

*A Voyage in the West Indies:*  
John Augustine Waller's .  
. . "familiar view of the  
West India Islands"

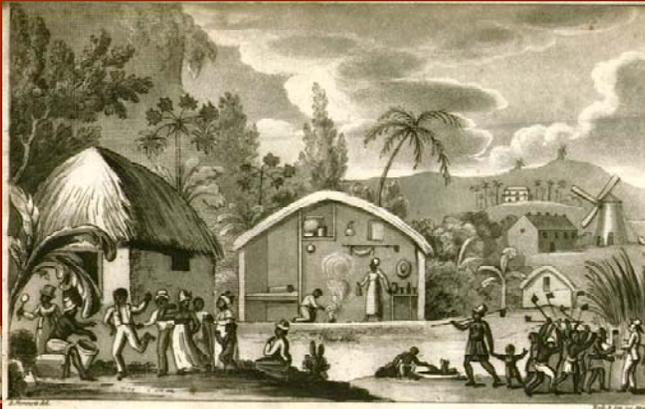
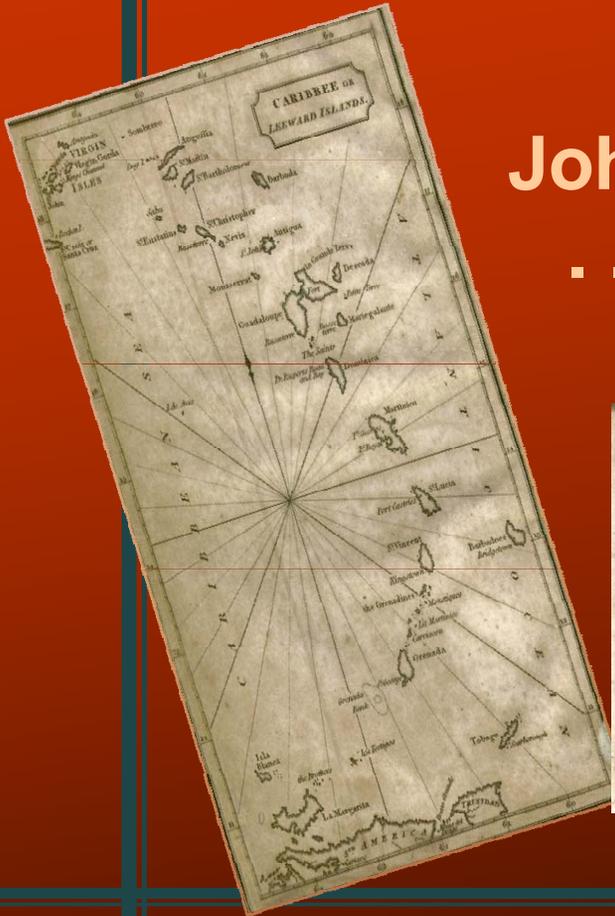
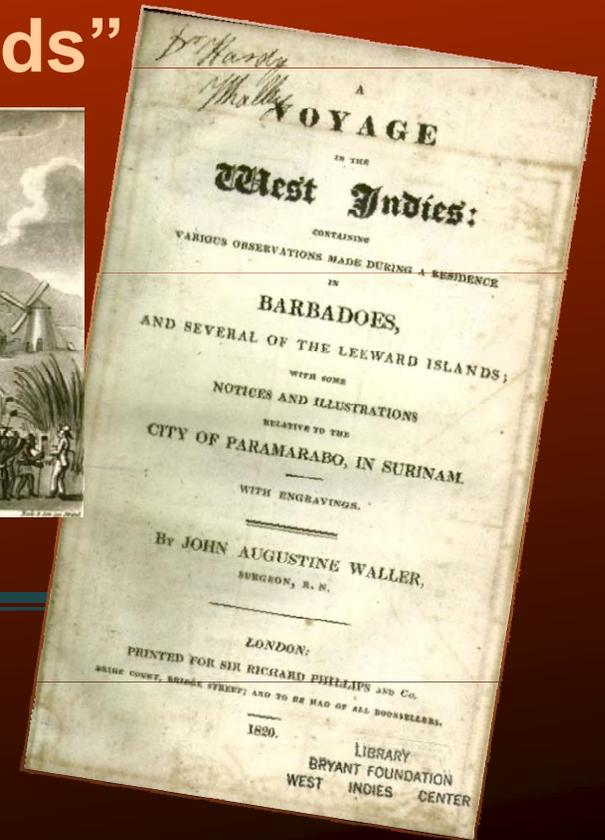


