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IN

SOUTH AMERICA.

BY E. H. S.

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PREFACE.

To the few friends for whom alone these pages are destined, I need not apologize for the many literary imperfections which they doubtless contain. My object has been to record plainly and briefly the sights which I have seen, and the impressions which naturally suggested themselves to my mind, during a visit to a part of the world whose beauties are as yet unhackneyed by tourists, and where adventure and novelty may still be found in travel.

The importance of the isthmus of Panama in every point of view can hardly be over-estimated: and the present rush of emigrants westward, and the daily increasing prospect of its continuance, have given to that locality, both commercially and politically, an interest such as no other country at this moment can boast.

I have abstained from dwelling at length on the social or political condition of the South American republics in which I travelled: partly because any

deductions drawn from so rapid a survey as mine must necessarily have been hasty and imperfect: and partly also because I believe that the state of transition inseparable from their recent emancipation and present ignorance of the art of self-government, must long render it impossible even for those best acquainted with their history, either to decide fairly on their actual position, or justly to predict their future destinies.

London, June 10th, 1850.

SOUTH AMERICA.

On the morning of the 18th of December, 1849, after a residence of some weeks in Jamaica, I left that island by the Royal Mail Steamer, accompanied by a single friend, and intending to proceed first across the Isthmus of Panama, and then as much farther to the southward as fortune and time might allow.

The Medway had on board a most heterogeneous collection of South American merchants, bound for Lima and Valparaiso, Californian emigrants, settlers on their way to Oregon, and a party from the United States en route for the Sandwich Islands, where they contemplated the introduction of sundry branches of business unheard of in the Pacific until now. From these last I learnt that Anglo-Saxon colonies were regularly, though not rapidly forming in the country which they had chosen as their home, — a movement to which the organization of new states beyond the Rocky Mountains will probably give an extraordinary impetus—and among other evidences of civilization, that a weekly journal made its appearance, and circulated extensively in Honolulu. Of this addition to the periodical literature of the world, I afterwards obtained a sight, and found

it to be intended for natives as well as settlers, since it contained many advertisements in the Polynesian language, contrasting singularly with the European "leaders" and other notices. It is, of course, in the hands of North Americans, and with the exception I have named, and the important deficiency of having no rival with whom to keep up a paper war, differs but little from the common run of journals in the Western States. The latter want was in part supplied by a continual and truly John-Bullish quarrel with the French, whose vague and visionary projects of founding an empire in Oceania have impressed the present inhabitants with a deep and perhaps well founded alarm for their threatened independence. The load of unpopularity seems to be pretty equally divided between them and the missionaries, who if they have said less, have done more: and whose spiritual influence, extended over temporal matters, has often been a subject of complaint among their own less docile countrymen. That a present desire exists for the annexation to the great North American republic of any of these isolated spots, important as they are now, and more important as they will hereafter become for the purposes of commerce, I do not believe: but that, both there and throughout a great part of the southern continent, especially along its western coast, the dominant race will be ultimately composed of United States emigrants, I for one do not entertain a doubt: and the conversations which I held, both here and afterwards on the

Isthmus, with parties well acquainted with the subject, seemed to confirm me in this preconceived opinion.

Two days rolling and pitching in a sea by no means of the smoothest, brought us in sight of Santa Martha, where H. M. S. Vixen was lying at anchor, surrounded by a shoal of the little vessels of the country, whose appearance, rough, unpainted, and thatched rather than covered with dry palm leaves in place of an awning, indicated no very profound acquaintance on the part of the natives with the art of ship-building. They are said, however, to be much safer than they seem, and make long trips down the coast at all seasons of the year, though harbours are few and squalls frequent.

It was still night when we entered the bay, and the first dawn of day shewed a long white line, seemingly of clouds, which appeared to overhang the little town and its surrounding valley. Their immense height precluded the idea of their being mountains: and it was not until the sun rose above the horizon, lighting up the white peaks until they sparkled and glistened like diamonds, that I could really believe them what they proved to be, the Sierra Nevada of Santa Martha. They form a branch or spur of the great Cordillera chain, and their height is something more than 17,000 feet above the sea. The distance of their summits from the coast is not exactly known: but it certainly exceeds 150 miles, and only during very fine and clear

weather do they present the appearance which we saw. Indeed within an hour from the time when we first made them out, they had begun to draw the clouds round their summits, and by mid-day were blocked altogether from the scene.

With this exception, the bay presents no remarkable feature. Low rocky hills, thinly covered with a kind of dwarf cactus, and presenting none of the usual luxuriant appearance of tropical vegetation, form a wide amphitheatre round the valley, which is in itself neither rich nor well cultivated, though dotted here and there with the white walls and red roofs of haciendas belonging to the citizens, few of whom choose to reside within the dusty precincts of the town. There is a castle, of no great strength or importance, perched on a seemingly inaccessible point of rock, but calculated rather to overawe than protect the citizens, being overlooked by all the neighbouring hills, on any of which a battery might be planted so as completely to sweep the ramparts. Entering the streets, a stranger is struck by the evidences of utter neglect and disorder visible in all that belongs, or ought to belong, to the municipal department, the unpaved roads, the holes not filled up, the accumulated dirt swept into the centre of the thoroughfares and left there : and above all, the general air of indolent indifference stamped on the faces, and even the manners of the people. Towards mid-day not a soul is stirring : the shop-keepers are asleep at their doors, or perhaps swinging in their

hammocks: many of the houses are closed: and the very vultures, tame as sparrows in London, and perched on the roofs and windowsills, with a confidence in the security of their position which their usefulness as scavengers justifies, are basking with wings outspread in the sun, while the glare from the hot sand beneath, unrelieved by shade or wind, burns with a furnace-like heat which no northern imagination can realize. I rode over to the hacienda of San Pedro, celebrated in South American annals as the residence of Bolivar, and the place in which he died. The proprietor was absent, but his foreman, an American from the States, very civilly shewed us everything that was to be seen, and particularly insisted on our admiring a clumsy and ill-constructed sugar-mill, which, worked by eight oxen, screamed and groaned as though its ungreased joints were suffering torture in the process. Sugar is made throughout New Granada, but the canes are very inferior to those of the islands, and two-thirds of the produce is wasted by the exceeding awkwardness of the manufacturing process. When I explained to my conductor the manner in which the work was done in Louisiana, and told him that he ought to bring over some of the improvements introduced of late years among his countrymen, he admitted their superiority at once, but said that neither his employer, nor any of his neighbours, would sanction a deviation from the old mode of proceeding. We went into the house, and were

shewn the place where the Washington of South America drew his last breath. It is a bare unfurnished room, with walls plastered and roughly painted, a mud floor, and one small window. A bust of Bolivar stood in one corner, evidently "made to order," for instead of the irregular, but singularly intellectual features of the conqueror, the marble displayed the head and shoulders of a grenadier, devoid of a single particle of expression, and resembling nothing so much as a large figure intended to set off the uniform in which it was dressed. Above the place once occupied by his camp-bed, a rude scrawl informed us that "aqui muria Bolivar," a simpler, and therefore much better inscription than one in a neighbouring church, where his remains were for a time deposited, which latter is conceived in all that spirit of pompous and unmeaning braggadocio which appears to be the mother-tongue of a Spaniard of the New World.

The private history of Bolivar is less known to us than that of any great man so near our own time. His early years were passed chiefly in wandering over the continent of Europe, then under the undisputed dominion of Buonaparte. The story of his vowing to achieve the freedom of his country on the Mons Sacer at Rome, is amusingly characteristic of his countrymen's propensity to invest even the most common event with an air of romance. Married, widowed, again a traveller, and settled down at last as a haciendado on his native estates

of Aragua, in New Barcelona, he seems to have taken part unwillingly in the revolutionary outbreaks of 1808: and it is not the least singular part of his career, that the man who at five-and-twenty refused from motives of prudence to join the patriotic forces,—in modern phrase a "republicain du lendemain," and not "de la veille,"—should within five years have found himself at the head of the movement, without rival or second in his authority. An unsuccessful mission to London filled up a part of this short interval: and his surrender of Puerto-Cabello to the Spaniards in 1811, after a brief and feeble defence, gave no promise of future success. The results of that failure are well known. Fair words and promises were lavished on the insurgents, whose cause had now become hopeless; an amnesty was guaranteed, and a redress of grievances hinted at: the Colonists trusted and submitted: a military despotism succeeded: the streets of the towns ran with blood: and the leader Miranda died in the dungeons of Cadiz. Bolivar escaped to Carthagena: and nothing more was heard of his indifference to the cause of freedom. Victory succeeded victory; at thirty he was Commander-in-chief, with a colleague almost as nominal as Buonaparte's fellow-consuls: his Indian cavalry defied the utmost efforts of the Spaniards to keep pace with their marches, whether in retreat or pursuit: tents, luggage, camp-followers, were prohibited: and Napoleon's system of warfare was carried out under a

tropical sun, and in campaigns conducted among unexplored and all but impenetrable forests. A genuine and life-like history of these expeditions would be among the most interesting works ever written.

A great deal of good indignation has been wasted on the subject of Bolivar's supposed despotic intentions: while in truth no man, except himself, could have held together, with so limited an exercise of authority, the feeble and unformed governments of the new republic: and whatever portion of freedom they may have lost during his administration, was sacrificed to the preservation of the rest. A fortune ruined, and a constitution, like Pitt's, worn out at forty-seven, were his rewards for eighteen years of exertions: and the best informed and wisest of his countrymen reluctantly acknowledge, that in the twenty years succeeding his death, South America has produced no other like him.

The tradition of his illness having been shortened by poison is current in Carthagena, and very generally believed. I am not aware that there is any ground more definite than common report for crediting a story, to which the single fact of his dying at the moment when the fate of a party hung upon his return to power, was sufficient to give an air of plausibility. There was however no one living at the hacienda who remembered his residence there.

The dusty plain which we had to traverse in returning was intersected by some twenty different

horsepaths—carriage-road there is none—and contriving to miss one of the innumerable turns in that which led back to the town, my companion and I found ourselves seven miles distant from the steamer, with about half an hour to make our way back; and it cost us a hot and hurried ride to reach the shore, which we did just as the last boats were putting off.

In the night we passed the mouths of the Magdalena, which are wider and deeper than those of the Mississippi, and during and after the rainy season, pour down a volume of water which discolours the sea for many miles round. It is the great interior road of New Granada, and furnishes the only communication with Bogota, the land journey thither from the point of disembarkation being only of two days, while eight or ten are usually occupied in the tedious business of "poling" up against the stream. A line of steamers has been often proposed, and I am informed might easily be established; but the Government will not, and individuals cannot, take upon themselves the risk and expense of the enterprise; while the usual fate of creditors having money invested in South American loans may well deter European capitalists from hazarding an experiment of whose success they are so unlikely to reap the fruits. The present mode of travelling is by the boats of the country, which are little more than trees scooped out to form a bed, while additional height and breadth are given by a few planks roughly nailed on to the sides.

By noon of the next day we were in Carthagena harbour, one of the most remarkable in the world. The coast is generally low, flat, and uninteresting, although one bold promontory, surmounted by an old monastic building, and very much resembling Arthur's Seat in its shape, commands the town, from which it stands distant about a mile. But the peculiarity of the place lies in the manner in which it is approached from the sea. Passing within a mile of the walls, and going up the river, a vessel making Carthagena, appears at first sight to be leaving the city altogether behind her; the object of which circuitous route is to avoid a reef of rocks which blocks up the direct approach. Four or five miles up the channel the river divides into two branches, separated from each other by low green islands covered with mangrove bushes and forming a nursery for mosquitos, young alligators, and fever.

The nearer and broader passage called the Boca Grande, was formerly taken by all vessels standing into the harbour; but ships were sunk in it during the war with Venezuela, and as it is proverbially easier to make mischief than to mend it, the approach is impassable to this day; thus adding about six miles to the distance gone over, and materially increasing the difficulties of the navigation. The present entrance is through a narrow mouth about 100 yards across, and completely commanded by a heavy battery, called the castle of San Joseph, while another equally formidable is placed so as to rake

the channel. Both are "a fleur d'eau," and however dangerous at a distance, might easily be carried by boarding, as the water is deep up to the very muzzles of the guns. From this point to the landing place, the harbour is a wide and deep lagoon, above three miles in length, and studded at several points by detached outworks, heavily armed and said to be well garrisoned. We passed the greater part of the morning in walking through the streets, and along the old ramparts, which were formerly, next to Havana, the strongest in the New World, but are now much dilapidated. Not the slightest trouble is taken to keep them in repair, and the guns are most of them dismounted and rusty. There is a show made of guarding the gates, at one of which stood a bare-footed sentry, very composedly lighting his cigar at that of a passenger, while his musket, devoid of bayonet, leaned against the opposite wall. We had an opportunity of seeing the guard turn out, and no Irish beggars ever exceeded them in wretchedness of appearance. Two-thirds were negroes, and most of the rest appeared to have Indian blood in their veins. By dint of swearing and thrashing, the officer in command contrived to get them into line, when they stood patiently enough; but this show of discipline vanished when they began to march, no two keeping step for more than a minute, and their firelocks pointing in all directions.

Except one or two large churches, with the usual amount of tinsel decoration inside, there are no pub-

lic buildings of importance, and the private houses, which are in the Spanish style, and built round court-yards, with fountains in the centre, have all the appearance of having seen better days. Drains or gutters there are none, and the unwary passer-by receives no friendly warning of "gardez-l'eau" to announce the approach of the unsavoury shower which ever and anon comes down from the upper windows, or rather from the latticed openings which do duty for such. Glass is unknown, and indeed hardly required, but at noon-day the heavy wooden shutters are closed, the shops are deserted, and the population in general indulge in a siesta, from which they seldom rouse themselves until the approach of evening brings with it the fresh sea-breeze, and tempers the oven-like heat of the stone-paved streets.

Priests and john-crows seemed equally abundant: the former receiving most respectful salutations from the inhabitants, who doffed their sombreros, and stood aside as the reverend gentlemen swept by in all the dignity of shovel hats and full canonicals. Besides the full-grown clergy, there was a perfect swarm of lads from ten to fifteen years of age, apparently students destined for the church, but who being dressed out in a costume which seemed modelled, with little difference, on that of their clerical elders, presented a most ludicrous appearance. These "makings of priests" as they would be called in Ireland, appeared to entertain no particular sense of

their own dignity, but scampered about the streets and through the dust, with quite as much alacrity as their bare-legged and poncho-clad companions.

Of trade there is little or none, the only articles sold in the shops being provisions, brought from the interior by the Indians, and the strong, raw spirit of the country, of which, to judge by the number of shops in which it stood exposed for sale, an enormous quantity must be consumed. I inquired for the celebrated "pulque" the universal drink of Mexico, which is also made here, but was told that it was of very inferior quality, an assurance, which after tasting the compound, I did not feel inclined to dispute.

A few North Americans have set up shops, and with the characteristic enterprise of their country, attempted to introduce some of the comforts of civilized life; but the invincible indolence of the people has up to the present time baffled all their endeavours, and with the single exception of "American drinks" and ice from Boston, both of which have found great favour in the eyes of the Carthagenians, I could not learn that they had succeeded in creating a demand for any article of United States manufacture.

Of late even the little business which used to be done in Carthagena has been all but put a stop to by the cholera, whose ravages have been fearful beyond anything that could be conceived in a temperate climate. Intense heat, dirt, want of precaution, and crowded dwellings, produced their natural

effect: and though no official returns were taken, (nor could they have been trusted to if they had), and the popular account is probably much exaggerated, it is no small proof of the violence of the disease, that out of a population of 10,000 souls not less than one-third should be commonly reported to have perished.

Carthagena has no historical association, but the extraordinary feat of Captain de Courcy, performed in the harbour, when with one small vessel he engaged and captured in succession, the whole New Granadian fleet, consisting of six sail, inflicting on the enemy a loss in killed and wounded exceeding the whole number of his own crew, will long be remembered through the Spanish main.

On returning to the steamer I found her surrounded with a flotilla of native boats, loaded with fresh vegetables, fruit, hides, live monkeys and parrots, straw-hats, and grass hammocks—the two latter being regular articles of export among the natives of the interior, who often come down from great distances to wait for the arrival of the British mail-steamers. It struck me as a sign of the times, that three or four of these men,—some of whom had probably never left their homes except for their periodical journey to the capital,—came on board with an earnest request to the captain to be permitted to work their way to California. The offer was of course declined, as we could have taken them no farther than Chagres, from which point they

would have found it difficult to continue their journey. We ran past Portobello in the night, and had an indistinct view of a place, celebrated in the annals of the Buccaneers, whose exploits form almost the only history of this part of the South American coast.

During all the succeeding morning the coast was plainly in sight: high, rocky, indented with caves and hollows, and fringed by a long white line of surf, which sufficiently indicated the danger of too near an approach. Above the rocks, and up to the summits of the sloping hills which rose in their rear, one dense mass of wood overspread the whole face of the country. Many of the trees were covered with flowers, and the general appearance was indescribably luxuriant: but the climate is deadly, the malaria almost certainly fatal to an European exposed to it during the falling of the dews, and Scott's description of

> "Darien's deserts pale,
> Where death bestrides the evening gale,"

is no poetical exaggeration, but an often-proved and melancholy truth. Chagres, where we dropped anchor on the evening of the 22nd, has so often been described as a kind of earthly Hades, that bad as it is, every one who sees it for the first time is agreeably surprised to find it no worse. A very few hours, however, suffice to undeceive them, and prove that report in this case has been more than usually faithful. There is no bay, nor shelter of any kind

for ships, which lie pitching in the surf about a mile from the shore, exposed to the full sweep of the sea on their sides, and to a ground-swell of a description particularly unpleasant to unpractised sailors. In rough weather, as I had afterwards occasion to ascertain by experience, the communication with the shore is both difficult and dangerous; and at all times the want of a secure and sheltered basin is an inconvenience severely felt, as every article of the cargo must be landed piecemeal in boats, which together with their exhausted crews, are kept in constant requisition during the short stay of the steamers off the river. There is a dangerous bar, with shifting sands, and a very inconsiderable depth of water: while the landing place, destitute of pier or jetty, is divided from terra firma by some dozen yards of deep alluvial mud, over which the only means of transit is on the backs of the crew, or of native boatmen, who for a consideration (not a small one), are always ready to undertake the office. The place too is miserable beyond the misery of a Highland village, or West-of-Ireland "town." Four long straggling streets, professedly parallel to each other, but laid out with no very exact attention to rule and line, backed by an irregular scattering of huts, dotted over the hill-side as if it had rained houses, and facing to all points of the compass, extend along the eastern bank of the river, on whose shores, half buried in the ooze, some hundreds of clumsily-fashioned canoes are fastened to pegs op-

posite the dwellings of the respective owners. On one side the settlement is bounded by an impassable swamp, which literally abuts upon the houses: while rows of stepping-stones laid across and down the principal roads, suggest ideas of wet underfoot not altogether favourable to the healthiness of the locality. When I say that wheeled carriages of any description are unknown: that during six months out of the twelve the lower part of the village is under water, while the rainy season extends over nine months, and the dry weather, which begins with the new year, ends about the middle of March: that the population, wholly composed of negroes and Indians, enjoy an unrivalled reputation for proficiency in the art of fleecing their visitors: and that for some time past, a perpetual stream of Californian emigrants has poured through in numbers which defy the native police to restrain them, doing exactly what they please, and committing murders in open daylight, of which there has been more than one instance during the last few weeks; I believe that I shall have conveyed to the reader a tolerably fair impression of the pleasures and advantages of a residence in Chagres. The first view of the river, however, is certainly striking. A noble old castle, built by the Spaniards, and stormed by the buccaneer Morgan, whose performances on the isthmus rank among the most extraordinary instances recorded of undisciplined courage prevailing over the efforts of trained and regular troops, aided by many

natural advantages, redeems the place from its otherwise uncivilized aspect; and the thickly-wooded banks, overhanging a stream which literally swarms with the quaint and picturesque boats of the country, would in themselves be a study for a painter: if indeed it were possible for any pencil, however practised the hand that wielded it, to convey an adequate idea of the glorious beauty of a tropical forest, chilled by no northern blast, never stripped of its leaves by the approach of winter, but nourished and forced into hothouse-like luxuriance by the continued and unvarying succession of sun and shower.

