored, and 189,000 slaves.

Rivers. The principal rivers on the south side, are the Rio de Bayete and the Mayabeque, the latter is about 30 miles long. On the north is the Rio de la Palma about 10 leagues in length.

Bays and Harbours. On the north there are the bays of Honda, Cabañas, Mariel, Havana and Cardenas.

Havana the principal city of island, and the capital, is the residence of the Captain General and the seat of government. It is situated on the northern side of the island, in latitude 23 8', and 82 22 longitude west of Greenwich and is about 650 miles distant, in a south west direction from New Orleans. Havana as a commercial city, compared with, places in the western world, ranks next to New York and New Orleans. The value of the exports and imports together exceeds fifty million of dollars per annum. In 1847 about 644,863 boxes of sugar were exported from this port and 82,000 quintals of coffee, 32,000 hds molasses, 198,267 mille segars, and 25,000 quintals of tabacco. During the same year 1810 vessels entered the port, from foreign parts, measuring 372,798 tons.

From 6 to 7 thousand strangers land every year at Havana, which has steam communication between it and England, and the different West India Islands, also between it and New Orleans, New York, and Charleston, there are semi-monthly steam communications and packets are constantly going between it and the principal ports of Europe, the United States, etc.

The population of Havana and the small places around it, is about 200,000 souls. The foreign residents, number about 3,000, and of Peninsular Spaniards, there are about 22,000.

Of the foreigners, about 700 are from the United States, 700 from France, 800 from Mexico, South America, etc., 100 Italians, 300 English subjects, and some 300 Germans and other Europeans.

The ordinary number of troops stationed in Havana, is about 8,000 men; at the present moment there are from 18 to 20 thousand troops in the whole island.

The navy consists of about 22 vessels, large and small, amongst which number there are 5 steamers. These vessels altogether, mount 377 cannons, and are manned by about 4,000 sailors, etc.

The city within the walls, contains about 3,671 houses, and outside walls, not including the suburban villages, about 11 thousand. There are about 16 churches inside the walls; those outside are small, and few, in number.

The streets being narrow, and little accomodation being required by the negroes, and as several of a family sleep in the same room, and sometimes the whole family, a house accomodates a greater number of persons in Havana, than one does in the United States or in Europe, the consequence is, that the place is not so extensive for the population, as cities are in those parts.

In the city there are about 300 physician and surgeon, 300 lawyers, 50 notaries public, 60 apothecaries, and there are about 7,000 to 8,000 private and public carriages.

There are five daily papers, and several weekly and monthly periodicals. The markets of Havana are well supplied with meats, fowls, fruits, and vegetables; and in general the people live well. Board and lodging may be had from 30 to 100 dollars per month, the counting house clerk pays, from 20 to 30 dollars per month, for his meals, and his room many cost him 8 to 14 dollars per month.

Paying by the meal is rather an expensive mode of living in Havana, as a dinner of a very moderate description costs about a dollar.

The largest part of the population resides outside the walls. The city proper is about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles in circumference, and is defended on the land side by a high wall and a fosse. The wall is about  $1\frac{1}{8}$  miles in length, it is built across the tongue of land upon which Havana stands and is slightly curved like a bow.

The city inside and outside the walls is lighted with gas, and is well supplied with water, an aqueduct bringing river water from a distance, and every house has its cistern and well. The night watch is composed of a large body of vigilant guardians, so that it is safer in the streets, after they go on guard at 8 P. M. than it is during the day, or in the evening, previous to that hour.

Cardenas another port in this jurisdiction is a place containing about 3,000 inhabitants, and is situated about 75 miles to the eastward of Havana. The principal export from this place is molasses, of which about 75,000 hhds were shipped in 1847, principally to the United States. Of sugar about 4,500 hhds of 1,500 pounds each were exported. The amount of duties paid at the Custom House, during the same year, was about \$95,000. The value of imports was about \$300,000.

The ports of Mariel, Cabañas and Bahia Honda are to the westward of Havana; the first about 30 miles, the second about 40, and the last about 55.

Batabano is a small town on the southern side of the island, and serves as a landing place for passengers by the steamers, plying on the southern coast of the island.