Plate from *Voyage in the West Indies*



Jo Anne Harris, PhD  
Caribbean Scholarship in the Digital Age  
Caribbean Speaker Series  
September 15, 2009

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# Caribbean Scholarship in the Digital Age

## The Digital Framework

- Archival Research
  - Physical access to texts/artifacts
  - Virtual digital representations
- Historical Context
  - Events
  - People
  - Places
- Rhetorical Analysis
  - Multiple Modalities (WOVEN)
  - Contemporary contexts
  - Digital delivery
    - Dloc
- Future Research -

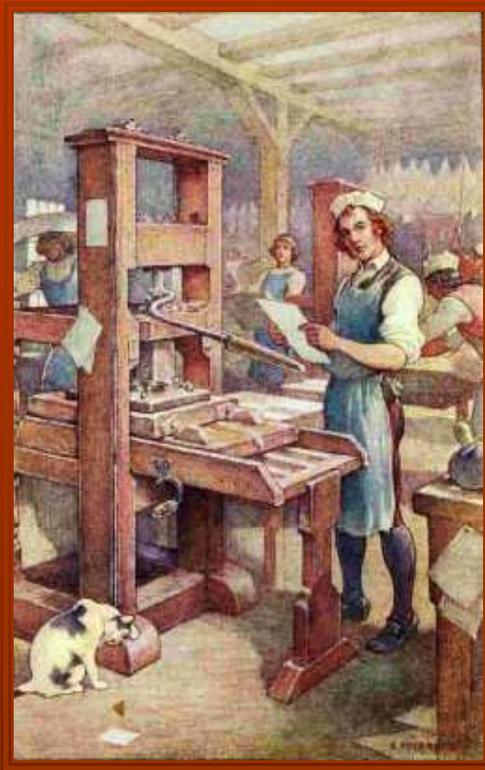


# Two Case Studies

- The Newspaper
  - Overview
  - Samuel Keimer: *Universal Instructor... Pennsylvania Gazette; Barbados Gazette; Caribbeana(1741)*
- Personal Account
  - John Augustine Waller: *A Voyage in the West Indies*



# The Daily English Newspaper begins



March 11, 1702 – 1735  
London

- *The Daily Courant*
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Daily Newspaper
- Edward Mallet, Publisher

Mallet advertised that he intended to publish only foreign news, and claimed that he would not take upon himself to add any comments of his own, supposing other people to have "sense enough to make reflections for themselves."

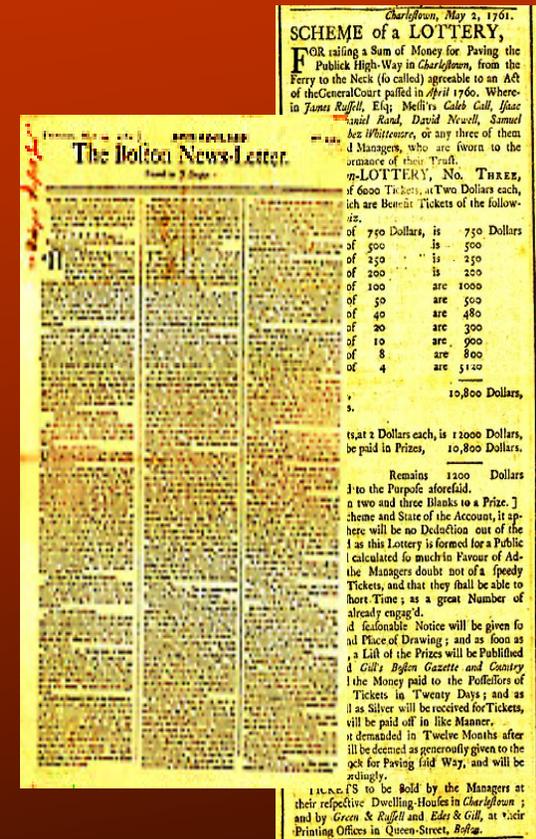


Image – Museu Virtual da Imprensa



# . . . and In the Atlantic Colonies

- April 1704 – 1722 (sold)  
Boston, Massachusetts
  - *The Boston-Newsletter*
    - 1<sup>st</sup> continuously published newspaper in American Colonies
  - John Campbell, Publisher
- Campbell stated his editorial policy as having "always been to give no offence, not meddling with things out of his Province."