Five steamers, including our own, were lying off the coast at the same time, carrying in all not much less than a thousand passengers: and when, after a rough and wet pull through the surf, I landed at the place where boatmen usually congregate, I found it no easy matter to secure a carriage for myself and companion; the owners perfectly understanding the principle of competition, and aware moreover, that as the applicants were in all probability bound for one or other of the packets which were about to start from Panama in the course of a few days, they would prefer submitting to almost any extortion in preference to undergoing a month's detention on the isthmus. Everybody expostulated, swore, and paid: and when I struck a bargain, by which I engaged to give fifty dollars for a canoe and two men to ascend the river to Gorgona, I had reason to congratulate myself

on being more fortunate than many of my neighbours, some of whom having waited until nearly every boat was taken, were glad to offer from eighty to one hundred dollars for the same accommodation.

The contract, however, was not completed until it had been put in writing, and signed in presence of the alcalde of the town: and to the office of this worthy I proceeded accordingly, followed by my crew, who evidently had no intention of hurrying themselves, and kept perpetually slipping away, under pretence of buying provisions, but in reality to lounge, gossip, and drink with their friends.

The judge's residence was a large barn-like building, half full of sacks, casks, and lumber, with a small space partitioned off at one end for the female part of the establishment, a fire on the clay floor, and no furniture whatever except two hammocks, a waterjar, and a sailor's chest, very much the worse for wear. The walls were of bamboo, and the thatch of palm-leaves, here the usual material. The first object that caught my eye was the judge's lady squatted on the ground by the open doorway, in a dress more remarkable for simplicity than cleanliness, with a cigar stuck behind her ear like a clerk's pen, ready for use, and performing on the woolly head of an infant which she held on her lap an operation, which, to judge by appearances, must have been very much required. I found the legal dignitary himself lounging on one of the hammocks inside,

bare-footed, and in his shirt-sleeves, and seemingly pursuing what somebody calls the occupation of a gentleman, in other words, doing nothing. The opposite receptacle was filled by a lady similarly engaged, while pigs grunted, dogs barked, and ducks and hens quacked and cackled from every corner of the apartment.

Rousing the old man—a full-blooded African, and whose colour had more than once provoked squabbles with the Americans, these last having no idea of treating a "nigger" with the respect which he considered due to his office—I went through the requisite formalities, the only difficulty which we encountered having arisen from the absence of any one who could read or write—these accomplishments forming, it would seem, no part of a legal education in New Granada. A clerk, however, was soon found in an adjoining store, and it was with sincere satisfaction that after four tedious hours of detention, I took leave of Chagres and its inhabitants. By the time that we were ready to embark, the river side was crowded with newly arrived emigrants: and I doubt much if such a scene as I then saw could have been paralleled in any other quarter of the globe. Rough, dirty, bearded, and stripped for the most part to the thick flannel shirts, which in defiance of the tropical sun they persisted in wearing: heavily armed with knives and pistols, which if there be any truth in physiognomy, some at least of those present were both able and willing on occasion to use with

effect: generally strong-built, and athletic, and contrasting singularly in their boisterous manner, and the restless activity with which they continued to pace the narrow street, with the indolent timidity of the native population: they seemed just the men to be fit for California, and for no other place: worthy successors of the old Kentuckian and Texan pioneers, to whom America owes the peaceable possession of her magnificent dominions of the West. The people of the town evidently stood in awe of them, and gave them the wall with edifying humility; while the few among their number who belonged to a different class, and still retained about them some appearance of civilization, seemed, as well they might, even less satisfied with the society into which they found themselves unexpectedly thrown.

For the first few miles above its mouth, the Chagres river runs through a level country, swampy and covered with marsh-plants, while, as on the Essequibo, the brush overhangs the water, and altogether conceals the unsightly mud-banks on either side. Flowers grew in profusion, of every colour in the rainbow, and the general appearance was not unlike that of one of the larger creeks of Demerara. In about an hour we came to a range of hills, none high, nor very steep, but apparently ranging from one to three hundred feet above the river. There was some monotony in the view, for every reach exactly resembled the last, and the miserable bamboo huts of the Indians, many of them

open at the sides, and consisting merely of a roof—a sort of parasol on a large scale—made little variety in the scene. Gatun and Miraflores, the first settlements on the Chagres above the town, are wretched in the extreme, and certainly inferior to a collection of negro huts on a West Indian estate. A little above the latter we stopped for the first time, to let the men rest; and in doing so nearly ran into a huge alligator, who with nothing except the top of his back appearing above the mud, and bearing a strong likeness to a piece of rotten wood, was enjoying a very comfortable siesta. He scrambled up the bank, shaking his tail angrily, and vanished for a moment in the bush; but changed his mind, and floundering again over the oozy shore, plunged into the river and disappeared. At this point the stream grew narrower, and abandoning their paddles, the men set to work with poles, which they handled awkwardly enough, crossing from side to side every five minutes, and like a drunken man on his road home, measuring the breadth as well as the length of the way. They were stark naked, with the single exception of a piece of cloth round their loins, and even this they frequently stripped off, alleging that it encumbered their movements. Notwithstanding the intense heat and glare of the sun, they were bareheaded, and in reply to my question assured me that they never suffered from the exposure. It was the first time that I had ever enjoyed so ample an opportunity of studying, for

hours together, the anatomy of the human figure; and I could not help thinking of the peculiarly awkward predicament in which two lady fellow-passengers in the steamer must have been placed on embarking in one of these same canoes—the boat being perfectly open, except the awning above, and the crew, from their elevated position in the bow, remarkably conspicuous.

Nothing could be more lubberly than the way in which they handled their craft: a party of the Hudson's Bay Company voyageurs, with their beautifully modelled canoes, and quick regular stroke, would have cleared the distance in six or seven hours, which it took us two weary days to crawl over.

By night we had reached "las dos hermanas," a settlement so called, and which takes rank as a village, as villages go on the isthmus. The situation is rather fine, and wants only better accompaniments to make it picturesque: but nothing can be more disenchanting than the aspect of the half dozen straggling huts perched on the summit of the projecting headland, round which the river takes a wide sweep. It is a common stopping-place for canoes, and accommodations are provided for travellers, in the shape of large upper rooms, to which the entrance is by a notched pole placed upright in the corner, after the fashion sometimes to be seen in a Tipperary cabin. The one into which, with some difficulty, I made my way, was crowded with Cali-

fornian emigrants, many drunk, all dirty, and altogether as villanous company as could well have been brought together in any part of the world—Norfolk Island not excepted. Moreover, the loose bamboo rods, which served as a floor, were bending visibly with the weight laid upon them, and as I looked up at them from the ground where I stood, the very unpleasant possibility of their giving way entirely, more than once suggested itself to my mind. But outside the rain poured down incessantly; peals of thunder succeeded one another without the intermission of a moment, and the open shed, which in most of the cottages of the country, forms the whole of the lower story, was rendered untenable by the torrents that poured over its clay floor. There was no help for it: and scrambling up the rude ladder, and tumbling in succession over half-a-dozen prostrate figures, I took possession of a vacant space on the bamboos, and there, rolled in a great coat, slept soundly till the first appearance of daylight, shining through the cracks in the ill-constructed roof (windows or openings to admit the air there were none), roused up the more watchful of the party. My immediate neighbour, a genuine down-easter from Maine, was the first in the movement; shouting lustily to his crew through a hole in the floor, and apologizing to the disturbed sleepers, by an assurance that it was "nigh upon sun-up, and most time to quit." Our lodgings were not so tempting as to induce us to make any unnecessary delay;

and leaving "the sisters," with no particular desire ever to see them again, we resumed our voyage, which throughout this day was of a most tedious description. The stream was too strong to allow of oars or paddles being used, at least in the lazy hands of South American boatmen; though in Canada I have frequently seen a stronger current stemmed by heavier canoes than ours, without the poles being used. Here, however, they were constantly going: and as this rendered it indispensably necessary to keep in shallow water, we crossed the river about once in every quarter of a mile. The heat of the sun towards midday exceeded anything in my tropical experience, either before or since: a thermometer which I carried with me, on two successive trials, rose to 128° and 131°; while the glare of refracted light from the water was most trying to the eyes. The muddy banks actually steamed like a kettle set to boil, giving no very favourable idea of the salubrity of the climate: bull-frogs croaked in thousands from the bush, caymen, half buried in ooze, slid lazily into the river as we approached; while myriads of rainbow-coloured birds and insects hovered among the overhanging branches, or perched on clusters of equally brilliant flowers. I especially noticed a gigantic butterfly, of which one specimen which we secured measured five inches from wing to wing, and whose deep blue colour would have defied all the artificial dyes of the painter's pallet to imitate its brightness. The under

part of the insect being a light dusky grey, almost devoid of colour, and quite undistinguishable at the distance of a few paces from the bough on which it lighted, the sudden way in which the creature appeared and vanished again, added not a little to its picturesque effect. The country now grew hilly, several of the peaks before us rising to a height of two or three hundred feet, but all, high or low, remained covered with the same eternal mantle of green, broken only by the gaudy yellow blossom of some flowering tree, which grows profusely on the isthmus. No one who has not seen, can possibly conceive the impenetrable thickness of the bush in tropical climates. Creepers hang from every tree, their long festoons lighting on the young shoots of the underwood below, and interlacing with them so firmly as to defy the powers of the strongest arm, unassisted by a cutlass, to penetrate their tangles. Fallen trees in every stage of decay, arrest the progress of the adventurer who deviates from the beaten path: a network of rank luxuriant grasses, twisted into innumerable snares for the feet, covers and conceals a soil, which eight months of rain have turned into something very much resembling a quagmire, but which at the same time affords shelter to snakes of all sizes and descriptions; while the neighbourhood of a "creek" or deep canal of nearly stagnant water, is often so effectually masked by the screen of overhanging brushwood, that the first warning which the unlucky traveller

receives, is the plunge of his foot, and his own subsequent immersion, in the deep and alligator-haunted pool. Into these silent forests no ray of sun, even at brightest noonday, is known to penetrate: the pelting of the tropical shower is heard faintly, as it falls on the over-arching branches above: the lightning, whose scathing power is attested by the bare and blasted trunks scattered here and there in strange contrast with the vivid green which surrounds and has already half covered their decaying fragments, never pierces through the living screen which intercepts its stroke: and the rustling sound, and refreshing coolness of the occasional sea breeze,—rare, but welcome visitant—here gives place to an oppressive heat, and a dead unnatural calm. Everything is so still, that the lighting of a bird on the bough, or the rustle of a snake through the grass, are often distinctly audible: and the silence is only broken by the hoarse chattering of a flock of parrots far overhead, or the deep loud call of the toucan at night. Snakes are abundant; and Mr. Lloyd, who, according to his own statement, only saw one or two in the course of a protracted survey, must have been either more fortunate, or less observant, than the generality of those who have followed or preceded him; for I myself fell in with five or six in the course of a very few days, and while generally keeping to the beaten track. The natives express great fear of them, and are said to wear charms to preserve them

from being bitten; but of this I saw no instance. Tiger-cats of several kinds, wild hogs, a few deer, and an abundance of monkeys, make up the principal varieties of game on the isthmus. Waterbirds there are in plenty, and the residents talk of going duck-shooting; but their sport has been spoiled, at least on the Chagres, by the multitude of canoes passing up and down, and I do not remember to have heard a single quack.

As to entomology, if it is any comfort to the traveller, when suffering under the persecutions of his winged tormentors, to know that he is being eaten at one and the same time by half a dozen undescribed species of insects, he may easily satisfy himself that his consolation is well founded; diminutive red fleas, ticks, and countless mosquitos, he will probably recognize as familiar friends, and bear with accordingly. Notwithstanding these drawbacks from the pleasures of savage life, and the more serious annoyance of centipedes, tarantulas, and venomous spiders of Brobdignag dimensions, I often attempted to make my way into the recesses of the woods; but the difficulties of the undertaking always drove me back after proceeding a few hundred yards; and when panting with heat and hard work, and with clothes torn in a hundred places by the strong hooked thorns of the underwood, I succeeded in regaining the path, it was impossible not to think, with astonishment and admiration, of the powers of endurance displayed by those early

explorers, who, without guides, ignorant of the road, scantily provided with food and water, and continually exposed to the attacks of Indian tribes, then more numerous and fierce than now, struggled on through all difficulties to that unknown ocean, on whose shores they vainly expected to found an empire as enduring as their names.

In the course of the day it rained and cleared again nearly every half hour ; and our canoe being none of the newest, and the awning far from water-proof, my companion and I enjoyed the full benefit of sun and shower during seven or eight hours of exposure—probably as good a receipt as could be devised for catching the intermittent fever of the country. Towards evening we halted, with the double object of drying our dripping clothes, and laying in a fresh stock of such provisions as might be obtainable, at the house of a German emigrant, who, with a singular taste, had pitched his tent for life on the banks of the Chagres. He had set out, he said, meaning to go on to California, but had been deterred by the reports of the returning gold-hunters, who had told him, very truly, that the diggings were no place to take a wife and family to. He had lived in his present abode during more than a year—had no fault to find with the climate—had neither caught the fever himself, nor had any of his family, and certainly a very pretty wife, and several fine healthy-looking children, bore living witness to the truth of his report. He still wished, he said, to go to San

Francisco, but did not like to leave them behind in a country where they would be wholly unprotected, especially when so many people of all kinds were passing and repassing every day. The behaviour of the emigrants was a sore subject with him: they took possession of his house, walked in and out at all hours of the day or night, called for what they wanted, as if they had been in a tavern, or more frequently helped themselves without asking, and after all sometimes went away without paying their score. Against this last-named delinquency, I afterwards saw a strongly worded protest, signed by a long list of American names, which was conspicuously posted up both in Gorgona and Cruces, and reminded their thievish countrymen that they were dishonouring the great country to which they belonged in the eyes of strangers,—a characteristic argument. My German friend had learned to indemnify himself at the expense of more honest customers; for the charge upon everything which he would sell, was, at a moderate computation, about ten times its value at home: but in this he was not singular: for throughout the isthmus the prices are regulated by the standard of California, and a few dollars more or less make little difference even to an American when retiring loaded with a fortune gathered within the space of a few months, and exceeding all that he could have hoped to make at home by the accumulated savings of a life of labour; while the out-going emigrant, with all his hopes

before him, is even less likely to draw his purse-strings tight. Two shillings (English) a piece for eggs; the same for a cup of milk; a dollar for a night's lodging, or in other words, for leave to look out for the softest plank on the floor, or the driest corner on its clay substitute; the same for a meal consisting of well watered coffee, bacon, and hard biscuit: formed a fair sample of the average charges between Chagres and Panama: and these were modest when compared with the exorbitant demands of the boatmen and owners of mules. These latter have benefited more than any one else by the rush of population westward: and realize a California of their own, without changing either their residences or their manner of living. But the most unreasonable charge was that which I afterwards witnessed at the chief inn of Gorgona, where a half-naturalized American, who had forgotten about as much of his own language, as he had learnt of Spanish, offered his services as interpreter, on condition of receiving $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on every bargain made. Now, as these bargains were almost invariably for horses, mules, or canoes, any one of the three costing from $50 to $60 when engaged for a two days' journey, the linguist must, on a fair average, have netted about five shillings for a five minutes conversation, even supposing him to keep strictly to his legitimate gains, and not to be in league with the rascally owners.

We continued our course by moonlight, for which we had been waiting, the rain still continuing,

though with somewhat abated violence. The natives prepared for it in a primitive, but certainly effective manner, deliberately stripping themselves of the little clothing they wore, which they stowed away in a dry corner of the cayuca, and enduring the pelting of the shower on their naked bodies with all the indifference of an alligator similarly exposed.

The isthmus enjoys, I believe deservedly, the reputation of being the wettest spot on the globe. January, February, and March, are the only dry months of the year: and at Chagres and Portobello, even these are by no means free from rain. But from April to December the showers are incessant, and a day without one is a phenomenon. The inhabitants of Panama talk much of an interval of comparative drought, generally occurring towards the end of June, when the weather suddenly clears up, and remains fine for about a week, in special honour, it is said, of the feast of St. John, which falls exactly at that period. Generally the Pacific coast is both cooler and drier than the Atlantic: and Panama is reckoned an exception to the extreme unhealthiness of the surrounding country.

San Pablo, our next halting-place, came in sight about midnight, and proved as small and poor an assemblage of huts as any of its predecessors. It stands on a sloping grassy bank, picturesque enough as seen by moonlight, and cleared of timber to some distance inland. The river makes a bend round it, and a few tall and spreading trees, judiciously

spared to afford shelter to the cattle, present a park-like appearance not often seen in a country where all is either bare savannah, or dense jungle. The cottage where we took up our lodging, was, like all the rest, crowded, and it was with some difficulty that we succeeded in finding a corner to ourselves. Supper there was none: but we had provisions of our own, being more fortunate in this respect than most of the assembled multitude, who offered to trade with us for bacon and biscuits, and seemed not a little perplexed at our refusal to accept of payment for the portion which we bestowed upon them out of our abundance. I could not help thinking, during this, and one or two similar scenes of our journey, how much good it would have done to certain travellers of the Smelfungus class, quite as frequent now as ever they could have been in the days of Sterne, to have done penance for all their sins of discontent, by a few weeks of wanderings such as ours. The grumbling tourist, who, like a genuine son of John Bull, has proclaimed far and wide the discomforts of transatlantic travelling, because in some little roadside inn, his entertainers did not choose to dislodge two or three wayfarers in order to give to one the enjoyments of a room to himself, or turned up his nose at the substantial fare of a western hotel, because compelled to share it with some dozen individuals of a somewhat lower rank in society than his own, would have learned in the hovels of San Pablo, a lesson of patience, and if

possible of content, which might subsequently have saved the people among whom he travelled from many unjust and peevish complaints, and himself from the well founded charge of a predetermination to find fault with everything.

