

**COLOMBIA: ITS PRESENT STATE, IN RESPECT  
OF CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS,  
POPULATION, GOVERNMENT, COMMERCE,  
REVENUE, MANUFACTURES, ARTS,  
LITERATURE, MANNERS, EDUCATION, AND  
INDUCEMENTS TO EMIGRATION**

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Colombia: Its Present State, in Respect of Climate, Soil, Productions, Population, Government, Commerce, Revenue, Manufactures, Arts, Literature, Manners, Education, and Inducements to Emigration by Francis Hall

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**FRANCIS HALL**

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# C O L O M B I A :

ITS PRESENT STATE,

IN RESPECT OF

CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, POPULATION,  
GOVERNMENT, COMMERCE, REVENUE, MANUFACTURES,  
ARTS, LITERATURE, MANNERS, EDUCATION,

AND

INDUCEMENTS TO EMIGRATION :

With an original Map :

AND

ITINERARIES, PARTLY FROM SPANISH SURVEYS,  
PARTLY FROM ACTUAL OBSERVATION.



BY COLONEL FRANCIS HALL,

HYDROGRAPHER IN THE SERVICE OF COLOMBIA,

AUTHOR OF "LETTERS FROM FRANCE," AND OF "A TOUR IN BRITISH  
NORTH AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES."



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## CONTENTS.

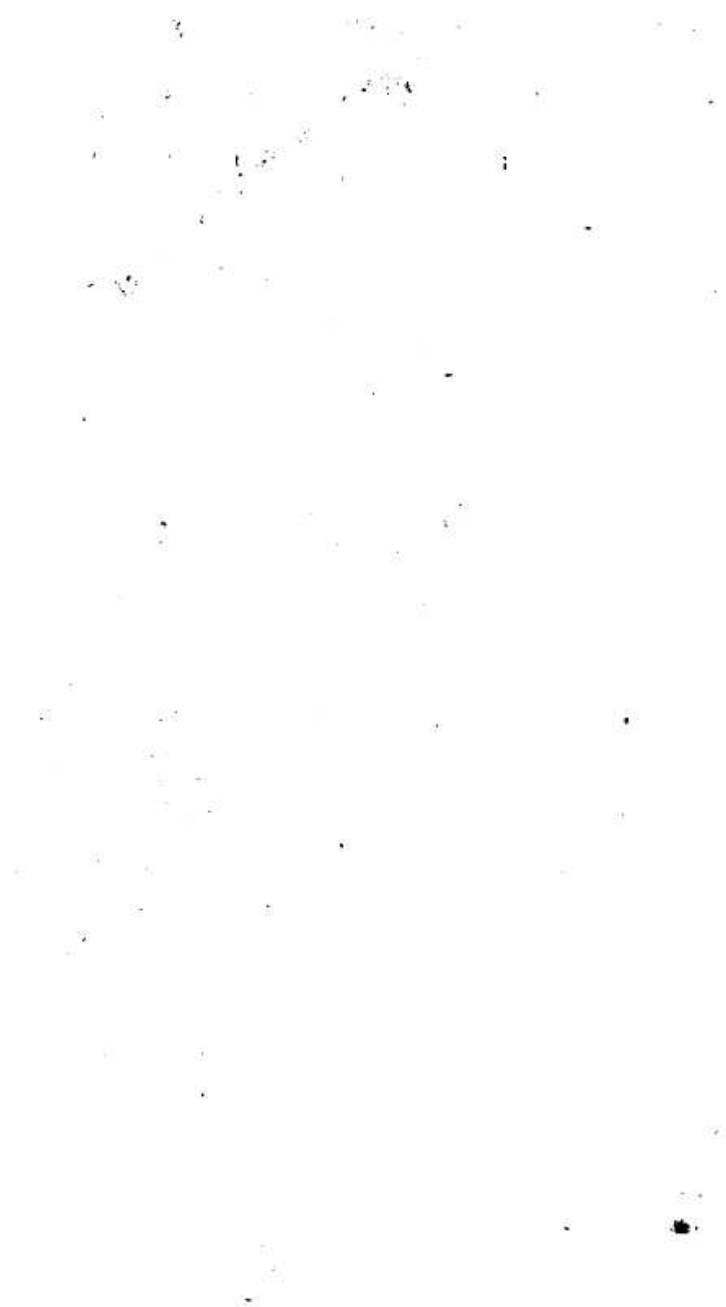
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### PART I.

*Geographical outline of Colombia —Climate—Soil and Productions — Population— Government—Commerce and Revenue—Manufactories, Arts, Literature and Education.*

### PART II.

*Preliminary remarks—Natural advantages of Emigration to Colombia—Disposition of the Government towards Foreign Settlers—Character of the Inhabitants, as it affects Foreign Settlers—Modes of Emigration, and description of Persons most proper for this purpose—Preparations necessary—Choice of Place—Difficulties arising from difference of Language, Customs and Religion—Diseases of the Climate.*



## DEDICATION.

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*To Jeremy Bentham, Esq.*

MY DEAR SIR,

*Maracaybo, Feb. 5, 1824.*

I TAKE the liberty of dedicating the following pages to *you*, because I am convinced there is no one more aware of the evils of a crowded population, and defective social institutions, or who would more gladly anticipate in the New World such improved forms of political existence as we must almost despair of witnessing in the Old.

It is surperfluous to insist on the paramount interest of Great Britain to plant in South America a nation of *customers* whose



trade will one day, from the fertility of their soil and superior value of its productions, become of infinitely more importance than even that of the United States. There is yet another interesting consideration — the political wheel has very nearly “come full circle” in the Antilles. Spain is not the only nation whose crimes will meet with retribution in the downfall of colonial establishments founded on anti-social principles. It is in vain the Creole proprietor proudly exclaims against all interference with *his property*. The time is fast approaching when *Man* will cease to be the property of *Man*. Fortunately the natural bent of circumstances offers a species of *euthanasia* to the West-India colonies, if not too long and obstinately rejected. The capital employed on them has long since made very inadequate returns, and these returns will be much smaller when the sugars, rum, and

coffee of South America obtain that preference in the European markets to which their superior cheapness will, of course, entitle them. South America must *under-sell* the West-India islands: let the capital employed on the latter be transferred to the former, and let the capitalist rather seek to share the prosperity of a new, than the ruin of an old country. I speak not of a more violent catastrophe, but they who dwell on the edge of a volcano should at least understand the signs of an approaching eruption.

I trust it is superfluous to speculate on the plans of the allied despots; meek-hearted sovereigns—who enslave, plunder, and partition, and then modestly desire the world will esteem them “all honourable men;” —aye, and righteous too, for they would cover both hemispheres with scaffolds and dungeons, and devoutly preach to their victims from the text of social order, reli-

gion, and philanthropy. The firm and prompt measures of the British cabinet give us every reason to hope the New World may at least escape their ravages. The well-beloved Ferdinand has already despatched a proclamation to his colonies, containing the usual quantity of official cant and insolence, but his "paternal yearnings" and "energetic measures" will serve here only to excite ridicule and contempt.

You will be pleased to know that your ideas on legislation are gaining ground in Colombia; a law of Congress of the 11th of June, 1823, orders, "That all laws shall be accompanied by an exordium, containing the fundamental reasons for their enactment." I have no doubt that this idea was suggested by the present of your *Codification proposal* to this government. For *its* sake, rather than for *yours*, I could have wished the obligation had been acknowledged.