Images – Archiving Early America



# . . . Begin to change

- 1726 – 5 issues only (ended print)
  - Almanac
  - Samuel Keimer, Publisher
- December 24, 1728 – 1729
  - (sold to B. Franklin)
  - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
  - *The Universal Instructor in All Arts and Sciences; And Pennsylvania Gazette*
  - Samuel Keimer, Publisher

1729

1721



. . . not a whim. . . [but] part of the studied contrivance of Several Years, to serve all who are willing to be informed; the Fair sex as well as the Male, for I know not why the former should not be as capable to receive and improve useful knowledge as the latter. . . .



Image: The Pennsylvania Gazette - 1729-9-25 – Project Gutenberg etext 20203.jpg

# . . . and in Barbados

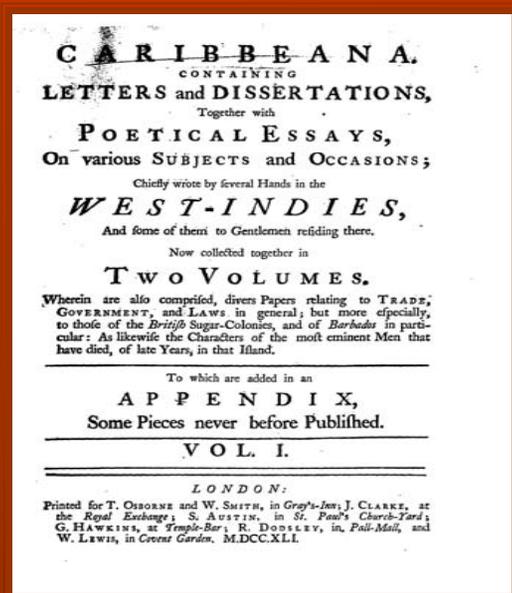
- October 9, 1731-1737 (cont'd until c. 1797) Bridgetown, Barbados
  - 1<sup>st</sup> bi-weekly newspaper in colonies (*Jamaica Courant* 1<sup>st</sup> English newspaper - 1718)
  - Samuel Keimer, Publisher
- “With the Freshest Advices Foreign and Domestick.”



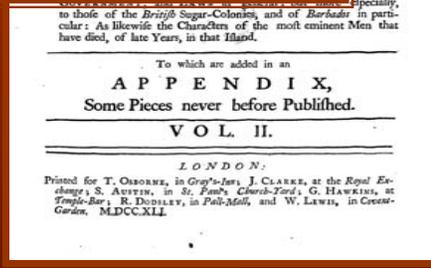
The first page of the earliest surviving issue of the *Barbados Gazette*, 6 November 1731. Reproduced by permission of the British Library, shelfmark Burney 289B.