The people of the house, to whom we naturally addressed ourselves for leave to take up our quarters till morning, seemed to have very little to say in the matter: squatted together in a corner, they had relinquished possession to their guests, who, to do them justice, seemed to find no difficulty in making themselves at home, and not only called for whatever they wanted, but turned every thing upside down in search of imaginary stores, the last of which had long since disappeared before the ravenous appetites of their predecessors. A little civility, which the host and hostess had been unaccustomed of late to receive from their visitors, induced them to exert themselves in our behalf: and from some still unexplored corner they dragged out two hammocks, of one of which I was glad to take possession in preference to sleeping on the filthy floor, long since trampled into most adhesive mud by the feet of many strangers. M — who protested against sleeping in a bag, was accommodated with a hide by way of mattress: and it was amusing to hear the torrent of invective and complaint, with which, having ascertained that we were not Americans, and that we could speak their language, they vented their long suppressed indignation against the self-

invited guests. Even the lowest class of Spaniards, whether in the old world or the new, are very sensitive on points of decorum, and attend scrupulously to at least the outward forms of politeness; and it may well be supposed that they felt a little out of their element when almost crowded out of their own houses by the irruption of wild-looking beings whom every monthly steamer now lets loose upon them. Sleep was out of the question in such a scene: more especially as fresh arrivals continued to stream in all through the night, and regardless of the execrations showered upon them by those over whom they trampled in the dark, persisted in endeavouring to find for themselves a resting-place among the dense mass of bodies which strewed the floor of the hut.

On the next morning—Christmas-day—five hours of the poles brought us up to Gorgona, six miles below Cruces, and, next to this latter, the most usual place of disembarkation. It lies in an angle made by the river, and extends in three long straggling rows of houses for about a quarter of a mile along the bank. Until lately, every building in the town was alike in architecture—square, bamboo-walled, mud-floored, and thatched with the leaves of a palm, which grows abundantly in the woods.

American enterprise, however, has worked a change: and one huge shed roofed with shingles, and provided with the unwonted luxuries of glass windows and boarded walls, is announced by a

conspicuous lettering along its front as the "United States Hotel:" while humbler imitations of this architectural model are springing up on all sides, and already the bare stumps, and trees girdled by the axes of the settlers, are encroaching on the limits of the primeval forests.

It was, of course, a "fiesta," a high-holiday in Gorgona: fiddles were squeaking, extempore dances getting up (generally in the streets, for few of the native houses are of sufficient dimensions to allow of a ball being given in them), and as we had anticipated, it was after much trouble and delay that we succeeded in obtaining, at Californian prices, a couple of mules and a guide for the land-journey to Panama. During the dry season the road which we had selected is considered the best, being comparatively free from rocks, and passing chiefly through the lowland: but the periodical rains transform it into a swamp, and as these had not yet ceased, we had some reason to apprehend a rough and troublesome journey. Our object in selecting the least promising of the two routes open to our choice, was in order to avoid the delay which would otherwise have been created by the number of passengers who had preceded us to Cruces, and many of whom, as we afterwards learnt, had passed two, and even three days there before they succeeded in finding animals. On the line by which we proposed to travel, one party had already passed: and though they gave lamentable accounts of hardships and

difficulties, we set this down to the usual inclination of travellers to magnify the troubles they had gone through; and confidently expecting to eat our Christmas dinner at Panama, mounted our uncouth-looking beasts, and bade adieu to Gorgona.

A little to the west of the town, and visible from the road at some distance from it, is the Cerro Grande, the chief of the low hills that form the dividing ridge of the Isthmus, and one of the few points from which both oceans can be seen. Its height, however, as given by Garella, is inferior to that of several of the peaks which overlook the Bay of Panama, one of which rises to an elevation of 500 feet.

Leaving the little mound on which the settlement stands, we wound our way down a valley partially cleared, with groups of trees scattered here and there, and streams of water intersecting it at every quarter of a mile, the approach to which latter was invariably guarded by about twenty yards of deep and most retentive mud, through which our cavalcade floundered desperately on, occasionally sticking fast altogether, and compelling the unfortunate riders to dismount as best they could in the middle of the glue-like substance, which appeared to make advance and retreat equally hopeless. I certainly never before experienced so lively a fellow-feeling from the sufferings of a fly entrapped in a honey-pot, though the want of wings made our case the worse of the two. It was painful to witness the struggles

of the poor mules, buried at times up to their necks, and only emerging from one mud-hole to plunge yet deeper into another, where they would stand, panting and resigned to their fate, until a shower of blows and abuse from the native driver sent them forward again on their almost hopeless progress. As we advanced, which we did on an average at the rate of a mile in the hour, the forest became thicker, surrounding and overshadowing the track completely, and thus screening us from the direct rays of the sun; an advantage, however, in some degree counterbalanced by the intolerable closeness produced by the exclusion of the air. Mosquitos hummed round us in myriads, though the coating of mud with which we were both plastered from head to foot, rendered our bodies almost impenetrable to their attacks; ants of large size, a species unknown in the islands, made their nests in the branches above, and dropped by dozens upon us, biting and stinging in revenge for the disturbance; a deep wet ditch, with slippery sides, hemmed in by brushwood and prickly shrubs, presented the only visible appearance of a road; and far from improving on acquaintance, each successive quagmire detained us longer, and left our wearied beasts more exhausted than before. The guide had enough to do: for besides carrying his own load, no inconsiderable weight, but under which he scrambled through the bush and waded the swamps with all the activity of a cat, not a single difficulty could be surmounted without his assist-

ance. For myself, growing tired of being carried into the middle of a bog every five minutes, and left to find my way out, I had abandoned my mule altogether to his care; and like the Highland postman, who apologised for unusual delay by saying that he had been encumbered with a horse, I thought that we should have got on much better from the first if allowed to take care of ourselves. The distance to Panama is only 25 miles, and I should certainly advise any one accustomed to travel on foot, and who should attempt the journey before the dry season sets in, to avoid the expense and delay of such a ride as ours, by trusting to his own legs to carry him over. The activity of the Indians, and the loads they carry are almost beyond belief. I myself saw one man burdened with two heavy portmanteaus, both of the size and solidity peculiar to those articles as manufactured in the United States, and together making a weight under which no railroad porter would stand for more than a few minutes; yet when I met him he had made good two-thirds of his journey, and intended to accomplish the whole distance before night. Of a party of Californian emigrants, whose notice this man attracted at a hut where he stopped to rest, and among whom were several of great size and strength, not one could carry his load without visibly staggering in his gait, while the Indian, who had walked eighteen miles so encumbered, seemed very little fatigued, and expected, as he told me, to return with

such another pack next day. They are generally slender, and not above the average height; few are of pure race, and on many the African features and hair are plainly discernible. Like all natives of the tropics, they subsist chiefly on vegetable food, and have the reputation of temperate habits, though to this I certainly saw many exceptions.

During the whole of this day's journey we passed only three huts, at the last of which, as it was then growing dark, we decided on halting for the night. We were then about eight miles from Panama, and the dense forest through which we had been journeying nearly all the day had given place to a more open, though still partially wooded country, where clusters of tropical trees, including several varieties of palm, alternated with a wide savannah of most luxuriant grass. The surrounding hills, though of no great height, and wooded to the summit, added to the picturesque beauty of the scene; and while resting from our labours, and watching the sun set behind the only remaining range which interposed between us and the still unseen Pacific, we almost forgot the distance which separated us from the end of our journey, and the even less agreeable prospect of a return by the same road, in struggling through which we had already passed so many weary hours.

Our Christmas dinner was not of the most sumptuous nature: for the inhabitants seldom trouble themselves to grow any produce beyond what they require for their own immediate consumption; and

two roast bananas, a calabash of boiled rice, and a few biscuits out of our own nearly exhausted stores, made an indifferent substitute for the roast beef and plumpudding of home. Two shells were supplied us as spoons, and squatted on a log in front of our entertainer's abode, with the single bowl between us, and mutually exhorting one another to feed fair, we contrived to make a hearty, if not a very luxurious meal. A river which ran below supplied the means of cleanliness; and if there were any caymen about, either their appetites or their courage failed them, for I bathed unmolested, though I must plead guilty to having cast suspicious glances on every dark-looking log at the bottom. Formidable-looking animal as the alligator is, I believe the mischief he does to be very small. Both on the Isthmus and in every South American river that I have seen, the natives, old and young, bathe fearlessly among them, nor did I even hear of any accidents arising from the practice. The condition of the settlers in these remote districts is to them one of perfect happiness. Their plantain-walk, and the neighbouring cocoa-trees, supply all their wants, without imposing upon them more than a few days' labour in the year; what remains over and above the quantity which they require for their own use is sold in the nearest village, and now commands exorbitant prices, keeping the sellers in brandy and tobacco, their chief luxuries; clothing is almost a superfluity: and thus easily and certainly provided for, the squatter

passes an existence of which one-half is consumed in sleep, while the rest, equally monotonous and profitless, might for all purposes almost as well be so. Except in not going altogether naked, I could see little difference between the manners of these men and those which are described as existing in the South Sea Islands. Of their laws, government, or country, they know, and care to know, nothing; freedom they doubtless enjoy, but it is the freedom of the savage; and the first element of improvement seems wanting, where there is no perceptible feeling of dissatisfaction with their actual state.

Daylight found us once more on the road, and that road, if possible, a little worse than the one along which we had been plodding during the whole of the preceding day. I walked on in advance, leaving the mules to follow as they could, and though a tropical sun and swamp under foot are not favourable to pedestrian exploits, so slow was the pace of the four-footed portion of our party that after two hours' travel I found myself obliged to wait nearly half that time before they joined me again. We now began to meet parties of Americans lately arrived from California, and on their way home. One and all inquired anxiously as to the state of the track, and on this head we could give them information more authentic than agreeable; while they comforted us in return by an assurance that what they had just traversed was "considerable juicy"—an assertion which their mud-stained

appearance fully bore out. All were in high spirits, and said they had made fortunes in the mines; and several handed out lumps of ore which they carried about with them to show, and which must have averaged from £10. to £50. each.

With hardly an exception, they were on foot, and walking during the heat of the day, heavily clothed, and carrying arms and knapsacks. The larger number came from the Western States, as indeed their appearance shewed at a glance; and several had crossed the prairies of the Missouri, and supporting themselves by buffalo-hunting as they went, had traversed the chain of the Rocky Mountains, and descended thence into the valleys of the gold region, making in all an overland journey of nearly three thousand miles from their homes in the States. Notwithstanding these men's predictions, we found the road near Panama in very tolerable order, part having been mended, after a primitive fashion indeed, with huge stones intended to supply the place of pavement, but which had been merely carted to the spot where they were destined to be left, and there thrown into the mud. Even this, however, was better than no pavement at all; although our beasts, purposely left unshod in order to enable them to scramble more easily through the dirt, avoided the rough causeway, and obstinately continued to wade through the slimy pools which bordered it on either side. We had one last struggle to make our way through a low savannah half overflowed; and passing this, and turning

a sharp angle in the road, we found ourselves almost in the town, of which we had not until then caught a glance. The approach is through a suburb inhabited chiefly by Indians and negroes, and composed of dilapidated huts, with here and there a provision-ground intended for the supply of the citizens, and one or two half-ruined remains of old haciendas. Passing through this, the Pacific for the first time came in sight, and in five minutes more we were crossing the line of the ricketty and grass-grown fortifications which still surrounds, without guarding, the city, and which on two sides abuts on the sea.

The site of Panama has been compared, not unaptly, to a lance-head. Connected by a narrow neck with the main-land, and widening towards the middle, it again tapers off to a point, trending far out into the sea, and in part covered at high water. Upon part of this promontory a bastion had been built, intended at one time to serve as the principal defence of the town. Detached from other buildings, it once formed a little fort in itself, and the massive stone walls, the rampart wide enough to admit the play of the heaviest guns, and the enclosure once surrounded with casemated buildings, containing every requisite for a garrison in time of siege, sufficiently bespeak the importance once attached to this military post. But like every thing else in the republic of New Granada, these works have been suffered to go to decay; and the gradual encroachments of the tide have so far undermined

the foundations of the walls, that breaches are already visible, and the whole appearance is that of a place which has recently undergone a siege. About a dozen guns are still mounted, all of brass, apparently ranging from 24 to 42-pounders, and beautifully ornamented in the old Spanish style. Except as a show, they are worthless, every carriage without exception being either broken or decayed, while the cannon themselves are covered with rust and dirt. I was told that a liberal offer had been made for the purchase of these neglected pieces, by an American captain from a New England port, but with true Spanish pride, the proposal was indignantly rejected, although it would puzzle wiser heads than any assembled at Bogota, to name one useful purpose to which these articles of national property could be applied, or a single association connected with their history.

Although surrounded with high stone walls, the town can never have been strong, as it is completely overlooked by the rising ground behind it; but a land attack never appears to have been contemplated by the Spanish settlers on these coasts. The streets are straighter and less ruinous than those of Carthagena; and being laid out at right-angles, admit the sea-breeze; nor did I observe quite so much dirt about the houses and in the footways.

Nearly all the old residences are of stone, strong and massive, enclosing court-yards, and with their heavy iron-barred windows, and ponderous gates,

must have formed very respectable domestic fortifications ; but grass grows on their walls and in their courts, the ornamented fountains which cooled their inmates through the long summer are dried up, or used as watering places for cattle, and their desolate aspect is only increased by the solidity of construction which has saved them from falling into absolute decay.

Of the existing public buildings, the old cathedral is by far the finest ; and its façade, covered from the foundation to the battlements with quaint and fantastic carving, wears about it an old-world look which well befits the deserted and decayed condition of the city to which it belongs. The unfinished college of the Jesuits, two stories high, and enclosing an immense area, is undoubtedly the finest building of the place ; simple, purer in style than the generality of Spanish architecture, and almost as perfect now as when the last stone was laid on the unroofed walls, it deserved a better fate than to be turned, as I saw it, into a theatre for a company lately imported from Lima. I was present at a performance which took place there, and a more singular scene I never witnessed. No covering had been attempted ; indeed the extent of the enclosure made it impossible, and our theatre, after the classical model, was al fresco. There was a blaze of lamps, which flared and smoked dimly enough, being fairly put out of countenance by the brightness of the tropical moon overhead, and as the flickering light shone over rows of the dark unbon-

neted heads of the Panamenas, and the rough figures of a motley audience, in which no restrictions as to costume prevailed, the effect would have been one for a painter to study. The stage was a blaze of torches, and the hastily run-up decorations and profusion of tinsel, contrasted oddly with the sombre grey of the walls which surrounded us, and the bushes which waved from every crack and crevice in the stonework above. Then the strange yells and shouts of a highly amused party of emigrants; the weakness of the performers' voices, unassisted by the reverberation of an enclosed building; and in every pause the long measured roll of the Pacific coming in as an accompaniment, raised a curious confusion of ideas in one's mind. The whole was a type of the present condition of Panama—a jumble of the old and the new; modern improvement treading on the heels of ancient greatness. Besides the Jesuits' college, the convents of the Augustan and Franciscan monks are still in partial preservation, although far too large for the present wants of their occupiers. Indeed they are only rescued from absolute dilapidation by the courts and disused apartments having been turned into stables; a desecration which is naturally enough connived at, or rather openly permitted, by the authorities. In one of these a singular arch is shewn, of altogether unique construction, flattened out and elongated until at first sight it rather suggests the idea of a flat stone lintel accidentally cracked in an upward direction. It once

attracted considerable attention from the curious, but is now said to have been differently shaped at first, and to have gradually subsided into its present form.

A ruin in the tropics is in one respect a far more picturesque object than with us. The ivy, long grass, and scanty bushes which in England gather round an old tower as if charitably trying to conceal its nakedness, are here replaced by a thousand creeping and climbing plants, various in hue, graceful in form, and leaving only a corner of the building which they cover to peep out here and there in evidence of its existence.

Decayed as it is, the present town dates no further back than the year 1670, when Old Panama, of which the ruins are still to be seen on the opposite side of the bay, was plundered and burnt by the Buccaneer Morgan, after an existence of nearly a century and a half, during which it had risen to be second only to Lima among the settlements of the Pacific coast.

It is not, however, to plunder or war that the city owes its present dilapidated aspect. When the whole of South America was one great Spanish colony, the Council of the Indies at the same time excluded all foreign vessels from their ports, and took upon themselves to regulate the commerce of every town on the Pacific coast. Partly on account of the dangers incurred in passing Cape Horn, in those days of unskilful navigation, and partly from the

greater security in time of war of a route which at once shortened the sea-voyage, and enabled the merchant to keep his goods until required in the guarded depôts of the isthmus, the route *viâ* Chagres and Panama was that preferred: and notwithstanding the expense of transhipment, and the inconvenience of a land-journey, the latter became the only port of transit, and flourished accordingly. To this monopoly there is of course an end: and during the earlier part of the present century, deprived of one source of prosperity, and not yet become the great commercial emporium to which the discovery of the California mines is rapidly raising it, Panama has been dying daily. The effect of the present rush westward has been to pour into the city a continued flood of emigrants, of whom more than 1000 at all times, and frequently nearly twice that number, are temporary residents. It might be expected that the natives would hail such a change with pleasure, and overlook the character of their visitors in consideration of the treasure which they brought with them: but this has not been the case, and several of the old residents, startled out of their propriety by the sudden irruption of a barbarian horde, and seeing no prospect of a mitigation of the evil by time, have actually quitted their homes in search of some more tranquil residence. They had good cause for their annoyance, since, independently of the very unconciliatory manner of the new comers, and the frequent dis-

turbances which break out among them, and which the miserable police of the republic is wholly inadequate to repress, their arrival has raised the price of every article of consumption to from four to five times its former value. The sale of these, moreover, has been in great part monopolized by merchants from the States: and thus deprived of all benefit except what they derive from the increased value of landed property within the town, and even this being fully counterbalanced by the augmented expenses of living, the unfortunate Panamenos are by no means reconciled to the change which has transformed their hitherto quiet residence into one of the great commercial highways of the world.

As we rode down the main street—two years ago a foot deep in grass, now a busy and bustling thoroughfare—we were continually hailed by parties of Americans, eager for the last news from Chagres. The national inquisitiveness, strongly developed at home, did not seem to have diminished in any degree by change of place; and I do not think it was ever before my fortune to be called upon to furnish, in the space of one hour, such a variety of miscellaneous information concerning myself, my destination, objects in travelling, &c. In return I ascertained that many of the querists had already been detained two months, and expected to be kept still longer: while the contractors who had supplied them with through-tickets (from New

York to San Francisco), and promised them an immediate passage, came in for sundry expressions of goodwill, which fortunately for their peace of mind they were never likely to hear. Destitute of means, unable to find employment, and equally prevented from going forward or back, they were supported at the expense of their wealthier companions, on whose own stock such benevolence made serious inroads: but California in prospect atoned for all: they had no complaint to make of the climate: and as they sat in long rows outside their lodgings, almost lining the street from end to end, I thought I had never seen men who bore a disagreeable delay with a more thorough spirit of philosophy.

