



THE BULLETIN OF THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY

The Council of the Society decided at its last Meeting that in future it would only be possible to publish one Journal each year instead of two. The cost of publishing two Journals and two Bulletins now exceeded the total amount of the subscriptions of Annual Members. The Journal will be published each May and there will be Bulletins in July, November and February. This regrettable step has become necessary owing to the very high cost of publication of the Journal.

JOHN SCOTT'S "DESCRIPTION OF BARBADOS"

John Scott's "Description of Barbados" is to be found in Sloane MSS. 3662¹, in the Manuscript Department of the British Museum. It was written after 1668, which makes it later in date than Richard Ligon's *A True & Exact Account of the Island of Barbados*, 1657, yet it contains some interesting information not given by Ligon. It is referred to by some later historians, notably the late Professor Vincent Harlow in his *History of Barbados 1625—1685*, (1926). Scott's "Description of Barbados" was published by the late N. Darnell Davies in *The Weekly Argosy of British Guiana*, on 17th August, 1907. So far as is known to the present writer, the "Description" has not been published elsewhere. The copy of it which I have seen is contained in a book of press cuttings belonging to the late E. G. Sinckler, kindly lent to me by Miss Beatrice Sinckler, his daughter.

An account of John Scott is given by the *Dictionary of National Biography*, although there is no account of his doings in the West

Indies. He is described as an 'adventurer' and flourished 1654—1696. Scott is first heard of in 1654, when he was placed under arrest by the Dutch for treason on Long Island; New Netherlands. His account of himself is that he was transported for annoying Parliamentary soldiers in England. In 1663, with a number of influential New Englanders, Government was petitioned to confirm the purchase of land from the Narragansett Indians which was disputed by Rhode Island. After the conquest of New Netherlands, he persuaded the English settlers on Long Island to form a provisional government pending a settlement with himself as President.

In 1664, Scott was imprisoned in Connecticut. The Governor of New York denounced him as 'born to work mischief'. Around 1677, Scott returned to London. Next he charged Samuel Pepys and his colleague Sir Anthony Deane with betraying Admiralty secrets to the French. Their prosecution was dropped when it was discovered that Scott had been connected with so many shady deals. These included the swindling of a widowed landholder of Long Island by persuading her that they were akin, swindling the Dutch Government of £7,000 for which he was "hanged in effigy at the Hague, an honour which he also enjoyed at the hands of his regiment, whose cash box he carried off." In 1681, he fled from England, having killed a hackney coachman, but was seen again in 1696 in sailor's disguise. Scott styled himself 'Geographer to King Charles II', but the *Dictionary of National Biography* is silent on this point.

It is a pity that so little is known of Scott's exploits in the Caribbean. In his account of Barbados he clearly states certain facts on

first hand information. However, he does not appear to have been loved here either for in 1664, Giles Sylvester writing to John Winthrop says: "I understand that John Scott is in limbo for treason and other heinous crimes. I also understand how he abuseth me... Had I him in England I should make him stand in the pillory before the Exchange and have his ears..."²

According to Professor Vincent Harlow, John Scott "has been frequently derided as being wholly untrustworthy. Dr. Edmundson has, however, by reference to Dutch and Spanish contemporary documents, made out a very strong case in support of the general authenticity of his statements."³ Scott is more reliable as an historian than in his private life, where he was a well known swindler.

In republishing Scott's "Description of Barbados" I have transcribed this from Sloane MSS. 3662 in the British Museum. I have referred to Darnell Davies's transcription only when in doubt about the legibility of certain words or abbreviations, but I have not always followed his interpretation where it seemed to me clearly otherwise.

NEVILLE CONNELL

THE DESCRIPTION OF BARBADOS

by

MAJOR JOHN SCOTT

This Island is situate between the degrees 13 and 20 minutes and 12 degrees and 50 minutes north from the equator, and in 328 degrees and 20 minutes of longitude, taking variation from St. Michael, one of the Azores Islands. It is distant from the Lizard, the last point of England, in the opinion of the Author, 12 leagues south and 176 leagues west.

Barbados is the Crown and Front of all the Caribbee Islands towards the rising sun, being the most east of any, and lies more conveniently than any of the rest for a seat of war, being most healthful, fruitful, and stored with all things necessary of its own innate growth which are necessary for life. The greatest mart of trade, not only of the Caribbees, but of any island in the West Indies, being inhabited with many wealthy planters and merchants, and hath very great conveniency for a mole where ships might ride amongst the houses as in Amsterdam, and Venice, of great conveniency for trade and in the time of war free from the danger of any enemy, except so powerful as to invade the island, which well managed would be too great a task for any Prince in Europe.

This island was never the habitation of any nation and unknown to the Europeans other-

wise than by sight until one Pedro a Campas in a voyage to Margarita, 1563, being in great want of water fortun'd to fall with Barbados, and being becalmed, went ashore near the River formerly called the Indian River, but in the map, Fontabelle, and upon search finding the island stored with excellent water, judged it worth a name and particular notice. The name he gave it, it bears. He likewise left hogs to breed upon it, which the Indians of St. Vincent⁴ coming to know, they did some years after, often visit it for hunting.

