

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

History

The books reissued in this series include accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. The series includes work in social, political and military history on a wide range of periods and regions, giving modern scholars ready access to influential publications of the past.

Brief Notices of Hayti

John Candler (1787–1869), a Quaker Abolitionist, visited the West Indies between 1839 and 1841, to study the situation of ex-slaves since they had obtained their freedom. He spent three months in Haiti, and appears to have been generally impressed by what he found. The former slaves had become smallholders, growing crops on small plots of land, though they were not interested in producing more than they needed for their basic livelihood. The export of coffee, cotton and tobacco had declined since the end of slavery, and the sugar trade had ended. Whites were barred from owning land, or from marrying Haitians, and were restricted in trading activities, reducing available investment capital. The compensation demanded by France to the former plantation owners was also crippling the economic development of the island. Candler's book gives much valuable detail about an important former colony at a time of transition.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Brief Notices of Hayti

With its Condition, Resources, and Prospects

JOHN CANDLER



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108024389

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1842
This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02438-9 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

B R I E F N O T I C E S

O F

H A Y T I :

W I T H I T S

C O N D I T I O N , R E S O U R C E S , A N D P R O S P E C T S .

B Y

J O H N C A N D L E R .

L O N D O N :

T H O M A S W A R D & C O . , 2 7 , P A T E R N O S T E R R O W ;

A N D

C H A R L E S G I L P I N , 5 , B I S H O P S G A T E S T R E E T W I T H O U T .

1 8 4 2 .

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

IN bringing before the public a view of the present state of Hayti, it seemed desirable to prefix to the narrative, a brief sketch of the history of the island. The Author had intended to prepare such a sketch; but upon examining those works, both French and English, which are considered as authorities, he found so many discrepancies and counter statements, involving the character of several of the leaders in the late revolution, that he abandoned the attempt in despair. The history of Hayti has yet to be written, nor can it be written impartially, so as to establish the truth, and the whole truth, till the present generation shall have passed away. The literary public of France and England may yet look for an accession of historical materials, that will throw great light on the late contests between the free and the servile classes, and between the whites and the men of colour. The present Secretary of State for Hayti, General Inginac, who is now advanced in age, and who was engaged in the wars of the revolution, almost from his boyhood, has prepared a narrative of the passing events of the period, both civil and military, which is intended for publication at his decease. This nar-

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
 John Candler
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

rative, when published, will, no doubt, illustrate many circumstances that are now obscure, and serve to unfold more clearly the character and motives of some remarkable men, his contemporaries. It is the delight of the lovers of liberty to dwell with enthusiasm on the talents and exploits of *Toussaint L'Ouverture*, undoubtedly the greatest man that took part in the revolution of St. Domingo, and one of the ablest Generals of his age; but it is very doubtful whether his character, as a leader in the great struggle, will come out of the crucible of impartial history, with all that brightness and purity that some modern narratives, half history, half romance, seem to assign to it. The opinion of many persons in Hayti, whether well or ill-founded, we stop not to inquire, is certainly adverse to such high pretensions: these individuals represent *Toussaint* as one of the best men of his day; but not as free from many of the blemishes which generally attach to warriors. The lines of Pope are become an axiom, and are often quoted as decisive with regard to men who are engaged in the dismal work of slaughtering their fellows:

“ All heroes are alike : the points agreed ;
 From Macedonia's madman to the Swede.”

and it is remarkable to observe, as a confirmation of the poet's doctrine, which is true to a certain extent, that the character of Hannibal, as penned

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

v

by the severe and vigorous hand of Juvenal, has been accommodated by Dr. Johnson in his "Vanity of Human Wishes," to represent the life and exploits of Charles the Twelfth; and that the portrait drawn of the latter, might, with the omission of a line or two, and the change of half a dozen words, be made literally to apply to Napoleon Buonaparte. If there be any exception to the truth of Pope's apothegm in modern days, that exception may undoubtedly be made in favour of *Washington* and *Toussaint*. But those great men who act in a public contest, where the passions of a whole people are stirred up and roused into revengeful activity, however mild they may be by nature, and however disposed to act with mercy, often contract the stains that attach to the party they embrace, or the cause in which they embark, and exhibit in their conduct more than a common frailty. The civil wars of Hayti are now ended; and happy would it be for humanity's sake, if we could draw the curtain of night on the many dark transactions that disgraced the period of their progress! The people of that country, however, have learned from them an awful lesson; and this one good consequence has resulted, that the Republic, weary of contending with the sword, is now desirous of keeping it sheathed in the scabbard, and of maintaining an honourable and lasting peace.

The author of the following "brief notices" declines the task of an historian; but if his pages,

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
John Candler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi

INTRODUCTION.

which are intended to exhibit the present state of Hayti, with its resources and prospects, should afford amusement or instruction, in any degree, to those who read them, his end will be fully answered, and he will receive all the reward he desires or looks for.

York, Third Month, 1842.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
 John Candler
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
HAYTI, ITS GEOGRAPHY	1
CHAPTER II.	
OUTWARD BOUND—SHORES OF HAYTI—JAMAICA—ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE WEST INDIES	6
CHAPTER III.	
RETURN TO HAYTI—SANTIAGO DE CUBA—TOWN OF CAPE HAYTIEN—PLANTATIONS IN THE PLAINE DU NORD—EXCUR- SION TO SANS SOUCI—CHRISTOPHE—GENERAL OBSERVA- TIONS	12
CHAPTER IV.	
DEPARTURE FROM CAPE HAYTIEN—JOURNEY TO GONAIVES— TOWN AND COMMERCE OF GONAIVES—COASTING VOYAGE TO PORT-AU-PRINCE	47
CHAPTER V.	
CITY OF PORT-AU-PRINCE—THE ABBE D'ECHEVERRIA— SCHOOLS—PRISON—JURISPRUDENCE—INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT	69

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-02438-9 - Brief Notices of Hayti
 John Candler
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER VI.	
CONSTITUTION OF HAYTI—CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT—ARMY— COMMERCE—FINANCE—EMPLOYMENTS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE—ESTIMATE OF THE POPULATION	86
CHAPTER VII.	
CARNIVAL AT PORT-AU-PRINCE—VISIT TO THE CUL DE SAC— SUGAR PLANTATIONS—DISTILLERIES—CONSUMPTION OF ARDENT SPIRITS—JOURNEY TO LE GRAND FOND—JOURNEY BY LEOGANE OVER THE MOUNTAIN TO JACMEL—RETURN TO THE CAPITAL	134
CHAPTER VIII.	
THE FINE ARTS—PHYSIOGNOMY OF THE NATIVES—INEFFI- CIENCY OF THE CITY POLICE—DEPARTURE FROM HAYTI— CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS	162