



Philosophical Magazine Series 1

ISSN: 1941-5796 (Print) 1941-580X (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tphm12>

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To cite this article: Dr. Rollo (1799) IV. A short account of Souffriere in the island of St. Lucia. From observations on the diseases which appeared in the army there in December 1778, Philosophical Magazine Series 1, 3:11, 256-257, DOI: [10.1080/14786449908676990](https://doi.org/10.1080/14786449908676990)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14786449908676990>



Published online: 18 May 2009.



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IV. *A short Account of Souffriere in the Island of St. Lucia. From Observations on the Diseases which appeared in the Army there in December 1778, &c. By Dr. ROLLO.*

HAVING in our Number for Feb. laid before our readers an account of the volcano in the island of St. Lucia, from the Swedish Transactions, the following particulars respecting it and the neighbourhood are now inserted, as they tend to make the description of that singular spot more complete.

“Souffriere is a small town situated at the bottom of a bay towards the leeward extremity of the island. It is surrounded by hills covered with trees, the declivities of which, and every part capable of produce, are cultivated, and afford good sugar-cane. This place has its marshes, but not so extensive, or so much to windward as those about Carenage.

“The extremity of the south side of Souffriere Bay runs into two steep hills of a conical figure, which are nearly perpendicular: they are reckoned the highest on the island, and are known by the name of the Sugar-Loaf Hills. From their height and straitness it is impossible to ascend them: we were told it was once attempted by two negroes, but they never returned. They are covered with trees and shrubs, and are the shelter of goats, several of which sometimes descend, and are shot by the natives.

“After you pass the hills to windward of Souffriere, a fine, clear and level country presents itself. From the back of the Sugar-Loaf Hills, and all along the sea-coast, to the distance, we suppose, of from fifteen to twenty miles, this flat or level extends: it is all cultivated and divided into rich estates, affording sugar-cane equal to any in our islands. This beautiful spot is intersected by many rivers of very clear water, and these are conducted by art to the purpose of sugar-making. The rains in this part are less frequent than on any other part of the island; however, they have often a
pro-

proportion more than sufficient. The wind here blows from the sea, or nearly so.

“ We cannot finish this description without taking notice of a volcano in the neighbourhood of Souffriere. You pass over one or two small hills to the southward of the town, and, before any mark of the place is perceived, you are sensible of the smell of sulphur. The first thing you discern is a rivulet of black running water, sending forth steams as if nearly boiling. From the prospect of this you soon open on the volcano, which appears in a hollow, surrounded close on every side by hills. There are only two openings; the one we entered, and another almost opposite to it on the north side. In the hollow there are many pits of a black and thick boiling matter, which seems to work with great force. Lava is slowly thrown out; and in the centre of the hollow there is a large mass of it, forming a kind of hill. This we ascended; but were soon obliged to return, from the excessive heat. The lava is a sulphur mixed with a calcareous earth and some saline body. We found small quantities of alum in a perfect state. In the opening, at the north side of the hollow, there is a rivulet of very good water. On stirring the bottom, over which this water runs, we were surpris'd with feeling it very hot; and on placing a tumbler filled with some of the water close to the bottom of the rivulet, it soon became so hot as not to be touched. The liquid which runs from the pits is strongly impregnated with sulphur, and resembles a good deal the preparation sold in the shops, known by the name of *aqua sulphurata*, or *gas sulphuris*. Before St. Lucia was in our possession, two or three vessels were loaded with the crude sulphur of this volcano, for the use of America.”