After some trouble we found the residence of the British Consul, W. Perry, Esq. to whose hospitality I am indebted for an escape from the manifold discomforts of the Panama hotels, all of which being intended exclusively for emigrants, and furnished and provided accordingly, stand in much the same relation to a roadside tavern in Missouri as this latter might bear to the Clarendon; and when fairly quartered in his house, and seated in the broad wooden balcony which commands a view of the Pacific, then lighted up brilliantly by the setting sun, I could hardly, in transatlantic phrase, realize the idea, that a quarter of the earth's circumference already divided me from England, and that eight thousand miles of ocean, unbroken except here and there by

an island, formed the only barrier between myself and the western coasts of China.

The bay of Panama is exquisitely beautiful, and is said to resemble that of Rio Janeiro, though on a smaller scale. The fishery is unrivalled, and indeed, according to Indian report, gave the town the name which it now bears. Pearls are found in great abundance round the neighbouring islands, and give constant occupation to a large number of divers, who ply their vocation in defiance of equally numerous sharks, taking with them only a large knife, which serves at once to defend them if attacked, and to detach the oysters from their rocky beds. Some years ago an attempt was made to supersede native industry by the use of a diving bell; but this proved altogether a failure, the rocks making it impossible to rest the machine safely on the bottom, while a heavy ground-swell kept it in constant peril of upsetting. So the fishery remains as before; and the Panamenos content themselves with a handful of good pearls in the year, and triumph in the failure of a scheme set on foot by foreigners and heretics.

The society of Panama has not a high reputation; the foreign residents are few, and the native inhabitants in general keep aloof. Priests are numerous, and said to possess great influence; but their appearance, and that of the churches in which they officiated, contradicted this latter belief. Shop-keeping is nominally the business of the great mass

of the people; and their goldsmiths' work is celebrated throughout the New World. I could not discover that any other branch of manufactures was carried on: and to judge by outward signs, industry is not among the prevailing virtues of the townspeople. There is an educational establishment, calling itself a college, but very much neglected; and little is taught or required beyond reading and writing. Several newspapers have lately been established, one in Spanish; this, however, is little more than a translation of the American journals for the benefit of those, who, unacquainted with English, may chance to be interested in the success of Californian speculations. It has been more than once suggested—and the plan seems to hold out good hopes of success—to establish in Panama a paper intended for general circulation over the Pacific coast, which issued from so central a point, and one through which all news, whether from Europe or the United States, must necessarily pass, could hardly fail to anticipate in point of time, and to surpass in merit, the few and very inferior journals which have as yet made their appearance in the far west.

We had hardly passed an hour in examining the old buildings of Panama, when we were treated to one of the scenes of disturbance which not unfrequently take place there. A quarrel arose between two Americans, in which the disputants from words betook themselves to blows. A crowd gathered

round the combatants, the street was blocked up, and the row in a few seconds became general. Knives were in plenty, but I did not see one drawn; and considering the utter absence of police, and the evident excitement of the parties, I thought the termination of the affray in less than ten minutes, without any injury more serious than one or two broken heads and bloody noses given and received, very creditable to the moderation of all concerned. Not a native was visible from the beginning to the end of the contest; and this has generally been the case on such occasions; but instances have not been wanting in which national jealousy has vented itself in private quarrels; and then the townsmen, although comparatively unarmed, have shewn themselves far from deficient in courage. Of their military force they themselves speak with contempt, and tell a story of a detachment, fifteen strong, who were recently sent to capture two sailors, deserters from a British merchantman, on the island of Taboga. Alarm magnified the pair into a superior force; the heroes beat a hasty retreat; and though no resistance was offered or attempted, they did not return unhurt; the last of the party, in his hurry to withdraw, contriving seriously to wound his companion in front with the bayonet which he carried advanced. The whole force posted on the isthmus does not amount to more than 150 men; and the rest being quartered at Bogota,—three weeks journey in the most favourable season,—are not much more useful

than if they had been stationed in the Sandwich Islands.

Very different was the state of affairs in the old colonial days. No place suffered so little from the exclusive system pursued by Spain towards her colonies; in none, therefore, was so warm an attachment exhibited towards the mother country: the regiment stationed in the town mixed freely with the inhabitants, then more numerous and wealthier than now; the establishments, civil and military, were well kept up, and regularly paid; and when the revolutions of Chili, Peru, and Mexico, had evidently put an end for ever to the Spanish dominion, and a corresponding change was determined upon by the Panamenos, even the officials were not displaced, but the flag of Bolivar was hoisted, allegiance sworn to the new government, and the revolution was over. Not a drop of blood flowed; the garrison was absent on service five hundred miles off; no ragged band of ruffians paraded about the streets, as usual in South American emeutes, calling themselves a patriot army, and plundering peaceable inhabitants; nor, if the testimony of eye-witnesses may be trusted, did one act of violence, or violation of law, distinguish the day that gave the Columbian republic a province, and dispossessed Spain of a colony.

CHAPTER II.

A SHORT stay in Panama was sufficient to satisfy my curiosity: and finding the South Pacific mail on the point of going out, I at once decided to transfer myself and baggage to the "Peru" steamer, one of the monthly line of packets now plying between the Isthmus, Lima, and Valparaiso. For her accommodations I cannot say much: the waiters and stewards, all South Americans, carried more real estate on their persons than they could have afforded to purchase: the cabins were not less dirty, and in justice to the officers and the company I am bound to say, that three-fourths of the passengers could boast of no superiority in this respect. When on a journey, it is the custom among the Creole Spaniards to go unshaved, the beard thus cultivated being supposed to protect the face from wind and sun: whether washing is eschewed on the same principle, I cannot absolutely say, but from what I saw I should be inclined to think that it was. The late comers, of whom I was one, found all the cabins engaged, and slept on the sofas: but by this we rather gained in point of cleanliness and fresh air.

The construction of these boats bears witness to the general calmness of the seas through which they

are intended to run. Though only of 700 to 800 tons burthen, they carry a high poopdeck, rising eight feet above the waist: and on the top of this again is a flat roof, light certainly, and easily cut away in case of a gale, but still raising the whole mass to an enormous height from the water, and very inconvenient in head-winds, as the officers themselves admitted.

An hour's steaming brought us to the port of Panama, situated on the opposite side the bay, and called Taboga. The island is high, green, and partially wooded, covered with low brushwood, which is said to be full of game. Wild-hog, deer, goats, rabbits, and every description of land and water birds, are abundant: and the dense cover and the rough ground make it very unlikely that the stock will be largely diminished, notwithstanding the persevering efforts of the shippers and crews who touch here. In shape, Taboga is said to be almost a facsimile of the island of Fernando Noronha, on the Atlantic coast. The harbour is good, with deep water, and shelter on all sides but one. The confluence of strangers at Panama has set an American company at work to turn to account this quiet and fertile spot: and if a flaming paragraph, which I have lately read in the New Orleans Picaguna, be correct, Taboga is soon destined to figure as the "Saratoga of the South." In language more intelligible on this side the water, a piece of ground will be cleared, a long row of little

white-washed cabins set up, a table d'hôte, a bowling alley, and a bar established: mintjuleps will be dispensed, balls given, and the habits of Spain superseded by those of New York.

Continuing our course, we passed the "Island of Serpents," which owes its name to a report, for whose truth every inhabitant of the neighbourhood will vouch: although it certainly carries with it a most singular air of romance. A single hill, from summit to base a mass of verdure, rises abruptly out of the water. Clouds rest perpetually on its top: streams rich in golden sands as those of California, furrow its sides, and uncounted treasures are lodged in the cliffs above: but on those cliffs no human foot has been set: the mines are unworked, the very sands unsearched, for serpents, whose bite is death, swarm throughout the green thickets; and of the few adventurers who have undertaken the discovery of the guarded gold, none have ever returned to tell their story.

However exaggerated this, the popular belief, may be, there is no doubt that the superstitions entertained by the natives, have hitherto prevented their forming settlements on the island; that traces of gold have been found in the brooks by the crews of ships sent there for water; and that a recent attempt to clear the way for a thorough exploration, by setting fire to the bush, failed from the excessive moisture of the trees and grass. Up to the present time, no farther trials have been made, but it will

be strange if some of the adventurers, now collected at Panama, do not, in the course of a year or two, throw some new light on the subject.

Two days brought us to Buenaventura, which figures on the maps as a town, though a more wretched collection of hovels could hardly be found in any part of the world. It is smaller, poorer, and in every respect worse than Chagres, the huts of which it is composed resembling in materials and construction those of the isthmus. The river, however, is fine, and the surrounding coast wild, wooded, and broken, with surf beating heavily on the rocks. Three or four creeks empty themselves into the harbour, two of which are supposed to rise at a considerable distance inland, but as they run wholly through Indian country, their course has hitherto remained unexplored.

There is little trade, and the only article exported is tobacco, which is sent on board in square cases of raw hide with the hair on. The chief importance which the place possesses, is derived from the fact of its lying on the high road to Bogota from the Pacific. Travellers by this route follow the course of the Cauca river, which runs through a wild and mountainous tract, as far as Cartago, whence three or four days of difficult and sometimes dangerous riding bring them to the capital. The journey is generally considered as occupying three weeks, but as this supposes the day's ride not to exceed thirty miles, and the whole distance to be performed with

the same animals, half that time would probably be enough for an Englishman and a tourist. The scenery is said to be magnificent: and it was a matter of extreme regret with me that the shortness of my stay in South America prevented me from making the expedition, the more so as it is alleged that a communication exists between the waters of the Cauca and those of the Magdalena, thereby connecting the two oceans by a channel practicable for boat navigation.

On Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1850, we crossed the line about 10 A.M. By noon we were in full view of Cape Pasado, the first land seen in the southern hemisphere. Cape St. Lorenzo was made by sunset, a bold and prominent headland. All our hopes of obtaining a sight of the Andes were frustrated by incessant rain and mist, the most disagreeable weather I had experienced since entering the tropics, the damp warmth of the atmosphere producing a closeness more unpleasant than almost any amount of day heat. We were told that this is usual in the Pacific; indeed, the captain called it "regular line weather:" rather a shock to one's preconceived notions, for the fog was as dense as that of a London November, or the Newfoundland banks in any season. A Scotch mist, slightly warmed, is perhaps the nearest approach to it.

The next morning we were in sight of land by daylight, passing soon afterwards el enamortajado, the Corpse—whose ominous title is derived from

a story, often repeated, and never, I believe, contradicted, which gives a fair idea of the internal management of a South American Government. The Columbian authorities, it appears, animated by a very unusual spirit of activity, determined on the establishment of a light-house, then as now much needed. Some building was accordingly erected for the purpose, and four men were rowed across to the island, which is altogether desert and barren, and there left in charge, with six months provisions supplied them. No boat was allowed, probably from a suspicion that they might make off with the little property consigned to their care, but they were promised relief before the expiration of their term, and provisioned for so long a period, they were little inclined to complain. The time passed, whether quickly or slowly to them can never be known; and in the interval, a revolution, or something like one, took place at Guayaquil. This being a matter of very common occurrence, excited little sensation beyond the immediate vicinity, but it was quite sufficient to drive out of the heads of the authorities all thoughts of those whom they had consigned to solitary imprisonment; and I do not know how long after the expiration of the allotted period it was that a foreign vessel, attracted by the signals of distress waved from the island, sent a boat's crew ashore in time to rescue one victim, who however died shortly afterwards. The rest had

literally starved to death; and this within ten miles of the main land. Other accounts say that the island received its name from the likeness which it is supposed to bear in shape to a corpse shrouded and laid out for burial, with the arms folded over the breast; but whether from want of sufficient imagination, or not seeing it from the right point of view, I certainly should not have discerned the likeness if it had not been pointed out.

We ran along the coast of Puna, an island 25 miles in length by about 14 in the broadest part, formerly the abode of a tribe of Indians, from whom the Spaniards on their first landing met a most obstinate and daring resistance, their leader Hernan Pizarro being wounded in the attack. They revenged themselves by enslaving and carrying off the inhabitants, of whom a scattered few only were left at the beginning of the last century; and even these have either died out or changed their abode. Puna is little cultivated, and has the reputation of being unhealthy; but its vicinity to the capital, and convenient position at the mouth of the harbour, give it a certain geographical importance. In the hands of a naval power it would be a very valuable possession; a fact to which it is hinted that the Americans have lately opened their eyes. Ecuador is a weak government, and public debt unpaid furnishes a convenient ground on which to rest a claim.

By mid-day we were in the river, which is wide

but not picturesque, running between banks generally high and bare, and which in parts—strange sight for the tropics—are covered with deciduous trees. The seasons of Guayaquil differ altogether from those of the isthmus—forming in fact an exact converse. The wet season, for the last of which I had come in at Panama, had just commenced in Ecuador, where it is supposed to end about the beginning of May, leaving the rest of the year comparatively dry. This however must be taken with exceptions, for about the foot of the Cordillera it rains incessantly, and the change of seasons is unfelt. The town of Guayaquil, the second in importance in the Equatorial Republic, and its only seaport of any consequence, is situated at an inconvenient distance from the mouth of the river. Eighty-five miles navigation against a strong current, and where tides run with a violence unusual in the Pacific, are a serious drawback to trade. Near the city the ground becomes low and flat, and the haciendas of the wealthier proprietors, surrounded with bright green patches of cane, and gaily and fancifully painted, become more and more numerous as you approach.

Guayaquil itself is situated favourably enough for purposes of convenience, on the low bank of the river, along which a roughly-made pier or embankment has been carried for a distance of a mile. At the end of this, and close under a hill, the only one in the immediate neighbourhood, stands the old

town, dating from the time of the Spanish conquest, dirty and disreputable, with streets unpaved, and inhabitants unwashed. The new part is in quite a different, and rather a peculiar style. All the foot-paths are under cover, as in Chester and Berne; and the houses directly overhang them. The ground-floors are shops or warehouses, generally open at the sides, and displaying their contents after the manner of an Eastern Bazaar. Fruit—cigars—ponchos of gaudy colours—ices, and dulces—grass hammocks, which are here manufactured in perfection, form the chief articles of trade. The intense heat of the noon-day sun, acting on a low and swampy soil, and within two degrees of the line, gives the population a sleepy listless manner of moving during the day, which changes to bustling activity towards evening. Then the streets are thronged, the pulperias filled with a dense and dirty crowd, ladies appear at their balconies and barred windows, and a stranger, landing as we did just as night was setting in, would imagine that nothing less serious than a pronunciamento could possibly be the cause of such a tumult as he hears and sees.

Every building throughout the town is of lath and plaster, except the old Spanish cathedral, dedicated to St. Jago, the patron saint of Guayaquil, and which, with all its ugliness, is likely to outlive ten more generations of modern houses, still standing as the first conquerors left it. The residences of the wealthier inhabitants are painted and whitewashed,

and certainly have a neat, though not substantial appearance. Some are three stories high, the second being a mere entresol, and the chief apartment above; but this is now forbidden by law; the authorities having taken it into their heads that such a style of building increases the risk from fire. They have some reason to be cautious; for three times their capital* has been laid utterly in ashes, and thirteen other fires are recorded of more limited though still destructive extent. Anywhere but in South America it would hardly be credited that this could take place in a city built literally on the edge of a river, and where no house stands two hundred yards distant from the water: but here engines and firemen are unknown, and if accidents happen, it is the will of God and the saints, and there is no more to be said. Not much better cared for is the state of the thoroughfares: but the Macadams of Ecuador always conceive their work to be done when some dozen of big stones have been tumbled any how into the street to mend the old holes, or make new ones. When I have added that there is no theatre, no hotel, no Government building larger or better than a private house, that the grogshops are many, and that the appearance of the lower orders bear witness to their popularity, I believe that I shall have conveyed as good an idea of Guayaquil as I can do by a mere verbal description.

I found myself just too late to witness an attempted

* In 1692, 1707, and 1764.

emeute, which took place three days before my arrival. It appears that financial reform has of late been introduced into Ecuador after a somewhat wholesale fashion. The Ministry finding itself in arrear, decided on stopping all salaries whatever, except those of the military, whom it was important not to alienate, and, of course, their own. People are used to these things in the Republics of the New World: and no great sensation was produced, until it was rumoured about, with what truth I never knew, that the unexampled economy of Government had left them with a surplus of £5000 in the Treasury. For such a prize there were many competitors; and it was not long before a plan was formed to upset the Constitution, turn out the present holders of office, and take possession of the spoils. Extra pay, however, had been given to the troops: the officers were some of them obnoxious to the mob, and consequently remained loyal; and the affair passed off with only the loss of a few lives.

Far otherwise was it in the revolution of 1845, when Flores lost the Presidency, and nearly his life. I shall not attempt to describe from memory a scene of which I have heard many versions; but the severity of the contest is sufficiently witnessed by the condition of the walls and wooden pillars of the houses, some of them riddled through and through with musket-balls, and having the holes hastily and awkwardly plugged up with dried clay.

In that now occupied by the British Consul there are more than a dozen shotmarks; and so unsubstantial is the style of architecture, that I myself saw the place where a single bullet had passed successively through an outer wall and two inner partitions, stopping finally in the third. As there is no furniture with which to make a screen, and mattrasses are unknown, the danger to which the peaceful citizens are exposed on such occasions is not much less than that incurred by the actual combatants.

There is little or no foreign society in Guayaquil; the whole number of alien residents of all classes falling short of twenty-five. This arises in part from the heat and unhealthiness of the locality, one of the worst in South America; and partly also from the habits of the native population, who rather tolerate than desire the presence of strangers. They have among themselves greater resources than are to be found in most of the cities of the Pacific coast; and singularly enough in a close, swampy, and confined situation, the personal appearance, both of men and women, bears, comparatively speaking, a stronger likeness to the European complexion and cast of features than to those of their countrymen and countrywomen of the tropics.

On the morning after my arrival, determining to leave the steamer, and ride over the Cordillera to Quito, I went on board again to bring off my luggage. If it had not been easy to land on the preceding

evening, the task of returning was doubly difficult. The tide and current together were running at the rate of eight knots an hour down-stream: the native boats are far from secure; and the approaching departure of the packet made it necessary to lose no time. Starting about half a mile above the point where she lay, and straining every nerve to keep ourselves from being spun round in the eddies, we at last reached the ship's bows, and were swept along her side till brought up with a shock that nearly sent our frail craft to the bottom, by striking against the starboard paddlewheel. Another passenger, who set out about an hour later, was less fortunate: missing the ship by about ten yards, and his crew, worn out by their previous exertions, being unable to stem the current, he drifted two miles down the river, and then only stopped by being carried within a rope's throw of an American brig which lay anchored there. "Facilis descensus,"—but the return was a tedious process; and it was more than an hour and a half before a tow-rope, with four or five men at the end of it, had brought him to the point from which they started, this time to succeed.