#### *Jurisdiction of Matanzas.*

This district extends about 6 leagues, in every direction from the city of Matanzas; it contains 1 city and 17 towns and villages, 184 sugar estates and 148 coffee plantations. Its population at present, is about 95,000, of which number, 36,000 are whites, 6,000 free colored, and 53,000 are slaves.

The principal rivers in this jurisdiction, are the San Juan, the Canas and the Camarones; the length of the longest, is but 7 leagues.

This cannot be called a mountainous district, the highest elevation is the Pan of Matanzas, situated about 2 leagues west of Matanzas, it attains an elevation of 1200 feet.

Matanzas, the principal place in this district, is situated about 55 miles to the eastward of Havana. This place was founded in 1693, but it is only of late years, that it has been of any consideration. It now contains about 25,000 inhabitants, and ranks as the third port of the island. Its principal exports are sugar and molasses: of the former 361,000 boxes were embarked for foreign ports, in 1847, and of the latter, 52,000 hhds. Of coffee about 25,000 quintals were shipped. The number of arrivals during the same year was 512 from foreign ports. The imports by Custom House valuation, amounted to about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million of dollars.

*Jurisdictions of San Antonio, Bejucal, Santiago and Guines.*—These are four small districts, immediately south of the city of Havana. They are the

most populous, and the best cultivated of any of the jurisdictions, producing sugar and coffee, also fruits in great abundance.

San Antonio lies southwest of Havana. It is about 8 leagues in length, and about three in breadth. On the north and west, it is bounded by the jurisdiction of Havana, on the east by Bejucal and on the South by the sea. It contains 5 towns, 12 sugar estates, and 197 coffee plantations, and a population of 42,000, of which number 15,000 are whites, 3000 free colored, and 24,000 are slaves.

The largest town in this district is San Antonio, containing about 5500 inhabitants. It has rather a pretty appearance, and is connected with Havana, from which it is distant about 25 miles, by a railroad. It is much frequented by bathers, during the summer, and is the residence of a great many wealthy planters. There are several mineral springs in the place, and the country in the vicinity is very beautiful, being adorned by numerous plantations of the dark leaved coffee, which with the orange, the plantain and other trees, give quite the appearance of a shrubbery.

BEJUCAL.—This district is bounded by Santiago on the east, San Antonio on the west, and by the sea on the south. It contains one place denominated city, and nine towns and villages, 24 sugar estates and 62 coffee plantations. The population of the jurisdiction is 26,500, of which number 12000 are whites, 2000 free people of color and 12500 slaves.

SANTIAGO.—This jurisdiction is situated between Bejucal and Guines. It contains 7 towns, 12 sugar estates and 36 coffee plantations, and about 17,200 inhabitants of whom 8000 are whites.

GUINES.—This district lies to the westward of Santiago. It is bounded on the south by the sea. It contains 48 sugar estates, and 50 coffee estates, and has a population of 28,000, of which number 14,090 are whites.

Guines, which by railroad is about 50 miles from Havana, is quite a thriving town, in this district, much resorted to, by invalids, from the United States, and as it is, in the centre of a rich district, it is likely to become quite a considerable place; at present it contains between four and five thousand inhabitants. In this town there is an inn kept by an American.

The river of Guines is about 30 miles in length, it is the only one of consideration in the district.

Santa Maria del Rosario, about 4 leagues S. W. from the city of Havana, is a small district, containing about 3800 inhabitants.

Jucaro is another small district about 5 leagues to the eastward of Santa Maria, and contains 3800 inhabitants and a few sugar and coffee estates.

Guanabacoa is a district of small extent, a few miles from Havana; it contains 19,000 inhabitants, 5 towns, 12 sugar estates and 5 coffee plantations.

The town of Guanabacoa, about a league distant from Havana, built upon some hills, is the summer retreat of a great many families of the Havana, who go there for the purpose of bathing; also to enjoy a cooler and purer air. To visit this place, it is necessary, if you reside in Havana, to cross the harbour in the Regla ferry boat, and from Regla you can either proceed to Guanabacoa by the omnibus, or in a quitrin, or by railroad.

There are no good inns in this place, therefore your visit there, will have to be a short one, without you have friends there, to whose house you can go. A person staying there during the summer, takes a house, there being no boarding house in the place.