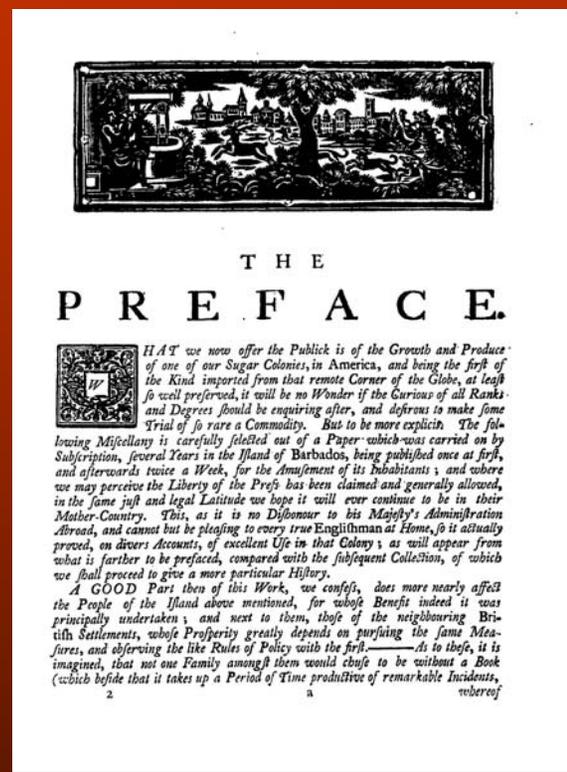
# ... Becomes West Indian Literature



A.  
ONS,  
S,  
ONS;  
S,



TRADE,  
specially,  
to those of the *British* Sugar-Colonies, and of *Barbadoes* in particular: As likewise the Characters of the most eminent Men that  
have died, of late Years, in that Island.

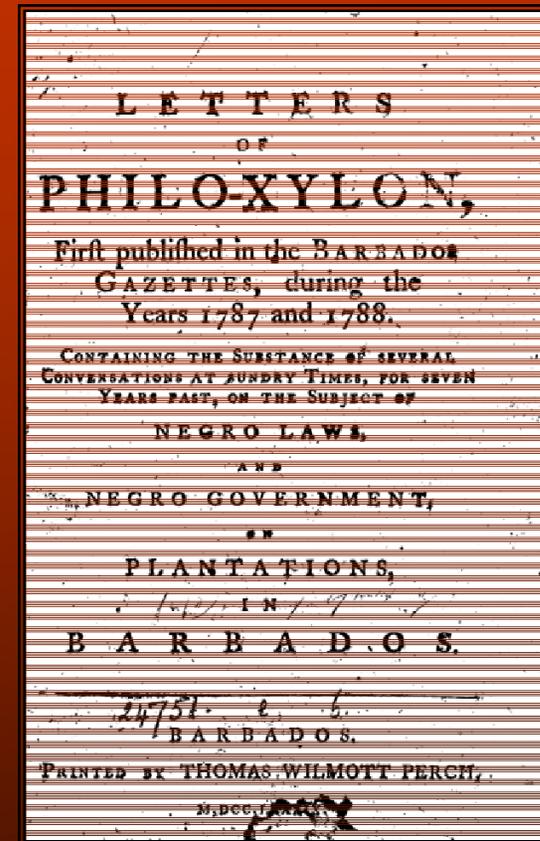


Images from 18th-Century Collections Online



# Sir Joshua Steele a.k.a *Philo-Xylon*\*

- 1782 – Barbados
  - Society of Arts and Manufactures
  - white poverty and planter corruption
  - ameliorating work conditions for the enslaved blacks
  - Implementing work projects for the poor whites



Related Research with Dloc

<http://www.dloc.com/?m=hd1J&i=69242>

<http://www.dloc.com/?m=hd1J&i=69061>

<http://www.dloc.com/?m=hd16&i=69242>



# *A Voyage in the West Indies*

- John Augustine Waller
  - Surgeon assigned to hospital in Barbados travels to and from Barbados between 1808 and 1810.
- [Dloc](#) text with images
- [Maps and Image](#) links outside Dloc
- [Commercial](#) availability as Rare Book