In the year 1624⁵, a ship of Sir William Courteen, a Merchant of London, in her voyage from Brazil, put into the Road since called Austins,⁶ and after a short stay sailed from thence, visiting all the bays on the west and southern parts of the island. And, finding the land to promise much of the nature of Brazil and adorned with curious prospects, rather than mountains, and stored with wild hogs, judged it worth especial notice, particularly by one Captain Thomas Powell, then in the same ship, who after their arrival in England, presented his observations to the then Earl of Pembroke, a great lover of plantations. Thereupon, the Earl, by permission of King James, prepared a ship burthen with a hundred tons and 60 passengers who left England the 26 of January, anno 1625, and arrived in Barbados May the second, 1626⁷. At which time Powell⁸ entered upon, and took possession of the island, in His Majesties name, for the use of the said Earl of Pembroke. After which the said Captain Thomas Powell⁹ remained Governor on the island, and having understood the Dutch had a plantation in the River Dissekeeb, on the Main of Guiana, whose Governor, one Groenewegen,¹⁰ he was particularly known to, dispatched his son Thomas¹¹ Powell, to desire Captain Groenewegen to send him such things as were proper to plant for food and for trade. The gentleman, willing to gratify an old friend (for Powell and Groenewegen had been comrades in the King of Spain's service in the West Indies) persuades a family of Arawaks, consisting of forty persons, to attend Powell to Barbados to learn the English to plant, and to carry with them cassava, yams, Indian corn, and other pulses, plantains, bananas, oranges, lemons, limes, the pineapple, melons, &c.; and for to produce a trade they carried over tobacco, cotton, and annatto, a rich dye (a commodity the English never yet know how to manage). To all which Barbados was naturally a stranger. The Indians fell to planting soon after their arrival at Barbados, and all things grew well, and came to great perfection, agreeing with the soil and clime, and they soon had all things necessary for life.

Anno 1628. Captain Hawley¹² was sent in the ship *Carlisle*, to visit and supervise the Earl of Carlisle's affairs in those parts, who invited Captain Powell and his secretary aboard, and there clapped them into irons, and they were dispatched to England, and, Captain Hawley left one Wheatley¹³, and soon after him one Wolverstone.¹⁴ The Indians, not liking these several changes, pressed their contract made between them and Mr. Powell at Dissekeeb, which Captain Groenewegen had undertaken should be performed, viz. that at the expiration of two years, if they did not like the country, or should upon any other occasion desire to go back to Dissekeeb, they should be transported with their reward, which was to be fifty pounds sterling in axes, bills, hoes, knives, looking-glasses and beads. But, instead of performing the agreement with the poor Indians, the then Governor and Council made slaves of them, separating the husbands and wives of some, parents and children of others, one from another. Anno 1631, one of them getting on board a Dutch ship got passage for Dissekeeb, which proved of all consequence to Captain Groenewegen, who had like to have lost his fort and colony for that cause only and was forced to marry a woman of the Carib nation to balance the power of the Arawaks, and afterwards was at the charge of great presents to make up the business between the Dutch and the Arawak nation. It hath been observed that a curse attended most of those persons concerned in that horrid breach of faith.

Concerning the various revolutions which have been upon the Island.

Know that 1629, Mr. Wolverstone was sent home a prisoner and Sir William Tufton entered upon that charge (a worthy gentleman). The same year the Earl of Carlisle commissioned Captain Hawley his Governor of Barbados. Before this there had been great disputes between the King and Council, between the King and Council, between Philip, Earl of Pembroke and James, Earl of Carlisle, the latter prosecuted this upon pretence of a promise from King James, anno 1624, upon the information of Captain Thomas Warner, but the great civilians of that time were of opinion that the right was between Philip, Earl of Pembroke and Sir William Courteen, and that the Earl of Carlisle had no rational pretence to it. They argued that the Earl of Pembroke and Sir William Courteen were the first in occupancy; that they had several Commissions to plant that island from King Charles the first, and, moreover, the Earl of Pembroke further alleged that he was in contract with Sir William Courteen for his discovery and promotion, 1624, which King James had granted to be a right.

Nevertheless, the Earl of Carlisle, being a more assiduous courtier than the Earl of Pembroke, at length got a grant to pass in favour of himself for all the Caribbee Islands but the islands Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados and Saint Bernard, which were granted to Philip, Earl of Pembroke, the 25 day of February in the 3rd. year of King Charles the first¹⁵.

Colonel Hawley, his bringing with him the King's immediate order, Sir William Tufton surrendered the Government, and soon after Colonel Hawley and [the] Council seized Sir William Tufton upon pretence of mutiny who was proceeded against and by them adjudged to death, Anno 1630. The people of the island do generally say Sir William Tufton had severe measure.