THE ISLAND OF PINES.—This island is situated about 20 leagues south by east, from Batabano. In length, from Cape Frances to Point-East, it is about



16 leagues, and from north to south, it is about 14 leagues. It contains a population of about 800 souls. The town of Nueva Gerona is on the north side, and contains about 350 inhabitants.

The island is mountainous and barren, and is principally covered with Pine trees, from which, at the present time, a company is engaged in making spirit of turpentine. There are some quarries of very fine marble in the island, which are being worked by a private individual.

The climate of the island is said to be very beneficial to persons of delicate health, particularly to those troubled with pulmonary diseases.

Daguilla is the highest peak, it is about 1500 feet high.

There are regular packets between Batabano and Nueva Gerona.

#### CENTRAL DEPARTMENT.

This department comprises almost one half of the whole territory of the island; nevertheless, it is the least cultivated, and the population is thinner, than in any other part of the island.

This province presents fewer mountains, than either the Eastern or Western Department, but it contains a greater extent of barren land, than either of those divisions. Of 317,223 caballerías, comprising this department, 8764 are under cultivation, 24,021 are natural pasturage, 5165 artificial pasturage, and no less than 188,123 are woodlands, and 90,850 are barren lands. The caballería is about 33 acres.

This department owns about 457,000 head of cattle, also large numbers of horses are raised, and of hogs it has some 500,000. Sugar is largely manufactured, which with hard woods form the principal export from the ports of Sagua la Grande, San Juan and Nuevitas on the north side, and from Cienfuegos and Trinidad on the south.

This department contains 246,000 inhabitants, of whom 153,000 are whites, 42,500 free people of color and 50,500 slaves. There are 46 towns, 404 sugar estates, 76 coffee plantations, 967 tobacco vegas, and 4881 grazing farms.

The mineral kingdom of this department has not as yet been well explored; however, 18 copper mines have been discovered, also one of amianthus.

The department is divided into 6 jurisdictions, viz: Cienfuegos, Sta. Clara, Trinidad, San Juan de los Remedios, Sancti Spiritu, and Puerto Principe.

CIENFUEGOS is the most western district of the Central Department. It is bounded on the north and northwest by the Western Department, on the north-east by Sta. Clara, on the south and southwest by the sea, and on the south-east by Trinidad; in length it is about 45 leagues and varies in breadth from 6 to 12 leagues. The western part is barren, and almost without inhabitants. In a space, 24 leagues in length, by 6 in breadth, there is not a single town. The part to the eastward contains 8 towns, 80 sugar estates, 6 coffee plantations, and 28,000 inhabitants, of whom 7,500 are slaves, and 3500 free people of color.

This district is without any elevation of note, and is generally level land except towards its boundary with Trinidad.

There are two large bays in it, the Ensenado de Cochinos and the bay of Jagua, on which the town of Cienfuegos is situated, in latitude 22, 8, and longitude 80, 45 west of Greenwich. It contains an increasing population of about 5400 souls. There are several foreign houses in this place. Its principal commerce is with the U. States, Great Britain, and the British colonies. In 1847, of 27,500 hhds. and 8871 boxes of sugar and 15,000 hhds. of molasses,

12,500 of the first, 3,500 of the second and 8500 of the last went to the United States. To Great Britain were exported 8300 hhds. and 2000 boxes of sugar. 223 vessels entered the port in 1847 from foreign ports. The Custom House value of exports in 1847 was 1,054,000 dollars, and the imports 577,000

Cienfuegos communicates with Havana by steamboat to Batabano, thence to the city by railroad. Distance about 180 miles.

#### *Jurisdiction of Trinidad.*

Trinidad is situated to the eastward of Cienfuegos. It is a small district being about 12 leagues in length, by about 7 in breadth. It is a mountainous country; the highest mountain, the Potrerillo, is about 3000 feet in height. There are several bays on its coasts, the names of which are the Puerto de Casildas, Bahía de Musio, Ensenados de Caballones, and Jobabo.

It contains one city, and two towns, 50 sugar estates, and 46 coffee plantations, and 35,000 inhabitants, 15,000 of which number are whites, and 20,000 are colored.

