Souvenir of Trinidad

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SOUVENIR OF

TRINIDAD
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WHO shall tell the tale of the manifold attractions of Trinidad, after Kingsley's wonderful pen-pictures of the Island in "At Last"? No man had a keener eye for the picturesque and the beautiful than Charles Kingsley, poet, parson, author and naturalist. Perhaps no scenery in the world has been accorded more untinted, and yet just, praise than that Trinidad received from the magic pen of the author of "Westward, Ho!" If, therefore, you would read of the charms of Trinidad—and they are legion—read "At Last."

Trinidad was discovered by Christopher Columbus on the 31st of July, 1498. Her story during the Spanish occupation was a stressful one, and, on more than one occasion, the Elizabethan sea-rovers played havoc in the land. In his search for the mythical El Dorado, Sir Walter Raleigh visited the Island, burnt down the old capital of St. Joseph, and caulked his vessels with the pitch of the world-famous lake of asphalt at La Brea. The Spaniards contributed little towards the permanent colonization of the place. This task, however, was considerably advanced by the labors of M. de St. Laurent in 1780. From the settlers M. St. Laurent brought with him sprang the French element of the population of to-day. In 1797 the Island was captured by an English expedition under Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Rear-Admiral Harvey. During the same year that gallant soldier, Brigadier-General Picton (who died on the field of Waterloo), became Governor of the Island. Thus for over one hundred years Trinidad has been a British Colony. The population is, however, very cosmopolitan, and considerable Indian immigration has brought some features of the East into this Island of the West.

Trinidad possesses many attractions for the tourist; she offers many favorable chances of investment to the capitalist, and she has still room, and to spare, for the settler. Yearly an increasing number of visitors flock to her shores from Europe and America—to escape the rigors of a Northern winter. In Port-of-Spain, the capital, a modern city of some 60,000 inhabitants, they find all the conveniences of an up-to-date civilization. Violent convulsions of nature are unknown in the Island, and Trinidad escapes the hurricanes and cyclones of other West Indian Islands less favorably situated. She is prosperous with a prosperity unfortunately denied her neighbors, does a large and increasing trade, and has commercial and agricultural possibilities that are almost unbounded.

Tobago, the island described by Defoe in his "Robinson Crusoe," was amalgamated with Trinidad in 1889, and has also magnificent agricultural possibilities.
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