

CHAP. XII.   
 “ Spayne, or sent thither from this iland, which nowe so  
 “ abundeth in many thynges, that it serveth Spayne with  
 “ many commodities, as it were with usury requityng such  
 “ benefites as it fyrst received from thense (*b*).

It is probable that St. Domingo had now attained the summit of its prosperity. About sixty years afterwards (1st January 1586) it was attacked by Sir Francis Drake; a narrative of whose expedition, by an eye-witness, is preserved in Hakluyt's Collection; from which it appears, that it was, even then, a city of great extent and magnificence; and it is shocking to relate, that, after a month's possession, Drake thought himself authorized, by the laws of war, to destroy it by fire. “ We spent the early part of the mornings (says the historian of the voyage) in firing the outmost houses; but they being built very magnificently of stone, with high loftes, gave us no small travell to ruin them. And albeit, for divers dayes together, we ordeined ech morning by day-break, until the heat began at nine of the clocke, that two hundred mariners did nought els but labour to fire and burn the said houses, whilst the souldiers, in a like proportion, stood forth for their guard; yet did we not, or could not, in this time, consume so much as one third part of the towne; and so in the end, wearied with firing, we were contented to accept of five and twenty thousand ducats, of five shillings and sixpence the peece, for the ransome of the rest of the towne (*c*).”

OF

(*b*) From a translation by Richard Eden, printed, London 1555, in black letter.

(*c*) The following anecdote, related by the same author, is too striking to be overlooked. I shall quote his own words: During the stay of the English army  
 in