## Observations.

The Bermudas or Summers Islands, so named from Juan Bermudez a Spaniard who first discovered them, and from Sr. George Summer, one of their first English Settlers, lie in the Atlantic Ocean about 190 Leagues from Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, which is the nearest Land. Hurricanes and tempestuous weather are very frequent in their Seas, and the American Navigators call them the Horse Latitudes, because, on account of the violent gales of Wind they meet in the veering them, they are frequently obliged to throw overboard the horses which they are carrying to the West-India Isl.s and to the Dutch Settlements at Surinam. Their Coasts are extremely dangerous being surrounded, chiefly on the North Side with innumerable Rocks most of whom are always above water. The Channels into the Sounds or Harbours are so narrow and Shoaly, that it is scarce possible for a Vessel to be carried into them without the assistance of a good Pilot. Whatmoreover the Bermudas still more dangerous is the Current which sets to the N.E. from the Gulf of Florida: it is found to be very strong near these Islands, insomuch that Vessels bound from the Southern and Northern Plantations, have been thereby insensibly carried 40 or 50 Leagues to the Eastward of the Islands, when the people were expecting in that Latitude to find themselves at a great distance to the Westward. The Spanish Fleets, coming in 1722 from Havanna to Old Spain, were by that Current carried so far out of its true Course that had it not been for the Shifting of the Wind, which happened Just when the Pilots saw the danger they were in, 15 Galleons must have been wrecked on the Western Coast of these Islands. The Variation of the Needle here is inconsiderable as well as the Tide which in common does not rise above five feet.

The Bermudian Settlers are about 10 000. They are a handsome well looking people, humane, generous, & extremely kind & hospitable to the few Strangers who come amongst them. Their principal & most profitable employment is building of Sloops, & small Brigantines & many of an excellent & most durable cedar wood, which they had once growing among them in great plenty, but from the great consumption it is now on the decline. It is incorruptible & never touched by the Worms. Vessels built of it run for a long time, perhaps 6 or 7 years, without repairing the least repair, not even calking. They are of a peculiar construction, & all of them very fast Sailers. These Islands have quarries of a soft white Stone of which the Inhabitants carry cargoes to the Continent. They produce very fine Mulberry trees, & abound in great variety of wild fowl. Chiefly of the aquatic kind. Their Sounds & surrounding seas are well stored with fish. & the Lobster is sometimes met with among their Rocks in heaps of considerable bigness.