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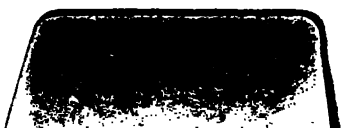
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NARRATIVES

OF

S O U T H A M E R I C A ;

ILLUSTRATING

MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND SCENERY :

CONTAINING ALSO

NUMEROUS FACTS IN

N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y ,

**COLLECTED DURING A FOUR YEARS' RESIDENCE IN
TROPICAL REGIONS.**

BY CHARLES EMPSON.

LONDON :

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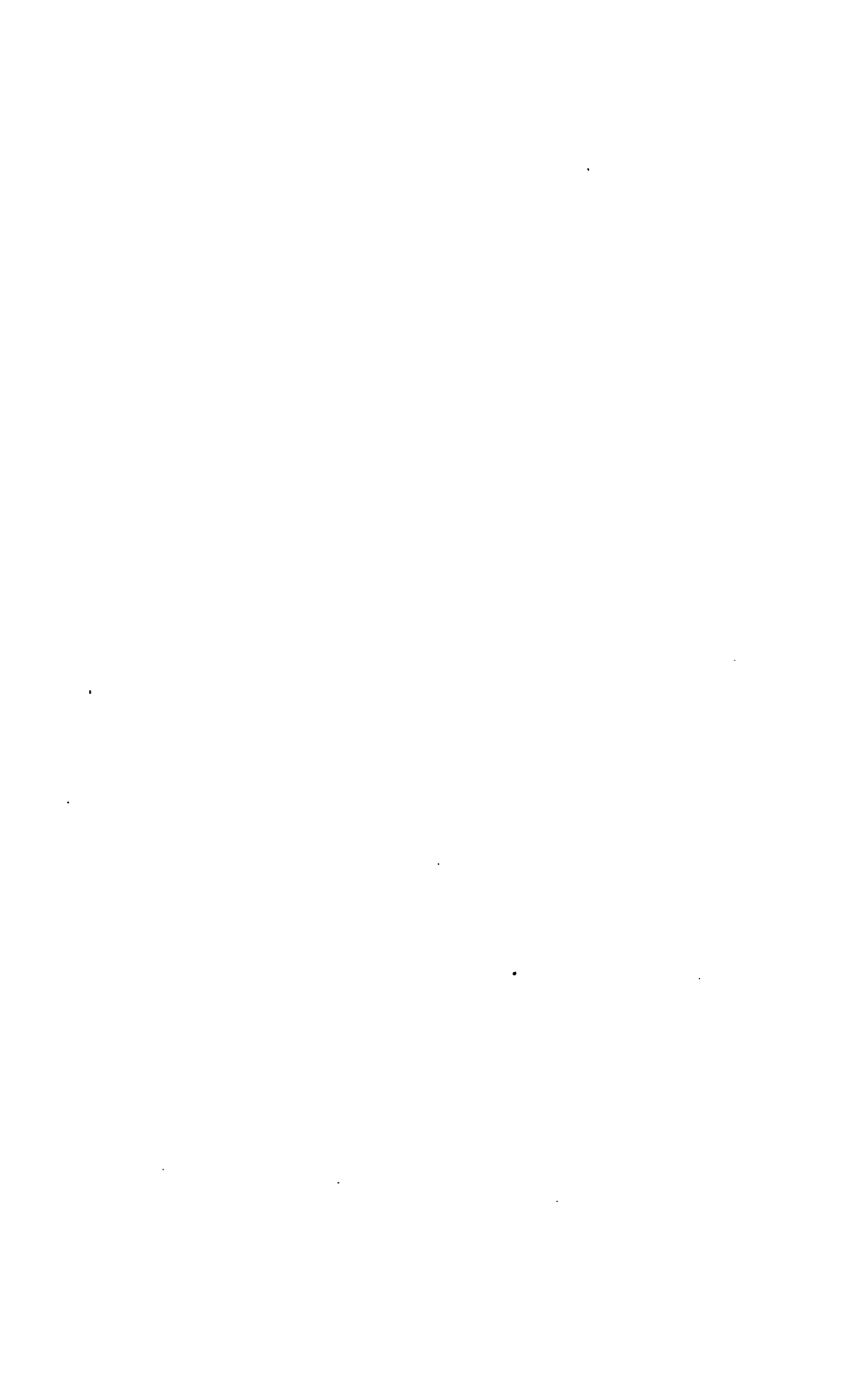
TO

MRS. HOUSMAN,

OF BATH,

THIS VOLUME

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.



NOTICE.

Twelve coloured Fac-similes of Drawings, from Sketches made at the various localities, to illustrate the following NARRATIVES, mounted on tinted paper, and enclosed in a suitable portfolio, price TWO GUINEAS, are published by Messrs. Ackermann and Co., Strand; and Charles Tilt, Fleet Street, London.

P R E F A C E.



WHEN I was a boy, an engagement in the neighbourhood of Stockton induced me to visit many places in that district distinguished for picturesque scenery. Roseberry Topping, which is proverbially denominated "the highest hill in all Yorkshire," attracted my particular attention, and that too under circumstances sufficiently romantic to have influenced my whole life. I found an opportunity of ascending its remarkably conical, isolated eminence; I stood upon its summit before daylight; I waited until the glorious sun, rising in sublime grandeur, melted down, and dispersed the

dense and fleecy clouds which rolled beneath me : the words of Byron came to my remembrance :

“ Night wanes ; the vapours, round the mountains curl'd,
Melt into morn, and light awakes the world.”

With the highest enjoyment I lingered on the top of that lofty peak until the sun had gained its meridian splendour, and the fertile valleys basked in his golden beams. If, thought I, the scene before me inspires such delight, what ecstasy should I not feel if I could see the Alps, the Apennines,—if I could tread the lofty steps of the Andean range, and ascend the yet-untrodden summits of the snow-clad Cordilleras ! My resolution was formed ; and no sooner was the period arrived at which I was free to choose my own course of life, than I set about accomplishing my fondly-cherished wish.

The glorious descriptions of Humboldt

had induced many persons who had no other motive beyond that of beholding Nature in all her majesty, to explore these regions so gorgeously clothed in primæval vegetation, and so abundant in every production interesting to mankind. It was my happiness to associate with many travellers who had established themselves in the Republic before any of the European nations had acknowledged the independence of Columbia, and had shared in the vicissitudes of the revolutionary war ; but they found ample compensation for all their privations in the inexhaustible variety of the new world. A field so rich, and so extensive, proved an irresistible temptation to the scientific man ; the produce and commercial demands of so vast a continent were not less attractive to the merchant, while scenes of grandeur and beauty offered the most fascinating allurements to the imagination of the enthusiast.

During my residence on the eastern slopes of the Andes, and various parts of South America, I had opportunities of obtaining many particulars relating to the manners, customs, and local traditions of a highly interesting people, and of making a large collection of specimens of the animal, mineral, and vegetable kingdoms. A disastrous shipwreck deprived me of the data which would have supplied materials for a more detailed account than it is now possible for me to offer; but in the hope that the following pages will prove amusing to the general, and interesting to the scientific reader, I venture to present them in their present form to the public.

To the naturalist, whose attention may be more especially directed to the instances of sagacity evinced by the animal and insect creation, I have only to affirm, that, however novel and wonderful any of the relations

may appear, not one anecdote is related, the truth of which I have not ascertained ; many, nearly all, I have myself witnessed. Ignorant of technical phraseology, my statements may be deemed imperfect or obscure ; but they are not in any degree exaggerated. With this assurance, I leave my work to the candour of a generous public, who, I trust, will receive with indulgence the first attempt of an author, whose chief object is to state simple facts unmixed with speculative opinions.

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NARRATIVES, &c.

CORRIGENDA.

Page	line		<i>for</i>	<i>Rafflensia</i>	<i>read</i>	<i>Rafflesia</i>
6	6			Alcaldi	—	Alcalde
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182	7	—				

of foliage, that you see no openings: in fact, there is but just room for the boat to be forced onwards by pressing the encroaching vegetation towards the undefined bank.

These natural canals are frequently so narrow, that trees falling across them impede the naviga-

tion until they are cleared away, which is occasionally attended with great difficulty : sometimes the boat sticks fast in the mud, and the boatmen are obliged to lighten it by leaping into the water, and lifting the barge over these impediments;—a dangerous operation, for, if they escape the noxious reptiles, it is impossible to avoid the poisoned feculence of those turbid waters, which, like stucco, cleaves to their skin, and is not easily removed.

The sultriness of the inclosed parts of the river; the tormenting insects which abound; the dread of snakes; and the horror inspired by that huge monster, the Cayman, or Crocodile, makes this portion of the voyage hazardous and tedious. But the cause, which, above all others, renders these lakes dangerous, is the pestiferous effluvia emanating from the black slimy mud, which is brought to the surface at every plunge of the pole that propels the boat. This unwholesome vapour occasions sickness and giddiness, which is further augmented by the quivering appearance of the atmosphere, produced by the rapid exhalation,—a phenomenon common to all marshy districts in tropical regions. But the perceptible action of the

unsteady medium through which objects are seen in this particular locality, produces a remarkably unpleasant sensation, depriving those, who are strangers to this peculiarity, of all confidence in their own vision; and among the many optical illusions produced by this state of the atmosphere, that species of phantasmagoria which the French call the *Mirage*, is not unfrequent.

The most severe labour which I ever witnessed is that of the Bogas, or Indian boatmen. Entirely naked, beneath a burning sun, (a sun which melts pitch and sealing-wax,) poorly fed, and badly paid, these men work twelve hours each day during the tedious ascent to Honda, which occupied the writer *five months*. Only three of the men, out of the fourteen originally employed, performed the whole voyage: some fell sick, two met with accidents, one died from over-exertion; the rest, and many who succeeded them, ran off on arriving at some favourite station.

These men are improvident, and generally die young; nevertheless it is surprising to witness their hilarity. If they can land, to prepare their evening meal, it is a great enjoyment to them: they make large fires for their protection, and spread their

mats upon the sand. Weary as they must be, they frequently relate stories, or accompany themselves on a rude guitar to extemporaneous songs. They prefer these to the regular ballads of the country, and occasionally say clever things in this exercise of their imagination. Peals of laughter from their listening companions are their reward. One beautiful custom deserves remark:—it is their invariable practice to sing a hymn to the Virgin before commencing labour: this is always done when they have their poles in hand and are ready for work, commencing their toil at the moment they reach the last cadence of the sacred song.

THE BOATMEN'S HYMN TO THE VIRGIN.

Holy Virgin! give us grace :
 Sinful as thy servants are,—
 Still we do thy mercy trace,
 Still thou dost thy children spare.
 Ave, Maria Gloriosissima ;
 Ave, Maria Puratississima.

Hail, Maria, Queen of Heaven,
 Virgin Mother!—still from thee

May we have protection given,
And labour in security.

Ave, Maria Gloriosissima ;
Ave, Maria Puratissima.

The lagoons are the very regions of the mosquito, against which plagues there is no remedy : you may fight with them until you are exhausted, and, after all, they will bite and sting you at their pleasure : there is no protection from them : thick garments cannot be endured ; smearing the skin with fat does no good ; essential oils are useless ; you cannot brush them away ; smoking answers no purpose, for they have been seen to settle upon and sting the lips from which the “ noxious weed ” was sending forth an unregarded cloud.

The plants which luxuriate in the moist rich soil and humid atmosphere of the Cienega are magnificent, especially the Parasites, which are numerous and in great variety : the trees are festooned by creepers of splendid colours and most elegant structure : indeed the whole course of the river is remarkable for the colossal character of its vegetation, and the lagoons are pre-eminent for their floral attractions.

Miles of the surface are covered by various species of the lotus, or pale water-lily, mingled with others of different hues, and with many flowers entirely unknown to us. We noticed one in particular, which, from its gigantic proportions, might vie with the *Arnoldi Rafflensia*, but which far exceeded it in beauty: its superb snow-white corola was enriched with petals of the deepest crimson, whilst its broad flat leaves formed resting-places for aquatic birds of dazzling plumage: here we saw the Rose-coloured Pelican, and the Silvery-feathered Crane; the Purple *Galanule*, and a bird resembling the Scarlet Ibis.

The sketch represents the first habitable spot after leaving the lagoons and gaining the more wholesome air and clear water of the Great River.