Colonel Hawley remained in the government until the year 1639, at which time Sir Henry Huncks was by the Earl of Carlisle invested in that charge and [Hawley] in the year 1640 was sent to England (a prisoner) but had returned in the same quality had not death prevented.

After this Colonel Philip Bell succeeded in the government of Barbados,¹⁶ and to this time the island was but in ordinary condition though full of inhabitants, having its great dependence on tobacco, some cotton and ginger. The sugar cane had been had from Brazil a few years before by an accident and was first planted by one Colonel Holdip, who was the first that made sugar in Barbados, but, it came to little until the great industry and more thriving genius of Sir James Drax engaged in that great work, who brought Colonel Holdip's essay to so great perfection that many more were encouraged to undertake the making of sugar, which hath proved of extraordinary advantage to the English nation. The Hollanders that are great encouragers of plantations did, at the first attempt of making sugar, give great credit to the most sober inhabitants, and upon the unhappy Civil War, that broke out in England, they managed the whole trade in the Western Colonies and furnished the island with Negroes, coppers, stills, and all other things appertaining to the engines for making of sugar and that were any other way necessary for their comfortable subsistence. This put the Barbados into a flourishing condition, but it was attended with this inconvenience in that the more industrious and prudent planters became storehouse keepers for the Dutch, and so by giving credit to their profuse and sometimes necessitous neighbours on severe terms, insensibly, in a few years, wormed out the greatest part of the small proprietors, for the making of sugar

requires many Negroes and considerable quantities of land.

The author once heard one Captain Waterman of Barbados say: that his plantation that consisted of above 800 acres had at once time been 40 Dividends¹⁷ each inhabitant. Such appropriations strangely depopulated the island, for the people thus supplanted took all opportunities of transporting themselves to other places, and to Barbados that hath had 18,300 fighting men and the greatest part proprietors and trading men, had not upon a good calculation in Anno 1666 above 8,000 men and the one half of these dissolute English, Scotch and Irish. And, it is most certain the colony was [in] anno 1666, upon a good computation, seventeen times as rich as it was before the making of sugar and not so defensible, which may thus in some measure be demonstrated when much of the Barbados was divided into five, ten, twenty and thirty acre dividends it was only proper to raise so much tobacco, cotton, ginger and such like, as would just afford the inhabitants a livelihood; for those commodities one with another were not worth to the planter above one penny per pound at the first cost of their goods in England, and deduct the cotton, which one acre in ten is not proper for throughout the island, and the tobacco and ginger would not be worth three farthings per pound, and 2,500 lb. of tobacco is as much as an acre of ground will ordinarily produce, and as much as one man can well tend, cure, and make up in roll besides planting and tending their provisions. And, an acre of tobacco at three farthings per pound producing 2,500 lb. is worth but £7. 16. 3. Tobacco thus beat down, which was their staple, put them upon the making of sugar, which ordinarily producing as much sugar per acre as it did tobacco, and for divers years affording them four times the price, and the land reduced into abundantly fewer proprietors, and the planting and making sugar managed principally by Negro slaves, who besides their purchase stood their masters an little more than a small quantity of land to plant Indian corn, beans, potatoes, bananas, plantains, yams, &c., the provisions of the country. The Hollanders and other merchants that traded thither did usually give the planter credit till his Negroes had planted a crop of canes and these canes converted into sugar. And this I take to be the true original cause of the riches of that colony.

And the cause of their weakness in the number of His Majesty's subjects may be comprised principally under those two heads: first, the land reduced into the hands of so few proprietors which the planters did competently supply while there was a free trade to Scotland, &c., for servants. The second,

was the fall of their goods occasioned by no other means but being tied up to one market, by which means they could not encourage tradesmen and other freemen of the English, Scotch and Irish nations. And there hath gone off the island since the first considerable making of any quantity of sugar [people] to Virginia, New England, Tobago, Trinidad, Surinam, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Cape Feare, to the French and Dutch Islands, and have been destroyed in the late wars with France and Holland, and by the hurricane with Francis, Lord Willoughby, Anno 1668. In all at least 12,000 good men, and those which have been transported for the last 20 years do not more than equal the mortality, so that the addition which is 1,700, 12,000 being deducted from the 18,300 men first promised, which the author is well assured, there was there at one time, will be found to be the men borne there, which may be accounted the best infantry of the island, being generally sprightly, active men and such as delight much in the use and exercise of arms.