Trinidad is the principal place in this district, and ranks as the fourth port in the Island. It is in latitude 21. 42 and in longitude 80. 14 west of Greenwich. The city stands upon elevated ground, and is a very cool and pleasant place, for the tropics. It is the residence of many rich landed proprietors and merchants, and from its port Casilda, exports large quantities of sugar, molasses, coffee &c. In 1847 88,500 boxes of sugar, 28,895 hhds. of molasses and 2000 qls. of coffee were exported. About a half of the sugar, and almost all the molasses went to the United States. 16,000 boxes of sugar and 190 qls. of coffee were shipped to Bremen.

The Custom House returns show 1,342,000 dollars as the value of exports and \$753,000 as that of the imports. 218 vessels entered the port from foreign parts in 1847, of which number 115 were from the United States.

SANTA CLARA.—This district is situated to the north of Cienfuegos, and has Remedios to the east, and the Western department to the west. In length it is about 18 leagues, and in breadth about 16. There are in this jurisdiction 6 towns, 97 sugar estates and 64 coffee plantations. The population amounts to about 58,000, of which number 40,000 are whites, and only 8000 slaves and 10,000 free colored people, which shows that in this part of the Island the whites are two, to one black.

Villa Clara, situated in the southern part of the jurisdiction, about the centre of the Island, is quite a large town, containing 9000 inhabitants. This year a railroad has been begun, to extend to Cienfuegos, and it is contemplated to extend another to San Juan de los Remedios.

Sagua la Grande, the port of this jurisdiction, is on the northern side of the Island, about 150 miles east of Havana. Its population is about 2500, and it has an increasing commerce. The exports in 1847 amounted by official returns, to \$743,000, and the imports to 126,000 dollars, and the arrivals from foreign parts were 112. The principal part of the foreign business of this place is done with the United States.

The principal rivers are Sagua la Grande, and Sagua la Chica; the first is about 90 miles long, and the last about 60.

In the southern part of the district, there are some mountains, but in general it is level.

San Juan de los Remedios, is situated to the east of Santa Clara; it is about 16 leagues in length by about 13 in breadth. It contains 3 towns, 17 sugar estates,

and 5 coffee plantations, and has a population of about 19,500 persons, 13,000 of which number are whites.

The town of San Juan de los Remedios is situated in latitude 22.30, and in longitude 79.45 west of Greenwich. It contains about 6,000 inhabitants, and has an export trade, to the amount of 100,000 dollars per annum, and an import business, valued at 70,000 dollars by the Customs.

There are no rivers of any importance in this district. An extensive ridge of mountains, called the Sierra Matahambre extends about 50 miles to the eastward of San Juan.

SANCTI SPIRITUS is a large and thinly populated district, to the westward of Puerto Principe. It contains a population of 42,500, of which 28,000 are whites, 7,500 free colored, and 7,000 slaves. There are in this district 7 towns 50 sugar estates, and 6 coffee plantations.

Sancti Spiritus, is the principal town in this district, it contains about 12,000 inhabitants.

There are some mountains in this jurisdiction, in the north west, near its boundary with San Juan de los Remedios. The principal are the Sierras Jatibonico and Alonzo.

Towards Trinidad there are some peaks, amongst which are the Pico Tuerto and the Pan de Azucar.

The only rivers of any magnitude, are the Saza and Jatibonico, on the southern side.

PUERTO PRINCIPE in the eastern part of the Central Department, is the largest and most thinly populated jurisdiction in the island. It is covered with dense forests and pasture lands, upon which large numbers of cattle are fed.

There are 19 towns in this division, 112 sugar estates, and only 2 coffee plantations. The population is 63,000, the whites numbering 40,000, the free colored 10,000, and the slaves 13,000.

The city of Puerto Principe, is in the centre of the jurisdiction, and contains about 35,000 souls. It communicates with Havana, by a rail-road to Nuevitas, the port of the jurisdiction on the north, thence by steamers or coasters to Havana. The distance of Nuevitas from Havana is 400 miles. The value of exports in 1847 was \$316,000, and of imports \$350,000, and the number of arrivals from foreign parts was 62.

Santa Cruz on the south sides contains about 500 inhabitants. In 1847, its exports, by the Custom House returns, were valued at \$132,000 and the imports at \$66,000.

The principal elevated land in this part, is the Sierra Cubitas, about 25 miles north of the city of Puerto Principe.