A large open shed has been constructed at this point for the convenience of voyagers, and receives no permanent occupant. Occasionally this building serves for a *Pulperia*, or general store-room and tavern, the inhabitants of the scattered hamlets assembling at this place to sell their produce or to celebrate occasional festivities. A large party congregated the day after our arrival; and as most of the peasantry can perform on the

guitar, and are passionately fond of dancing, incessant merriment was kept up during our three days' stay. Besides the rude instrument so familiar to them, a couple of drums, tambourines, and a very clumsy sort of dulcimer, gave variety to the monotonous cadence, to which the dancers kept time both with their feet and voice. The intervals of repose were filled up by songs,—generally a mere play upon words, or a medley of familiar thoughts and passing incidents,—in preference to the regular airs and ballads which are met with amongst the more refined Colombians. The master of our boat had won the heart of a damsel during a previous visit in the Cienega, and was engaged to marry her on his return from Honda. The maiden had come with her father and mother to the Pulperia, ostensibly to purchase a cargo of rice, but really to meet her lover. She was a pretty Indian girl, modest and graceful: her betrothed paid her the most devoted attention, and introduced her to his acquaintance with great exultation. The master was called El Tuerto, from the circumstance of having lost an eye; the real name generally giving place to some significant allusion to peculiarities in the personal appearance,

mental endowments, or failings of the individual. Express terms to designate peculiarities abound amongst these men, for which no words in our language afford an equivalent: for example, a lame person would be called *El C6xo*, and a blind man *El Ci6go*; and these, without any intention of giving offence, would be substituted for their proper names. Excepting the loss of one eye, Bernadino was very handsome—a fine tall fellow, stout, active, and generous: he had, which was a very uncommon merit, saved a few doubloons towards house-keeping. His own anticipations of domestic happiness will be gathered from a translation of the verses, which, in the presence of the whole company, he sang to his mistress, seated upon the ground with the damsel near him, to whom he sometimes addressed a sort of gesticulated interlude, when the words did not flow to his satisfaction:—

The coca-tree, that stands alone,
 Has not sufficient shade;
 But where the tamarinds have grown
 Before the present year has flown,
 Our dwelling shall be made:
 And I will have a plantanal,¹
 A patio,² and a cafetal;³

And when our friends shall come to see
 The cottage built for thee and me,
 Happy, happy, shall we be.

To-morrow from the guaduas⁴ tall
 Which flourish near the water-fall,
 Thy father shall the strongest take,
 And float them on the tranquil lake,
 To that delightful spot where we
 Shall live in pure tranquillity.

Thou shalt the palm⁵ leaves bring,
 Our dwelling to cover :
 Happy as any king
 Will be thy lover,
 When his labour is over.

Already hath thy mother bought
 Blue cotton for thy petticoat,
 And muslin for thy shift⁶ so thin
 The spider could not finer spin.
 A hat⁷ of grass from Panama
 With flowers from Facatatava ;⁸
 And I shall have a poncha⁹ new,
 Of finest grain and brightest hue,
 Of purest gold a rosary,¹⁰
 And collar of embroidery.
 I shall employ a zapatero—¹¹
 Have a cuchillo,¹² like a hero ;

And thou shalt have from Maracaibo
Sandals of the finest hilo.¹³

The mule¹⁴ that is to carry me
Shall be fed most daintily,
Lest, scampering across the plain,
I should not first San Pedro gain :
And I shall have a saddle new,
And silver-mounted bridle too,
And spurs¹⁵ fit for a monarch's heel—
My mule their quality shall feel.
Thou wilt be mounted, who knows how,
For that is not decided now,—
Thy mother says the tallest beast,
Thy father wants to give the least ;
But I had rather have the one,
With a white star its forehead on :
But those who beg are not to choose,
Nor what they do not like, refuse.

We will, at our marriage-feast,
Have the Alcaldi¹⁶ and the Priest ;
With all our kindred far and near,
Partakers of our wedding cheer.

Of beef we will have an arroba,¹⁷
From the plains of Carabobo ;¹⁸
Chocolate, with cinnamon,¹⁹
We will have it good, or none ;

Guarapo²⁰ strong, tobacco fine,
 Bananas ripe, and guava wine,
 Olla podrida—savory dish
 Of flesh and fowl, and herbs and fish :
 Our chicha²¹ shall be made of rice,
 And flavour'd with delicious spice
 Of Coniac :²² a demi-jon
 Shall always stand the table on ;
 This I shall buy at Barancillio,
 And pay the dues at Savanhillio.

Unless when resting for a song,
 (As good as this, but not so long,)
 The dance shall never cease till they,
 Our friends, are mounted and away ;
 And many to themselves will say,
 Contemplating our happy life,
 Oh ! who would live without a wife !

Notes explanatory of terms used in this song.

1. *Plantanal*.—An enclosure of plantain trees, indispensable to a regular homestead : the fruit of this prolific and nutritious plant furnishes a material part of every meal ; it is, in fact, a perfect substitute for bread. There are various methods of cooking this abundant fruit : the most general plan is to cut the unripe plantain into slices, and fry them in lard ; sometimes they are roasted in ashes, and taste like potatoes : if boiled with rice, they form an ingredient

in the popular *olla podrida*. The average weight of a bunch of plantains is sixty pounds : in their ripe state they make a very palatable pudding, and are excellent when kept until they have acquired that sort of ripeness which is esteemed in the medlar.

2. *Patio*.—A court-yard or open space in front or behind a house ; but in the sense used by Bernadino it signifies a small paddock for mules.

3. *Cafetal*.—A coffee plantation : great nicety is observed in pruning the coffee tree, that it may bear well, and in making such an arrangement of the branches, that the fruit may ripen quickly. An umbrella-shape is the most approved, but it requires many years to accomplish this structure : a flourishing *cafetal* is a very beautiful object, the glossy dark leaves contrasting finely with the snow-white blossoms and bright scarlet berries. A delicious conserve is made of the pulpy envelope of that portion of the fruit which is so well known.

4. *Guaduas* are similar to the bamboos of India, and are incalculably useful. Houses are built of them ; ladders made,—water-pipes, boxes, beds, &c. ; but it is not possible to enumerate all its uses.

5. *Palm leaves*.—The leaves used for thatching are called *palmechee* : it is a variety of the fan-palm ; the leaves are cut and packed in small bundles ; and it is an advantage to keep them for some time before adapting them to the roof. Females generally gather and prepare this excellent covering.

6. This couplet is introduced by the master in his character of Improvisatore, and is difficult to translate. *Nagua*

was the term used for what we have called a petticoat, and *agua* (water), with which it rhymes in the original, is introduced to imply that the bright fresh indigo tint remains on the material, and has not been destroyed by the laundress.

The *nagua* is not literally a petticoat, but, more properly, a skirt or covering for that habiliment: these *naguas* are of such amplitude, that when the wearer chooses to ride in the safest way up the mountains, they can convert them with facility into a sort of Turkish trousers. From the mass of material and peculiar arrangement, these garments form very graceful drapery, nearly concealing the feet: they are gathered round the waist by a narrow cincture, and hang in equal folds round the person. The chemise is frequently without sleeves, but always short, full, and looped towards the shoulder: a bordering of lace or embroidery confines it to the bosom: below the bust it is secured by the belt of the *nagua*. With sandals on their feet, and chaplets of flowers, (with which it is half the business of their lives to adorn themselves,) you have a personification of the architectural Caryatides,—living proofs that the sculpture of antiquity was not imaginary. The Indian girl, attired as we have imperfectly attempted to describe, bearing on her head a basket of fruit and flowers, and in her hand a vase (strictly a vase) of water, reminded us of many celebrated statues.

7. Hats of grass are considered cooler than straw; certainly they are much more durable, elegant, and costly: fifty dollars, about ten pounds, is sometimes paid for these

sombreros; but they last a lifetime. Panama is the market for them.

Facatatava produces the purple amaranth, and a variety of flowers which we call everlasting: for hats they are highly prized, but for the hair the good taste still prevails of using fresh-gathered flowers, orange-tree blossoms, buds of vanilla, and jasmine.

9. *Poncha*.—An oblong or square piece of cloth, without a seam, having a slit in the centre for the head to pass through. The person is admirably protected by this contrivance from sun or rain, without any inconvenience, for the poncha hangs loose, and for horse-back is the best possible covering, protecting the huge saddle and all its numerous appendages. The poncha is an important part of a South American's wardrobe; the best are made of the Lama's wool, woven so that it is impervious to rain; the colours are very bright, generally in stripes, but the vegetable dye used for this purpose is a secret. The poncha is valued at from five to fifty dollars.

10. All our boatmen had rosaries, some of ebony, with a small crucifix of silver or gold: the patron, or master, had six beads of gold towards forming the rosary in which he intended to figure as a bridegroom; two of the beads he had won by gambling,—the rest he had purchased from his needy comrades.

11. The peons or labourers do not generally wear shoes; a piece of raw hide is adapted to the sole of the foot; a loop passes over the great toe, and a thong binds it at the instep.

Shoes or *zapatos* are refinements with which the boatmen seldom annoy themselves; and, although the master would go to his bridal in the best pair which could be made for him, he would very likely throw them off his feet for the luxury of dancing barefoot.

12. A *cuchillo* is something between a knife and a sword, worn like the latter, but used for every imaginable purpose; cutting down trees, or slaying a bullock; murdering a fellow-creature; cutting tobacco, chopping rice, eating their food, peeling an orange; and sometimes even for shaving themselves.

13. *Hilo*.—Thread obtained from the fibres of the *Agave Mexicano*, called in many parts of South America, *Cuquisa*, used for making sandals. Some of them are fabricated of a more delicate material, from a plant similar to the *Phormium tenax*.

14. Mules are the subjects of as much consideration in South America as hunters or race-horses are in England; a source of great dispute and boasting. The mule on which a bride rides to church becomes her husband's property.

15. Spurs are sometimes of sufficient value to be heirlooms; the rowels are frequently larger than a crown-piece; but, although the Colombians have great pride in this piece of finery, it must not be inferred that they use them with barbarity. The cumbrous box-shaped stirrups are sometimes of wood, but generally of brass, iron, or silver. A reason for having the spurs so large is, that they may reach beyond the verge of those ponderous stirrups without exposing the naked foot to the danger of coming in contact with the rough pro-

jections of the steep rocky passes. The large rowel also affords a wider field for applying the requisite stimulus to a weary mule, or punishment to a lazy one.

16. The *Alcaldi* is the chief magistrate or mayor of the town. The English proverb in the previous couplet is also Spanish; and often did it surprise us to hear the nursery tales of our own country gravely narrated by the Indians. Jack the Giant-killer's exploits are familiar to those whom we are accustomed to consider as barbarians. These fables seem to have originated in South America; but how they found their way into Europe must remain for more efficient inquirers.

17. An *Arroba* is twenty-five pounds: it is used hyperbolically by Bernadino: he meant abundance.

18. *Carabobo* is not particularly remarkable for its beef. A famous battle having been fought on these plains, in which the Republicans obtained a great victory over the Royalists, the patron was glad to mention it, in order to keep up attention.

19. *Chocolate* for extraordinary occasions is prepared with cinnamon. The common chocolate (and nothing is more adulterated) is vile stuff.

20. *Guarapo* is a beverage of fermented maize, ginger, and sugar, and is a very innocent and wholesome drink, but, like ale, it can be made very strong and intoxicating.

21. *Chicha* is made of maize (Indian corn) bruised and steeped in tepid water, until it passes into the first stage of fermentation. It is about the thickness and not unlike pea-soup. A superior sort of *chicha* is made of rice prepared in

the same way, and improved with fruits and spirit. This is rather a costly preparation, and is only introduced occasionally.

22. *Coniac* is made in the country; but the real French brandy is what the patron alludes to: purchasing at one place, and paying duty at another, literally means smuggling. We always suspected that the doubloons which Master Bernardino could boast of, had found their way into his purse by speculations in brandy.

SOUTH AMERICAN COTTAGE.

THE dwelling represented in this sketch was built for an Englishman, who selected the situation as combining every advantage of a tropical residence : it was impossible to allege more than two objections against it ;—there was no society ; and it required ten months to traverse the distance which separated this earthly paradise from the native land of its inmate.

The house, composed of split and flattened bamboo, and roofed with palm-leaves, was ceiled with smooth reeds ; the whole frame-work firmly tied together with bijuco,—a climbing plant, singularly tenacious and durable, answering all the purposes of cord. By this construction, the danger resulting from earthquakes was, in a great measure, obviated : the light and flexible nature of

these materials rendered such a dwelling a place of safety, when more substantial erections were destroyed : the inmates often felt as if shaken in a basket, but never sustained any injury during these fearful visitations.

The temperature was delightful ; and such was the fertility of the soil, that the difficulty was rather to check than encourage vegetation. The indigenous plants were of great beauty, and frequently have we felt reluctant to destroy them ; but it was deemed more healthful to clear a space immediately adjoining our residence : it was also desirable to open prospects of the surrounding country, of which there was a rich and endless variety. The climate was congenial to the European constitution : the waters abounded with fish, and the forests and plains afforded an inexhaustible supply of game, a most luxuriant variety of exquisite fruit, and nutritious vegetables.

To assert that this blooming region was entirely exempted from the annoyances peculiar to a tropical climate, would be untrue ; but, when compared with the advantages, they were inconsiderable, and rather conduced to interest and amuse us, than to excite discontent. An example

of these minor vexations will be minutely detailed.

