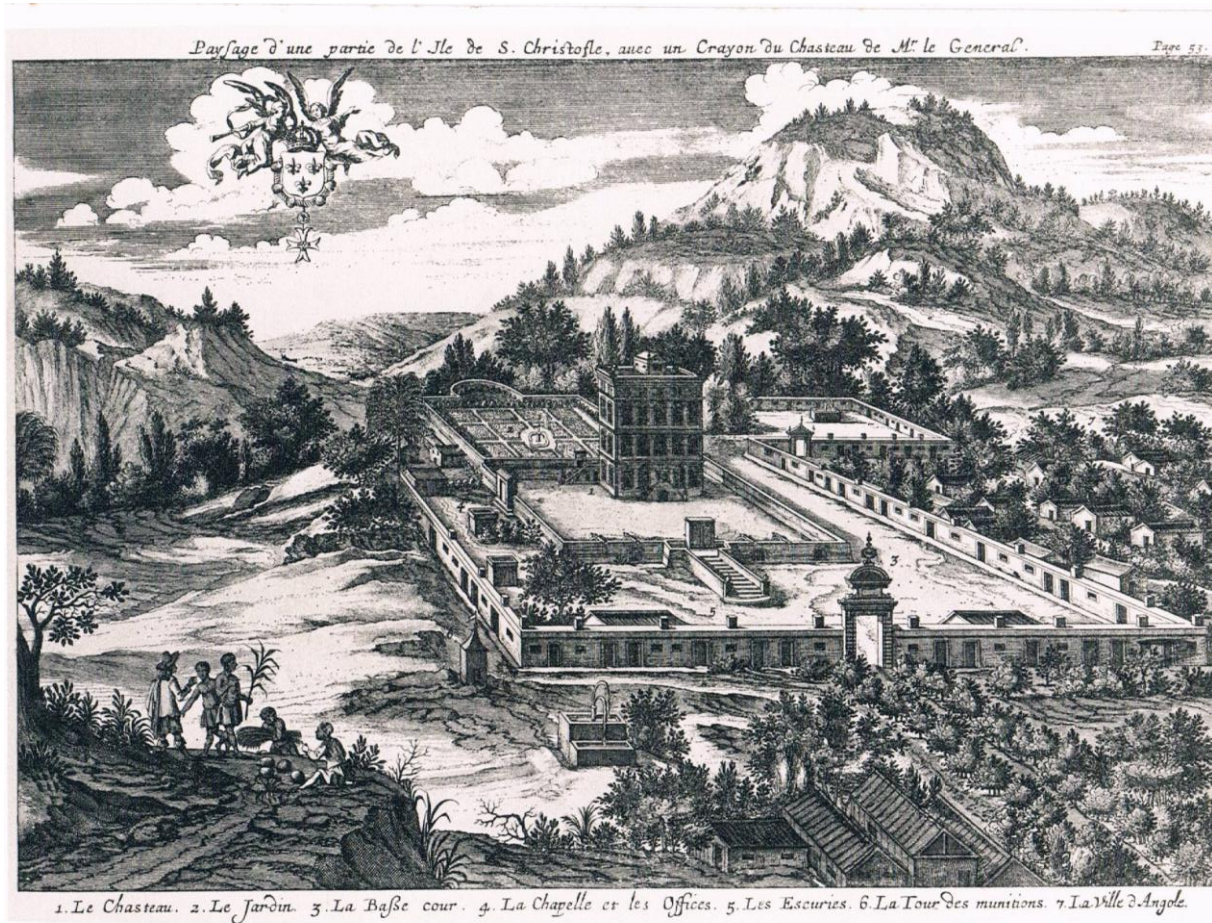


THE DE POINCY CHATEAU ALSO CALLED CHATEAU DE LA FONTAINE



“Among the magnificent and solid structures which the French and English have in several parts of St. Christopher, the Chateau of General de Poincy excels and far surpasses all of the others. It is built in healthy and cool surroundings, halfway up a mountain covered with large trees, which form an attractive background for the building. It is situated at some distance from the sea shore and along the road leading to it, which slopes upwards almost imperceptibly the houses of the leading officials and inhabitants of the island are to be found. As soon as one has skirted a rise in the ground which hides the Chateau on the road from Basseterre, a straight and very wide avenue bordered by orange and citron trees, very pleasing to the senses of sight and smell, leads straight to the lovely building which would be a credit to any part of the world.”

The front of the building is almost square, it is three stories high, well proportion and built of cut stone and brick in perfect symmetry. One enters towards the side facing the East, by a wide set of stone steps with a beautiful parapet above. The side which faces the West is also beautified by similar stairway, and to the North, a source of mountain Spring water flows into a large pond, from which water is piped to all the rooms. The living rooms and bedrooms are well ventilated, the floors are in French style, made from red wood, grown on the island, solid, beautifully polished and pleasantly scented. The roof is flat and from it, looking towards Basseterre and

Nevis, one can see one of the most beautiful views of the world. At times of National emergency, rejoicing or when important pronouncements are to be made, de Poincy sends trumpeters and drummers to the roof of the Chateau, and it is said that by a trick of the echoes can be heard in all parts of the island, thus alerting the inhabitants of some important happening.

Lying between the Chateau and the mountain, is an extensive and well-laid-out garden, planted both with vegetables of the kind usually found in France and with rare flowers and shrubs, set out around the pond, which is filled with spring water from the mountain. In the centre of the pond, a large jet sprays the garden without any mechanical assistance.

To one side of the main building, is a beautifully designed and well appointed Chapel, where the General's priest holds services regularly. The quarters of 100 French domestic servants and tradesmen are on the same side of the Chapel. On the other side, but not far away, are the quarters of 400 slaves, who occupy many small houses built of timber or brick. This part of the property is known as Angola town. The beauty of the chateau is enhanced by the cultivated lands around it, where sugar cane with some ginger and tobacco, is grown. The General owns three Mills for processing the cane and derives considerable profit for his undertakings, which enables him to live in a style comparable to the noblest Signories of France."

[Extracted from the 'writings of an unknown French Author in 1658 as submitted by D.L Matheson to the MIS Christmas magazine, 1962]