In the year 1647, there was a great plague in Barbados which raged violently, especially at St. Michael's, or the Indian Bridge. It swept away abundance of people, but it was observed it fell most upon the men, as all other epidemic diseases ordinarily do, showing something of favour to the other sex. Nothing more of moment happened during Colonel Bell's government, which ended anno 1649. Upon the coming of Francis, Lord Willoughby of Parham into those parts, his lordship having in the year 1646 purchased¹⁸ the interest of the Earl of Carlisle in the Caribbee Islands, who soon after his entrance into that charge proclaimed the King and remained in open defiance of the Parliament, and ordered the managers of trade to be only with the Hollanders. This the Parliament took as a great affront, and in order to the reducing that island commissioned Sir George Ayscue upon that service (and in his way thither to visit Portugal in search of Prince Rupert), who arrived there [at Barbados, on] October 16th., 1651.¹⁹

Sir George immediately seized 14 sail of [the] Hollanders²⁰ and made prize of them for trading with the enemies of the Commonwealth of England in that island. He made several brave attempts upon the Barbadians, in one of which they became masters of the fort and town of Little Bristol²¹, and the ships cruising up and down, which kept the inhabitants from all trade. That inconveniency amongst others made the islanders weary of war. And, Sir George Ayscue, to prevent that effusion of blood, consented to a treaty to be managed by eight Commissioners, for Francis, Lord Willoughby were, Charles

Pymn, Richard Pierce, Thomas Ellis, William Byam Esquires, for Sir George Ayscue, John Colleton, Thomas Modiford, Daniel Searle Esquires and Captain Pack:²² and the 11th of January the Commissioners agreed upon the rendition in Articles every way comprehensive and honourable as well for the inhabitants as his lordship, who had his desired Condition of Indemnity and freedom of estate and person, and the same year was transported for England.

And, Sir George Ayscue did during his stay free some of those poor Indians that had been long and unjustly kept in slavery; and, at his departure, by the good liking of the inhabitants, left Mr. Daniel Searle Governor, who was afterwards confirmed by the Parliament.

In the time of Mr. Searle's Government there were two dreadful fires in St. Michael's Town,²³ which destroyed the greatest part of the houses. This gentleman continued in Commission till the beginning of the year 1660, at which time Colonel Thomas Modiford was made Governor by the Parliament. But the same ship which brought his Commission brought also the news of His Majesty's happy Restoration, so that Colonel Modiford was but a parenthesis of Government between Mr. Searle and Colonel Humphrey Walrond, President, for Francis, Lord Willoughby, who insisting [on] the title he had from the Earl of Carlisle, in consideration of this, but principally relying on His Majesty's goodness, was made Captain-General and Chief Governor of Barbados and the rest of the Caribbee Islands, for the term of seven years to commence from the 12th. June, Anno 1663.

The same year Francis, Lord Willoughby went a second time in person to Barbados and soon after his arrival there arose a great difference between his Lordship and Colonel Humphrey Walrond, that had been his President, which was pursued with such severity that Colonel Walrond was forced to quit the country.

The same year the Assembly of Barbados for divers reasons recited in an Act intituled, An Act for Settling an Impost on the Commodities of the Growth of that Island. Amongst other reasons, one was that land should be confirmed under His Majesty's Great Seal for that island, the maintaining the honour and dignity of His Majesty's authority there, the public meeting of the Session, the often attendance of the Council, the reparation of forts, the building [of] a Session House and prison. And, for the defraying of other public charges incumbent on the Island, Government did in consideration thereof gave and grant unto His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for ever, four and a half in specie for every fivestone of sugar, in-

digo, cotton, tobacco, ginger and all other dead commodities of the growth of that island, before any such goods should be shipped off from the said island.²⁴ And it was at that Assembly further enacted, that if any goods before mentioned on which the said Customs [duty] was imposed and due should, after the 12th. of September 1663, be shipped or put into any boat, or other vessel before the said imposition due was paid or compounded for, or lawfully tendered to the collectors thereof or their deputies etc., that then and from thenceforth all the said goods should be forfeit, the one-half to Our Sovereign Lord the King, the other to him that should inform, seize and sue for the same in any Court of Records within that island.

There was in the said Act a proviso that neither within that act nor anything therein contained shall extend to be construed to bar His Majesty, or Francis, Lord Willoughby, from his or their right to any lands commonly called or known by the name of the Ten Thousand acres, the Merchants Lands, granted by the late Earl of Carlisle or his father, unto Marmaduke Royden Esq., William Perkins, Alexander Banister, Edmund Forster, Captain Wheatly, and others their associates, or certain covenants and conditions, distinct from other parts of the said island.

Anno 1664. An unhappy difference fell out between Lord Willoughby and Sir Robert Harley, Knight, Chancellor of the island, from whom his lordship took the seals notwithstanding Sir Robert had the King's Commission for the executing that office which proved very prejudicial to them both. His Lordship lost a faithful friend and good counsels, Sir Robert Harley an honourable and profitable employment, which his very enemies that he contracted in espousing the Lord Willoughby's cause could not but confess was severe. During his Chancellorship one thing was remarkable, viz., the freeing the remaining part of the Indians which Sir George Ayscue could not hear of, and the preceeding Governors more remiss in, an action certainly very satisfactory to the justice of Heaven. The settling of St. Lucia from this Island shall be more particularly treated of in the historical description of that isle.