A splendid Magnolia, which had acquired the height of a forest tree, grew near the cottage; we discovered that a family of ants, resembling those which are so troublesome in conservatories, had marked this beautiful ornament of our garden for their prey. Knowing that they would soon divest it of its glossy foliage and fragrant blossoms, if we did not adopt means to prevent this spoliation, and being reluctant to lose the grateful shade of this favourite tree, we gave orders for the destruction of these unwelcome invaders: the servants smiled, and plainly told us that it would be impossible to prevent the ants from effecting their purpose; experience having convinced them of the impracticability of defeating the perseverance of these insects, although to us it appeared easy.

The ants had made a regular and smooth path, a hand's-breadth wide, paved with fragments of the plants which they had destroyed on their line of march: we could trace their course beyond the boundary of our enclosure; and we remarked the singular fact, that the ants had passed many

trees, precisely similar to the one which they had travelled so far to attack, without touching them.

Our first scheme was to smear the bark of the magnolia with tar and soap-lees, which proved a very slight impediment to the invading army; they stuck to the soft material, in which they were soon embedded, and countless thousands passed over the bodies of their victimised comrades, each bearing away a portion of the leaf suited to its strength. The systematic proceedings of these wonderful insects excited our astonishment: we observed that the column was equally divided, one portion ascending, and the other descending; certain ants being stationed at intervals, whose office it was, apparently, to examine every labourer, to adjust the load, and, when not equally poised, to balance it with mathematical precision; in some instances, as if disputing with the bearer of a cargo, they would take it away, and despatch him for a more suitable burden: no labourer seemed to escape this scrutiny.

Our next plan was to surround the root of the tree with a pool of water, but this proved useless; the rapid absorption and evaporation which took

place exhausted our patience. The ants now constructed a bridge across the first accessible point, with materials carried there for the purpose: this end was attained by the sacrifice of such myriads, that, although the quantity might have been ascertained by computation, it would have been impossible to count them. We next employed boys with stampers and brooms, to crush and sweep them away; but, after keeping them at bay for a few days, we found that this method would not answer;—the pathway was literally covered with ants in a solid mass, awaiting the first opportunity of ascending the devoted tree: often did they steal a march upon the boys stationed to battle with them. The magnolia already had lost a great part of its beauty, when, as a last resource, a belt of fire was lighted round the tree, as near the trunk as we thought consistent with its safety: this did stop them for a time, and we kept up the defence with such vigilance, that for three days not a single ant had mounted the tree, but they did not retreat; on the fourth day, while the charcoal was still burning, we saw them as active as ever, stripping the leaves in every direction. The fire having

rendered the surface of the ground inaccessible to them, they had burrowed beneath it, and, from an orifice close to the stem of the magnolia, we perceived them swarming with such increased activity, that we could not doubt they intended to make up for lost time; and so, in fact, they did. We ceased to annoy them; and within a week the tree was stripped entirely bare: every green leaf, every bud, every branch that would yield to their keen forceps, had vanished.

Desirous of making further observations, we followed the tortuous path which these marauders had made, for a distance of two miles, until we reached their habitations, which extended over many acres: we were prevented from exploring further by more important avocations.

Some time afterwards, on relating the circumstance of our battle with the ants to an Indian of Mata Redona, he told us, that if we had procured some of the loose earth which indicates their presence, and applied it to the roots of the magnolia, or had even scattered the soil brought from the station of any other colony of ants, over the path of those which gave us so much trouble, the

intruders would have made a quick retreat, or, at all events, desisted from their attack upon the tree. An opportunity occurred of making this experiment: a Balsam which promised to be very vigorous, and which we felt anxious to protect, was marked by our old enemies, or by some of the same family. They had commenced their depredations, and we obtained some earth from an ant-hill, as the Indian had advised, which most effectually answered the purpose. This balsam, the offspring of seed originally imported from France, grew to a size which would have surprised an European. Its petals were white blended with scarlet; and its numerous and delicate flowers were very attractive to bees and humming-birds. The stem and branches were so transparent, that, when the plant was copiously supplied with water, the rising moisture might be traced ascending like a thin cloud, tinging with a visible shade the more delicate structure of the recent shoots. The precise dimensions of this superb balsam were not taken, but we well remember sitting beneath its blossom-covered branches.

The formidable large black carnivorous ant was

not an entire stranger to us : the bite of this noxious insect is almost as severe as the scorpion's sting. We have often seen the skeletons of large serpents which had been devoured by these ravenous creatures. Once we observed an immense snake smarting and writhing under the torture inflicted by the ferocious ants : in vain did the wounded reptile coil its folds, and lash the ground, to clear itself of its swarming enemies ; all its efforts were useless : they continued their attack upon their prey until they had consumed every particle of flesh and fibre ; and the day after we had witnessed its sufferings, the perfect skeleton was placed amongst our specimens of natural history. An inhabitant of a district more congenial to the increase of the carnivorous ant, related to us an occurrence in the following words :—

“ Observing that our house stood in the direct course of one of the migrating families of these ants, we hastily removed every thing which we wished to preserve from their voracity : had we ourselves remained in the house, they would have feasted even upon us Christians. In two days the ants had taken their departure, and the house was cleaner than human hands could have made it :

every living insect, every spider that had spun its web on the roof, or beetle that had bored its way into the rafters; every flea, or other plague which had disturbed our rest, even to the rats, (of which we had numbers,) were consumed." Such was the information received from a person of unimpeachable veracity, accompanied by accounts far more wonderful.

Our situation was favorable for domesticating birds and other animals, which induced us to capture many of them, as the best method of obtaining a more intimate knowledge of their habits than we could have acquired, had they been allowed to remain at large in their native woods, where we could only have gained a general familiarity with their characteristics. After they were caught, we allured them to remain with us by kindness, and by an abundant supply of such food as was adapted to their nature; we then suffered them to return to the unlimited freedom of their forests, or to locate themselves near our dwelling. When released, many entirely left us; some paid us occasional visits; others, in a semi-social state, came daily for food, and, having taken it even from our hands, quitted us the moment after, and went we knew

not whither. Sometimes, but very seldom, they brought companions, and, encouraged by the example of those friends who introduced them, these interesting strangers would partake of their provisions. Parrots required no coaxing, for, like pigeons, if once permitted to come within the house, it was not easy to expel them. A few pets of this noisy tribe which had forsaken their original habits, and become especial favourites, caught words, and repeated long sentences, to our great diversion. One very large and beautiful macaw was so impertinent, that it became requisite to punish it frequently: the manner in which it scolded those who inflicted chastisement, was eminently ludicrous: this singular bird apparently knew the terms used to express displeasure, but it never uttered offensive epithets but in anger: if enraged, its indignation was vented in those very objectionable terms with which the Spanish language abounds, and which it was utterly impossible to banish from the vocabulary of our domestics. This irritable bird had a passion for stimulants, delighted in highly seasoned food, and would drink brandy with infinite gusto. Sometimes by chance, and occasionally, it is to be feared, by de-

sign, the macaw got drunk: its awkward gait, when upon a level surface, was rendered more ridiculous by its intoxication: it danced after its own fashion, accompanied by the music of its piercing voice, modulated, however, by an attempt to imitate both the music and the steps of those fandangos, with which the natives generally amused their leisure hours.

The soft fleshy tongue which enables the parrot to articulate words is also an organ of taste. Innumerable proofs of this faculty might be adduced; one may suffice: the Loreto, which is the smallest of the genus, and much esteemed for its beautiful rose-coloured beak and delicate plumage, is easily domesticated, but does not evince the sagacity of the other varieties. A number of them used to watch for our morning's repast, which was generally in the rustic corridor; boiled rice was a constant dish, and, when a spoonful was held towards the loretos, three of them took their stations upon the handle: the one nearest the food took a mouthful, and then flew to its perch; the next in succession advanced, and a third, moving forward, left a space for any other bird which could first obtain possession of

the vacant place. They had been drilled into this regularity with a great deal of trouble; but beyond this degree we could never succeed in teaching them. It was evident that these pretty birds could distinguish difference of flavour: if the rice had been simply boiled in water, they did not return for a second beakful; if sugar had been introduced, they would come a second, or perhaps a third time; but if cinnamon, or any other spice, had been mixed with the preparation, the birds became very eager for it, and never ceased applying for more, until the dish was empty. We had also a pair of noble birds, called in the country Pauxi, of the gallinaceous tribe, known in Europe by the name of Curaçoa. The stature of the male bird may be estimated by the fact, that, when standing on the floor, it could help itself to whatever was near the edge of a dinner-table, although its neck was not longer than that of the turkey, to which in its general form it bore a resemblance. The plumage of the pauxi is of a glossy blackish green: under the body it is pure white: its strong, clean legs are of the turquoise blue, and its beak slate-coloured. The crest is composed of a vast number of strong

narrow feathers, tightly curled at the tip, and perfectly black, and extends from the crown of the head downwards, resembling that which is described as worn by the heroes of antiquity upon their helmets. The eyes are so dazzlingly bright, that their deep ruby tint can only be seen when the bird is looking at and very near the observer. They were sometimes very formidable, and persons against whom they had an antipathy were glad to keep out of their way. They had a particular objection to naked feet, and if strangers made their appearance without shoes, they were obliged to take care of their toes. We have frequently seen the Indian women, who came into the court-yard, curtseying continually to the birds, that by this device their garments might conceal and protect their feet from the powerful beaks of these singular guardians of our premises; from whence they often drove intrusive mendicants.

The eggs of the pauxi are larger than those of the turkey; they are of a beautiful pistachio green. These birds did not breed during the two years we had them. The plumage of the female is black, with irregular bars of white; the colour

from the throat, and the under part of the body is dark brown, passing into a paler tint. The flesh of this magnificent specimen of the feathered tribe is very similar to that of the partridge, quite as tender, and its flavour equally delicate.

The Guacheracho is the pheasant of Columbia: it is not easily domesticated when taken from the forest, but if its eggs are hatched under a tame fowl, the young birds never willingly quit the place in which they have been reared. We had several broods of them.

The Palomas, which are similar to the turtle-dove, built their nests beneath our roof. The proverbial gentleness of the turtle tribe is very conspicuous in the paloma; they are encouraged to breed near dwellings, not for their plaintive note or docile appearance, but because they make an excellent pie,—a confession that must be made, however reluctantly.

The Woodpeckers, of which numerous family we heard and saw many varieties, would not associate with us: one pair did venture to build very near our cottage, in the stump of a cocoa-nut tree, the head of which was blown off, having, as we

always suspected, been injured by their incessant tapping.

We had Turkeys in every state ; wild, half-tame, and perfectly domestic : but they never grew so large with us as those known in Europe.

The Toucans could be tamed, but no interesting quality was developed by their being domiciled. The slightest blow on the apex of the beak kills them : the anatomy of their enormous bills explains this fact.

The Gallina del Monte, very similar to the jungle fowl of India, would feed among our numerous and varied assemblage of poultry ; but, true to their instinct, they warily deposited their eggs in places which our Indian boys could seldom discover ; it was therefore necessary to keep them in occasional confinement, as their eggs were exquisite.

We had not many birds of song to boast of, and we never attempted to cage them ; preferring to hear them warble in perfect freedom.

THE RUSTIC CORRIDOR.

THIS sketch was taken from the corridor of a cottage built on the eastern slope of the Andes. Travellers, to whom almost every portion of the globe is familiar, have acknowledged, while gazing upon this spot, that they never beheld such a sublime spectacle. The real foreground of this splendid panorama could not be represented by the pencil: the dark ravine into which you look, is beautiful beyond conception, extending to the very base of the snow-clad Cordilleras. There grew the graceful palm, with its plume-like foliage, groves of Bamboo, Tree ferns, Magnolias, Acacias, Cedars, and, towering above all, the mighty Almendron with its smooth silvery stem, straight and round as a Tuscan column, bearing aloft its noble clusters of pure white blossoms

contrasting with the dark, dense foliage of its widely-spreading branches. A rapid, clear, and musical river, supplied by the gradual dissolution of the everlasting snow, under a cloudless sun, produced a diurnal and perceptible increase of the mountain torrent, which sometimes fell in cascades, and sometimes, impeded by huge blocks of granite, expanded into broad lakes, and again, finding an uninterrupted channel, rolled onward beyond the scope of human vision.

Myriads of gay insects, butterflies with wings of dazzling lustre, beetles of matchless splendour, and birds of brilliant plumage, many of them half domesticated, gave animation to a scene of surpassing loveliness. Humming-birds, the metallic lustre of whose plumage flashed like polished gems, hovered round blossoms of scarcely less vivid colouring; or darted from flower to flower, with a rapidity which the eye could scarcely trace: sometimes balancing themselves over the corolla of the Tuberose, they rifled the nectary of its balmy stores, or fed upon the insects imprisoned in its honeyed treasury, and vanished with the magical swiftness of thought.

The golden Oriole suspended his pendulous

nest within a few paces of the corridor. The shy Toucan, and the timid Paloma, the solitary warbler, and the whole gaudy family, from the imperial Guacamayo to the delicate Loreto, ventured to approach within a stone's throw of our residence ; enlivening a scene replete with the most powerful interest.