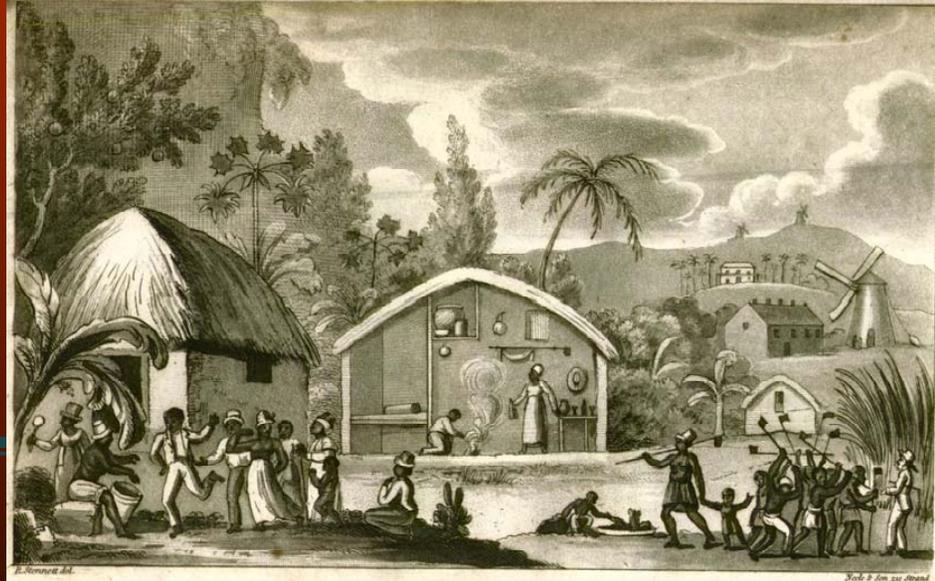


# Waller's Voyage (1808-1810)

## ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages, which were not originally intended for publication, having afforded gratification to many of the Author's friends, and it being considered that a familiar view of the West India Islands, and of the manners and customs prevailing in them, was a desideratum, he has been induced to lay before the public such particulars as fell within his own observation; and he trusts that his delineation of these transatlantic regions, and of the manners of their inhabitants, will not be found uninteresting. To have entered into scientific details of natural history would have far exceeded his limits; and would, in fact, have been only a repetition of what is already to be found in works professedly treating on those subjects: he has therefore confined his observations chiefly to living topics.

In the style of *Caribbeana*(1741), *Voyages in the West Indies* was intended to entertain its readers with the author's Descriptions of "living topics".



Slaves in Barbados



# A Traveler's Diary and Surgeon's Journal



JOURNAL.  
1808.

*April 16th.*—Was appointed, from the Royal Naval Hospital at Barbadoes, to be surgeon of his Majesty's sloop Nimrod, then lying in Carlisle-bay, R. Burchier, esq. commander.

*Friday, 22.*—Being ready for sea, and ordered to cruize in the Mona Passage, between Porto Rico and St. Domingo, weighed at sun-set, in company with his Majesty's sloop Cherub, and stood towards Martinique.

*Sunday, 24.*—Had a view of the south-east end of Martinique, with the Diamond-rock at a distance; the country very beautiful at Barbadoes, very romantically situated; many very high and picturesque, but the country appears rather barren. A very remarkable rock is to be observed at a great distance from the land: it is very conspicuous, and resembles a sail so much, as to be easily mistaken for one at a few miles distance.

*Tuesday, 26.*—Becalmed all day off the Saints, a cluster of small islands belonging to the French: Guadaloupe and Dominica in sight. Went in chase of, and spoke, his Majesty's brig Woolverine, and were informed of an action having been fought there the day before, between two French men-of-war brigs and his Majesty's sloop Goree; in which the Goree received considerable damage, as well as the brigs, which ran into the Saints.

*Wednesday, 27.*—A breeze sprung up early this morning, and we made all sail to the westward, sincerely wishing to fall-in with the French brigs. At noon, saw Santa-Cruz, at a great distance. Towards evening strong breezes came on, and brought us within sight of Porto Rico. We stood close in towards its south-east extremity, and were soon gratified with a close view of this most beautiful country. It is impossible to convey any idea of the scenery by description. The lofty mountains are thickly covered with wood, even to their summits; and on their sloping sides are presented the richest variety of forest-scenery I ever witnessed. A few scattered huts appeared here and there through the shrubbery, and in one of the bays we observed a small town. We stood out again at sun-set, and encountered a very heavy gale of wind during the night.

