

A TRUE & EXACT
HISTORY
Of the Island of
BARBADOES.

Illustrated with a Map of the Island, as also the
Principal Trees and Plants there, set forth in
their due Proportions and Shapes, drawn out by
their severall and respective Scales.

Together with the Ingenio that makes the Sugar, with
the Plots of the severall Houses, Rooms, and other places, that
are used in the whole process of Sugar-making; viz. the Grinding-
room, the Boiling-room, the Filling-room, the Curing-
house, Still-house, and Furnaces;
All cut in Copper.

By *RICHARD LIGON*, Gent.



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A topographicall Description and
Admeasurement of the YLAND of
BARBADOS in the West INDYAES
with the M.^{rs} Names of the Seuerall plantacons



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Divers of thiskind we took, but none so large; he was about 16 foot long, and 10 foot about the middle. Other fishes we took, as the *Bonito*, the *Spanish Maquerell*, the *Albucore*, *Dolphin*, &c. which we found excellent meat, but especially the *Albucore*, which is a fish of such a shape, as it pleased me much to look on. Those we took were not much above a yard long, with forked tayles, the gristles very firm and strong, and the body near that, no bigger than a mans wrist; but suddenly growing upward to such a greatnes, as I have seldom seen any like him, and so strong withall, as a sayler, a very strong man, holding one of them fast by the gill, when this fish mov'd but his tail to get loose, gave such a spring, as he had like to have put his arm out of joynt. These kind of fishes, in a clear Sun-shine evening, delight themselves and us, by trying which of them can leap highest above water; so that 'tis a pretty pastime, to see fishes so large, and gloriously colour'd, shew themselves so far above their natural Element, whose shapes and colours gave such variety. But this sport we saw not often.

I will trouble you no more, with mentioning the variety of shapes and colours of fishes, till I come to *St. Jago*; onely one, and that a very small one; for his body is not much bigger than a large Pomegranate, and yet his faculties are such, as may draw more eyes to look on him, and more minds to consider him, than the Vast *Whale*: for though it be true, that his large body, appearing above the surface of the water being in calmes a smooth level superficies, and suddenly appearing, is one of the strangest and most monstrous sights that can be in nature; (and the more admirable, when he is incountred by his two mortal enemies, the *Sword* and *Thesbal* fishes: For to shake them off, he leaps more than his own length, above water, and in his fall, beats the sea with such violence, as the froth and foam is seen a quarter of an hour after, White, as when 'tis beaten by a strong West wind against a Rock; and at other times, spouts out the water in great quantities, the height of an ordinary Steeple.) Yet this great Master-piece of Nature, is not in my opinion so full of wonder, nor doth raise the consideration to such a height: as this little fish the *Carvil*, who can when he pleases, enjoy himself with his neighbour fishes, under water; And when he puts on a resolution to try his fortune in another Element, the *Air*, he riseth to the top of the sea, let the billow go never so high, and there without the help of a sayler, Raises up his Main Mast, spreads his sails, which he makes of his own sinews, fits his Rudder and Ballast, and begins his voyage; But to what Coast he is bound, or what Traffick he intends, himself and He that made him only can tell. Fishes there are none to prey on, nor flies, and therefore 'tis not for food he travels. I have seen them 500 leagues from any land: if his Voyage be to any Port, he must have a long time and much patience to get thither; if to sea, he's there already: in one thing he hath the advantage of any ship that ever sailed; for he can go nearer the wind by a point, than the most yare Friggot that ever was built. Which shews how far Nature can exceed Art. Another advantage he has, that in the greatest Tempest, he never fears drowning. Compass, nor Card he needs not, for he is never out of his way; whether than his voyage be for pleasure or profit we are yet to seek.