If painting can only convey a faint idea of the distant mountains, how can language express the emotion produced by the grandeur of a scene, which at one glance reveals to the spectator the extensive range of the majestic Andes, from their broad bases covered with the richest verdure, to their untrodden summits clad with eternal snows, and rising fifteen thousand feet above the level of the ocean ?

One of the numerous luxuries of this mountain-dwelling was its vicinity to a stream affording a bath, which could not have been more admirable, had it been constructed by art : the water, falling over the ledges of a granite rock, had worn deep basins by its successive leaps : in one of these cavities a large block of stone was, as we supposed, firmly fixed : one spring from the margin of the pool enabled the bather to reach this natural plat-

form, and, having crossed its smooth surface by a second bound, he could alight upon the opposite bank.

The following anecdote will strikingly illustrate the force of the augmented volume of water, and the rapidity of the torrent during the rainy season. A heavy fall of rain had obliged us to suspend our custom of daily invigorating the frame, by laving in this cool and limpid bath, until the waters had nearly subsided to their usual level. One of our party who could not swim was accustomed to cross the pool by the assistance of the stone above-mentioned: he took the usual leap, but the stone was gone! and, plunging into the deep abyss caused by its dislodgement, he sank twice, and twice he rose to the surface, before his companion had reached the spot to rescue him from death. The stone had not only been removed from its deeply-imbedded station, but it had rolled over the edge of the basin, and entirely disappeared. The ravine, through which the stream pursued its devious course, was so sheltered from the sun, that, at the spot which we frequented for bathing, its rays could only partially penetrate the foliage. The effect of the

chequered light was beautiful and novel even in this land of wonders. When the waters were very low, it was pleasant to stand beneath the fall, or pass behind the broad thin sheet of water, as if it were a crystal curtain. We have often seen in that romantic dell gorgeous butterflies, with wings so large, that they resembled those of a bird rather than of an insect : powdered emeralds would not have been more dazzling than the living lustre flashing from these beautiful symbols, so happily adopted by the Grecian mythologists as impressive types of the immortality of the soul.

Fish abounded in the still lakes supplied by outlets from the torrent, many of them adorned with shining scales, like the gold fishes of China.

There might be seen the Pelicans vigilantly fixing their keen eyes on the water : they seemed immovable even when we threw stones at them ; yet, when tempted by the glancing scales of the finny prey, they plunged suddenly into the pool, seizing with their beaks the struggling victims, and, having dislodged the booty from their enormous pouches, drew their bills in, close to their breasts, and resumed their demure and solemn

attitude. The more active Crane stood curving its graceful neck, and prying beneath the broad leaves of the aquatic plants, treading down the Lotus with its broad feet, or pushing aside the flowery reeds in search of its sustenance. And there was also the scaly Lizard, its hue changing with every motion of its agile frame, eluding its numerous enemies by its rapid movements and peculiar habits. On the horizontal branches of such trees as were exposed to the beams of the sun, rested the unsightly Iguana, its large mouth gasping for air rather than for nourishment: ugly as are these strange animals, they are much esteemed by the epicure. Snakes (alas, that snakes should mar this pleasing picture!) also abound on the banks of this beautiful river. Many people maintain that the flavour of the snake is superior to that of the eel: we had an insuperable aversion to this kind of food, and never made an attempt to conquer our antipathy. Many species of the snake are perfectly harmless; their teeth present a well-defined and very important distinction of the innoxious from the poisonous reptile: the former have two small rows of teeth growing at a considerable distance from each other: the

poisonous varieties have not the external row, but its absence is compensated by the upper jaw containing a pair of sharply-pointed fangs perforated by a canal, opening through a longitudinal slit. Through this channel, a fluid is secreted by a large gland under the eye, which is surrounded by a muscular process, adapted to the ejection of the poisonous secretion. This liquid, when injected into the wound made by the fang, conveys the destructive virus into the body of the animal, and produces effects more or less severe, according to the species of serpent from which it is ejected. The fang, when in a state of repose, is concealed in a fold of the gum, but can be erected at the will of the snake : behind these tubular fangs are reversed germs of embryo teeth inclosed in membraneous bags lodged behind the gum ; in the event of the existing teeth being broken or lost in conflicts, these rudiments are destined to supply the loss. The Rattlesnake is the most dreaded of the reptiles infesting the river, but is more easily destroyed than many others, probably from its inferior degree of activity, and also from the assistance which the noise of its rattle affords to the marksman. We

have seen children adorned with necklaces formed by perforating and stringing them for that purpose: probably the children are amused by the noise, but the anxious parent provides this strange decoration as a charm to prevent the pain they usually suffer in cutting their teeth.

The road leading to one of the passes of the Andes was near our dwelling: it is usual for persons who undertake the journey to be accompanied by their friends to the last point which is accessible for mules: a new mode is then adopted; many walk, but others prefer being carried in the light cane-chairs which are suspended from men's shoulders.

These Indians, licensed by Government to convey passengers across the Cordilleras, are eager to obtain this lucrative employment: they are tall healthy men, many of them perfect models of manly beauty; their naked feet grasp the turf, and tread the rock with unerring security. The Peons, (as the common labourers are called) carry the baggage, which, even when abridged with the utmost care to avoid every luxury, must be considerable, for it must include food and raiment adapted to various temperatures, the

damp cold nights experienced in the Paramo rendering these indispensable. An excellent tent is formed of broad tenacious leaves, ten of which afford a sufficient shelter: these leaves are suspended from reeds, which are rendered as light as safety will admit, by scraping off a portion of the siliceous coating, and making them perfectly hollow. The baggage is packed in square leather boxes, called Petucas: these boxes are so contrived that the upper half slides within the under to the bottom, so that, as the bulk of the baggage decreases, the lid is pressed down, and the provender kept nearly water-tight: sausages well-seasoned, and dried in the smoke of cedar-wood, chocolate made into small cakes, and beef cut into thin strips, salted and dried in the sun, form the most important part of the travellers' store. Aguardiente, a spirit, the product of the sugar-cane, is provided for the Peons: brandy and madeira are thought the best liquids for the traveller. The joyous hilarity with which parties commence the arduous journey is sometimes prolonged for a day, when they have arrived at the point of separation from their friends. The labourers who are employed to conduct the travel-

lers across the plains transfer their charge to the mountaineers, whose duty commences here. When these rival labourers meet, the greetings are most cordial: all seems joy and harmony; they feast, dance, sing, then wrangle, and finally quarrel. In Columbia, many a glorious sunset, and many a sunrise, have we gazed upon in mute wonder, until the awe and admiration excited in our own minds rendered us reluctant to accuse the Peruvian worshippers of idolatry.

Nothing in Europe can equal the vast, the stupendous sublimity of the scene presented at this station. Look forward;—a plain, level as if a roller had passed over it, is intersected by the great river Magdalena, the course of which may be traced until the aching eye fails in attempting to define where it blends with the horizon: beyond, hills and mountains of various picturesque forms are lost in the dark broad shadow cast over them by an immeasurable rampart positively black, sharp and even, at its summit, as a wall of masonry. This is one step of the Andes, and the mighty buttress which shores up the table-land of Santa Fè de Bogota. Look steadily, and you may perceive a faint cloud, from which a thin vapour

descends the grim acclivity: this is the river, which, traversing the plains of Bogota, precipitates itself over the boundary, forming the Salto of Tequandamo. The river here leaps from one climate to another;—from the cool plains which are marked by stunted vegetation, and birds of sombre plumage, into the luxuriant vale of Villeta; rich in every variety of the palm-tree, and redundant with foliage; the land of Parrots, Mocking-birds, Lizards, Monkeys, and Mackaws.

On the left is seen the Volcano of Tolyma, and the Promontories which are called Tetas, from the same peculiar form as that from which the Paps of Jura have derived their appellation. On the right are plains, of which you cannot see the termination. Turn round: if you throw your head back sufficiently to obtain the requisite position, you behold the summit of the giant Andes, those ribs of the world, as they have been powerfully denominated, their lofty pinnacles capped with snow, cold, dead, and pallid, during the noontide blaze; but view them again, when saluted by the sun's first rays,—they are tinged with a faint blush, like that on a maiden's cheek, deepening to a roseate hue as the sun ascends,

like the brighter colour which betrays emotions that language could not reveal.

We stood admiring this scene, which never could be forgotten, until darkness completely shrouded it from our view, when another spectacle succeeded, not less sublime—that of the stars in a new hemisphere, the constellation called the Cross of the South, and the countless and splendid orbs which seemed to stand out from the sable pall of indefinite space. We were roused from these meditations by the boisterous laugh, the merry song, and the eternal monotony of the guitar. Two Peons were singing a duet, of a character rather superior to those we were accustomed to hear from the muleteers; but they had not yet received their full evening allowance: they were evidently attempting to show themselves off to advantage before the mountaineers. A good bass singer performed the part of the serenading cavalier, and was answered by a youth in the musical dialogue, of which the following verses may suffice as a specimen.

The ballad was called “The Faithful Friend.” The Knight thus addresses the Lady in her balcony:—

Knight.—Advance to bless thy watchful knight,
 Reward his ardent love :
 The eagle on his homeward flight
 Is captured by a dove.

My race is powerful ;—my bride—
 And thou my bride shalt be—
 Will take her station by the side
 Of high nobility.

The countless stores my coffers fill
 Are all at thy command :
 And they who best obey my will
 Must at thy footstool stand.

Lady.—I will not meet thy treacherous eye ;
 My heart to thee is cold :
 I care not for thy ancestry,
 Still less for all thy gold.

The maiden whom thy broken vow
 Hath driven to despair,
 Is watching from the terrace now :
 To her, false knight, repair.

Rich, beautiful, and nobly born,
 What can her failing be ?
 Alas ! she did not treat with scorn
 Thy oaths of constancy.

Knight.—Farewell, farewell ; to her I go :
 What message wilt thou send ?

Lady.—Tell her I am no more thy foe,
 If she will be thy friend.

Knight.—I go ; but grant one parting kiss,
 Or here I take my stand :
 If that boon be too great a bliss,
 Let me but touch thy hand.

Lady.—Stay, if, Sir knight, you choose to stay—
 The midnight is not past :
 But, as I deem, till dawn of day
 These transports will not last.

The noble bird who soars above
 Is still a bird of prey :
 And I, defenceless as a dove,
 Shall not obstruct thy way.

Our mountain air is pure and cold ;
 So shall my conduct be :
 All that I have to say is told :
 Expect no more from me.

Knight.—Lady, the lamp betrays thy task ;
 Thy secret is reveal'd :
 For whom, may I presume to ask,
 Hast thou so long conceal'd

That scarf of rich embroidery,
 O'er which thy fingers stray,
 On which thou look'st unceasingly ;
 For whom is that, I pray ?

Lady.—That scarf, Sir knight, has been my care,
 Since days far distant now ;
 When to my friend thou didst declare
 Thy love—break not that vow.

This scarf an offering friendship wrought,
 When happy hours were mine :
 I never for a moment thought
 My task I should decline.

Knight.—Thy work, fair Iñez, still pursue—
 My heart is constant now :
 When next Alonzo meets thy view,
 At friendship's shrine he'll bow.

The dear companion of thy youth
 Shall be my honour'd bride :

Lady.—Then, doing homage to thy truth,
 I will no longer chide.

I think that thou art now sincere ;
 Thy feelings answer mine :
 I will not shed another tear ;
 The scarf shall still be thine.

Soon Iñez to her bower descried

A wedded pair ascend :

The knight then claim'd the scarf—his bride

Embraced her faithful friend.

Daybreak opened a scene of confusion, such as we had never before witnessed. As the last opportunity of enjoying our friend's society, a picnic entertainment was got up on rather an extensive scale ; and, as is generally the case on such occasions, there was a somewhat ostentatious display of good things, ten times more than could be consumed : the roasted fowls and various delicacies which remained, and were not adapted for packing, were divided amongst the Peons of the Llanos or plains, and the Cargeros or bearers of the mountains, and they could not agree about their portions of the provisions. The mountaineers wanted tobacco and brandy in exchange for their share of the viands : this dispute could not be settled ; and abuse, such as it would be difficult to transcribe, passed on both sides. On this occasion they did not come to blows : such is their capricious character, that there is no doubt that at a future period they would meet with pleasure. Some idea of this storm of words may be gathered

from the following attempt to embody in endurable language the compliments they so profusely lavished upon each other. Those who were competent sang the verses, and all their companions joined in the chorus.

Farewell, farewell, ye lowland steers !
 Ye never can be cavaliers,
 Like us, the hardy mountaineers.

Adios ! adios ! adios !

The sluggish blood creeps through your veins,
 As turbid streams glide through the plains,
 Until a stagnant pool remains.

Adios ! adios ! adios !

Like streams which from the mountains rush,
 Our blood flows with a rapid gush.
 Back to your slimy swamps, and blush !