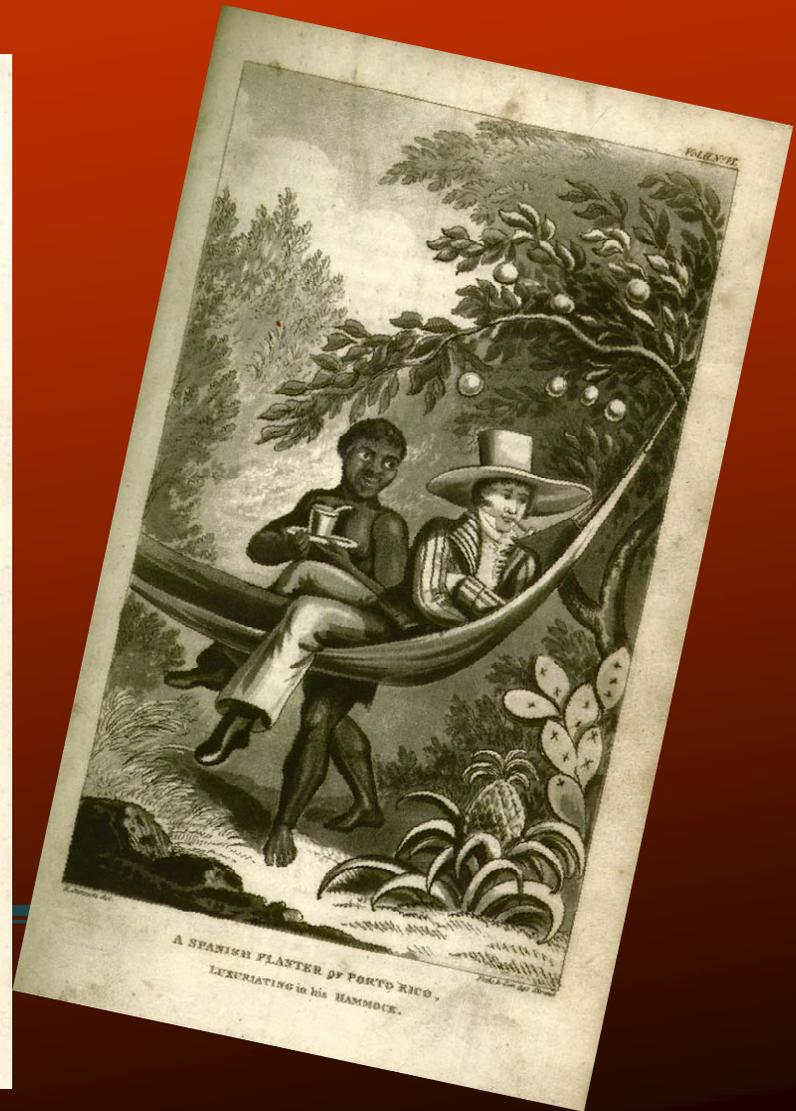
*Thursday, 28.*—Continued to blow hard all day; weather very thick, land scarcely visible. Stood off and on.

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# A Water Spout in Puerto Rico

We now continued to run down the coast, at the distance of about two miles. On passing the small battery at Ponce-bay, the Spaniards, to give us some idea of their bravery, fired one gun at us, and we observed a very great bustle at their fort; but passed on, without taking any notice of their fire, not a little chagrined at finding no vessels in their harbours. Some of the fishermen informed our pilot that a felucca had sailed from Ponce two days before, and they believed she was still in a bay to leeward. We here parted with our privateer, which we had detained, and continued our course along-shore to the westward. We were frequently becalmed after noon, and frequently were assailed by sudden gusts of wind, from three or four different points of the compass, in the space of five minutes; sometimes from two different points at the same moment. About two o'clock, the mountains of Porto Rico presented a scene truly sublime: their summits were buried in black clouds, while the rain poured in torrents down their sides; and vivid flashes of lightning broke incessantly through the black gloom, to increase the awfulness of the scene. The vallies, in the meantime, reverberated the deep and tremendous peals of thunder, which rolled without intermission on the mountain-tops. This grand landscape we contemplated at the distance of three or four miles; while we enjoyed, at the same time, a bright unclouded sun, an ocean as smooth as glass, and an atmosphere not agitated by the least breath of wind. The privateer was at the same moment encountering a very heavy squall, not two miles from us;—a phenomenon pretty common between the tropics. This spectacle continued more than an hour, when another very surprising phenomenon attracted our attention:—it was a water-spout. I had never been able to conceive before how a water-spout was formed, but had now an excellent opportunity of observing it from its very commencement. It began close alongside the ship by a whirlwind, which put the water into a rapid circular motion, forming a whirlpool, with a deep depression in its centre like a well: the diameter of its vortex appeared to me to be about eight yards. On the circumference of the well the water began to be elevated, at first slowly, and, as it were, in foam; but, having gained an elevation

VOYAGES and TRAVELS, No. 6, - Vol. II. F



# Arawaks and Caribbees at Surinam



A CHIEF OF THE BOSJERMAN'S OR BUSH NEGROES ON A VISIT TO THE GOVERNOR OF PARAMARIBO.  
ARAWAKS AND CHARAIRES OR CARIBBEE INDIANS AT SURINAM.



