

which resulted in the French Government taking possession and establishing a Protectorate, and from that date (1843) up to the present administering the affairs, levying the import and export duties, and making the Queen an annual allowance of 1000*l.* per annum to keep quiet; in fact, treating it to all intents as a French colony.

Papeite lies at the end of a semicircular bay, seven miles west of Point Venus, the northernmost part of the island. It is the chief town, the residence of the Queen and seat of government; but this is not incompatible with its being of very limited dimensions, not rising above the grandeur of an ordinary English village.

The dwellings of the Europeans, constructed for the most part of wood, roofed with palm-leaves, extend all along the edge of the bay, while diverging or running at right angles or parallel are pretty roads, which help to make regular streets, around which, and on every side, rise up bread-fruit, cocoa, palm, and orange trees, which make up in cheerfulness for any deficiency in aspect.

The streets of an evening, the lighted shops and stores surrounded by the beautiful trees and gaily dressed girls, the rollicking "blue-jackets" from the two French war-ships in port and from the *Challenger*, the universal good-humour of every one, made a very novel, picturesque, and pleasing scene.