Adios ! adios ! adios !

Like the pure breeze our thoughts are free :
 Ye bear the stamp of slavery ;
 Respiring foul impurity.

Adios ! adios ! adios !

They're spoiling your homes, and polluting the fountains
 Ye drink from, whilst eating your tender relations.

Via, via, pecaderos.

Ye come to the plains, with the hand to the hat,
 And show us the ore, which you promise to pay ;
 But when your gaunt skeleton carcass is fat,
 Ye smuggle yourselves and your gold-dust away.

Via, via, pecaderos.

You had better remain with the ravenous condor,
 No carrion more foul can your mountains supply
 Than your own tainted flesh, which they gaze at in wonder,
 That lingering life should its action supply.

Via, via, pecaderos.

Come, if ye dare venture, once more to the plain ;
 We will pound you to dust, like our coveted grain ;
 Not a bone in your hides shall unbroken remain ;
 Ye never shall skulk to the mountains again.

Via, via, pecaderos.

May your stomachs the food ye have stolen retain
 Till the roof of your mouth is contracted with pain !

Pecaderos.

May you call for your cousins the monkeys in vain ;
 And your aunts, the baboons, your imploring disdain.

Pecaderos.

They say you have clouded their prospects and fame,
By bringing disgrace on the family name,

Pecaderos.

They cannot forget that your hands bear the stain
Of the victimized kindred your valour has slain,

Pecaderos.

Untouch'd by contrition, your instincts remain,
Your blood-sucking passions you cannot restrain,

Pecaderos.

You cannibal monsters, you 'd venture through fire,
Your horrid carniverous feasts to acquire,

Pecaderos.

All nature will, shuddering, your friendship disclaim :
Skulk back to your pestilent climate with shame !

Via, via, pecaderos !

THE COCINA, OR KITCHEN.

THE tenement represented in this sketch is variously denominated, according to the purposes to which it is applied : when the building is attached to a mansion, it is a cocina, or kitchen ; when only used as an occasional residence, it is termed rancho, or hut ; and if constantly occupied by a family who have no other dwelling, it is called caseta, or villager's cottage.

This was our kitchen, store-room, and house-keeper's apartment. The kitchen was partially open to admit the light, and facilitate the escape of the smoke : the furniture was entirely of domestic manufacture. There were coarse dishes of earthenware in great abundance ; large stones placed like tripods, for burning charcoal ; flappers of palm-leaves for fanning the fire ; brooms of the fragrant heliotrope for sweeping the floor ;

immense jars of porous clay for cooling water ; bowls formed of the rind of melons ; cups made of cocoa-nut shell ; spoons of the bulimeos shell or orange-tree wood ; basins formed of the calabash ; petecas, or boxes for tobacco, and trunks of flexible bark for tomatos. A large flat stone, resting on a stump of the cactus, was provided with a polished conical piece of granite, for crushing coffee, or preparing chocolate, by bruising the cocoa-nut, and mixing it with sugar and cinnamon.

The hollow trunk of a cedar formed a manger-like trough for maize and rice ; a large pestle and mortar were near it for pounding the grain : there was also a polished and inclined slab of basalt, for flattening the cassava-cakes ; bunches of plantains were suspended from the roof until they acquired the proper degree of maturity, which the birds would prevent by their depredations, unless the plantains are thus protected by gathering, and letting them ripen under the roof. Nets, ingeniously constructed of the fibres of the aloe, contained various roots,—garlic, onions, ginger, &c. &c. ; spice-boxes for pimento and different condiments : cane baskets containing eggs and

oranges, lemons, lubos (a fruit unknown in Europe), guavas, citrons, and olives.

There were mats of finely-woven grass to spread on the floor during the operation of peeling the almonds from the outer husks, of which an inferior kind of beverage is made, and used as a substitute for coffee by the domestics. There were also bottles provided by Nature, and moulded into a variety of forms at pleasure, during their growth on the trees: the stoppers are made of the central pith, found in the ears of the Indian wheat, which forms the cellular receptacle for the separate grains.

A strong box was the only seat: this secured a few vessels of beaten silver, which are required in confectionary. Vases for various fermented liquors stood in rows: the roof was nearly concealed by links of sausages; and similar links, containing lard only, were guarded by inverted bowls from the encroachments of the carnivorous ants.

A latiguar, or long whip, was always placed near the door: this implement was an indispensable article of the kitchen establishment, and was used by the mistress of the *cocina*, to chastise biped or quadruped intruders. She exercised it

most freely when her pets ventured within the door during those hours in which she was busied in domestic duties. She also menaced her assistants occasionally with this long whip. Our cook was called Manuela, or, as she was styled by her dependants, Señora Manuela, a title she was very proud of, and with which, indeed, it was almost necessary to compliment her. She had been a slave, and learned her art, in which she certainly was perfect, in the kitchen of the last viceroy. She had obtained her freedom by that noble edict of the legislature which provided for the gradual emancipation from slavery. All slaves who could purchase their liberty might demand it: all children, born after the decree was issued, were free: a certain number of slaves were also annually liberated, who could establish their claim to the privilege by their own merits. Manuela obtained her liberty in consequence of having attended in the hospital during the siege of Carthagená, where she had rendered great services to the liberating army by her skill and attention. She could not endure any allusion to her former state of degradation, and, it is to be feared, never forgave those who reminded her of it. As a nurse,

she was invaluable ; for six months she attended the narrator with increasing assiduity, during an obstinate attack of ague, which seized him while navigating an unhealthy river. Her contrivances to relieve suffering, her resources to alleviate irksome confinement, and her skill in applying remedies, will always be remembered with gratitude. She was the Lady Bountiful of our neighbourhood : no sick bed escaped her active benevolence : with nice discrimination she distributed to the necessitous whatever was at her disposal. She was more nearly allied to the negro than to the Indian or the Spaniard ; yet she was proud of her caste, and took infinite pains to force the woolly covering of her head into the semblance of hair. Caps are unknown in Colombia : our cook's head-gear was a comb of silver, and, on festival days, of gold : she had contrived to braid a few locks, which she ornamented with flowers in the fashion of the country. Shoes were painful to her ; yet it was her glory to appear in rose-coloured or white satin shoes on festive occasions ; and no present was more acceptable to her than this species of finery. She certainly was no beauty ; yet she possessed a pleasing countenance,

a stately figure, and superior manners. With the simple apparatus of which so imperfect an account has been given, Manuela could provide a dinner of three complete courses for two hundred guests, and has frequently prepared a repast for a party varying from ten to fifty in number. It might shock the prejudices of Mrs. Dalgairns, or drive to desperation a confirmed epicure, to hear details of the best method of preparing parrots for the spit, and condiments for the vegetable pear; of pine-apples for fritters, and omelettes of the tender pith, which is enclosed in the unexpanded spathe of the fruit-bearing palm. She had various receipts for saturating with sugar the delicious pulp of the papaya, without disturbing its unique flavour, and for imparting to the wild boar's tongue a novel gusto, by exposing it to the smoke of burnt amber (which is found there in abundance) or aromatic woods; for making custards of cocoa-nut milk; and infusing the cherymoya,—a fruit which, I think, Humboldt, that prince of travellers, says, it is worth crossing the Atlantic to enjoy.

The mode of preparing a hash of the tortoise; the art of rendering venison tender, and imparting to it the indispensable *haut gout* in a day; giving

the perfume only of sandal wood or vanilla to wafers of such exquisite delicacy and fragility, that a sudden or incautious touch crumbles them to atoms, bore testimony to the skill of Manuela. The armadillo was roasted in the natural coat of mail, which gives it the common designation of the hog in armour, and its pettitoes were cooked in pasties; gizzards of the wild turkey were grilled with fresh-gathered capsicum, and livers were soaked in palm wine, and then boiled in envelops of citron peelings. Beef was stewed in the essence extracted from vegetables, and reduced to such a degree of maceration, that, although the form of solid meat was retained, it was, when cut, a gelatinous mass, and rendered the use of a knife superfluous. The variety which our cook could provide, of dishes prepared chiefly with eggs, was endless both in flavour and appearance. Not less numerous were her preparations and modifications of rice: but in addition to the savory or sweet compounds into which it entered, there was invariably one large bowl filled with rice simply boiled, to insure its purity and the absence of all flavour: it was boiled in distilled water, every grain in its unbroken state

being carefully separated and placed in a kind of long sack, which, when the grains were deposited in it, was held by two persons over burning charcoal, and kept in an equal rolling motion, until, by the action of the heat, every aqueous particle had evaporated or was absorbed by the coarse linen, leaving the rice dry, even to crispness.

Fish was presented in many ways at table—sometimes blended with salad. Occasionally a sort of eel, of which there was an abundant supply, was stewed with tomatos. Trout was generally cooked by steam, and, the skin not being lacerated, it looked as beautiful on the table as when taken from the stream. Mushrooms afforded a great variety of dishes; and the refinement, since adopted in other countries, of stuffing ducks with these fungi originated with Manuela. Cakes, in appearance resembling ship biscuits, contained slices of ham, tongue, chicken, or pounded fish: the interior of these cakes was composed of strata of good things, in great variety, and without the greasy butter, which makes sandwiches so troublesome: they were most convenient for travellers, as they could be eaten without knives or forks, and without soiling the

fingers ; they might also be kept good for months together.

Manuela was very fond of animals, whether in a wild or domesticated state. The great macaw which sat on the roof of the kitchen, with the guacamayo, watched every process of the busy period of the day, and knew at which precise moment it might venture into the precincts of Manuela's apartment. This bird had caught the very tones of her voice, and many of her expressions ; and, as if to flatter her pride in the distinction, seldom failed to claim the attention of *Señora* Manuela.

Amongst the South Americans fables are in high estimation, and under this disguise the most sarcastic observations are frequently expressed ; advice is given, maxims enforced, and reproof, which would sound too harshly in a more direct form, is mildly conveyed through this medium. In these fables, birds, beasts, and plants are supposed to speak. One of our servants had a remarkable talent for this sort of composition, and, putting his own ideas into the mouth of the old guacamayo, amused his comrades with the following lines, descriptive of the confusion which

generally occurred amongst her subjects when
Manuela was absent.

Boy sings—Perch'd upon the kitchen top,
I heard the old macaw,
Making the Señora stop,
With her confounded jaw ;
And though we have so fill'd her crop,
The spy told all she saw.

Macaw—Manuela, Manuela, Se-ne-ora Manuela.

Dogs the monkey's tail have bit :
Hark, how they bark at me !
One slut strikes me with the spit,
And all the boys agree,
They my harmless tongue would slit
But for their fear of thee.

Manuela, Manuela, Se-ne-ora Manuela.

Thieves are stealing the guarapo,
Cocoa-nuts, and rum, and rice,
Sugar, and the best tobacco,
Cinnamon, and all the spice ;
And they give to poor macaw
Nothing but the drowned mice.

Manuela, Manuela, Se-ne-ora Manuela.

The mules are stealing sugar-cane,
 The monkeys breaking eggs ;
 The young baboon, which is so tame,
 Has scalded both its legs ;
 Hark, how it howls and shrieks with pain,
 Behind the brandy kegs !
 Manuela, Manuela, Se-ne-ora Manuela.

The muleteer has hid your whip ;
 The rascal means to steal it :
 I saw the villain slyly slip
 His poncho to conceal it :
 You will make the rascal skip,
 For his back will feel it.
 Manuela, Manuela, Se-ne-ora Manuela.

All, all, are doing wrong but I :
 I keep upon the wall,
 From whence their roguish tricks I spy,
 That I may tell you all :
 They hoot me, thinking I shall fly :
 In spite of them, I still will call,
 Manuela, Manuela, Se-ne-ora Manuela.

Manuela had a dog called Cucumbra—a name alluding to its origin. It was of the wild breed ; and although we had spaniels and greyhounds, Cucumbra would not associate with them. Be-

fore she had pups, we often saw her stealing away with bones and other provisions, which she secreted; and we have watched her with astonishment, while she conveyed her young to the hiding-place, and, having scratched up the food, she placed it before her offspring. These morsels were, however, unfit for them, and we never saw the young animals eat this food; but when she brought them a newly-caught bird, they devoured it with a ferocity unlike domestic animals.

It was difficult to rear these pups. We were obliged to destroy one of them, with which we had taken great pains, when it was a twelve-month old, as we had observed symptoms of hydrophobia. The skull of this dog is now in the writer's possession, and differs strikingly in its formation from the European species; although naturalists are doubtful whether the dogs now found wild in South America are indigenous, or whether they are descended from that race of blood-hounds introduced by their Spanish conquerors for the inhuman purpose of hunting men. We obtained a litter of these wild dogs from the mountains,—so young, that their eyes were yet

closed : by great care we reared them, but their fierce instinct could not be subdued. They snatched their food when impelled by hunger, bit any one who approached them, and committed such devastation among the poultry, that we were obliged to destroy them. These dogs were the only animals that we could not tame sufficiently to retain them with safety on the premises.