A journey in South America, if undertaken at a few hours' notice, is a serious matter. You have everything to do for yourself: and I know no such trial of a man's temper—the day being hot, and he in a hurry—than to encounter the delays and dawdling of the Spanish tradesmen. There are

provisions to buy, a servant to engage, papers to be visèd, and on each and all of these matters there is sure to be a squabble in resisting the barefaced imposition attempted to be practised upon you. I thought myself well off in getting through these troubles in six or seven hours of bustle: and a little before sunset, the tide running strong up-stream, and the night being fine, I set out in an open boat for Bodegas,* the boundary of the province of Guayaquil, and the point at which the navigation of the river ceases. The canoes in general use being small, and unprovided with either seats or raised planks in the bottom, the only practicable position is that of lying at full length; which, should there be any tendency to a leak in the craft, and the passenger be conscious of rheumatic propensities, neither the most agreeable, nor the most wholesome process in the world. For my own part I slept soundly, lulled by the monotonous splash of the paddles; and waking about midnight, was not a little surprised to find the men doing the same thing, and the boat fast moored among a dozen others, some of large size, and manned exclusively by Indians. On inquiry I found that the tide had turned, and a

* Properly "Bodegas de Babahojo," "the storehouses of Babahojo," so called from a custom-house formerly established there—but the full name has been voted too long even for the sonorous Spanish, and as in the case of Rio Janeiro, and many others, the adjunct has been retained, and the distinctive word dropped.

glance at the river shewed how useless it would have been to attempt to struggle against it.

The place at which we had halted was a small village, containing about one hundred houses, and furnished—unusual accommodation—with a tavern of large dimensions. This latter building was neither more nor less than a raft, strongly moored to the bank, and surmounted by a very unartificial covering of bamboo and palm-leaves. Why such a situation should have been chosen I could not understand—it was certainly not from the value of the adjoining land, which lay wholly uncleared, except where room was to be made for the huts, and to my questions on the subject, the all-sufficient answer "es el costumbre" was invariably returned. I afterwards passed many of these floating cottages, and odd as their appearance might be, I could not deny their advantage in one respect. Resting on the water, and rising and falling with the tide, they were accessible at all times, while the more substantial edifices of the bank were separated from us by half an acre of most tenacious mud.

I found the tavern full of boatmen, inclined to be noisy and making a night of it: so returning to my canoe, I remained there until four A.M., when thinking that we had wasted quite time enough, I went in search of the crew. It wanted an hour to daylight, and the tide was still against us, but by practising a manœuvre, frequent on these waters, avoiding the main channel, and creeping along an

almost stagnant creek, which after many windings again communicated with it, we succeeded in making way at the rate of about four miles in the hour. As we advanced, the river grew narrower, and the alligators more numerous. I counted thirty-seven on one bank, sunning themselves at their ease, with the mud hardening on their scaly backs, and too lazy to stir at our approach. Any number might have been killed: but the chase would have been neither sportsman-like nor profitable, and they appeared so tame and regardless of our presence, that I should as soon have thought of shooting at a cow. Their favourite resort is a marsh by the river-side, and during the summer heat they not unfrequently pass weeks in a state of lethargy, without access to the air, and buried two or three feet deep in the dried and hardened soil. Humboldt, if I mistake not, mentions an instance, where a young one, who had taken up his sleeping quarters under the floor of a clay hut, in his exertions to free himself on waking, produced a miniature earthquake, and excited great alarm among the inhabitants. The difference of these animals in different rivers is very remarkable. Here, as on the Chagres, the natives bathed among them in utter unconcern: while in many of the adjoining streams, they dare not enter the water without first beating it with sticks, and shouting and splashing to drive them off. A more really dangerous, though in appearance less formidable enemy is the barracouta: a

kind of freshwater shark, who, though not large enough to carry off a man, frequently attacks swimmers, and tears off pieces of flesh from their legs. I have seen a native frightfully marked with scars so received: and an officer in the Columbian army related to me a story, for the truth of which he personally vouched, when a detachment of cavalry found themselves unable to cross a ford, the horses on each trial being attacked by these animals fastening on their legs, and refusing to quit their hold until almost dragged out of the water. A precaution often taken to guard both against them and the alligators, is to poke into all the holes for some distance above and below the place where a party intends to pass, thereby driving them bodily out. On land the cayman is harmless, because helpless: quite unable to turn, and his walk or run a mere waddle. Their powers of using their tails as instruments of offence have often been exaggerated: they are really far from flexile, and the Indians whom I questioned had never seen them strike, nor attack, except with their teeth. The story may have arisen from the undulating motion with which, like most kinds of fish, they propel themselves in the water. They have a habit which they share with elderly gentlemen after dinner—that of sleeping with their mouths wide open—and naturalists, determined to find a reason for every thing, declare that they do it on purpose to catch flies and mosquitos, which they swallow by myriads.

Anything more ghastly than the appearance of half-a-dozen of these monsters, displaying their long lines of glittering teeth and immense power of jaw, can hardly be imagined. The Indians are never tired of telling stories of their cunning: and among other marvellous legends of the same kind, declare that they go out in parties to catch fish: two or three of the number guarding a narrow pass in the stream, while the others starting perhaps half a mile off, gradually drive the fish up to them.* Their mode of cayman-hunting is simple, but requires great nerve. An Indian stands in the water, holding in one hand a sharp stick with a barbed point at each end, and some live bait—a chicken or duck—tied to it. The struggles of the victim very soon bring a cayman to the spot, who rushes open-mouthed at the prize: and if the hunter keeps his presence of mind, and does not withdraw his arm, the force with which the animal bites at his prey drives the barbs into his jaws, and makes it impossible for him either to open or close them. He is then defenceless, and is easily killed.

We caught a young one about six inches long, playing in the shoal water. It fought hard, bit at everything that came near it, and made a strange croaking noise like a young frog. When tumbled

* Whether this be true or not, there is no doubt that the prairie-wolves have a mode of hunting deer exactly like that described in the text: they drive them towards a narrow pass, where others are lying in wait, and all join in securing the prey.

head-foremost into the bottom of the boat, it seemed to think only of revenge: and it was ludicrous to see the half-naked boatmen keeping their eyes on its movements, and jerking their bare feet out of the way of its teeth. It finally scrambled over the side and escaped, much to the relief of its captor, who had received a severe bite on the arm from the precocious little reptile.

We went on all day without adventure, striking once on a snag, and nearly capsizing, a mishap which might fairly be accounted for by the clumsy make of our craft. When a native of Ecuador thinks fit to set up a canoe of his own, (unless it be of extra dimensions), his only idea of naval architecture is to take a large tree, burn or scoop out a hole in the trunk, pare off the ends into a clumsy imitation of a stem and stern, and sometimes line them with sheet-lead, to prevent leakage where the grain of the wood has been cut through. We pulled up at a cottage where the men expected to find provisions for sale: but after floundering up a high muddy bank, assisted only by a long bamboo which had been laid down as a kind of handrail, we found the settlement deserted, and the house in ruins. It is one of the peculiarities of these little riverside huts, that all of them have gardens, of a primitive kind indeed, an old boat being generally used for the purpose, filled with mould, and set up on two bamboos, making a rude but not ungraceful flower-stand. I was led to believe that the plants so care-

fully cultivated had some medical value: for beauty did not appear to influence the cottagers in their choice, and the quantity was too small to have served them as vegetables. Inside, the only furniture which they boasted was a calabash, a hammock, and a square heap of dried clay, about four feet high, on which the fire is made; this rather elaborate fireplace was universal.

Never, except in Guiana, did I see such a multitude and variety of birds, as swarmed on the banks of the Guayaquil river; white cranes were counted by thousands, a small brown bird, resembling the moko-moko of Demerara, abounded in the bushes: wood-pigeons flew overhead: and shrill-voiced parroquets saluted us from every tree-top. It was late in the afternoon when we reached Bodegas; and I almost doubted whether we should be able to leave it the same evening. I had two letters of introduction, and found the party to whom one was addressed, Don Antonio Elisalde, on the very point of sitting down to dinner, in a bare unfurnished room, the walls whitewashed, one window blocked up with piles of meal sacks, and two or three fighting cocks in a corner, tied by their legs to the wall, and keeping up an incessant crowing. No English farmer would have endured the discomfort of such a residence, yet this man was alcalde of the place, brother to a late candidate for the presidency of the republic, his wealth was beyond doubt, and his house the best in Bodegas. Nothing

could be more hospitable than his reception of me: he routed out a broken-legged chair from the corner of the room, propped it up with a sack, made a vain attempt to silence the cocks, and very civilly asked me to join him at his meal; while we were at table a friend dropped in—an American from the States—who had forgotten his English, and spoke with a comically foreign accent. He had been nine years, he said, in the republic, and during that time had not heard his own language half a dozen times. He carried his whole family circle inside his waistcoat (a pretty ample one, by the way:) had neither relative nor friend alive, and seemed not to have heard the name of any president since Tyler. On Ecuadorian affairs, however, he was an authority: and his estimate of the people in general, was by no means favourable. He described them as not given to violent crimes, from which their innate cowardice restrained them; but cunning, greedy of small gains, unscrupulous in driving bargains, and perfectly careless of the obligations of an oath. Of the country, and its natural advantages, he spoke in terms of almost rapturous praise, and evidently looked forward to being joined before his death by many of his countrymen. The great drawback of the climate he fully admitted, as also the difficulty of getting "help:" Indians, though docile as dogs, being less intelligent, and the negroes neither one nor the other.

I was pressed for time, having undertaken to

reach Quito within a much shorter period than is generally allowed; and set out in the twilight for Savonita, twelve miles distant, having first been assured by my entertainer and his companion that what I proposed was utterly impossible, and that I had better stay where I was. Thanking him for his good advice, I mounted, and in five minutes more was out of sight of Bodegas, and threading the intricate mazes of a path that wound through thickets of impenetrable strength and darkness. Droves of oxen and mules met and delayed us at every step; many were lying down, and could hardly be forced out of the track; they had come from the interior valleys of the Andes, and were worn and lame from their long march. The land through which we passed seemed low, and in part overflowed; it is wholly uncultivated, and probably not worth cultivation. We crossed several rivers, none of any consequence; and about 10 P.M. reached the outskirts of the village of Savonita. The hut where we stopped was far from waterproof, as the stream that trickled down the walls abundantly testified; and the only lodging which they could give us for the night was a sort of raised platform, or shelf, of bamboos, which serving in turn as a seat, table, and bed, ran round the verandah outside. This mattered the less, as we purposed starting again at midnight, when the moon was to rise; and accordingly, making the best of a bad bargain, we lay down and took our ducking quietly. By the

time appointed I found Juan Maria, my arriero, looking disconsolately at the sky which was pitch dark, and then at the torrents of rain which we could hear and feel as they splashed up from the puddly ground. Bad as was our shelter, it was better than a start in such weather; and we turned in again till 3 A.M., when, seeing no hopes of change, a pair of wet saddles were put on the shivering mules, and rolled in ponchos, and vainly trying to solace ourselves with cigars which refused to light, we set out on our watery expedition. In two hours time it had ceased to pour, and the thin white mist which covered the lowlands slowly drifting away, the lower ridges of the Cordillera opened on the view. They in no respect differed from the hills of Panama, being equally green and not much higher; nor was it until we had crossed half a dozen of the mountain streams, whose rushing and foaming waters plainly shewed their rapid descent, that we felt ourselves to be bidding adieu to the monotonous beauties of the "tierra caliente." Passing the last of these barrancas, my baggage-mule, which was heavily loaded, missed her footing, slipped, struggled, and in a second was carried some dozen yards down the torrent, which roared with ominous loudness. There was no time for assistance, or even for alarm, before we saw her fast jammed between two huge stones, against which she had most luckily been driven. The Indian guide, who accompanied us, sometimes on foot, sometimes riding on the top of the pack, did not lose

his head for an instant, but scrambling over the rocks, and jumping from point to point, contrived to set free the struggling and half suffocated brute. A few bruises were all the damage done; but everything in my bags was wet through, and continued so until we reached Huaranda in the course of the next day. We met Indians in hundreds coming down to Bodegas, the great cattle market of the Republic; they reported the road almost impassable, and added that it would get worse every day, as the rainy season was setting in. "Viene mucha agua," said one of them, which with a Niagara of it pouring down upon me, I did not feel inclined to dispute.

By noon we stopped to breakfast; having then, from the extreme badness of the weather, accomplished only 18 miles. Our resting place was one of the common huts of the country, half filled with muleteers from the interior. I found the reason of this unusual crowd to be that they were afraid of the road being broken up by the rains, and did not expect to be able to make another trip for some months. Most of these men were dressed in a poncho and broad straw hat, many in nothing else; all were barefooted and barelegged, which in the soft clayey mud was rather an advantage than otherwise. The Spaniards, on the contrary, were gaudily got up, their ponchos of every colour in the rainbow, their huge jackboots defying the wet, and furnished with spurs five or six inches long, but ac-

cording to custom, blunt. Two leagues more brought us to the Sierra de Ancas; and here our difficulties began. All before it had been mere child's play. The road, greased throughout to the consistency of soft soap, wound up a steep and slippery ascent, where the long straight tracks made by the descending mules as they slid down, proved the difficulty of the pass. Here and there portions of the path had been carried away bodily; and in these places the mules invariably picked their way step by step, with their noses to the ground, and feet close together, seeming to take root in a manner altogether incomprehensible to a novice in mountain climbing. They were frequently stumbling, and sometimes came down bodily on their noses; but instead of struggling or floundering, they only planted their hind feet more firmly, and then, one after another, and with a slow cautious movement, as if afraid of another tumble, would lift their forelegs up, and feel for a place within reach, where the slippery soil would not give way. In all these difficulties, the rider had nothing to do but to sit steady, and leave his animal to take care of both, and after one or two attempts to interfere, produced by the singular partiality which all mules shew for the outside edge of a track, just where it borders on a precipice, I came to the conclusion that the best thing to be done was to let matters take their chance. Three hours scrambling brought us to the top of this trebly accursed hill; and thenceforward the scenery began to

change. The tropical plants came few, far between, and stunted in their growth; new forms of vegetation shewed themselves, European and North American trees succeeded to the bamboo, the cottonwood, and the palm; and I noticed a shrub exactly resembling in leaf and fruit, the English blackberry. The rain too had turned to a Scotch mist, piercingly cold, and defying all wrappings to turn it, while occasionally a shift of wind cleared the sky for a few minutes, tantalizing us with a view, over which the next instant drew a veil.

Beyond Ancas, the road was one continued succession of hill and valley, the ascents averaging 45°, and the descents only passable by sliding—an operation at which mules are wonderfully expert, as they had need be. During the last three hours, we rode in utter darkness, the animals, as before, scenting out their way, and we trusting in Providence and them. As the rider has nothing to do with choosing his path, it is of no great consequence that he should see it: but it would have been a satisfaction to know, in case of a tumble, when one was likely to stop; and my uneasiness in this respect was fully shared by the arriero, who continued alternately to pour out invocations to all the saints, and curses on the mules when they stumbled, in a way that was ludicrous to hear. Our last mishap had nearly left us without shelter for the night; in the utter darkness, we had ridden past the house at which we intended to stop, just outside the little

village of La Chima. The mules, as usual the most sagacious of the party, found out their mistake, one of them turning sharp round and making for the stable. Our reception was not hospitable. The old man who owned the cottage, and his wife, were both in bed, and when our thumps and kicks at the door at last drew him out of his hole, he seemed to think he had ladrones to deal with. When undeceived, he relapsed into sullenness, and to all our demands he had only one answer, "no hay." There was no bread—no meat—no eggs—no fire— and he would have added no water, but that a huge bamboo in the corner, serving as a pitcher, stopped the intended denial. It was then nearly 10 P.M., and we had been 18 hours in the saddle with only one for rest; so supper was voted needless, and we turned in forthwith.

The construction of this hut, though poor and dirty, served to indicate the totally different nature of the country into which we had passed. Instead of the light cane walls, and open sides, here all was solid and massive; the walls of dried clay, the doors heavy, and a deficiency of windows only to be equalled in an Irish cabin, which it resembled in all except the churlishness of its inmates. We had no fire, wood being scarce at this height, and the cold wind from the snow-mountains of the east, blowing in through a thousand crevices and cracks, struck a chill to the very bones. It was quite clear, however, that we could do nothing to better ourselves;

and accordingly I rolled a wet poncho round a wetter greatcoat, looked out for a clean corner on the floor, placed a saddle for my pillow, and in five minutes was in the land of dreams.

Our start next morning was made before daylight, and little inviting as our quarters might be, they were very reluctantly quitted. The hour immediately preceding sunrise, when, according to Arab tradition, the angel of death visits the earth, is, as every one knows, the coldest of the whole twenty-four; and I shall not soon forget the miserable expression of Juan Maria's face, as I watched him by the light of a huge pine-torch, endeavouring with frozen fingers to adjust the saddle and baggage. At last this part of the business was done, and for about three quarters of an hour we rode on in the dark, scrambling up invisible hills, sliding down the corresponding descents, and wading the little mountain streams, which roared and splashed like full-grown torrents. Day dawned at last, and wild and dreary was the view which opened upon us, from the highlands over which we were journeying. Immediately round us lay a vast extent of undulating plains, bare and treeless, except where a few bent and twisted shrubs, scattered about in hollows and watercourses, made a feeble attempt to grow. Far away to the east, towering high over the surrounding peaks, and glittering with intolerable brightness, rose the snowy summit of Chimborazo, untrodden by human foot, while the white patches which strewed the whole

line of the yet distant mountains, shewed that we were really at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, the great dividing range of the Southern Continent. All between was a chaos of hill and valley, sharp pointed needles, abrupt descents, glimpses of rivers shining like silver threads in the intervening glens, fleecy clouds hanging round the inferior peaks – for their range is limited, and seldom, if ever, does rain fall on the great central chain of the Andes—while, strongly contrasting with the magnificence of nature, thousands of little adobe huts, mere human molehills, even had they not been brought into invidious comparison with the surrounding scenery, speckled the brown surface of the valley with white.

The wet season having only recently begun, not a blade of grass was visible on the fields: but the hedges of aloe and cactus were in full bloom already, and relieved the unvaried monotony of colour. The country appeared densely peopled, and the land sub-divided into holdings almost Irish in their diminutive extent, while the cabins, though more substantial and better built, partook of the same peculiar style of architecture. Our road wound along the side of the hills, every now and then dipping down into the plain with a total disregard of levels: and these descents—"mal puntos," as the arriero very truly called them—were not a little trying to the nerves, more especially as just enough rain had fallen to convert the stiff clay soil into greasy mud. Fifteen miles of riding

brought us to Huaranda, the first of the really inland towns of Ecuador which we had seen. The whole population, Indian and white, had turned out in the plaza, gaily dressed and noisy: service was going on in an old white-washed church, which seemed the general centre of attraction, while two cracked bells were ringing, and an organ within played something that sounded to me very like an opera-tune. I could not at first guess why the bells were hung on a frame like a gallows outside instead of being mounted in a belfry: but I was told that this was on account of earthquakes, which are frequent and destructive. There was no hotel, but I found lodgings in a private house: my worthy arriero, who had a mind for a holiday, assuring me that no cattle could be obtained until to-morrow for love or money. I did not believe, but submitted with the better grace, because the temptations of rest and cleanliness are doubly felt after a journey like that which we had made. Nothing could be more hospitably attentive than the conduct of my entertainers: but my demands for water seemed to puzzle them extremely: the first supply was brought in a calabash, holding about as much as a soup-plate: and when they complied with my request for a larger allowance, the servant who handed it hung about me in evident curiosity to find out what possible use I could be going to make of so much.

