

OF the present condition of this ancient city, the number of its inhabitants, and the commerce which they support, I can obtain no account on which I can depend. That it hath been long in its decline, I have no doubt; but that it is wholly depopulated and in ruins, as Raynal asserts, I do not believe. The cathedral and other publick buildings are still in being, and were lately the residence of a considerable body of clergy and lawyers. The city continued also, while under the Spanish government, the diocese of an archbishop, to whom, it is said, the bishops of St. Jago in Cuba, Venezuela in New Spain, and St. John's in Porto Rico, were suffragans. These circumstances, added to the security, commodiousness, and extent of the port or harbour, containing throughout not less than

in the city, "it chanced that the general sent on a message to the Spanish governor, a negro boy with a flag of white, signifying truce, as is the Spaniards ordinary manner to do there, when they approach to speak to us; which boy unhappily was first met withall by some of those who had been belonging as officers for the king in the Spanish galley, which, with the towne, was lately fallen into our hands, who, without all order or reason, and contrary to that good usage wherewith we had intertained their messengers, furiously strooke the poor boy thorow the body, with which wound the boy returned to the general, and, after he had declared the manner of this wrongfull crueltie, died forthwith in his presence; wherewith the generall being greatly passion'd, commanded—the provost martiall to cause a couple of friers, then prisoners, to be carried to the same place where the boy was stroken, and there presently to be hanged; dispatching, at the same instant, another poor prisoner, with the reason wherefore this execution was done, and with this further message, that untill the party who had thus murdered the general's messenger, were delivered into our hands to receive condigne punishment, there should no day passe wherein there should not two prisoners be hanged, until they were all consumed which were in our hands. Whereupon the day following, hee that had been captaine of the king's galley, brought the offender to the towne's end, offering to deliver him into our hands; but it was thought to be a more honourable revenge to make them there, in our sight, to performe the execution themselves, which was done accordingly."

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