Manuela was a rigid disciplinarian, and maintained excellent order among her domestics : she had one son, a fine tall young man, who was generally employed by us, as a messenger ; and the fidelity with which he executed our orders was highly satisfactory. He was very dutiful to his mother, and never went out or returned home without kneeling before her, and asking her blessing. This he always did, regardless of the presence of any who might witness this act of filial reverence.

Manuela had the reputation of possessing many remedies for the diseases of mules : she was especially skilful in stopping the bleeding that ensued from the bite of the vampyre bat, which fixed itself upon the animal, sucking and disgorging its blood, until the enfeebled sufferer had not strength to stand.

She drenched the exhausted beast with the restorative drink which she concocted ; and if the wound were too extensive to be closed with adhesive straps which she fabricated herself, she could sew up the lacerated parts with admirable skill. She had various remedies for the bite of serpents and the scorpion's sting. For the bite of the former, she had invented a rude cupping apparatus formed of a funnel-shaped calabash, which, being placed over the wound, a partial vacuum was caused by suction : she then punctured, or rather scarified the skin, with the splinters of a fractured emerald, cemented into a suitable handle by resinous gums. If the wound was deep, and the serpent which had inflicted it was known to be of a very dangerous species, she could use the knife with surgical precision. The interest she evinced on seeing a complete cupping apparatus was very great, and her inquiries were incessant until she had seen its operation, and thoroughly understood its mechanism. Never had we met with a person who showed more laudable curiosity, or who seemed more alive to the advantages to be derived from the various instruments which scientific ingenuity has contrived to relieve suffer-

ing humanity. Worthy indeed was Manuela of the highest eulogy which can be paid to her invaluable qualifications.

Among the animals under the especial protection of Manuela; were several monkeys. The smallest of these animals which we ever possessed was obtained at Cartagena. When placed on one hand, we could completely cover it with the other: it was so soft, it felt like a ball of down. it was ash-coloured, very tame, and required so much warmth, that, fearing its own tiny body would not generate sufficient caloric to enable us to convey it in health to England, we purchased a larger monkey, near which it might nestle when we arrived in colder latitudes. It was not easy to find a companion which would take kindly to this diminutive creature: fortunately it made the acquaintance of a monkey which was offered for sale, and which, at the time we first saw it, was polishing its ear-rings: these ornaments were valued at three dollars, and were composed of coral set in gold. The grave-looking monkey could unclasp her ear-rings, take them from her ears, polish and replace them. On board ship, her conduct was the theme of general admiration; for she took the greatest care of Te-te-te, as we

called our pretty favourite. This name was given to it from the sound by which it expressed its pleasure. On reaching New York, our vessel struck on a dangerous coral-bank at the mouth of the Hudson, which is called Sandy or False Hook; a total wreck ensued, and we saw the fruits of four years' toil thrown into the sea in an useless attempt to save the vessel. After seventeen hours of intense anxiety, a sloop came to our relief, and landed us on Staten Island. The old monkey was washed into the sea when the deck was cleared; but to our surprise, the poor little animal, which we conceived must have shared the same fate, was heard from the sleeve of a capote uttering the welcome sound of *Te-te-te*.

Mankind has evinced more curiosity on the subject of the monkey tribe, than of any other species of the animal kingdom; and it is perhaps a natural feeling to desire to trace where the links of the chain terminate, which connects it with the human race;—to ascertain how far they possess their physical construction, what are their mental powers, and in what respect their organic capacities differ from those of men. Travellers who have frequented the forests inhabited by these creatures, have been more questioned about the habits

of monkeys, than those of any other tribe of inferior animals, in consequence no doubt of the sagacity, whether natural or acquired, which is observed in their feats in various exhibitions. The public mind is always prepared to hear wonders repeated, although it may refuse implicit credence to the narrator, from calculating upon exaggerated accounts: regardless however of scepticism or prejudice, we shall proceed to relate such facts as came under our own observation, in travelling through the various districts which we visited. We gladly availed ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded, of making ourselves acquainted with the haunts and habits of these animals while in their wild state, and free from the coercive influence of man. Having fixed on a spot for a temporary residence, which was far from any human habitation, and in a climate so cool that we found it unhealthy to sleep in hammocks suspended from the trees, we had our canvass tent pitched in this situation during the process of erecting the tent, which was of European manufacture, and raised with great facility. We had observed a number of monkeys for days past, flocking to their station on one of the very large

trees called *Lingua de Vacca*; so named, because its bluntly-pointed leaves are about the size and shape of a cow's tongue: the flowers grow in clusters of a pyramidal form, similar to those of the horse-chestnut: each distinct corolla, being cruciform, like that of the lilac, and of a rich golden yellow, is inserted in a sheath of bright scarlet, and connected by red coral-like branches. For some time the monkeys merely looked at us, chattering among themselves; but soon they seemed to take umbrage at our presence, for they began to grin at and pelt us with branches of the blossom and slender twigs, which they could snap off with great celerity. For some time, we were diverted with their antics, and, as we thought, their impotent attempts to annoy us. Next morning our visitors had established themselves on an acacia, called by the natives *El Cuchillo*, from the appearance of its long fruit, which resembles the weapon constantly worn by them. In reality these pods might be fashioned into scabbards for swords. The seeds of these acacias are smooth, black, and bitter; embedded in a thick lining of pure white pulp, highly esteemed for its sweet and slightly acid flavour, which is very grateful to the parched lips,

and allays feverish thirst more effectually than the water melon. It may be freely enjoyed, as it contains an aromatic quality wanting in many of the succulent plants which it resembles in most of their qualities. The monkeys had some difficulty in opening these seed-vessels, and it frequently required two pair of hands to tear open the pod.

After carefully scraping out this acceptable food, the monkeys pelted us with the remnants; and when we retreated within the tent, they continued to aim those missiles at the roof of our tenement. This was not to be endured, as the canvass would soon have been perforated with numerous holes. We fired a gun loaded with shot; but the report did not startle them from their station; at length, we took aim at one of our assailants, and the shot entered its leg. A piercing shriek evinced the pain it endured, and numbers of its companions crowded round the wounded animal, suspending their occupation to examine the shattered limb; still they did not retreat. Another discharge of small shot wounded several, and we saw them deliberately endeavouring to pick out the shot; when, after throwing down a quantity of fruit and twigs, they left the

acacia. At daybreak, the monkeys having again assembled, we had now begun to think of them as enemies ; they had stationed themselves on the top of a tree which bears the fruit called agua, better known by the name of the vegetable pear : this fruit weighs from one to three pounds, and, when hurled by a monkey's hand, would inflict a dangerous blow ; but, on the present occasion, they took no notice of us, a new object having attracted their attention. Another tribe of monkeys, much smaller, and less resembling the ape, allured perhaps by the abundance of fruit, had been observed by our foes, and a battle commenced which we shuddered to witness. The smaller monkeys were driven from the field : one poor animal, sadly torn and mangled, fell to the ground, and was captured by one of our servants. We were now heartily tired of the intruders ; and as shot did not disperse them, we fired with ball, and killed one of them : as the dead body fell from branch to branch, a number of its companions endeavoured to catch the lifeless animal. They succeeded before it reached the ground, and retreated, dragging the motionless body into the forest, still turning their heads in defiance,

and uttering the most discordant yells. We saw them no more: the monkey which had been badly wounded, was soon tamed, and became so attached to the man who had first taken charge of it, that, although under no restraint, it never willingly left him. The animal was remarkably docile; and though more noticed by others than by the person who had it under his protection, it always showed a decided preference for him, and would run to him when frightened. It soon relished highly-seasoned food, and would drink wine or brandy with great delight. Its death was caused by its acquired taste for the luxuries of the palate; for, anxious to taste a soup which was preparing, he threw down the vessel containing it; and was so severely scalded, that he did not long survive.

A priest living in the vicinity had a monkey of this species, which had been taught to join in the family worship, and to imitate the attitudes assumed in the ceremonies observed by the Roman Catholics with astonishing formality: it prostrated itself, and wore a rosary, and told its beads. Many persons took great offence at this indecorum, and censured the priest exceedingly, but

custom reconciled them to the farce; and as the priest was a most excellent man, toleration was extended to his pet.

We have heard parrots repeat with the assembled family the responses at their morning and evening devotions: this license was not frequent.

An Indian gave us a young monkey, which was considered rare on account of its beautiful colour and perfect form: when presented to us, it was about four inches long, and weighed twelve ounces; it continued to grow till it was a year old: after this, we could perceive no alteration; it was then eight inches long, and weighed about thirty ounces. This animal was a great favourite, and was called Hombrecito, or The Little Man, a title, to which it was almost painful to acknowledge its claim; for its habits became so like those of our own race, that it would have been as much a stranger in the forest, as the human beings by whom it had been adopted. A servant, who had taken Hombrecito under his patronage, had provided a hammock for him, with pillows and blankets: these the monkey arranged as a human being would have done, covering himself up, and

sleeping with extended limbs, not curled up like his relations. If any disorder prevailed among the natives, Hombrecito generally caught it. A fever, which alarmingly reduced the population, nearly deprived us of our little favourite: during the attack, he had the same regimen, and was cured by the same remedies which were administered to men: he also had the ague; and in this irksome complaint, the various stages were as strikingly marked as in the human subject. The servant to whom he was attached was labouring under the same disease; and when medicine was preparing for one, the other was waiting for his diurnal dose. The constitution of the monkey sunk under either the disorder or its treatment, for it died during the shivering paroxysm: he gave extraordinary proofs of memory to those who showed him kindness; and although so gentle in his manners, he seldom forgave those who offended him. One of our friends once burnt the monkey's tail with a cigar; and for months afterwards, whenever he saw that person, Hombrecito would apparently upbraid him in his own gibberish; and, holding up the injured tail, remind him of his cruelty. The strings of his hammock

were cut by a mischievous fellow who paid dearly for the trick : the monkey never ceased to annoy him ; sometimes overturning his cup of chocolate, grinning at him, stealing his cigar, handkerchief, or gloves. To those who bestowed kindness, his attentions were unceasing ; he delighted to sit near their chair, and divert them with his drollery : if there was a speck of dust on their clothes, he would endeavour to remove it ; and if an intrusive insect was seen, it was instantly caught, and killed by this watchful attendant. He had a decided dislike to his own species, and would not be reconciled to them.

We had a monkey also of the species called *El Goto*, from their having a wenlike protuberance of the throat, which resembles that ugly excrescence, called the *goitre* : this appearance rendered the frightful animal still more hideous : it was sullen and dangerous, biting the hand which presented its food ; of great strength, and so large, that even the dogs feared it : it was necessary to destroy this creature ; and on dissection, it was found that what we deemed a malformation was the natural construction of its throat ; which opinion was afterwards corroborated

by further examinations of specimens obtained from the forests of Laxus, abounding with that formidable tribe.

Another monkey, the only one we could procure of its species, was sent to us from Antioquia: its face was smooth, and remarkably fair, with keen black vigilant eyes; and when its lips were closed, they perfectly covered its beautiful regular teeth: a collar of pure white long hair encircled its neck; its breast and legs were fawn-coloured; and the rest of the body was a cinnamon brown, except its long tail, which had alternate rings of dark brown and white. The creature looked exceedingly intelligent, but it was not so: harmless indeed it was; still it did not manifest the mimic powers and cunning so general in the other tribes: it was fond of spiders, and was constantly prying into holes and behind the rafters in search of its favourite food. We did not like to confine it; and, after staying with us a few weeks, it escaped.

On a journey through the forest of Las Lomas de Cacao, we shot a monkey, and found closely curved and clinging round its body two young ones, which the Indians begged of us as very

delicate morsels: we saw them roasted, and a portion of them was offered to us, but we had not learnt to eat monkeys. Humboldt remarks, that feeding on baboons, and those large apes which so nearly resemble man, had probably paved the way to cannibalism ; and when we saw monkeys trussed for the spit or roasting upon the fire, they so frightfully resembled human beings, that we had no hesitation in subscribing to the opinion of Humboldt respecting the origin of anthropophagy.

HONDA.

HONDA, or La Onda, as it is called by the natives, is situated on the left bank of the great river Magdalena: it is the port of the capital of Colombia, and from this circumstance the town is of considerable importance. The river is not navigable beyond this point, except for canoes and rafts. The largest boats are obliged to unload two miles below the town, at a place called the Bodegas, from the store-houses which are built there.

Nothing but necessity could induce persons to reside in this oven, as it may truly be denominated, shut in as it is on all sides: the heat is stifling, and would be insupportable, but for the current of air which accompanies the rapid motion of the Guale, a river flowing as it does

through the very centre of the town, and rushing into the broad, deep, resistless stream of the Magdalena, whose vast volume of water neither seems disturbed nor augmented by this junction.