Anno 1665. Francis, Lord Willoughby having received advice of a war between His Majesty and the Lords States of the Netherlands and of De Ruyter's attempt on the ships riding at Barbados, his Lordship posted from Surinam to Barbados, and, soon after his arrival called an Assembly and commanded the said Assembly to provide for the safety of the island. The representatives were willing to raise so great a sum of money to purchase arms in England, but would have

the keeping the Militia themselves in several magazines, and from that time there visibly appeared great differences between Francis, Lord Willoughby and the representatives of Barbados. His Lordship dissolved that Assembly and sent one Mr. Farmer, their Speaker, to England a prisoner.

Anno. 1666. Arrived the welcome news of the French espousing the quarrel of the Netherlanders which occasioned Francis, Lord Willoughby to call another Assembly, which were most the same persons that were chosen the year before and of the same opinion. The Lord Willoughby proposed to the said Assembly that they would in convenient time prepare an ordinance for levying 500,000 pounds of muscovado sugars for fortifying the island, which the said Assembly utterly refused to do, alleging it would be a breach of their trust in that the country had given $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ for defraying of public charges, but proposed at the same time that they would raise a very considerable sum of money for to purchase arms and ammunition. Provided, as they purchased it with their own money, it might remain out of the disposal of the Lord Willoughby, otherwise than for the use and defence of the Barbados only, which the Lord Willoughby could not consent to but dissolved the said Assembly and inflicted severe punishment on the Speaker, which the people adjudged [a] high breach of their privileges and did strangely resent it. And one Captain Waterman, another of the same Assembly, was fined 60,000 pounds of sugar for questioning the legality of the Commission the Lord Willoughby had granted without mentioning His Majesty's name.

Soon after, the Lord Willoughby dissolved that Assembly he embarked upon an expedition against the French of Martinique, Guadeloupe, &c., but principally designed the becoming masters of St. Christopher, from whence the English has been expelled by the French for want of good conduct, April 10th., 1666, after the English had been possessed of half that island 45 years. His lordship at his departure [from Barbados] left the Government in the hands of his nephew, William Willoughby Esquire, until Henry Willoughby (older brother to the said William) should return to Barbados from St. Iago, or Antigua, and having been sent two months before with a fleet of 24 sail and a considerable land force to attempt something against the French in those parts, but it proved ineffectual for the fleet consisting of most laden ships when they came to St. Iago they landed the soldiers and refused to proceed any further. In this voyage Francis, Lord Willoughby perished July 19th.,²⁵ in a hurricane, on a ledge of rocks between Guadeloupe and St. Iago.

Upon the certain news of Lord Willoughby being cast away, William Willoughby Esquire and the Council of Barbados sent their Address to His Majesty and Council for directions,; upon which His Majesty invested the Government in three persons for the present support vizt., Henry Willoughby, Henry Hawley and Samuel Barwick,²⁶ Esquires, who having received His Majesty's Commission and with it some ships of war under the command of one Captain Berry, an expert seaman and a daring, bold commander, began to think of sending the King's ships with some merchantmen to the relief of Nevis, St. Iago and Montserrat having been taken before by the French of the island of St. Christopher, Martinique, Guadeloupe and Mariegalante.

And, Nevis at that time in eminent danger, those Governors [of Barbados] called an Assembly, who most generously raised a great quantity of sugar to the value near £10,000 sterling for the defence of Nevis and the release of their countrymen beat off the island of St. Christopher, the people of Anguilla, Saba, St. Jago, Montserrat, but principally for the succour and defence of the island of Nevis, which had most certainly been lost had not those gentlemen of Barbados, both then and the year before, sent them large supplies both of provisions and ammunition almost beyond the bounds of prudence considering their own condition. I am confident upon several occasions from April 1666 to August 1667, at least to the value of £40,000 sterling, for which the nation is greatly obliged, as well as the people of the forenamed islands.

Captain Berry was ordered by his instructions from His Majesty to receive a further Commission and instructions from the said Henry Willoughby, Henry Hawley and Samuel Barwick, Governors, &c. These Governors, by and with the consent and assistance of the Assembly, did commission Captain Berry with four of His Majesty's ships and six hired merchant ships of good force for the attack of any of the French islands or ships &c., as well as the defence of His Majesty's subjects of Nevis and the other forenamed islands. And what they designed was well attended with a considerable success for the island Nevis was not only preserved, St. Jago, or Antigua and Montserrat resettled, Saba and Anguilla strengthened, but, the French were sorely galled by the loss of many ships and [the] ruin of some of their plantations.

In April 1667, William, Lord Willoughby arrived at Barbados, having received His Majesty's Commission for what [island] and the rest of the Caribbee islands. [On] May the 23, 1667, William, Lord Willoughby dis-

patched his son, Henry Willoughby Esquire, under the character of Lieutenant-General with six companies of Sir Tobias Bridge's Regiment and two ships of war, the *Jersey* and *East India Merchant* as an addition to the land and sea force at Nevis &c., and the whole force by land and sea to be under the command of the said Lieutenant-General Willoughby, and Captain James Cartwright to command by sea under him, and with the change of commanders, the English changed the scene of their fortunes.

