

A HISTORY OF TOBAGO

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A History of Tobago by H. I. Woodcock

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H. I. WOODCOCK

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OF TOBAGO**

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TOBAGO, 9th May, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is with no common feelings that I avail myself, after some lapse of time, of your kind permission to Dedicate my "HISTORY OF TOBAGO" to you. While writing this I cannot but think of the very happy days spent in your society while you administered the Government here; and I cannot but be grateful for the support I received from you in the discharge of my public duties, and for the assistance kindly afforded me in the preparation of the following sheets.

With continued feelings of respect and esteem, I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very faithfully,

H. I. WOODCOCK.

To JAMES V. DRYSDALE, Esquire,
Late Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago,
&c., &c., &c.

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PREFACE.

ON my arrival at Tobago as Chief Justice, I gathered from all sources within my reach to aid me in acquiring a knowledge of its constitution and laws, information as to the settlement and early history of the Colony. I found in this research so much of interest as to induce me to extend my inquiries to matters of more general history; and I have ventured to embody the result of my labours in the following narrative. We learn, from the early annals of the Island, that its history is intimately connected with the wars of Charles X. of Sweden and the Treaty of Oliva; that under Louis XIV. it became a barony of France; and that its inhabitants had a voice in the election of the First Napoleon as Consul for life. It has been a battlefield where the brave have fought; and we find note-worthy instances of the abnegation of self to the claims of country; while almost all of the more important events that mark its progress of late years belong to the general history of the British Colonies in the West Indies, and have, therefore, with them a common interest. Under these circumstances I venture to hope that my little Book will please those who would

observe the links that unite distant lands in the chain of history, or who are concerned in the polity and condition of the British Colonies in the West. To make the Work more practically useful to those immediately connected with the Island, I have appended Tables of Exports for a number of years—Tables showing the Lots in each Parish, numbered as originally granted—the original Grantee—the name of the Lot, or Lots, if one has been acquired—and the present Possessor, where there is one; and also a List of Estates in cultivation in 1832, and their then Owners, showing also those now in cultivation. The Tables of Lots and Estates may be found useful, among other things, in tracing titles, and ascertaining the boundaries to lands.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor I am much indebted for the ready access afforded me to the Government Papers necessary to the completion of the present undertaking; to the Public Officers, the Clergy, and Ministers of Religion of all denominations in the Island, I return my thanks for the assistance received from them. And I may not fail to acknowledge the obligations I am under to my friend, Mr. DOUGALD YEATES, for his aid in enabling me to complete the Work I undertook, particularly in what relates to the Natural History of the Island.

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