The earthquake of 1812 laid prostrate many of the cities of Venezuela, and destroyed nearly every house in Honda. They were never entirely rebuilt; but some of the buildings, which were only partially repaired, have experienced many successive shocks. There are but few habitations which have an appearance of security: the churches and convents are in a fearful state of dilapidation. The noble stone bridge built by the Spaniards across the Guale, and the adjoining monastery of San Juan De Dios, were thrown down at a later period; and falling into the bed of the river, the navigation became so dangerous, that the temporary bridge, represented in the sketch, was constructed from the ruins of the convent.

This picturesque structure is in a very dangerous condition, and many lives have been lost in attempting to cross it. Upon one occasion, while a procession in honour of Santa Veronica was upon the bridge, a portion of the timber gave way,

precipitating thirteen persons, all of whom were either drowned or crushed to death.

In the vicinity of Honda, there are numerous isolated rocks, some of them partially covered with herbage, others entirely naked, exhibiting in their grotesque outline a frequent and most remarkable resemblance to works of art: convents, churches, fortifications, and towers are in some instances delineated with such striking accuracy, that it requires no effort of the imagination to mistake them for ruins. Many of these rocks have received the names of the edifices which they represent, and to most of them the superstitious amongst the natives attach a particular history.

An opinion prevails that vast treasures are concealed in these caverns; and persons are still found who toil daily to remove the obstructions which impede their investigation. Many lives have been lost in this fruitless search; for the crumbling rock easily gives way, and these victims of cupidity are crushed to death.

One of these singular formations is called *El Toldo*, from its resemblance to a tent; and, according to tradition, this was the burying-place of one

of the aboriginal rulers of the land, whose splendour lives only in the proverbs, songs, and cuentos or stories, of which the Colombians are so passionately fond. The muleteers especially delight in this pastime; and no sooner have they fed their mules, and eaten their own supper, than they meet to relate, by turn, the same stories which they have perhaps told the previous night. El Toldo furnishes a variety of legendary tales. The monarch, whose ashes are said to be there deposited, sat upon a throne which was a perfect blaze of diamonds: his goblet was of one entire amethyst; his dish, an emerald; the floor of his tent was covered with ermine; the awnings were of rich brocade fringed with pearl, and supported by pillars of ivory; the hoofs of his horse were shod with pure gold, says the same authority; and many persons believe the tradition, that this monarch was buried in a coffin of the same precious metal, and that it still remains concealed in El Toldo.

The following is the ballad founded on this tradition:—

A proud monarch sat on a gem-studded throne,
 In a spacious tent, that resplendently shone
 With all that is precious of metal or stone.

Lost is his race, none speak his name,
 Or know the place from whence he came.

A mass of pure gold form'd his sceptre ; not grains,
 Like those which are found in La Onda's rich plains ;
 No treasure so wondrous in our day remains.

Lost is his race, none speak his name,
 Or know the place from whence he came.

He had all that pertains to the regal state ;
 His cup was of sapphire, an emerald his plate ;
 And millions of slaves on his nod to await.

Lost is his race, none speak his name,
 Or know the place from whence he came.

Nor yet did his splendour pass away,
 When he paid the debt which all must pay :
 In a coffin of gold his body lay.

Lost is his race, none speak his name,
 Or know the place from whence he came.

Within El Toldo's cavern'd breast,
 In that coffin of gold, his ashes rest ;
 But who can say if his soul be blest ?

Lost is his race, none speak his name,
 Or know the place from whence he came.

Among the deluded subjects who had faith in those fabulous histories, there was one individual who built himself a very humble dwelling on the verge of this reputed tomb. He had spent years in clearing the caves and exploring the natural as well as the artificial galleries of the interior; and although apparently destitute of every comfort, he was regarded by the inhabitants of the neighbouring village as a wealthy man: he held no communication with the natives; the sound of his voice was unknown to them; some thought that he had not the faculty of speech; others that he had made a vow of silence: the probability is, that he adopted this mode to elude inquiries. His long black hair reached below his shoulders: he had the air of nobility, and had been remarkably handsome: if money or provisions were offered him, he refused them: he made no objection if any one entered into the caves to witness his daily operations, proceeding with his work methodically and with an apparent knowledge of mining: he had no gunpowder for blasting the rocks; and his tools were of the most simple construction: he had no living object to disturb the perfect solitude of his lonely hut. Persons have

entered during his absence, and have confined a dog, a monkey, or a parrot to the large stone which was his only furniture. There was not even a bed, nor any appearance of there having been a fire ; in short, no convenience was seen for cooking his food. A kind-hearted individual planted some fruit-trees and bananas near the dwelling of this anchorite, but he was seen to cut them down when they gave the first indication of blossoming, and the animals were always liberated. The monks of San Juan de Dios frequently paid visits to the solitary ; but they could make no impression on the object of their solicitude.

A new governor was appointed to the province ; and hearing of this remarkable character, he was determined to put an end to the mystery by demanding a confession of his name, on pain of banishment ; an arbitrary proceeding, but in this matter the governor was absolute. He made a journey to El Toldo, accompanied by all his retinue ; but was so touched by the appearance and incredible labours of its occupant, that his resentment was changed to compassion, and he sent him some palm wine ; but it was remarked,

some months afterwards, that the case which contained this present remained unopened.

Ladies frequently made excursions, and had occasional repasts near the scene of the stranger's labours; but he took no notice of them; he seemed unconscious of their presence; their efforts to win attention did not avail, and he still continued his unceasing toil.

El Sordo, as the stranger was sometimes called on account of his supposed deafness, wore a dress of coarse white cotton, which was always more cleanly than that of common workmen; but at what period he performed his ablutions, was never known; for the fishermen, whose dwellings commanded the whole range of the river's bank, had never seen him approach the stream; and there was neither spring nor streamlet near his hut; neither had he any vessels for containing water.

For eleven years had this living enigma excited conjecture, when the attention of the villagers was directed to a number of those remarkable birds, the bare-headed carrion vultures, seated round their king, on the roof which had so long sheltered the unsocial gold-seeker. To those who

are familiar with the habits of these offensive birds (scavengers as they are sometimes called, for in large towns they, and they only, perform this office), it is well known that they do not sit in the regular order which was now observed, without an especial object: the prevailing belief is, that to every party of those vultures there is a chief; and that when such a banquet as a dead mule, or any other large animal is discovered, the birds hasten to their superior, and conduct him to the prize, patiently attending, and apparently keeping guard, until he has gorged sufficiently: he then quits the prey, and remains in solitary state, until the inferiors satisfy themselves: they never quit the spot until the food is consumed; and if it should last for ten days, they always proceed in the same order. Certain it is, that one bird of the species is larger than the rest, and of differently coloured plumage, for the king is white, and the others are of a dirty black; the regal bird differs also in his hood, which is of a bright scarlet, instead of the dusky hue of the common bird; it is also true that this more noble-looking vulture always feeds alone, and before the rest; but whether it is fear or reverence that keeps

them at a distance, must remain unknown until more accurate discrimination has been brought to bear on this interesting subject. The birds of sable plumage are often seen high in air, wheeling round and round, in wide but regular circles, scarcely moving their pinions, but gradually descending in concentric revolutions, unless to their clear and piercing vision any object presents itself, which tempts them suddenly to dart from their gyration.

The villagers proceeded to El Toldo, to ascertain the cause of the vultures' watchfulness, where they found the worshipper of Mammon dead, and dreadfully disfigured ; his eyes torn out, and his features entirely obliterated : the flesh had been devoured from his hands and feet, but his garments had protected the body. With some difficulty the vultures were scared away, the corpse was secured within the hut, and immediate information sent to the proper authorities ; and nearly the whole population of Honda hastened to El Toldo.

No marks of injury were visible on the body, the emaciated appearance of which indicated a gradual decay of nature ; but what an unexpected

and astounding discovery!—the Anchorite was a Female!

As she had refused the religious offices of the monks, and left no evidence of her being a Christian, it was not deemed orthodox to bury her in consecrated ground: a grave was dug where her remains were found; the spot is marked by a stone, on which has been inscribed this brief epitaph:—

“ TO THE MEMORY OF THE UNKNOWN.”

THE BRIDGE AT MARIQUITA.

THE bridge of Mariquita, although built of apparently very perishable materials, has stood for upwards of twenty years : the reeds, bamboos, cedar and palm wood, of which it is constructed, are remarkably durable. The elasticity and lightness of these materials, and their great length, afford much facility in forming these primitive arches.

These bridges are for pedestrians only ; men occasionally are imprudent enough to force their mules over them, rather than swim the animals across, guiding and retaining them by a rope, held in the hand. The mules are accustomed to this mode ; and some of them are so docile, and attached to their owner, that they may safely be left to themselves, and, after taking their own course across the river, will run to their master

as soon as they land. Mules are of greater value than horses; as much as four hundred dollars are sometimes paid for a mule, when a good horse may be had for twenty. It was the writer's good fortune to possess a mule of the highest perfection; it was ridden upwards of twelve hundred miles in seventy days, over the worst of all bad roads; yet its unshod hoofs were not injured. Certainly, the poor beast was reduced almost to a skeleton; the saddle had lacerated his back; and the sharp angles of the rocks, in the narrow paths, had injured his shoulder, and torn him most dreadfully. Perhaps the care bestowed on his restoration rendered him more docile; he knew the dinner-hour, and expected the small loaf of bread which we had accustomed him to receive. He always stood patiently near the table, never helping himself: his token of satisfaction was rubbing his head against his master's shoulder.

The sagacity of this animal was almost incredible: on reaching a river which was unknown to him, he would carefully examine the banks, placing one foot in the water, and apparently smelling his way: if this scrutiny proved satisfactory, he would plunge into the stream, and land his

rider in safety; if he showed any hesitation, it was dangerous to urge him. Accidents frequently proved the folly of refusing to follow his example, until it became a proverb, "that it was always safe to follow, but hazardous to cross, a river which was objected to by the mule." The possession of this handsome and most useful animal rendered his master independent of the bridge of Mariquita.

This salubrious climate induced a celebrated physician to make it his residence. A circumstance connected with his professional experience is presented in the following narrative.

EL GOTO.

THE disease which produces that deformity, called on the continent of Europe the "Goître," a mild variety of which is occasionally seen in England, bearing the gentler designation of a "Derbyshire neck," is called in South America El Goto, and prevails to a most appalling extent.

There are towns containing a population of from one to three thousand, and districts extending for many hundred miles, in which it is a matter of surprise if there should be found a single individual without some modification of this dangerous deformity.

Custom reconciles one to every thing. When the inhabitants of Berania saw for the first time a party of Englishmen, their surprise broke out in the exclamation, "Mira que hombres que fein

sin gotos ;” literally, “ Look at these ugly men ; they have no gotos.”

So far from making any attempt to conceal those disgusting deformities, they take a pride in displaying them ; and even append to those monstrous malformations massive links and beads of gold, with a rosary of the same precious metal : also figures of their patron saint, amulets, pieces of coral, amber, and jet, and every ornament of which they can boast, are displayed as it were to invite the attention to those “ wallets of flesh,”* as the immortal Shakspeare says, who, when he does apply a new expression, never fails to be powerfully characteristic.

It may be said that the external appearance of a people is not of great importance ; and if the Goto does no further harm than provoking the fastidious criticism of strangers, it is not an object of serious concern. Unhappily, this disease has concomitants of the most serious character ; im-

* “ *Gonzalo*.—’Faith, sir ! you need not fear : when we were boys, who would believe that there were mountaineers dew-lapped like bulls, whose throats had hanging at them wallets of flesh ?”—*TEMPEST*, act III. scene 3.

becility and idiotcy result from it in such an alarming ratio, that government have decreed a very handsome reward for the discovery of a cure.

The natives have certain antidotes; burnt sponge, for example, which, acting on the glandular system, reduces this frightful development of the thyroid gland; and when the *goto* becomes so large, ("grand" as the natives say,) that its weight becomes oppressive, and they are afraid to sleep in any but one position, lest they should die of suffocation, the remedy is applied, and the protuberance reduced within the line of beauty.

The natives of the higher regions of the country and many extensive districts are not afflicted with this terrible disease, and regard it with especial horror. The most offensive examples of this deformity are exhibited in the people on the plains of Guayaquil, a mixed race of the offspring of the African negroes and the red of Puramo Ruis, and the dark olive Llaneros, a people of the plain. The whole person, but especially the *gotos* of these individuals, exhibit marks called *lunars* (cloud spots); their leprous-like complexions reminding one of an excellent simile, if it were less

bright, in marbled Castile soap, from its resemblance to the dusky hue of this party-coloured portion of the human race.

Occasionally, the *gottres* or *gotos* (for sometimes there are dozens) are appended, like a bunch of turnips, round the neck : sometimes, one or two expand like full-blown bladders, each larger than the head. But enough of this :—the remembrance brings back that uncomfortable feeling which, when the *goto* was still a novelty, induced us to feel often at our own necks, to hold the looking-glass before them, and to fancy that we saw a positive symptom of the malady.

A noble lady, the wife of as brave a man as ever fought for his country's freedom, was left with her family in Santa Fé de Bagota, to mourn the absence of her lord, and pray for his safe return.