This island [Barbados] is divided into eleven parishes, each parish hath a convenient church and the ministers well provided for (though not by tithes). The manner of discipline differs little from the practice of the Church of England; but all persuasions there do freely exercise the liberty of their consciences, only in their respective parishes they do contribute to the maintenance of the legal ministers. There are four compact towns on the west side of the island, vizt., St. Michael's, the metropolis of the island, situate conveniently for most of the inhabitants. [In] April 1668, was the greatest part burnt down to the ground. Ten years before the fire broke out in the same place and destroyed a great part of the town.²³ Before the town is a good road. The most south and east town is Austins. The north and west town is Little Bristol,²⁷ and, between that and St. Michael's is the town of St. James.²⁸

The inhabitants of this island are governed as near as may be by the laws of England in all criminal, civil, martial, ecclesiastical and maritime affairs. This land is administered by judges in their District Circuits commissioned by the Governor and his Council, unless in weighty affairs and then they are one grand Court, held at St. Michael's Town. Appeals are ordinarily to the Governor, Council and Assembly, which is the Supreme Court of all and semblable to the Parliament of England. This great Court consists of the Governor as supreme, his Council in the nature of Peers, and two Burgesses chosen out of every parish by the freeholders [constituting the Assembly].

This island contains 13,5076 acres of land, arable pasture and woods, besides the towns, highways [and] places of rendez-vous for soldiers, which are marked with red letters alphabetically. 23040 acres of this land at the south south-east end of the island is planted with cotton and at the west north-west end of the island are thrust together the poor Catholics on 2,017 acres of land planted with tobacco and some provisions. The remaining 110,021 acres is sugar plantations, woods, and pasture to those respective plantations. The island is divided into 11 parishes under

the Archbishoprick of Canterbury, yet liberty of conscience is allowed. There are four compact towns, New Bristol, St. James, St. Michael's and Austins. The inhabitants are governed as near as may be by the laws of England. Appeals are to the great Council of the nation, which is semblable to the Parliament of England, this great Court consisting of the Governor, his Council and the Assembly. In all the bays on the west side not marked with anchors there is no anchorage for ships.

John Scott

Below the signature of John Scott there then follows a somewhat similar, short description of Barbados, which was not published by N. Darnell Davies. It is reprinted here as it contains a few important statements not contained in the foregoing description of the island.

This island of Barbados is situate between the degrees of 12 and 20 minutes and 12 and 48 minutes north from the equator and in 328 degrees of longitude taking variation from St. Michael, one of the Azores Islands, it is distant from the Lizard, the west point of England or Ushant the west point of Brittany, in the opinion of the author 812 leagues south and 776 leagues west. It is the most [east-erly] of all the Caribbee Islands, and is situate more conveniently than any other of them for a boat of war, being both more healthful and fruitful than any of the other islands in the Indies and is inhabited with [an] abundance of wealthy planters and merchants, and hath the convenience for a mole to be cut out of St. Michael's River through the Town to a morass on the north-east side of the said Town (a convenience I have never seen anywhere else in the West Indies) where ships might, as in the Netherlands and in Venice [anchor] no less commodious for trade than secure in a time of war, except the enemy be so powerful as to become master of the island.

This island was first made known to the English and incorporated into an English colony, Anno 1624, by a Grant of King James to the then Earl of Carlisle, but not actually settled till two years after by the Earl of Pembroke and Sir William Courteen, who brought thither from Guiana, cassava, yams, maize and other pulses, plantains, bananas, all sorts of fruits of the West Indies, tobacco, cotton and anatto, to all which Barbados was naturally a stranger, but came soon to great perfection, agreeing with the soil and clime. The sugar cane was brought thither first by one Peeter Brower [sic] of North Holland from Brazil, anno 1637, but came to no considerable perfection till the year 1645. And.

so forward to the year 1652, at which time the Dutch, who had by their great credit they gave the planters, brought the said island to its almost perfection, whereby an Act of Parliament excluded that trade. During the time I was in command upon the island, I had other records examined and found that there was gone off the island since the year 1643 to other plantations 12,000 good men; reckoning those lost with Francis, Lord Willoughby 1666 in a hurricane. And, I found upon a strict examination that those transported from England for the last 26 years did little more than equal the mortalities and men born upon the place. I found from 16

years to 30, 763 men, after this conclusion I found upon a general muster that there was on the island but 2,300 men of all sorts fit to bear arms and two-thirds of those dissolute people of no principle nor fortune. After this I found that a muster in the year 1645, there were 18,300 men and 11,200 proprietors, and that now since the making sugar the land was monopolised from 11,200 dividends to 745, and from 18,300 men to 8,300, and, that in the year 1645 there was but 5,680 slaves and in the year 1667 there was 82,023 negro slaves, that the island was no half so strong and 40 times as rich as in the year 1645.

