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Thomas Southey

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Chronological History of the West Indies

Thomas Southey (1777–1838) joined the navy at the age of twelve, saw action during the French Revolutionary Wars, and was first posted to the West Indies in early 1804. Promoted to captain in 1811 and later employed as a customs officer, he died on the voyage home from his last posting in Demerara. His only book, published in 1827, is dedicated to his older brother, Robert, a Romantic poet, who also wrote on historical subjects (his books on Nelson and Brazil are also available in the Cambridge Library Collection). Thomas's three-volume work draws on extensive reading, with substantial passages quoted verbatim from his sources. He concludes that the history of the West Indies presents 'little more than a melancholy series of calamities and crimes', but commends the British government's efforts to put an end to slavery. Volume 2 covers the period from 1655 to 1783.

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COMMANDER, ROYAL NAVY.

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ERRATA.

THE candid Reader is requested to excuse many evident oversights which, in consequence of the Author's residing so far from the Press, have unavoidably remained. At page 49, vol. ii., the sense is entirely altered ; for " Colonel Lynch succeeded Sir Thomas Modyford," read, " When Sir Thomas Modyford succeeded Colonel Lynch." And in the quotation, p. 230, vol. iii., between the second and third, and the fifth and sixth lines, a line of asterisks ought to have been placed ; and in the third line of the same quotation, instead of " in the," read " in that."

*Gimingham House, Norfolk,
11th April, 1827.*