Breakfast and dinner were knocked into one—a common custom among South American travellers,

who seldom make more than one formal meal in the twenty-four hours : and though northern appetites at first rebel against this custom, I adopted it, and found it answer very well. The fare was Spanish in every respect—grease and oil abundant, a profusion of red pepper and vegetables, and light sour wine drunk out of tumblers.

Huaranda is quite a mountain village, though relatively to the country immediately surrounding it it lies low : but the chief houses have walls of immense thickness : fires are indispensable : and the scarcity of fuel is severely felt. I was amused by the croaking of an old woman, the mother of my host, who sat shivering in the chimney-corner and complaining after the fashion of old women everywhere. She had lately come from the tierra caliente of the sea-coast, and naturally felt the change of climate disagreeable. On my praising her grandson, a fine young lad of some five years of age, the old crone broke out into an invective on the cold country, "where nothing would grow—not even boys." It is true that the population of the interior is altogether different from that of the coast. They are generally short and stout, red-cheeked and healthy in looks, and reminded me often of the Welsh. The same effect is visible on the Creole Spaniard, though less strongly marked. Industry they have to a greater extent than the inhabitants of the low-land : but their ignorance prevents them improving the soil as they might do.

All the interior of Ecuador, and especially the country about Huaranda, is unfitted for the production of tropical fruit: but all the vegetables of England and the north of Europe would flourish in a climate so congenial to them: and the present deficiency of natural productions is only owing to the neglect of the inhabitants to cultivate them.

I passed the greater part of the afternoon indoors: listening to and answering as well as I could, a greater number of questions on all possible subjects than I ever remembered to have been asked before—even in New England. As it was a settled matter with the better informed among them that all "gueros"—fair-complexioned people—must be North Americans, I could not for a long while explain the fact of my having come from a still more distant country: and whether England was in Europe, or Europe in England—whether the two were the same—how far they were—whether we had any religion (a favourite question, which was put half-a-dozen times)—whether Englishmen were allowed to have more than one wife—with a hundred equally pertinent interrogatories, were showered upon me with a rapidity that defied all powers of reply. The room in which I sat was soon half-filled with visitors: and when, thinking that I had been exhibited long enough, after nearly three hours of being stared at, I walked out for a *paseo*, I found myself followed by a crowd, who dogged my heels for nearly half a mile out of the town.

The church, so crowded in the morning, was nearly empty when I went into it: and I had full leisure to examine the works of art which it contained. The most striking of them was a likeness of the Virgin, a large image with the reddest of red cheeks, and a huge flaxen wig hanging down to her waist. She was kept in countenance by a corresponding figure of St. John, who had been adorned by the painter with a very military moustache, and bore a strong general likeness to Bolivar. I ventured to hint disapprobation of the style to a Spaniard, who volunteered his services as guide, and he only laughed and said that the Indians called it "muy fino," which I believe was true. Besides the church there was a school,—"para la ensenanca mutua,"—I presume a Lancasterian system—which unfortunately was closed in honour of the day, and I could get no more detailed explanation of its management. Leaving the dirty streets, which were knee deep in mud, I ascended a neighbouring hill, commanding a magnificent view of the snowy chain beyond, which from Huaranda is invisible. The general barrenness of these hills, so unexpected within two degrees of the line, adds greatly to their wild and imposing aspect. I noticed a plant resembling white heather, which grew in profusion: a few aloes and caoutchouc trees, but no large timber of any description. I endeavoured to estimate the size of the town, and counted about 250 houses; all of which certainly held far

more than the English average of six persons. I believe 2000 to be below the actual number of the inhabitants, and it may very possibly be half as much again.

On returning to my lodgings I found preparations making for a fandango, and to my great surprise the polka was among the dances introduced. How it found its way to the remote valleys of the Andes, I could not even surmise—but they told me that it was often danced, and they thought it "muy hermoso."

A ball in South America is easily got up. There are no carpets to take up, no chairs to displace, no fixing a day beforehand, engaging a band, and ordering a supper, perhaps to be cut out by some more popular rival after all. Two or three hammocks which, during the day, stretch across the room as a lounge for the family, are unhooked and taken down; a water jar or two tumbled out of its accustomed corner; sentence of banishment is pronounced against the cocks and hens, which in general enjoy the run of the house; and with a few cigars to offer to her friends, male and female, the lady is provided, and ready for all guests.

The festivities did not last long, for by ten o'clock every soul had left the room, and—unexpected sight—a real bonâ fide bed was introduced, and destined for the accommodation of the "caballero Ynglese." My fidus Achates slept on the floor at my feet; and the apartment occupied by all the

ladies of the house—six or seven in number—was divided from ours by an extempore partition, not absolutely impenetrable to curious eyes: nor can I say that the fair occupants appeared in any way discomposed by the circumstance.

A long day was before us on Monday: and after four hours rest Juan Maria and myself were again in the saddle, and sliding and stumbling as before over the abominable road that leads northward out of Huaranda. We had moonlight to help us, and it did not rain: two decided improvements on our condition during the last two days' journey. All our former experience of bad roads was here outdone; the mules were repeatedly at fault, and stood trembling between cold and fright; a bare-legged Indian boy who accompanied us was unable to keep his footing, and slid rather than walked down the steep descents; while the cold, increasing as we continued to rise, exceeded in apparent severity anything that I ever felt in Canada or the western prairie. Of course this was the result of our rapid change of climate; but frost and snow are often seen at the height which we had now reached (about 10,000 feet), and the occasional gusts of wind seemed to have come direct from the North Pole.

At last we came to a ravine worse than any of its predecessors; the road down it wound along the edge of a steep bank, part of the soil had been washed away leaving a clear breach; and the last fifteen or twenty yards were one unbroken and con-

tinuous slide, ending in the river which roared below. The mules would not stir; and neither beating nor spurring could move them. They were accordingly unloaded, and turned loose to shift for themselves; while we set to work to pick out the best path we could. This was no easy task; but with many tumbles and bedaubed from head to foot, we at last reached the water; which being only knee-deep, was rather convenient than otherwise after all the dirt we had gone through, though certainly too cool to make the bath an agreeable one. Arrived at the bottom myself, I had time to watch the progress of the animals. They seemed perfectly to understand what they were about, putting their noses to the ground, feeling with their forefeet where the footing seemed doubtful, and every now and then drawing all four legs together for a slide, after which they always contrived to recover themselves just at the right moment. The opposite bank was nearly as hard to climb as the last had been to descend; and encumbered with jackboots and long spurs, we found some trouble in making our way. The mules jumped from point to point like cats, and with the boy who drove them were at the top before either Juan Maria or myself. After this we had little difficulty; but continued to ascend steadily, the path having been trodden into holes about a foot deep by the animals travelling along it, invariably stepping in the same place. It was 10 A. M. when we reached the last steep slope

of the Chimborazo pass, elevated 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, or nearly the height of the summit of Mont Blanc. Eight thousand feet above us, and about two miles distant on the left, rose the gigantic mountain over whose shoulder we were crossing; in the rear successive ridges of sierras, some shrouded in the morning mist, others lit up by the sun, stretched away to the far Pacific; neither shrub nor tree relieved the nakedness of the bare dry sand, interspersed with stones, which covered a wide expanse, barren as an African desert; skeletons of dead horses and mules strewed the path, all pointing one way—the hill had killed them; while the loose arid soil, drifted about by every wind that blows, had left not a trace of preceding travellers; and with the exception of two condors wheeling high overhead, not a sign of life was near. One of these came near enough to shew fully the immense expanse of his wings, and displayed not the slightest fear of our party. They are frequently caught by the Indians, who hide near the carcass of a dead horse, and secure the animal when gorged and unable to fly; though even in this state they are dangerous enemies. A safer though more laborious plan is to dig a hole, cover it over with loose bamboos or sticks, lay the carcass upon it, and while the bird has perched, and is too much absorbed in his meal to notice the liberties which are being taken with his toes, to tie his legs suddenly to the platform.

This mode of sporting involves the unpleasant necessity of lying for twenty-four hours, or more, immediately under a load of putrid horse-flesh: but Indians are not nice.

The difficulty of breathing forms a staple subject of complaint with all who have reached the height on which we now stood; I only name the subject, because having been repeatedly warned against it, and expecting to suffer, I was almost disappointed by finding little or no difference, at least while at rest or riding. An attempt to walk produced instant loss of breath, and a choking sensation such as one imagines to belong to asthma. Our voices sounded weak and faint; and the tread of the mules could hardly be heard. They, poor creatures, evidently felt it, for at every twenty or thirty yards they stopped to breathe, and then went slowly and painfully on.

I need not relate every little adventure and difficulty of our downward road. The "casa de Chimborazo," the only house in this wild track, lying four or five thousand feet below the pass, and 33 miles distant from Huaranda, was reached by noon; and there we indulged our wearied beasts and ourselves with a two hours' rest. A very dreary place was that solitary inn, standing alone, without tree, bush, or shelter, in the heart of the mountains; nor was there much within to compensate for the bleak wilderness outside. Three square rooms, like prison cells left open by accident, two of them lighted only

through the doorway, and enclosed by walls three feet thick—a necessary precaution in so exposed a situation—formed the main body of the building. A fourth den served as a kitchen and living room for the inmates of the house; round each room was a broad stone bench, used as a bed place; travellers being of course supposed to carry their own blankets with them, and mattresses regarded as superfluous. Many names were cut on the walls, nearly all Spanish; but I noticed two, engraved in letters an inch long, and followed by a still more conspicuous announcement that the bearers were "Yankees."

A little beyond the inn we met an officer—a "militar"—travelling apparently on Government business, for he had with him an escort of two lancers, whose weapons very much resembled those carried by the beef-eaters at Court. To protect his delicate complexion from the keen mountain air, he had put on a mask through which nothing except his eyes and mouth appeared, a most absurd figure. The practice, however, is common amongst the West Indian planters.

We had ten miles riding over a wide undulating savannah, which, with the exception of two or three fords, now swelled by the melting of the snows above, presented no obstacles. During this time the road gradually descended, and towards evening we were passing through a thickly-peopled and well-cultivated country, whose appearance spoke better for Ecuadorian industry than anything I had yet

seen. The fields were large, and carefully irrigated; the fences strong and substantial enough to have raised the envy of even a Norfolk farmer, being formed of a triple row of the aloe and dagger-plant, with here and there a prickly-pear, or tuna, whose formidable thorns make all trespass impossible.

The crops were just above ground, and as far as I could make out, consisted chiefly of Indian corn, with some wheat and barley; soil light and dusty, and almost as free from stones as that of the Mississippi valley.

Nothing can be more different than the condition of the inhabitants (I speak of the lower class) on the two sides of the Cordillera. Westward, there is a frequent communication with the sea-coast, an habitual intercourse with strangers, and the effects of this comparative civilization are very plainly discernible in their habits. The Spanish population, moreover, exists in greater numbers; and the pure Indian blood is less often seen. To the east, or inland, this state of things is reversed. The aborigines, cut off from communication with the world without (for the passage of the Andes, impracticable at some seasons of the year, is seldom made except by the couriers and regular traders between Quito and Guayaquil), retain the habits and manners of life introduced among them by the early Spanish settlers. Their houses are poorer, their dress more scanty and peculiar, their language almost inintelligible from the admixture of Indian words, and

their ignorance upon all points absolute and entire. They are Christians in name; baptized and married in due form, and contributing to the support of a few padres who live amongst them; but beyond this they have no knowledge; and many of them are supposed still to adhere in secret to the rites and religion of their forefathers.

Far among the mountains, and out of the common track of travellers, they openly maintain their old independence, allowing no white man to enter their villages; and even within fifty miles of the capital, defying the whole power of the Government to subdue them; which, as they own little or no property, are well armed, and fully determined not to work, has not been, and is not likely to be, attempted. Those of the plains – the tame Indians, as the Missionaries used appropriately to call them—are free in name, but in name only. The land on which they live belongs to their master, who takes his rents chiefly in labour, and moreover generally contrives to keep them in his debt. At best they are tenants-at-will, and to their simple habits a removal from the farms on which they have passed their lives, is far worse than slavery, to which in practice they have long been accustomed. The Government has officers appointed to examine into their condition, partly with a view to their protection, and partly to see that a proper degree of subordination is enforced among them. As these men act in concert with the landowners, and the priests are generally on the

same side, it may be imagined that the state of dependence of the Indian is complete.

We reached Hambato—twenty-four miles from the Casa da Chimborazo—an hour after nightfall, and found accommodation in a deserted house overhanging the river. While taking up our quarters, and groping in the dark, I heard a cry from Juan Maria, who had put one foot out of a low window at the far end of the building, in the belief that it opened on the yard, but found out his mistake just in time to save himself from a fall of forty feet. He held on with both hands, calling lustily for help, and was soon rescued. The night being fine, it was arranged that we should start again at one in the morning, in order if possible to reach Quito the same day. I shall never forget the view which opened upon me at the first dawn of morning. We were in the centre of that great valley, whose breadth averages twenty miles, and whose length exceeds a hundred, formed by the two chains of the Cordillera, which diverge at Quito, the mountain of Pichincha, on which the city stands, being the connecting link between the two. To the left, and on our rear, was Chimborazo, over which we had so lately passed. Tunguragua, Cotopaxi, and others of scarcely inferior height, snow-capped and glittering, bounded the whole horizon on the right; the rich plain, cultivated and densely peopled in some parts, in others unenclosed, stretched away in a vast expanse of savannah before us; the fresh morning

air almost reminded one of an English spring; brooks and rivers ran through every hollow; while far behind the white walls and flat roofs of Hambato, already many miles distant, marked the distance we had traversed. The most marked feature in the immediately surrounding landscape was the number and size of sand-hills, quite bare, and seemingly heaped up by the force of the wind. They rose in successive ridges, one behind another, contrasting vividly with the bright green of the surrounding fields. But for these, and the aloes and cactuses that bordered the road, I could have fancied a likeness between the view before me and that from the walls of Berne, where the whole range of the Alps are seen in one great panorama. As we continued to advance, the costume of the people grew wilder, and their appearance more uncivilized. Many Indians passed us, bare-headed and naked, all except a ragged poncho over their shoulders, riding with lassos coiled up, and hanging at their saddles. On nearing Tacunga we met a party with a bull in tow, securely fastened by four lassos, of which the owners rode two in front and two behind, each at about fifteen or twenty yards from the animal, thus making it impossible for him to rush upon them. Passers-by on such occasions always keep out of the way, drawing up to the side of the road, and calling to the conductors to tighten the lasso; a very necessary precaution.

The road was traversed at every hundred yards by

little canals, banked up at the sides, and conveying the water of the mountain-streams down to the low-lying fields, which during six months of the year, without such artificial aid, would be burnt up with drought. Rain, so abundant below, is rare at this elevation :* and the clouds of dust which every passing horseman raised, were almost suffocating.

By noon we had reached Tacunga, once a flourishing town, but which was utterly ruined in 1797 by one of the most destructive earthquakes on record. It occurred on a market day, when thousands of Indians had flocked in from the country round, who, cooped up in the narrow streets, and blinded and bewildered by the dust from the falling houses, attempted in vain to escape, trampling on each other in their flight. Every building in the place was laid level with the ground, except a church and college of the Jesuits, the latter of which still remains, cracked in fifty places and irreparably ruined. The loss of life was never estimated; Spanish exaggeration puts it down at five thousand, an almost impossible number; but the prosperity of Tacunga was at an end from that day : and it now bears the vacant and desolate aspect of a city too large for its inhabitants. The last mishap, from which it never recovered, is still remembered by many of the natives; but similar accidents had

* The average height of this interior valley varies from 7000 to 9000 feet above the sea.

occurred in 1743 and 1757, probably occasioned by volcanic eruptions from Cotopaxi: and as long ago as the end of the seventeenth century, a shock which destroyed, according to tradition, seven hundred houses, is recorded in the annals of the province. It is not many years since an old priest died at Quito, whose mind had been permanently shaken by the danger he had undergone during one of these convulsions of nature. He was buried alive for two days, and taken out at the end of that time unhurt, but unconscious of what had passed; confined for years as an idiot, and restored in part to his reason, but never to the use of his memory. The earthquake—his danger—and all his previous life—were a blank to him. He had even forgotten how to read, but recovered the power in old age.

I heard much of an old Indian palace in the neighbourhood of Tacunga; but time forbade us to visit it. By the descriptions I received, it is now almost levelled with the ground, but the original plan may yet be traced: and the material employed, as in the case of much of the old church architecture of England, is a stone not found within many miles of the spot.

Beyond Tacunga we began again to ascend, crossing a wild and narrow range of hills, wholly uncultivated. On the road we were met by long trains of baggage mules and horses, heavily loaded, and bound, not across the mountains, but down the valley to the various settlements of the interior.

The drivers were Indians: some, notwithstanding the cold, clothed only in a loose wrapper round the middle. They professed to speak Spanish: but the dialect and mixture of native words made them, to me, altogether incomprehensible. Towards evening we found ourselves in an open table-land, higher than that which we had left, and peopled by a class seemingly lower in the scale of civilization than any we had yet seen. Their houses, if such they could be called, were mere break-winds, such as hunters on the prairie knock up when camping for more than one night. Neither roof nor walls are thought necessary: the soil is scooped out so as to sink the floor a little below the level of the surrounding earth: two or three poles are fastened together at the top: boughs are twisted between them, leaves, rushes, and clay piled over all till the whole is tolerably weatherproof: and the structure when complete, suggests the idea of a dunghill, with a hole in the side, or a remarkably ill-constructed mud-pie. Firewood is scarce: and the only means of warming these miserable dens is by stuffing up the entrance (seldom more than eighteen inches in diameter), and leaving the animal heat of the inmates to produce its effect.

The better class of houses, belonging in general to natives of Spanish or mixed descent, are invariably of adobe, a kind of soft and sun-dried brick. The process of manufacture is simple enough. A hole about two feet deep being dug for the founda-

tions, is filled up with stiff clay, which is pounded, trodden, pressed with heavy weights, and left until almost dry. The superstructure is carried on on exactly the same principle. A framework of boards serves as a mould, and is tied together at the corners by strips of raw hide. These are tightened when the frame is filled, and taken off at the end of a day or two, when the contents appear in the shape of a huge lump of adobe, about four feet long by two in breadth and depth, to which exposure to sun and wind soon gives all the hardness which it ever attains. No cement is used: but the wet clay which is laid on the part already finished, adheres firmly to it, and when in its turn subjected to compression, forms a single and solid mass. This style of building is universal throughout Spanish America: and for its durability it is enough to say that many walls are standing even now which date from a time previous to the conquest.

The little village of Machachas was our stopping place for the night: and the lodging which we found there defies all powers of description to do it justice. A yard enclosed by mud walls, and about thirty feet by twenty in size, was roofed in at one side: a corner partitioned off for the use of the family to whom the place belonged: and the rest was the common property of men, mules, horses, dogs, and poultry. A large party both biped and quadruped was already collected: forage was scarce,

and food not to be had: and even to find a resting-place on the stone bench, lined as it was with prostrate and snoring figures, was no easy matter. We were, however, now only twenty miles from Quito; the thought gave us patience; and neither hunger nor cold troubled us long.