NOTES

1. Folio 62 *et seq.* This manuscript also contains descriptions of Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, Guyana, etc. The descriptions of Tobago, Trinidad and Guyana are printed in *Colonising Expeditions to the West Indies and Guiana 1623—1667*, Hakluyt Society, Second Series, No. LVI, 1924 at pp. 114 *et seq.*, and 132 *et seq.*, respectively.
2. *D.N.B.*; *Colonising Expeditions to the West Indies 1623—1667* pp. lvi—lviii.
3. See "The Dutch in Western Guiana" by George Edmundson, *English Historical Review*, Vol. XVI, October 1901; *History of Barbados 1625—1685*, by Vincent T. Harlow, 1926, p. 5: also Harlow's Introduction to *Colonising Expeditions to the West Indies and Guiana 1623—1667*.
4. Caribs.
5. 1625. The ship was the *Olive* and its Captain, John Powell, the elder, not Thomas Powell.
6. Oistins.
7. 1627 according to modern reckoning. By the old style calendar the New Year began on 25th March.
8. Henry Powell.
9. John Powell was the first Governor of Barbados not Thomas Powell. John Powell did not reach Barbados until after Henry Powell's return from Guiana.
10. John Scott spells his name 'Gromwegle'. His full name was Aert Adriaanz van Groenewegen, he was in charge of the Dutch trading settlement on the River Essequibo in Guiana.
11. Henry Powell went himself to Guiana with his nephew, John Powell the younger.
12. Henry Hawley.
13. Robert Wheatley, Deputy Governor.
14. Captain Wolverstone was appointed by the Royden Syndicate to manage the 10,000 acres of land belonging to the Merchants of London and to be Governor for 3 years. He had a formal commission from the Earl of Carlisle and reached Barbados before Hawley. As the result of a struggle between Courteen's men and Carlisle's, Wolverton was taken prisoner to England by Henry Powell. Henry Hawley, the new Governor, sent by the Earl of Carlisle, arrived after Wolverton's departure.
15. The cost of the settlement of Barbados was borne by Sir William Courteen's Syndicate. The spendthrift Earl of Carlisle received a grant of the Caribbee Islands including Barbados and leased 10,000 acres of land to Marmaduke Rawdon to liquidate his debts. When Courteen realised what had happened, he enlisted the help of Philip, Earl of Pembroke, who claimed that Barbados and the other Caribbee Islands had been promised to him by King James I. During Carlisle's absence from Court, Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados and Fonseca were granted to Pembroke in trust of Courteen. On Carlisle's return to Court, he received a further grant from King Charles, which included Barbados as one of the Caribbee Islands. There was a dispute, which was decided in favour of the Earl of Carlisle.
16. 1641.
17. i.e. 40 Proprietors
18. Willoughby leased the proprietorship of the Caribbee Islands for 21 years.

19. 15th. October, according to Ayscue's dispatch.
20. According to Harlow there were 15 Dutch merchantment at anchor in Carlisle Bay, 3 of which eluded capture by running ashore.
21. Speightstown.
22. Captain Michael Pack, one of Ayscue's Commanders.
23. These fires occurred in 1666 when the wooden houses of Bridgetown were replaced by stone, in accordance with the views of the Assembly, and, in 1668, when the town was 'seriously injured by fire'. *History of Barbados* by Sir Robt. H. Schomburgk, 1848, pp. 241, 293.
24. This celebrated Act was a source of complaint by Barbadians for the next 200 years.
25. The date of the hurricane was after 23 July. Harlow's *History of Barbados*, p. 166.
26. There were in fact 4 persons not 3 — William and Henry Willoughby, the nephews of Francis, Lord Willoughby representing the Crown and Henry Hawley and Samuel Barwick representing the planters. This arrangement did not work satisfactorily and William Willoughby, to whom the title descended, was appointed Governor in 1667.
27. Speightstown.
28. Now Holletown.

CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN

Long before the discovery of Barbados pottery and porcelain was being made in China. The early green-glazed wares of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—220 A.D.), however only reached Europe in the late 19th. century, when the construction of railways in China exposed the contents of ancient tombs.

Pottery had been produced in Europe and elsewhere prior to the 8th. century B.C., and glazes of various colours were used on bricks in ancient Babylon. China, however, gave its name to the ware imported into Europe of which the most celebrated was translucent porcelain. This was possibly first made during the T'ang Dynasty (618—906 A.D.), but certainly during the Sung Dynasty (960—1267 A.D.).

The export of wares from China began during the Middle Ages. The quality of wares exported was never as fine as that made for the Emperor and his circle, known as 'Imperial quality'. These export wares followed the then known trade routes by caravan or ship to India, Persia, Ceylon, Japan and the East Indies, from whence a trickle reached Europe.

