

**JAMAICA: ITS HISTORY,
CONSTITUTION, AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTION**

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Jamaica: its History, Constitution, and Topographical Description by John Jarrett Wood

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JOHN JARRETT WOOD

**JAMAICA: ITS HISTORY,
CONSTITUTION, AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTION**

JAMAICA:
ITS HISTORY, CONSTITUTION,
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION:
WITH
GEOLOGICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

Compiled for the use of Schools.

BY

JOHN JARRETT WOOD,
Government Inspector of Schools.

KINGSTON:
McCARTNEY & ~~CROSS~~, No. 16, KING STREET.

1884.



P R E F A C E .

For years past I have been urged to prepare a Class-book of Jamaica for the use of Schools. After much hesitation—hoping that some one with more leisure than I had to bestow on the work would undertake it—I began to compile a History and Description of the Island, which I had nearly completed when two other volumes appeared. On perusing them I find that they do not supply the want of this volume, neither will it hinder *their* usefulness: therefore I have ventured to put this before the public.

The boundaries of Parishes, &c. have not been given, because such knowledge is more easily acquired by a class before the map.

No questions have been appended, because it is considered a very profitable exercise to require a class, with book in hand, to frame questions on the chapters and subjects in succession, and then, when questions have been framed on given portions, to lay the book aside and proceed to answer them in the pupil's own style. This should be done in the usual Exercise Books.

My maps are obtainable, mounted and varnished, or in sheets, or in book form; and it is hoped that these and the book will prove highly interesting and acceptable to the youth of Jamaica, among whom I have so long laboured.

I claim no merit for myself in the compilation, except for some judgment in culling, as the book might have been extended to double the size, and thus rendered unfit for the purpose intended. My daughters, too, have wrought at the compilation both of the book and map; and as to the former we have been mainly indebted to *Martin's History of the West Indies*, and to the *Jamaica Handbook*. My labour has been chiefly that of a "gatherer and disposer of other men's matter," but it is hoped that the plan adopted will render the work both entertaining and useful.

If my efforts in the Schools for forty-two years past, and this little work—as well as any labour I may be still spared to perform—shall be found to have contributed a little towards the social elevation and progress of the youth of Jamaica and its dependencies, I shall not have lived in vain.

JNO. JARRETT WOOD.

"MARGARET VILLA,"
ST. ANDREWS, JAMAICA,
December, 1853.

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THE
HISTORY OF JAMAICA.

CHAPTER I.—FROM 1494 TO 1661.

1. JAMAICA, an island in the Caribbean Sea, is situated between $17^{\circ} 43'$ and $18^{\circ} 32'$ N. lat., and $78^{\circ} 11'$ and $78^{\circ} 20' 50''$ W. long., about 5,000 miles south-west of England; 100 miles west of Hayti or St. Domingo, and 90 miles south of Cuba; 445 miles north of Carthagena; 540 miles from Colon; and 310 from Cape Gracios á Dios in the Mosquito Territory.

2. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the morning of the 3rd of May, 1494, during his second expedition to the Western Hemisphere, otherwise called the New World. The island was found to be densely peopled with Indians, resembling in appearance and language the inhabitants of the contiguous mainland. Numerous canoes put off from the shore to meet Columbus, and resistance was offered by a large party of armed Indians when the Spanish boats proceeded to obtain soundings in the haven, now called Port Maria.

3. The voyagers then entered another harbour, named by them Ora Cabessa, and on experiencing a similar demonstration of opposition, several *arbalates*¹ were discharged at the Indians, who fled on witnessing the slaughter of their companions, and permitted the quiet landing of Columbus, who took formal possession of the island for his sovereign, Ferdinand of Spain.

¹ Cross-bows.