The principal rivers on the south are the Altamira, the Santa Clara, San Juan, and Sevilla, and on the north, the Caunada, the Jeguey, the Maximo and Saraguacon.

#### EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

This department is divided into 9 jurisdictions, viz : Manzanillo, Bayamo, Holguin, Guisa, Jaguani, Cobre, Santiago de Cuba, Baracoa, and Moa. It contains a population of 226,930 souls, amongst which are 87,060 whites, 74,770 free people of color, and 65,100 slaves. There are 20 towns, 303 sugar estates, 580 coffee plantations, 4,145 tobacco vegas, 3,308 grazing farms and 173,000 head of cattle in this Department.

This is the most mountainous part of the island, and is well adapted to the production of very superior coffee, of which large quantities are exported.

Bayamo the most western part of the jurisdiction, contains a population of 37,000 persons, of whom 12,000 are whites, 20,000 free colored, and 5,000 slaves. There are but 3 towns in this district, 50 sugar estates and 4 coffee plantations.

Bayamo, the principal town is situated on the east bank of the river Bayamo, a branch of the Cauto. It contains about 10,000 inhabitants.

This district is watered by the largest river in the island, the Cauto, about 150 miles in length, and navigable for about 60 miles. It discharges its waters to the north of Manzanillo.

Holguin, on the northern side of the Eastern Department, contains a population of about 31,000 souls, 24,000 of which belong to the whites. It contains but 2 towns, and 23 sugar estates.

The principal town Holguin, contains about 5,000 inhabitants, and the port of Jibara, about 1,000. This port exported to the value of \$388,000, principally in tobacco, and in the same year 1847, imported to the value of 250,000 dollars.

There are many fine harbours in this district, and several rivers, amongst which are the Yarey, the Santo Domingo and Chapara.

Manzanillo, is the most southern district in the island, it contains but 2 towns and 46 sugar estates, and 18,000 inhabitants.

The principal exports from Manzanillo, a place of 4,000 inhabitants, are hardwoods and tobacco. The value of exports in 1847, was \$298,000 and imports \$168,000. 71 vessels entered the port of Manzanillo from foreign parts in that year.

Jaguani, Guisa, and Cobre are three small jurisdictions, between Manzanillo and Santiago de Cuba containing collectively, about 21,000 inhabitants, the majority of whom are classed as white. In the eastern part of Cobre, are the famous copper mines, which have yielded in one year, ore to the value of 4 1/2 million of dollars. The mines are about 9 miles from the city of Santiago de Cuba and the ore is sent to the city by a rail-road, which was finished in 1844.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, is the largest and most important jurisdiction in the Eastern Department. It is washed on the north and south by the sea, and bounded on the east by Baracoa and on the west by Holguin, Jaguani, and Cobre. It is about 100 miles in length and about 65 in breadth. It is mountainous, and very fruitful, containing near the city of Santiago about 540 coffee estates. Of sugar estates there are about 153. There are 7 towns in the jurisdiction, and 108,000 inhabitants, of which number only 28,000 are whites, 30,000 free colored, and 50,000 slaves. The city of Santiago de Cuba in latitude 20, and longitude 75.6 west of Greenwich, is the second port in the island, and contains a population of about 35,000 inhabitants. It is strongly fortified and contains a large garrison. The exports in 1847 were 12,000,000 pounds of coffee, a small crop, 11,000 boxes and 15,684 hhds of sugar, 42,467 bales of tobacco, 5,982,000 segars, 3,350 tons of fustic, 1,439 hhds molasses, 695 bales cotton, and 1867 puncheons of rum; also, 27,000 tons of copper were shipped to Swasea, worth altogether about 5 1/2 to 6 million of dollars. The importation during the same time, by official returns amounted to about 2 1/2 million of dollars. In 1847, 355 vessels entered from foreign parts.

This jurisdiction is very mountainous, the principal ridges are the Sierra Maestra, Nipe, Cuchillas de Santa Catalina, Cristal, and the Loma de Quemado Grande. The principal rivers are the Mayari, the Nipe, the Beita, and Sagua on the north, and the Yateras, the Guantanamo, and Bacanao on the south. There are numerous bays, both on the northern and southern coast.