It was pitch-dark at four in the morning, when, anxious to reach my destination by breakfast time, I roused up Juan Maria to saddle the mules: which he did somewhat reluctantly, saying that it was "muy mal camin," as indeed it proved. As a counterbalancing advantage, we had it all to ourselves, a great saving of time where the narrowness of the path obliges the weaker party to turn back until their rivals have passed.

In many places the banks on each side rose to a height of twenty or twenty-five feet: the path, excavated at first by the continual treading of men and beasts in the same place, having been gradually worn deeper by the streams of water which occupied the channel thus artificially scooped out for them. One of the steep pitches leading to a ford, was at once so precipitous and so dark, that the mules refused either to be ridden or led down; and after a halt of some time, and many trials, we succeeded at last, by the help of a box of lucifer matches, and a remnant of candle, which formed part of our stores, in lighting the way, when they followed readily enough. I confess that I looked on with very little faith at the preparations for this

experiment; but I was bound to admit that it succeeded thoroughly; and my opinion of a mule's sagacity rose accordingly. We had hardly emerged from this ravine into a piece of comparatively level ground, Juan Maria riding as usual in front, where I always put him, thinking it just as well that his neck and not mine should stand the chance of being broken first, when I heard a muttered "caramba," followed by a splash and struggle. Pulling up, and peering through the darkness, I discovered my worthy attendant's head just showing above the surface of a pool of mud and water, into which he had ridden in ignorance of its tenacious qualities. He came out at last on the other side, plastered like a wall: but during this journey we had neither of us much to boast of in point of outward appearance, and such accidents are too common on South American roads to attract much notice.

One more hill—a long, tedious ascent—and the capital of Ecuador lay before us, at nine miles distance, its white, clean-looking houses spread out along the side of Pichincha like a row of tents. Our previous struggles were now exchanged for a pleasant gallop over the open plain: and it was still early morning, when weary, worn, and travel-stained, we rode through the crowded streets of the old Indian city of Quito.

CHAPTER III.

The real date of the foundation of Quito is never likely to be known. According to the common accounts, it was built by Sebastian Benalcasar, in the year 1534: but this means only that the Indian town which occupied its site was repaired, enlarged, and appropriated to the use of the victors by turning out the former inhabitants. None but a Spaniard, and not even a Spaniard in this commercial age, would have selected a city so far inland and so inaccessible for all mercantile purposes, as the seat of government for a wide and valuable province. North and south, east and west, it is equally inaccessible to wheeled carriages: the cost of all imported goods, conveyed over the Cordillera by the road which I have described, is enormous, sometimes exceeding the price in Guayaquil 500 per cent; nor does any particular fertility of the soil, or greater healthiness than is always to be found in a high mountain climate, counteract the manifest inconveniences of so remote and elevated a position. Two advantages undoubtedly were gained by the choice: the one, an entire exemption from the attacks of foreign enemies, and even to a certain extent, the concealment of whatever wealth the early settlers might possess from the jealous eyes of the buccaneers of other countries; and hardly less important politically, the influence obtained over the natives of

the interior, by a situation which threw the colonists so entirely upon their own resources and those of the country. A seaport town in a colony is always nearer to the mother-country than to the interior of its own; and local attachments are less likely to spring up where continual intercourse is kept up with the land to which the colonist continues to look as his home. Be this as it may, the rule holds with all the Spanish capitals of South and Central America. Mexico, Leon, Bogota, Lima, Caraccas, Santiago, have each their harbour at a distance; and even these points of communication with the outer world are generally of more recent growth than the cities to which they belong.

It is difficult to conceive a town more awkwardly or uncomfortably situated than Quito; half the streets run tolerably level along the side of a hill, but the other half crossing them at right angles, resemble nothing but flights of stairs denuded of the steps, and in winter form miniature torrents which make walking exceedingly unpleasant. No two houses are on a level; the really fine architecture of many of the public buildings suffers from never being seen except from above or below; and in order to enjoy a ride in the country, you have to go up and down hills which anywhere else would be considered very serious obstacles to a party of pleasure. Pichincha, 18,000 feet high, guards the western side; the Panecillo peak blocks up the south, shutting out the level plain of Turubamba, along which lies the road

to Guayaquil; Chimbacalle intercepts the eastward view; and the table-land of the Egido, the only approach to level ground which is to be found anywhere immediately bordering on the suburbs, lies too much above them to be seen from any part of the town. It appears singular that having pitched upon the highest plain in the world for a situation, the first builders should have chosen to locate themselves literally in a hole; but the intense cold of the occasional winds, together with the general want of fuel which forms one of the most serious drawbacks to comfort in the Cordillera valleys, indicate the wisdom of the choice which pitched upon a comparatively sheltered spot.

On getting fairly within, not the walls, for they have ceased to exist, but the line where they are supposed formerly to have run, the appearance of the streets is better than would be anticipated from seeing only the suburbs. The great plaza especially, which has recently been repaired, and the houses surrounding it raised a story higher, is a fine enclosure, and reminded me not a little in shape and arrangement of buildings, of Trafalgar Square—the President's palace representing the National Gallery, and certainly contrasting favourably with that model of cockney architecture. A cathedral, immense and massive, but without ornament, and suggesting involuntary comparisons with an enormous barn, occupies the adjoining side: the Bishop's palace is the exact counterpart in position of Northumberland

House: and happily for Spanish taste, the squirts in the centre have no representative in the South American capital.

The population is rated at 70,000 souls, but South Americans have no idea of numerical computation, nor has anything like a census been taken; indeed it would be impossible to attempt it, since the continual stream of Indian migration backwards and forwards causes the numbers to vary from day to day. Judging, however, from the apparent size of the town, which is densely crowded in every quarter, I should imagine the estimate here given to be rather under the mark than over it. The lower classes are filthy in their habits, and have many of them no settled home of any description: sleeping in the streets or under the colonnades of the public buildings, rolled in their ponchos, and equally safe from disturbance, whether by rain or the meddling of the police. One cause of their wretched condition is to be found in the extreme cheapness of labour. I should be almost afraid to state, had I not found it set down in my notes, the smallness of the sums paid for services sufficiently laborious. One householder told me that he employed an Indian boy as servant of all-work, paying him one dollar and a half monthly ($18. or £3. 15*s.* per annum), as his wages. Food, clothes, and lodging, were included: but the latter privilege consisted merely in permission to choose the softest plank on the floor, or stone in the court, for a bed:

and a cast-off coat and a pair of breeches did duty as livery upon all occasions. I have myself seen water-carriers employed to bring up five or six heavy pitchers at a time, making altogether a load under which I could hardly stand, from a distance of half-a-mile, for a sum considerably less than an English farthing; and judging from the manner in which these and similar services were paid for, I should say that from 2*d* to 3*d* per diem would be held an ample remuneration for the most laborious kind of employment. It is not extraordinary that so treated, and kept continually to work, the natives should now and then assert their independence by joining their countrymen in the mountains. Their resistance is however purely passive; and though among the still untamed Indians, a strong feeling of jealousy exists against the Christians, and a white man venturing unarmed into their villages, would probably meet with the same fate as a sheriff's officer in Connamara fifty years ago, they have never been known to attack travellers who kept to the line of the high-road, nor do they shew any desire to retaliate for the many oppressions which they have endured in patience. Indeed many of those who refuse to acknowledge the government of Ecuador, and neither pay taxes, nor send recruits to the army, come down to Quito for the purposes of trade, returning at the end of a few days to their homes, and conducting themselves in all respects as peaceably as the citizens. There is often some

trouble in bargaining with them for the goods which they bring, as they speak no Spanish, and the *patois* is never the same in any two villages. In early days, they were to a great degree brought under the influence of civilization by the missionaries, who lived fearlessly and without danger among them; but their establishments have long since gone to decay, and no farther progress is being made towards the approximation of the two races. The natural harmlessness of their character, however, is strongly attested by the insignificant part which they have played in the various civil wars of Ecuador. A Spanish and mixed population, amounting to certainly not more than one-tenth of the people among whom they live, have more than once been arrayed against each other, dividing their strength, diminishing their resources, and offering an easy opportunity to the trodden-down aborigines, to revenge themselves at one and the same time on both: but the latter have never sought to avail themselves of the power so placed in their hands; and in justice to the masters it must be said that although far from indulgent or kind to their dependants, they are not in the habit of committing acts of wanton cruelty: while from the nature of the country, neither possessing mines nor producing valuable articles of export, there is not the same temptation to over-work the labourer as exists in the West Indies, and among the Peruvian and Chilian Andes. Singularly enough, while the Indian cannot be held in nominal slavery,

which, as in the United States, is confined to the negro race, these latter are in every respect the better off of the two. One provision for gradual emancipation, which has long formed part of Ecuadorian law, I have never seen or heard of in any other country. The slave may always redeem himself on giving a certain notice to his master; and to prevent dispute or difficulties as to the amount of ransom, his price is fixed by a government arbitration. The Ecuadorians say that this measure has been effective in suppressing slavery; a result which is probably rather attributable to the ease with which labour, nominally free, can be obtained—to the cold climate of Quito, destroying the health of the African, who can seldom live in a mountain country —and to the comparative decrease of wealth since the days of Spanish dominion.

I often endeavoured to ascertain the amount of property required to constitute a rich man in Ecuador; but the comparatively small number of money transactions which go on, except among tradesmen and commercial men—the patriarchal habits of the Haciendados, whose wealth consists in flocks and herds, and who hardly know the extent, certainly not the pecuniary value of their possession,—and the loose manner in which business transactions are carried on, accounts being very seldom kept, and the fear of revolutions inducing many to conceal their riches - made the inquiry a very

difficult one. Two or three proprietors were spoken of as possessing something like £1500 or £2000 a year, in English money: but these were exceptions, and I am inclined to believe that for £500 or £600, a resident in Quito might enjoy all the luxuries and comforts attainable in such an out-of-the-way place.

There is not much in the houses or general style of living which differs from that of other South American towns. The people are more active and European in their habits, a consequence of the cold climate in which they live: the labourers in general are healthy; and the diseases of tropical countries are unknown. Strangers in general suffer acutely from the rarefaction and extreme dryness of the air: but this passes off in a few days, and even when most painful, is attended with no serious or lasting injury. A more permanent inconvenience is the difficulty of procuring fuel, there being no coal, and but little wood, in the mountains, while the temperature is quite low enough to make a fire agreeable. Nearly all the chief buildings in Quito are solid and massive, generally surrounding courts, but less bare and unfurnished than those of the lowland towns. The Government house, and the residences of the officials, I found arranged almost after the English fashion, and the rooms provided with curtains, carpets, armchairs and sofas—articles hardly to be seen in Guayaquil, and the importation

of which, carried as they must have been on the backs of mules over the highest passes of the Cordillera, is attended with great expense.

The public works, executed shortly after the Spanish conquest, and like most of our own finest specimens of mediæval architecture, the result of compulsory labour, are magnificent even in their dilapidation. Lord Dudley says in one of his published letters, that the Spaniards finish nothing—the Italians take care of nothing—in Quito both remarks would have been true. By far the greater part of the convents, churches, and even old private houses are commenced on a plan which the builders have not been able to carry out: and of what has been done one-half is generally in a state of decay. This is especially the case with the magnificent convent of San Francisco, probably one of the largest in the world. It contains seven courts, occupies an area larger, as far as I could judge, than that of Trinity College, Cambridge, or Christ Church at Oxford; and serves as a lodging for some forty or fifty monks, who occupy themselves in teaching, and bear a better character than their order in general. It may give some idea of the extent and intricacy of the cloisters and corridors, when I say that we passed several hours in walking round them; and that my companion, who had spent many years in the city, and had repeatedly been a visitor to the establishment, was utterly at a loss to find his way out. There is a good deal of

fresco painting, for which the climate is admirably adapted; but the style in general is absurdly grotesque, and rather striking at a distance, than fitted to bear a minute examination. Three other convents—that of San Augustin, la Merced, and San Domingo, are well worth visiting; but I shall not attempt to describe them. In the latter there is a portrait-gallery containing the likenesses of the successive superiors of the order, tolerably well executed, and in some cases of considerable antiquity. One figure especially attracted my notice, being inscribed as follows:

"Philippus Thomas Howardus, Anglus e ducibus Norfolk . . .* Clemente secundo anno 1675. Obiit Romæ anno 1694."

In this convent they also keep a relic of a more rational description than is usually to be found in such places; a small earthen jar, said to be the one in which the first grains of wheat ever introduced into South America were brought over. Tradition adds, that this national benefit was the result of accident, and that the corn had been brought over as a part of the stores of the early emigrants. Whether this be true or no, it can be paralleled by many similar instances of fortunate carelessness. In the West Indies, the guinea-grass, one of the most valuable productions of Jamaica, and almost the only crop on which cattle can be fattened within the tropics, took root and spread from a few seeds

* A word is defaced.

casually dropped by a captain who had laid in a stock on the African coast as food for some canary-birds which he was taking across for his friends. The orange and the mango are supposed to have sprung in the same way from fruits imported for the purposes of consumption; while on the other hand the two greatest plagues under which the planters labour—the grey rat and the ant—have been purposely introduced with the idea of expelling the less mischievous vermin which they have replaced.

Besides its other objects of interest, Quito is remarkable as the spot where the Incas road commences. This extraordinary work, although in great part ruined, is still sufficiently perfect to shew what it has been; and next to the wall of China is probably the greatest monument of human industry on record. Carried along a rugged and mountainous country, ascending hills and dipping into valleys, but always deviating as little as possible from a perfectly straight line, it is said to bear a strong likeness in the manner of its construction to the military causeways of the Romans. It extends certainly as far as Cuzco, a distance of little less than fifteen hundred miles as the crow flies; and I believe that remains have been traced still farther to the southward. One circumstance connected with this undertaking has been little noticed. We are in the habit of considering the Indians, previous to their discovery and conquest by Spain, as a people absolutely secluded from all others, and ignorant of

the existence of nations beyond the sea. Yet if this were so, what motive had they for carrying their great line of communication over ground the most difficult which could possibly have been selected, when the lowlands of the coast presented a road so much more obvious and easy? Nothing except the fear of maritime invasion can account for their choice, since it is impossible to suppose that a government capable of carrying out so gigantic a project had anything to fear from the native tribes of the "tierra afuera." There is no certain information as to the date of the work, though the reign of Huanca Capac, about two centuries before the invasion, is named as the most probable period, since it is recorded of him that he governed the whole Pacific coast from the Line to Chili. The Indians still retain the tradition, that the "chasqui," or runners on foot, of whom relays were provided along the whole line, have been known to transmit intelligence from Quito to Cuzco in six days and nights—a rate of travelling exceeding ten miles in the hour; yet those who have seen Indians run, and know their power of enduring fatigue, will not reject the legend as taxing too highly their powers of belief.

Even in South America, Quito has become famous or notorious for the suddenness with which its revolutions have been effected. With all our recent experience of improvised constitutions, and dynasties overthrown in a day, we have seen little in Europe which can compare with the rapidity of the

change which put an end to the dominion of Spain. Early in the morning of the 10th of August, 1809, two gentlemen of Quito waited on Count Ruis, then governor of the province, with a request for an audience. His Excellency being in bed and sound asleep, they were refused admission. Still in defiance of etiquette they persisted in asking to be heard. Importunity prevailed: a letter explaining their errand was handed in by the orderly in waiting, and to his utter astonishment and consternation, the vigilant functionary read a document informing him, in very courteous phrase, that his functions had ceased, and that a "junta soberana" had been established. Naturally anxious to ascertain the truth, His Excellency half-dressed, hurried to the door, but was stopped by the sentry and desired to consider himself a prisoner. Meanwhile the members of the executive had assembled in another room of the palace: a crowd collected in the market-place; the soldiers turned out to support the provisional government; and their bands playing the national airs, and the cheers of the multitude outside, soon convinced the Count that he had nothing to hope from the attachment of his quondam subjects. On the next day a President was elected, and the revolution ended without a drop of blood being shed.

It is worthy of notice, and very characteristic of the people, that the conspirators began by professing attachment to their legitimate king, Ferdinand VII. and accused the actual government of being in

league with Buonaparte: thus ingeniously enlisting on their side the two feelings of loyalty to the sovereign, and hatred of the oppressive system of colonial administration under which they laboured.

The subsequent history of the movement is an exact repetition on a smaller scale, of what has taken place whenever a continental sovereign has been restored to power in Europe. The victors quarrelled among themselves; the troops mutinied against the new authority as they had mutinied against the old: proposals were made to the ex-governor to restore him to power on the basis of a general amnesty: Count Ruis promised every thing, was trusted implicitly, and kept his word just so long as the non-arrival of reinforcements from Lima and Guayaquil made it dangerous for him to break it. On their appearance martial law was forthwith proclaimed—the province being at the time in a state of profound peace—hundreds of the citizens were imprisoned on the charge of participation in the conspiracy of some months before: and a list was made out of eighty-four of the chief offenders, including the bishop of the diocese, who were sentenced to execution so soon as the judgment against them should be confirmed at home. The natural result of these severities followed. Nearly all the inhabitants of the surrounding country had sympathized with the revolutionary movement, and feeling themselves liable to punishment, refused to enter the town. The consequence was a scarcity of provision; and this being again

attributed to a plot served as the excuse for fresh cruelties. At last the provocation grew intolerable. An attempt to escape on the part of two or three prisoners gave the signal for a general massacre by the soldiery. Three hundred lives were lost: and though the tumult was put down for a time, public confidence was not restored, and a deep gloom pervaded the city. At this moment the news of a revolution in Caraccas, and shortly afterwards of that of Bogota, reached the ears of both the contending parties. The necessity of a compromise on the part of the Spanish authorities was obvious: meetings were held of a more popular nature than had ever yet been known in the colony: and a semi-constitutional government was patched up, which quieted everybody and satisfied no one. The first to complain were the royalists, who denied the right of Count Ruis to enter into such a treaty as had just been concluded with those whom they called the rebels. A force under General Arredonda was despatched from Guayaquil to invade the territory of Quito. The Quitenos on their side marched out to meet them, but their valour was not put to the test; for the invading army had hardly reached the foot of Chimborazo, when one of the avalanches which sometimes takes place there when a season of unusual heat has loosened the ice, came down with a thundering report. Believing that the insurgents were upon them, and that a cannonade had actually began, two-thirds of the army, including their valiant

commander, took to flight, leaving baggage, stores, and artillery behind them, of which their opponents immediately took possession. All seemed favourable to the cause of independence, when matters again took a new turn. A regency had been declared in Spain and the Cortes established, one of whose first acts was to promise the colonists ample redress, and entreat them in the mean time to return peaceably to their homes. Strange to say, they complied; and lest their good resolutions should not last sufficiently long, the promised boon came in the shape of an army sufficiently powerful to put down all further resistance. So ended this extraordinary struggle: and eleven years passed quietly before General Sucre, at the head of the Columbian troops, forced on the people of Quito that independence which they had proved unable or unwilling to win for themselves. Since 1822, half a dozen squabbles for power between military chiefs, have been dignified with the name of revolutions; but all these have been forgotten in the memory of that fierce struggle which after deluging Ecuador in blood from one frontier to the other, ended in the displacing of Flores from office, and the establishment of the present rickety government, which, if appearances may be trusted, seems little likely to prove more lasting than any of its predecessors.