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*Surinam.*  
nied us through the principal streets of the city. It seems impossible for a stranger to form any idea of Paramaribo by a comparison with any other town; it is altogether extraordinary, and different from any I have ever seen.  
I have observed already, that the principal streets are very broad, and planted with double rows of orange and lemon trees on each side, thickly covered with fruit, and forming an agreeable shade over the walks beneath them. In the suburbs of the town the streets are still wider, with four rows of fruit-trees on each side; and between these and the houses are seen gardens of a considerable breadth, planted with fruits and flowers of every kind, and separated from the road by hedges of limes, but not close and square in the Dutch fashion; so that the houses on one side cannot be seen from those on the other, and only now and then by the passengers in the middle of the street. The whole town resembles an immense garden, abounding with fruit, and affording to the passenger a most grateful perfume and refreshing shade. The principal street is about a mile in length, and there are several parallel to it not much less: the streets intersect each other at right angles. Thus the town occupies a prodigious space, of which at least one-half is laid out in gardens.  
A heavy thunder storm about noon drove us into the barracks, where we were accommodated by the officers with a change of linen and every thing we could desire. I observed here several specimens and productions of natural history, collected by the officers, which they had purchased from the Indians or aborigines of the colony. These last come daily to the town in large parties, bringing with them whatever they can dispose of: monkeys, parrots, parroquets, different species of animals, and a variety of beautiful woods, which they will often carve into swords and other weapons, which they will polish very highly. I was much astonished at the weight and hardness of some of these articles, as well as the beauty of the veins. Bows and arrows are sure to be objects of commerce with these Indian parties; and fire-arms and ammunition form the most desirable articles of exchange. An old musket or pistol was an almost irresistible temptation, and the most valuable collections of natural history might be procured for these trifles. The parties that I saw were, both men and women, entirely naked, except a narrow piece of coarse cloth which was attached behind to a string tied round the waist, and passing between the legs, came up and tied before; this was scarcely sufficient to answer the purpose intended. I was astonished to see this taste for nudity prevail so much in so populous and polite a place as Paramaribo; for not only the Indian nations