The first export ware from China was the strongly made celadon bowls and dishes. Next came the blue and white wares of the Ming Dynasty (1368—1634 A.D.). China exported a special type of ware for the Persian market decorated to suit Persian taste. A few pieces of porcelain reached Europe during the 16th. century, where these were embellished with silver-gilt or ormulu mounts. Queen Mary II of England was an early collector of porcelain. Her cabinet with its blue and white wares can still be seen at Hampton Court.

Today, when we speak of "Chinese export ware", or use one of the terms mentioned later, we do not refer to the wares which went to India or Persia, or even those specimens which reached Europe. The term is used in a narrower sense to refer only those wares exported from China after the establishment of the various East India Companies, about 1600 to 1900.

Chinese export porcelain was made at Ch'ing-te-Chen, about 400 miles west of Canton. It is a hard paste and is white, or greyish white. Sometimes the glaze is rather rough and is known as 'orange peel glaze'. The earliest export porcelain was blue and white and is known on the Continent as 'Carrack' porcelain, after the Portuguese carracks which transported it to Europe. The Portuguese were the first traders in this field. The earliest known piece of export ware made in China for the European market is a ewer decorated with the emblem of King Manuel, who died in 1521. In the British Museum there is a plate with an armorial decoration dated 1702, showing that the practice of ordering dinner services with European armorial decorations had begun. After 1820, practically no armorial porcelain came from China owing to the flourishing European factories able to execute such orders.

European influences soon affected the decoration of Chinese export porcelain. Instead of purely Chinese decorations, floral patterns in European style and figures in contemporary European dress were seen. Punch bowls with hunting scenes were especially popular in England. European silver shapes such as candlesticks, tankards, etc., were

copied in Chinese porcelain and even figures and animals by Meissen and Delft. A special type of porcelain known as 'Jesuit ware' was produced in China, with decorations derived from religious prints supplied by the Jesuit missionaries. These were first seen on blue and white porcelain. Then, more frequently, in sepia with flesh tints and very thin gilding, when classical subjects also occur, again derived from engravings.

As the volume of export trade increased, so also the quality of Chinese export porcelain declined. The reason for this is not wholly due to trade demands. The Emperor Ch'ien Lung (1736—1795), took a keen interest in the potter's art and collected old porcelain; with his abdication there soon began a slow decline in the quality of Chinese porcelain. Under the Empress Dowager (1875—1909), there was some revival in this field, for she also was a patron of this industry. It must also be remembered that from the close of the 18th. century, Chinese porcelain had to compete with the European factories.

Chinese export ware or porcelain goes under a variety of names in Europe and the United States. 'Chinese' or 'Oriental Lowestoft' was the name erroneously given to this porcelain on the supposition that this ware was made in China and then decorated at the Lowestoft factory. Certain 'white wares' were shipped to Europe from China and decorated by European artists. In the Barbados Museum, there is an example: the saucer of Chinese export porcelain is decorated with 'dishevelled birds' and the matching cup with the Chelsea gold anchor mark is similarly decorated by the 'Dishevelled bird' painter, who migrated to Chelsea after the Battersea works closed in 1756. This interesting specimen is on loan from Jack Warmington Esq. Another name given to Chinese export ware is 'East India porcelain' and in the United States especially, 'China trade porcelain'. On the Continent, apart from 'carrack' porcelain, it is generally known as 'Porcelaine de la Cie des Indes', or more simply, 'Compagnie des Indes'.

Canton ware is a type of blue and white china which was exported from Canton and Ch'ing-te-Chen and was a popular export from about 1780 onwards. It is coarser than the earlier export wares and its style of decoration is purely Chinese. The designs consist of islands, boats, trees, bridges, tea houses, etc., all painted in underglaze blue. The well known English 'willow pattern' is descended from these designs. Nanking is a term sometimes used for wares of this type but of finer quality, better painted and often with gilding. About 1830 both types deteriorated although they retained their popularity during the 19th. century.

According to the Lucas MSS. in the Barbados Public Library, quantities of lacquer, china and ivory were sold in Bridgetown by East India merchantmen, blown off their courses by bad weather in the Atlantic, to revittel their ships. Most of the china sold here appears to have been in the form of tea or dinner services. The late Mr. Lester Challenor was the first collector of this ware in Barbados. He told the writer that he began collecting as a boy by purchasing plates from the chattel houses in and around Speightstown. He had a number of very fine 18th. and early 19th. century specimens.

The Museum's collection of Chinese export ware was acquired mainly at local auction sales by means of the Museum Collections Fund. No example of 'Jesuit ware' or porcelain decorated with European figures has turned up at a local auction. A number of the more popular styles of Chinese decoration are, however, represented in the Museum's collection, such as the 'Fitzhugh', 'Tobacco leaf' and 'Imari' designs, as well as specimens decorated with flowers in European taste. The Museum inherited from Mr. Lester Challenor's collection a large, covered Kang Hsi jar of the early 18th. century, decorated in famille vert enamels. It has also two armorial specimens: a Kang Hsi (1700—1723) dish bought from the Challenor Collection and a plate from a Yung 'Cheng (1723—1736) service, both with unidentified armorials.