I did not pass sufficient time in the neighbourhood of Quito to ascertain the practicability of continuing my course eastward, across the interior range of the

Cordillera, and thence to the headwaters of the northern branch of the Amazon. In the prosperous days of the missions, parties have crossed the whole breadth of the Continent by this route, with little more than three weeks or a month of land travel; and one of the most extraordinary narratives of adventure on record, is that of Madame Condamine, who, separated from her husband, and trusting wholly to such assistance and protection as an Indian escort could give, actually reached Para in a shorter time than was occupied by two British officers in performing a similar journey from Lima. Next to the interior of Africa, that of South America is the least explored country in the world; and considering the greater healthiness of the climate, and the generally inoffensive character of the people, it seems extraordinary that the example of Humboldt has been so seldom followed. The interior provinces of Ecuador (those lying east of the mountains) are very imperfectly known: and being quite inaccessible for all purposes of commerce, at least on the side of the Pacific coast, are not likely to be soon opened to travellers. Should they ever be colonized by a civilized people, it is probable that traffic will be carried on by way of the Napo and Amazon rivers, the greater length of the route being compensated by the facilities of water carriage. It is ascertained that steamboats drawing three or four feet of water can ascend to a distance of 1500 miles from the sea; and there seems no reason to suppose that obstacles exist higher up. I found both in Quito and Guaya-

quil a very general belief in the feasibility of thus communicating with the Atlantic coast: but whether such expectations be well founded or not, Ecuador must always remain a divided country; the physical obstacles to a union of the two, or rather three parts into which it is divided, cannot be overcome by any artificial means. Hence, it is not difficult to foresee, that whenever colonies are formed along the banks of the great rivers of Brazil, and extend upwards to the Ecuadorian frontier, the country within that frontier, deriving all its resources from a foreign state, and absolutely shut out from intercourse with its own capital, will gradually separate from its present connexion: and the boundary line must ultimately be drawn, where nature has already drawn it in a sufficiently legible hand, along the dividing range of the Andes.

Of the disconnected and disorganized state of the republic many proofs might be given: but one will suffice as an instance; the coin struck at Quito, and which according to law ought to be the only legal tender throughout the various provinces, is actually not received at Guayaquil, where Venezuelan and Peruvian money passes current in its stead.

I took some pains while in Quito to ascertain the nature of the nominally existing constitution: but the theory and practice differ so widely, that the former is of little consequence except as it marks the object of the original founder.

There are two Houses, both elective, though the upper chamber is chosen for a longer term, and by

a more limited constituency. This constituency, however, as well as that which elects the members of the other branch of the legislature, is itself chosen by an almost universal suffrage, from which none except Indians and slaves are excluded. This mode of voting was adopted by the French at one period of the Revolution, and it bears an analogy to that still practised in British Guiana. Following the practice of the United States, the Ecuadorian Parliament requires in certain cases a concurrence of two-thirds of the whole number of members; a rule intended to guard against any abuse of their power by a majority, and which in a country accustomed to the working of constitutional government, sufficiently answers its purpose: in Ecuador, on the contrary, the only result has been to bring public affairs to a dead lock about once in every session. The last cause of quarrel was the appointment of a President: parties being nearly balanced, neither would give way, and there appeared no prospect of a speedy termination to the quarrel. Whether it has by this time come to an end I have not heard: but certainly the functions of administration seemed to be just as well discharged in the absence of their head, nor did the citizens express either surprise or annoyance at the peculiar position of affairs.*

* I have added in an Appendix two or three documents of interest relative to the affairs of Ecuador, and which were placed in my hands by a British resident long familiar with the country

The foreign society of Quito is confined to about a dozen individuals, five of them English and one or two more Americans; among the latter I recognised a former acquaintance from whom I had long since parted in the United States, certainly without any expectation on either side that we should meet again among the valleys of the Cordillera.

My return to Guayaquil was even more rapid than had been my departure from thence; and I had the satisfaction of falsifying the numerous predictions which had there been uttered respecting the impossibility of performing the journey in the time which I had fixed for myself. We had accomplished in the worst season, and over roads broken up by the rain, a distance for which ten days is usually allotted during the summer (when alone it is customary to travel), in considerably less than half that time: but it is fair to add that most of those whose business takes them to these out of the way regions (tourists for pleasure are unknown), have been either accompanied by their families and servants, or at least encumbered with baggage, of which I carried hardly any.

From Guayaquil a four days run brought me back to Panama, and neither this nor the subsequent journey to Cruces, presented anything of peculiar interest; indeed, I began to think that I had done with adventures; but never was a greater mistake.

After a good deal of haggling, inevitable in such transactions, I succeeded in obtaining a promise of a canoe on what I thought very reasonable terms. My hopes were a little damped at the sight of this conveyance; which the proprietor, summoning an old negro, a very Charon in appearance, proceeded to put at my disposal. It was one of the smallest class of "dug-outs," made of a tree hollowed and sharpened at the ends; a leak near the bows admitted the water freely, while there was barely room for a single passenger to lie stretched at full length in the bottom; any other position being impossible in so ticklish a craft. When this frail concern was finally launched, I certainly looked at her in some perplexity, wondering whether two full-grown human beings could possibly stow themselves away in so small a compass; but as Charon scrambled in with a paddle in his hand, and made signs that all was ready, there was nothing to be done but embark. I thought first of the wise men of Gotham who went to sea in a bowl; and then of the alligators; but the alternative of missing the steamer and passing a month at Chagres, was not to be endured; and before I could have changed my mind, had I been so disposed, we were shooting swiftly and smoothly down the stream which a month before it had cost such trouble and delay to ascend. All went well till we reached Gorgona, where it fell pitch-dark, and Charon declared that we must wait for the moon. I thought the proposition reasonable, as we

could not see a yard before the bow of our boat, and did wait accordingly until near midnight, when it occurred to me that the old man might not have been passing his time quite so innocently as I had. I set out in search, and found him, as I fully expected, drinking in a pothouse. Though three-quarters drunk, and looking preternaturally solemn in his efforts at sobriety, he professed his readiness to start; and actually paddled above a mile, steering very wild, and every now and then bringing the gunwale of the canoe to the edge of the water, when, in attempting to round a point, he overbalanced himself, and the bows at the same instant touching the ground, we capsized in the shallow stream. No damage was done; but after this mishap I took the paddles into my own hands, and trusting to some Canadian experience, steered successfully down the channel, until the imperfect light and signs of approaching rapids, induced me to run the boat's head for a sand-bank, where, in American language we "took out the balance of the night."

By the next evening I was again at Chagres, where every bed was occupied, and almost every floor; but I found a quiet corner in a meal-store, and after the confinement of many hours in a canoe—one of the most painful sensations when long continued that can well be conceived—enjoyed an undisturbed repose.

The Falcon was not to sail until the afternoon of the next day; and, in company with a young Chilian

from Valparaiso, who, like myself, was waiting to take his passage for the Havannah, I walked up to the fort before-mentioned, as being the only object of interest which the neighbourhood could shew. It is still a strong and defensible post, surrounded by high ramparts, on which some five-and-twenty brass guns are mounted: and provided with bomb-proof casemates and store-houses capable of containing many months' supplies for the garrison. On three sides, the height and precipitous nature of the rock effectually defends it from assault. The fourth is guarded by an outwork, wedge-shaped, flanked by towers at the angles, bristling with cannon, and itself commanded by the inner fortifications. A drawbridge connects this with the castle, and another with the approach from without. On the crest of the hill, some distance above the works, a detached battery, facing landwards, commands the town and river: but there is no communication between it and the main-buildings, except along the exposed face of the hill. Notwithstanding the growing importance of this post, commanding as it does the entrance to one of the great commercial highways of the world, no trouble has been taken to put it into repair; a few soldiers, sickly and ragged, lounge about the works and extort claeos from the visitors, whose curiosity leads them to pass the inner gates: while of the order and discipline maintained within, one sample may suffice. My companion and I had walked round the greater part of the buildings,

admiring the sea-view, examining the quaint old mottoes on the Spanish guns, and trying to make out the point where Morgan led his storming party over the walls. In our perambulations we chanced to explore a vault rather darker and deeper than the rest, and the farther end of which appeared lined with barrels open at the top, and filled with some black stuff, which not being able to see in the imperfect light, we supposed to be coals or charcoal. The idea of its being gunpowder, left so exposed to all accidents, never entered into either of our heads; and both of us accordingly continued to puff our cigars in perfect tranquillity, until an exclamation from the Chilian, who had put his hand into one of the headless casks, followed by his rushing into the open air and calling on me to do the same, gave a hint of our danger. Cigars left outside, we returned to examine; and had the satisfaction of ascertaining not only that we had been carrying fire about among powder-barrels, but that the floor was strewed with the droppings which had been spilt in opening them —a narrow escape. On passing the outer gate, I told the sentinel of what we had been doing, and asked him if he thought it safe to leave some hundred-weights of loose powder in the way of all comers; but he only shrugged his shoulders and said he had no orders. He had orders, however, to extort a real from every visitor; in return for which the said visitors are allowed to take their chance of blowing up themselves and castle at their pleasure.

The few hours detention which followed this little incident was enlivened by another scene which could hardly have happened elsewhere. In the main street of the town, among a crowd of people, two men who had been quarrelling in a wine-shop close by, suddenly met face to face; and without a word spoken, or warning of any kind given, one of them drew a revolver from his pocket, and fired two barrels at his opponent, whom, however, he missed with one, and only slightly wounded with the other. Both were seized, a long and loud dispute arose, and some threats of lynch-law were heard; but in the end the parties were reconciled, and I saw them both walking about the strand, unmolested and almost unnoticed, nor apparently in any way avoided by their respective acquaintance.

Before nightfall we were on board the boats of the Falcon, and pulling out of harbour with a strong gale blowing in our teeth, and in one of those short chopping seas on which oars can lay no hold.

Many of our passengers were frightened, most were sea-sick, all were wet; but the worst was behind. When fairly under the Falcon's stern, the sea was running too high to allow of our coming alongside: and while the boat kept at a respectful distance, each successive victim, securely looped up in a running knot at the end of a rope, was hauled overboard, and in; generally, from the distance between, splashing into the water, and bumping against the bulwarks as he rose slowly in air. It

was amusing to watch the various expressions depicted on the faces of those whose turn was about to come, contrasted with the shouts of laughter above, which greeted each fresh arrival as he came floundering on deck. In an hour's time all were on board; and though one small boat, broken in half by being driven under the paddle-wheel, lay floating bottom-upward on the water, her crew had been safely picked up before the accident was known to more than half a dozen people, and a motley party of some 200 souls stood, sat, or lay, unharmed and safe, on the broad decks of the American steamer. Many of these, indeed most, were emigrants returning from California, and their looks contrasted strongly with those of the outward-bound. Pale, worn, sickly, hardly able to rouse themselves to exertion, and stretched helplessly on their mattresses or along the benches, they had evidently had enough of roughing it; and even the splashing of the spray over their bodies, and the captain's orders to get out of the way of the men, and stow themselves below, could hardly move them from the places into which they had dropped on first coming on board.

We lay at anchor all night, rolling heavily; but the first sound that greeted my ears at early morning was the straining of the windlass, and the trampling of many feet overhead; by noon Chagres and its castle had gone down astern; and all before us was the wide Atlantic.

THE END.

APPENDIX 1.

ECUADORIAN DEBT.

The Loans contracted by Colombia with the British in the years 1822 & 24, were, when that Republic ceased to exist, divided between Venezuela, New Granada, and Ecuador.

The first becoming responsible for	50	per cent
N. Granada . . .	29	„
Ecuador	21	„

Venezuela and N. Granada have made arrangements with the British Bondholders, and so far have complied with their obligations. Ecuador never has done anything towards fulfilling her engagements respecting her share ; for, although the Congress at different times has decreed that certain revenues shall be set apart for the payment of the interest,—the decrees have been unregarded, and up to the present time, have been treated as so much waste paper.

In 1845, after the Ecuador had overthrown the Government of General Flores, and instituted a National Government, the Convention of Cuenca acknowledged the responsibility of the State for the capital and interest of the aforesaid 21 per cent of the old Colombian loan, but up to the present day, not one penny of the revenue has been set aside for the payment of either interest or capital. But it appears that the late President Roca and his Ministers wrote to London, and had purchased on their account, about one hundred thousand pounds of bonds at their depreciated price, say some 2½ or 3 pounds for

every hundred, and had ready to issue in exchange for these other bonds, admissible in the customhouses of Guayaquil and Manta (the only ports of entry in Ecuador) for the payment of duties. Thus making available for themselves the only means the State possesses of revenue, and whilst Roca and his family were sharing the plunder, the *bona fide* British holder got nothing but the 2 or 3 pounds for his hundred. The interest on the bonds purchased by this set of men, was to be paid them in waste lands,—and they had already fixed on the district of Esmeraldas (the most valuable in the Republic.)

The Rocas, having lost the elections in 1849, had to leave place, and as these private arrangements then came to light, they have been repudiated by the present administration; but it appears that the Rocas, for greater security, had employed an Englishman to purchase the bonds in London, and he now comes forward, claiming the fulfilment of the contract, and threatens to appeal to the British Government for their support. The new bonds payable at the customhouses had been engraved, and were ready for issuing before the pretended contract for the purchase of the bonds in England was concluded, as now appears by the respective dates. These are now in the hands of Roca—and the British bonds are also in the hands of the Governor of this province.

The revenues of this Republic at present, barely suffice to cover the outgoings, as the country is full of employés; and it is feared that the only means of payment left for the British bondholder, are the waste lands. Those on the seaward side, such as Esmeraldas, and others bordering on the tributaries to the Marañon River, are the most desirable, as being better fitted for colonization.

Guayaquil, 15th January, 1850.

APPENDIX II.

Revenue of Ecuador for the year 1849.

Customs	$328,000
Poll Tax on Indians . .	169,000
Salt—Government monoply .	82,000
Gunpowder . . .	5,500
Tonnage dues . . .	3,300
Liquors	37,000
Alcabala, duty on Tithes . .	8,000
One third of Tithes . .	50,400
Stamps	27,500
Sundries	82,200
	$792,900

This was a year of great roguery and jobbing; the income being at least $900,000.

APPENDIX III.

Statement of Exports from the Port of Guayaquil in the year 1849.

Date.	Ships.	Flag.	Destination.	Cocoa. Cargas—Lbs.
Jan. 4	Preciosa	Spanish	Santander	11,248 1
,, 19	Miceno	Peruvian	Hamburgh	4,852 36
,, 20	Rapida	Equatorian	Mexico	1,000 —
Feb. 17	Circumcision	Peruvian	Paita	201 21
,, 19	Diana	Dutch	Gibraltar	5,344 80
,, 21	Dominga	Peruvian	Callao	171 22
,, ,,	10th of May	Equatorian	C. America	370 30
,, 24	Sarah Charlotte	British	England	6,628 49
,, 26	Kunigunde	Bremen	Bremen	6,381 53
Mar. 5	Perseverancia	Spanish	Cadiz	15,000 —
,, ,,	Mercedes	Equatorian	C. America	502 52
,, ,,	Panchita	,,	Guaymas	896 2
,, 30	Heredia	Spanish	Malaga	10,071 35
,, ,,	Robin Gray	British	England	7,102 25
,, ,,	Zoila	Peruvian	Callao	245 30
,, ,,	Infatigable	,,	,,	119 46
April 7	George Loring	Spanish	Barcelona	6,500 74
,, 14	Rapida	Equatorian	Acapulco	201 57
,, ,,	Esmeralda	,,	,,	866 23
,, 28	Flora	British	Cadiz	4,045 17
May 1	George & Henry	American	Havana	6,000 —
,, 31	Aurora	Peruvian	Valparaiso	4,320 80
June 6	Guadalupe	Equatorian	,,	1,998 —
,, 13	Zodiacus	Danish	Hamburgh	5,733 49
,, 20	Zoila	Peruvian	Valparaiso	802 44
July 5	Infatigable	,,	Callao	457 69
,, 16	Peruvienne	French	Bordeaux	6,456 40
Aug. 6	Corvo	American	New York	3,670 —
,, 8	Mercedes	Equatorian	Panama	111 16
,, 21	Clorinda	Peruvian	Huanchaco	123 —
,, 27	Trois Frères	French	Punta Arena	2,000 —
Sept. 5	Argos	Hambro	San Francisco	617 23
,, ,,	Enterprise	British	Santander	10,958 2
,, 17	Concordia	Italian	Genoa	3,957 67
,, 19	Maria	Spanish	Malaga	4,484 30
,, 21	Adolfo	Hambro	Hamburgh	7,529 28
Oct. 27	Maria Theresa	American	Baltimore	4,051 23
,, ,,	Constancia	Equatorian	C. America	920 20
Nov. 3	Carolina	Spanish	Spain	10,447 63
,, 7	Zoila	Peruvian	Valparaiso	504 78
,, ,,	10th of May	Equatorian	,,	1,587 59
,, 10	Rapida	,,	Mexico	942 55
,, 19	Mercedes	,,	,,	483 —
,, 24	Esmeraldas	Granadian	Manzanilla	1,000 7
,, 26	Nautilus	British	Santander	7,407 33
Dec. 1	Boterin	Peruvian	Callao	393 —
,, 21	Jesus	Equatorian	Panama	187 —
,, 28	Ferdinand	French	Bordeaux	6,630 —
	In sundry vessels less than 100 cargas..			480 15
	TOTAL CARGAS OF 81 LBS...			176,006 6

TO WHAT COUNTRIES.

	Cargas—Lbs.	
Spain	85,508	11
England	13,730	74
France	13,086	40
Germany	24,497	4
Italy	3,957	67
U. States	7,721	23
Mexico	5,389	63
Havana	6,000	—
Chile	9,214	18
Peru	2,049	13
N. Granada	440	54
C. America	3,793	21
California	617	23
	176,006	6

Totals of produce exported in 1849.

Cocoa.....	14,256,492 lbs.
Straw Hats .	18,457 doz.
Tanned Hides	22,677 sides.
Tobacco	1,555 qqles.
Timber.....	3,508 logs.
Lumber	189,000 feet.
Mangles	1,032 poles.
Flax	12,688 lbs.
Orchilla Weed	240 qqles.
Coffee.....	206 ,,
Zarzaparrilla	60 ,,
Tamarinds ..	236 ,,

Equal to....14,256,492 lbs. Spanish.
Against.....20,875,884 ,, ,, exported in 1848.

Guayaquil, 31*st Dec.* 1849.

COX, GAME, & Co.

ERRATA.

Page 3, line 2, *for* "seemed," *read* "served."
,, 4, ,, 5, *for* "blocked," *read* "blotted."
,, 6, ,, 10, *for* "large," *read* "lay."
,, 14, ,, 8, *for* "association," *read* "associations."
,, 18, ,, 20, *for* "carriage," *read* "cayuca."
,, 44, ,, 10, *dele* "the."
,, 57, 4th line from bottom, *for* "Picaguna," *read* "Picayune."
,, 60, line 21, *for* "day," *read* "dry."
,, 63, ,, 25, *read* "Guayaquil is so laid out as to command in every part an easy access to the river, along whose banks," &c.