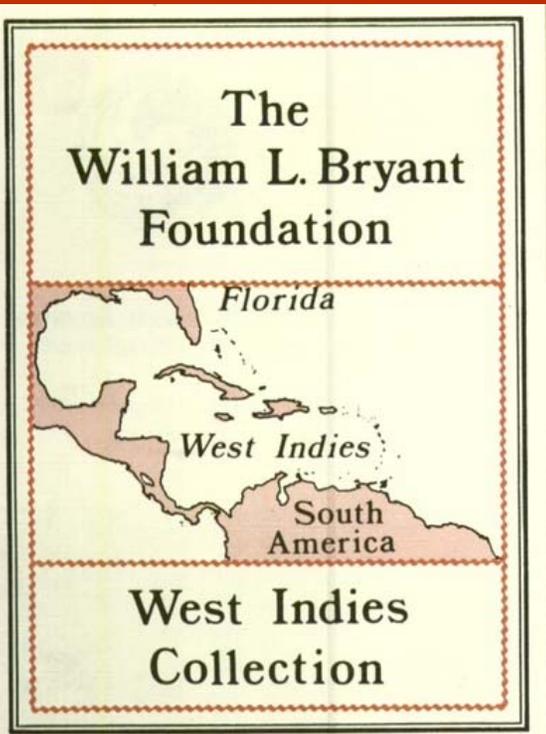
# ...and back to England

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*Voyage to England.*

It was June before we quitted Base-Terre, and approaching to July before we took our last farewell of the West India islands. In a few days we began to perceive ourselves in the midst of that vast vortex which is known by the name of the Gulf Stream, and is thus formed. The current of the great ocean, under the equinoctial line, sets in an unvaried course to the westward, and passing down between the main-land of South America and the West India islands, its direction is changed by the form of this continent, and forced to the great bay of Florida, and turning its course to the north-west. It then enters the Gulf of Mexico, where it is surrounded by the immense gulph, and flows again into the great Atlantic Ocean. Here it holds a northerly course, which becomes more and more easterly as it advances, till it ceases to be any longer distinguishable near the coast of Mexico, at which point it is marked all the way by immense quantities of seaweed, which it brings with it from the eastward, looking like banks above the surface of the water. This current in the direction they went to go.

In the latitude of about forty-four or forty-five degrees air all at once began to be extremely cold, which increased rapidly upon us, that the seamen began to look out for island. The next day this cold increased still more, and succeeding day we learned that two of the sternmost of the convoy had run upon a large mass of ice, and could not get off. So material was the damage they sustained, that they were abandoned by their crews, who were taken off a short narrow mass of ice was felt for more than a fortnight, and these masses of ice were all except one (an old comersipt under eighteen years of age).

The case of one of them was peculiarly distressing; a poor boy had been robbed by his messmates, who snatched every article of clothing and bedding, who snatched at every article of clothing and bedding, and which I at last found lying in one of the birt's, and which I at last found a poor wretch, lying stark naked in the dead body. On examining however into the cause, I found a poor wretch, alive indeed, but who had survived many days, lying stark naked in the dead body, without bed or covering, in the last state of misery. To appeal to the humanity of his messmates, without the help of every thing, would be unavailing. To appeal to the humanity of his own regiment, but the French officers of his own regiment, I could not tempt to exert any authority. I could not



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*Waller's Voyage in the West Indies.*

the prisoners to attend upon him, even for a reward. I set the example however to the French officers, by bringing out from my chest a few articles of clothing, which was attended with success, and the poor wretch was again covered. I offered him an additional allowance of grog to attend upon him, but they refused it. Next day I stopped their grog altogether, and offered it to any four men in the ship who would undertake to attend by rotation. This had the desired effect; four men offered themselves, and during the day acquitted themselves very well of their duty, for I had a constant eye upon them. In the night, however, I cannot answer for their conduct; at one o'clock in the morning, three or four men had brought up a sick man perfectly naked, and carried him into the head to the common privy; that the men returned one at a time, but that several had gone and returned; that they did not notice whether they had taken the naked man down or not. One of the sentries on the gangway affirmed, that he heard something splash into the water, and immediately after saw something splash into the water; that he called to the sentries on the fore-castle, who enquired what it was, the ship was going so fast they answered, that they had let fall a bucket which they were emptying; and their young men could not be identified. I have no doubt that this young man's messmates were guilty of the atrocious crime of throwing their sick comrade overboard. I afterwards gave in their names, with all the particulars of this crime, to the officers to whom I delivered up my charge. I was the middle of July when we arrived at Plymouth, in a remarkably unhealthy state, where we were compelled to have a lantern-bug by the officers of my health. I shall never forget the impression the sight of my native country made upon me, having been so long accustomed to the luxuriant land of the West Indies. The beautiful seat of Mount Edgemoor expressed a degree of astonishment and wildness; I ordered to Portsmouth, where we ultimately deliv- ering prisoners to the depot at Porchester Castle. We were more effect produced by the animated faces, the intelligent as- sistance of the inhabitants, especially of the females, which formed such a brilliant a contrast with the black and yellow visages I had seen so long in the habit of contemplating.



Digital Library of the Caribbean  
<http://www.dloc.com>

# Becoming Digital

“Like a force of nature, the digital age cannot be denied or stopped. It has four very powerful qualities that will result in its ultimate triumph: decentralizing, globalizing, harmonizing, and empowering. . . .”

“Every technology or gift of science has a dark side. Being digital is no exception . . .”

“As we move more toward such a digital world, an entire sector of the population will be or feel disenfranchised . . .”

“[yet] the harmonizing effect of being digital is already apparent as previously partitioned disciplines and enterprises find themselves collaborating, not competing . . .”



- (Nicholas Negroponte *Being Digital*).