

Somers and a party of volunteers started for Bermuda to obtain supplies; and during this trip Sir George died, near the site of the present town of St. George, where there is a monument erected to his memory.

From reports reaching England about this time (1612), a chartered company was formed, colonisation commenced, and soon after the first party of settlers arrived, under the charge of Mr. Richard More as Governor. From this date Bermuda became a British colony, with representative government and a legislative assembly.

As time passed on, its importance as a naval and military station became apparent, and large sums of money were expended on fortifications and improvements. Of late years the islands have become well known as the site of extensive convict establishments; but these, like all the other outlying penal settlements, have been broken up, and the convicts sent back to our own shores again.

At the present time the imports and exports are but small; and although possessing such a fine climate, its agricultural produce is limited (perhaps from a dearth of labour), for only about one-tenth of its area is cultivated, and this is only in isolated patches, where arrowroot and early crops of vegetables are produced for the American markets.

Here a fortnight was spent in scientific pursuits. The dredging around the reefs and the several deep-