Baracoa is the most eastern district of the island, and is surrounded by water, except where it is united to Santiago de Cuba. It was the first settled of all the island; however, it is about the least attended to at present, containing but 10,600 inhabitants, 4,000 of which are whites. There is but one sugar estate and 24 small coffee plantations in this district. The city of Baracoa, is the port of the district, it contains about 4,000 inhabitants, and exports in tobacco and fruits, principally to the United States, to the amount of 40,000 dollars, and imported rather more than that amount in 1847, principally in provisions and lumber.

The principal mountains are the Cuchillas de Baracoa, the Toar, the Sierra Frijol and Yunque.

The rivers, are the Joar, the Jiguani, the Maizi, the Yumuri, the Joyo and the Jucaro.

The coast is indented with numerous bays, and harbours. Moa is a very small district, on the north coast, between Santiago de Cuba, and Baracoa. It contains about 120 inhabitants.

I must now conclude my brief description of Cuba, as the printer says he has enough material, for a pamphlet of the size I wish to publish, but should I, in the sale of it, obtain enough to pay for its publication, and have a little left to purchase a crust, I will commence another work, which I will try to make more useful and interesting.

37 Notices of the Press of New Orleans respecting WILSON'S Map of Cuba.

MAP OF CUBA.—We have received from Mr. THOMAS W. WILSON a statistical map of Cuba, containing much valuable information respecting that Island, which at this moment possesses peculiar interest. Mr. WILSON was for many years a resident of the Island, and has a very accurate knowledge respecting it. The map is for sale at the principal book-stores, and at the author's depot, No. 15 Exchange Alley. (*Commercial Bulletin*.)

MAP OF CUBA.—Wilson's statistical map of Cuba, valuable at the present time for reference, is for sale at Messrs. Morgan's, White's, Steel's, Norman's Bronsema's, Godin's, Lelievre's, Schwarz, and at Messrs. Bormare; also, at the author's depot at No. 15 Exchange Alley. (*Daily Crescent*.)

WILSON'S STATISTICAL MAP OF CUBA, 1850.—The author has presented us with this map, just lithographed by Theuret, Exchange Alley. The three departments into which the Island is divided are represented by different colorings. There is grouped together in it a large amount of statistical information, which, at the present time, is of unusual interest. (*Daily Delta*.)

\* MAP OF CUBA.—We have received from T. W. Wilson, 15 Exchange Alley, a copy of his recently published statistical map of Cuba. This is a most excellent publication, showing at a glance the different military divisions and jurisdictions into which the island is divided, the number of inhabitants—white, slave and free colored—and the sugar and coffee plantations in each. (*Picayune*.)

MAPA DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.—Hemos recibido del Sr. T. W. Wilson, un excelente mapa estadístico de la Isla de Cuba, que acaba de publicarse en la imprenta de Mr. D. Theuret. El mapa del Sr. Wilson es la obra de su clase mas correcta que hemos visto, y el único exacto que puede hallarse en los Estados Unidos. La larga residencia del señor Wilson en la Isla de Cuba le facilitaron obtener datos de suma importancia para la obra que acaba de publicar, y podemos recomendarla á todos aquellos que deseen saber con exactitud cual es el número de habitantes, sus clasificaciones, el número de poblaciones, ingenios, cafetales, &c.

Por el anuncio que insertamos en otro lugar se verá que, á fin de facilitar á nuestro lectores el que puedan obtener el mapa sin irlo á buscar á las librerías americanas, el señor Wilson ha establecido un depósito en la oficina de este periódico, No. 15 Callejon de la Bolsa San Luis. (*La Patria*.)

MAP OF CUBA.—We have received from the author, "Wilson's Statistical Map of Cuba," a neat and well designed view of the "ever faithful isle," which we heartily recommend to the attention of the public. Mr. Wilson was formerly editor of the Havana Report and has had opportunities of obtaining valuable statistics, of which he has availed himself, as is evidenced by the excellent map he has got up. At this time when public attention is directed towards Cuba, this Map is doubly attractive, presenting as it does, not only the geographical features of the island, but a statement of the population, á classification thereof, and its distribution, the number of sugar coffee and tobacco estates &c. &c. (*True Delta*.)

Mr. Wilson's works are for sale at all the principal bookseller's in N. Orleans, and can be obtained of himself at 15 or 18 Exchange Alley.