Surrounded by indulgent friends, and happy in training up her infant, Doña Paulina passed her days in comparative happiness. Her beauty was a general theme, and her virtues were loudly eulogized ; for Doña Paulina had no rival ; she did

not wish to shine : happy in the possession of the only heart which beat in unison with her own, she devoted herself entirely to her duty ; the general, her husband, was worthy of such a wife.

A slight indisposition had confined Paulina to her bed : the first time she sat before a mirror, when she recovered from her ailment, she thought there was a swelling in her throat ; she inquired of her attendant, but the damsel did not, or would not, see the enlargement. Her mother was also blind to the first symptom of the malady ; but Doña Paulina went to her bed, weeping.

It was not that her vanity was wounded by the discovery, or rather suspicion ; she regarded her beauty only because her husband was proud of it ; and her sensibility was keenly touched when she remembered how frequently he had been heard to express his dislike to the ugly goto.

A monkey which had been sent from San Ildefonsa on account of its exhibiting this deformity, and was called in consequence El Goto, was banished from the general's house. A dog which was remarkable for this malady was shot. The general never tasted pork, lest he should eat of a

pig which had died of this disease ; for, among the swine of Gatava, it is a common disorder.

“ Pobre Paulina ! ” said the Señora Navaro, with a touching tenderness which it is impossible to translate—“ Pobre Paulina ! how terribly a goto will mar her beauty ! ”—“ It will utterly destroy it, ” said the unfeeling Doña Maria Truxanillo, “ and her husband will care no more about her. ”

The cold-hearted coquette, Juliana Cortes, could scarcely conceal her joy ; for she already calculated upon alluring within her own magic circle the handsome, wealthy, and popular general, when he should return from Lima, and be no longer secluded in his own mansion, a captive to the beauty of his incomparable wife.

To have discovered the rudiments of an incipient goto, marring the beauty of the most graceful throat in the whole capital, was a nine days' wonder for the newsmongers of Santa Fé de Bogota.

“ Something must be done, ” said the Señora Navaro ; and she volunteered to accompany her amiable friend to a distant province, to profit by the advice of a physician, on whose skill they could

depend, and in whose friendship they might confide.

Doña Paulina travelled as became the wife of an official character high in command. A train of twenty mules was required for her domestics, and the apparatus of a kitchen and bed-room, for the luxury of an hotel was unknown in the district through which they journeyed.

For Doña Paulina and Señora Navaro, a couple of horses were selected, safe-footed, and accustomed to the dangerous roads which they had to descend—roads which have been designated as “no roads at all, but channels worn by the after-currents of the deluge;” and as there is no attempt made to repair them, it requires firm nerves to encounter them. Hammocks were therefore suspended to long elastic canes, that four peons or foot-servants might convey the ladies across the more dangerous parts, if their courage failed in arriving at a point called The Ladder, and which is literally a succession of steps at an angle of twenty-five degrees, extending for nearly a mile, and requiring a number of actual leaps from either the foot-passengers or mounted travellers.

The saddle used by ladies is altogether unlike the English side-saddle, bearing a nearer resemblance to the pillion on which, in Yorkshire and Westmoreland, the farmer's wife rides behind her good man to market. The pillion is in fact a very clumsy elbow-chair, and ornamented according to the quality of the owner, being covered with velvet, fringed with bullion, or decorated with gold and silver; and not unfrequently the armorial bearings are emblazoned in embroidery, and the foot-rests are of precious metal. On level ground this apparatus answers very well, but for passing up and down the mountains it is unsafe; for should a girth give way, or the animal fall, the rider can make no effort to escape: it is therefore customary for the less-refined of the fair sex to use the same sort of saddle as men, and to ride in the same manner.

Arrived safely at her destination, Doña Paulina was received by the worthy physician and his family; and every means which tenderness could suggest were employed to banish from her mind the alarm created by the symptoms of a complaint which she dreaded so much.

The doctor might have stifled the disorder by

the powerful remedies at his command, but it would have been at the imminent risk of enfeebling the whole system, perhaps producing evils of much greater magnitude. He was the general's most intimate friend, and was well aware that the husband of Paulina would infinitely prefer the preservation of his beloved partner's health to that of her beauty. It was his object therefore to amuse his patient, and divert her mind from the unavailing regret she felt at this misfortune, until the general's return.

Paulina was a sensible, clever woman; but how could she feel indifferent about her personal charms, since they had captivated the bravest of men, and been the constant theme of his praise? "If," said she, "he had seen the progress of this malady, it might have been endured; but how it will shock him, at our first interview, to behold this hateful goto!"

"Depend upon it," said the physician, "he will make no remark; he will only see the mother of his child, the fond and faithful partner of his life. Besides, the goto already decreases, and before his return it may entirely disappear."

The persuasions of flattery did not soothe Doña Paulina : she would gladly have believed all that was said to remove her uneasiness ; but tears frequently started, and sadness had already cast its shade over her lovely features, when tidings reached her of the victorious army being on its way from Peru.

One morning, as Paulina was seated near the window, the light fell strongly upon her shoulders : she put her delicate white hand upon her neck, and as her slender fingers traced the deformity, the subject of her thoughts became the general theme of conversation. Every body attempted to convince her that the goto had diminished, but she gravely shook her head, and prepared an immediate and unanswerable reproof. At her girdle she wore a purse or pocket of gold filagree of Mexican manufacture, and, opening its emerald clasp, she withdrew a ribbon in which threads had been drawn at intervals. "Here," said she, "is the friend more faithful than any of you ; every week I have marked the enlargement of the goto : upon the last occasion the ribbon just met ; and now, behold !"

To the end of their lives, those who heard will remember this appeal—the ribbon did not meet.

A week before his arrival was expected, the general clasped to his bosom his dear Paulina: his sudden appearance rendered this meeting a public one; and those whom delicacy would have forbidden to witness the first transports of a devoted husband were obliged to remain spectators. It is not known whether the physician prepared the general for the interview; but the subject of the goto was at once fearlessly but gently alluded to.—“And do you really feel indifferent about this calamity?” said the half-incredulous Paulina. “Certainly,” said the general, “it is a reason why I should love you more than ever.”—“How can you make that appear?”—“Why,” said the general, “as you have been living with mathematicians, I must give you a logical reason. Have I not told you a million of times that you were most dear to me? I saved a single lock of your hair, when your brother asked for it, by giving him your portrait set in brilliants; if, therefore, I have set so great a value upon a single tress, and estimate every particle of your dear self accordingly, why, the more

there is of you, the more there is for me to venerate.”

The grateful Paulina was happy : her health and spirits were restored ; and before she returned to Santa Fé de Bogota, her graceful ivory-like throat was restored to its exquisite proportions—the goito had vanished.

PELADEROS.

ON the verge of the extensive plain of Peladeros stands the house of Don Manuel Garcia, the owner of a princely domain, for which one of his ancestors paid a thousand doubloons, but which was offered in the year 1832 for five hundred dollars. The estate consists of upwards of three thousand acres, and includes almost every variety of soil and climate.

It is said that Morillo and Morales, whose contending armies laid waste this estate during the Revolution, had a secret meeting at the foot of the Paramo, where the lake originates, and from whence issue two rivers which afterwards received their names. The Spaniards have a good deal of imagination; and it is very likely that those distinguished commanders had found some analogy to their own peculiar circumstances in the scene

before them ; for the direct course across the Andes obliges one to traverse those rivers, and, names of recent date being more generally adopted than those of antiquity, their names may live when their history is forgotten.

The range of mountains which rise from this Savannah are called El Ruis, from the prevailing rusty hue of their lofty slopes. Nearly all the mountain-streams are rich in gold, and still prove a source of existence to a few miners.

It is a remarkable fact, that every stream, or gold-washing, presents its peculiar variety of the precious metal. The individual grains are either of different form, colour, or purity ; and although, to the unpractised eye, each distinct character may not be apparent, the miners can, by a single glance, decide on the precise locality from which the specimens have been obtained.

It seems wonderful that those gold-seekers should be in a state of such abject poverty ; for occasionally they find what they call nests of gold ; but a short acquaintance with their habits will solve the mystery. Gambling, that deadly foe to every social virtue, is the ruling passion of the miners. To enable themselves to indulge in

this vice, they sometimes make extraordinary exertions; and when a certain sum is obtained, they hasten to the haunts of the gamester, and return not to their labour, until every particle of their gold is gone. These deluded victims of an absorbing passion are frequently known to stake their clothes, and even their very shirt, upon the turn of a card or a throw of the dice; and when all other resources fail, they sell their liberty and become slaves, for periods proportioned to the sum which they thus madly squander.

An occurrence which took place in the neighbourhood of Don Manuel's estate may be related with greater accuracy by transcribing a letter written at Peladeros, relative to

THE QUICKSILVER MINE.

“ Dear Friend,

“ One evening, as I was sitting in the corridor, and luxuriating in the prospect of enjoying a delicious cigar, I had thrown the tall leather back of my chair into the precise angle which suited my temporary fit of self-indulgence; my feet hanging supinely, and my head (I am ashamed

to acknowledge it) resting upon a cushion stuffed with the aromatic down of those winged seeds which are gathered from the flowery reeds found on the margin of every mountain-rivulet.

“The projects which had occupied my mind during the day had gradually yielded to the influence of the grateful fumes of tobacco, until I had attained that exquisite vacuity of mind which could recreate itself in watching the clouds of smoke ascending in lines of undefinable delicacy, like those distinct shades which may be traced on a polished agate—lines so sharply delineated, that it seems possible to count them, until you make the experiment.

“In the enjoyment of such reveries, I sat watching the sun’s retreating rays, still lingering on the summit of the snow-clad Cordilleras, whose projected shadow formed the natural dial by which I regulated the period of my indolence. I was aroused by seeing a man approaching with the Indian salutation of bowing the knee, and drooping the head. Having strictly forbidden this sort of homage, which savours too much of slavery to be encouraged by an advocate of freedom, I knew my visitor was a stranger.

“The man looked round with mysterious caution, and requested a private conference with me: he had something very important to disclose, which, he declared, would be materially conducive to the Englishman’s interest, but which he could not reveal, except under the seal of secrecy. Having received a promise to this effect, he proceeded to say that he had discovered a mine of quicksilver, and presumed that my object in visiting the rich silver-mines in the neighbourhood was to purchase and to work them. He knew the importance of obtaining the material requisite for amalgamation; he had worked in the mines, under the Spaniards, and offered, for a large reward, to conduct me to his recent discovery, and put me in possession of all its advantages. Long and painful experience taught me to disregard the most plausible stories respecting mines: attempts to impose upon me had been most provokingly numerous: I had often heard of such a mine as my informant alluded to, but none could point out its locality, or obtain specimens positively indicative of the mineral.

“Determined therefore not to take a long journey, which might prove as tedious and fruitless

as many that were but too fresh in my recollection, it was agreed that, before we made any further treaty, the Indian should bring me specimens of the metal, in its matrix, from the supposed mine: if they offered satisfactory indications, we were to proceed with the negotiation. A shade of doubt was cast over the confidence which the simplicity and seeming honesty of my new acquaintance had inspired; for he confessed that he had made his discovery by the aid of a certain species of fruit, which possessed the magical power of revealing metallic treasure. Of course, I did not believe this fiction; but it was just possible that, in wandering about with his talisman, he might have found the mine, without reflecting that with equal diligence he would as certainly have made the discovery without the fruit, as under its guidance. There is some excuse for the superstition of an uneducated Indian; for we may blush to acknowledge that in our own country this blind dependence on the agency of spells and charms is not entirely extinct: in Cornwall, they still use the dowsing-stick, or divining-rod, the inefficiency of which method need not be commented upon. I found that, although an Indian by descent, my

informant had never lived amongst the aboriginal tribes, who still keep proudly aloof, refusing all intercourse with the neophytes. He was called Leonardo Galvez: he had first been a muleteer, afterwards a soldier, and finally he was a gentleman, cultivating an estate of which he had taken possession, when abandoned by its owners: his name led me to conjecture that his parents had been slaves to the noble family of Galvez, formerly viceroys of New Granada: it was customary to identify the slaves with the master, by causing all the bondmen to bear the appellation of their owner—a custom which will gradually tend to destroy the aristocratic influence of the old grandees. Many of the emancipated slaves are acquiring a competency, and some of them amassing wealth, whilst their former governors are consuming the remnant of their shattered fortunes. Thus *they* retrograde, and their former slaves advance; for when patrimonial resources are cut off, and men become dependent on their own labour, the lower ranks will soon be more wealthy than those who have so long ruled over them. Industry without pride, and pride without industry, will produce a complete subversion

in society. The thatched dwelling of the liberated slave contains abundance; his manner of living is luxurious, when compared with that of the impoverished inheritor of nominal rank and unprofitable domain. It is grievous to behold many literally starving in their splendid but desolate habitations.

“ A fortnight elapsed, from the period when Leonardo was to return with the specimens: I had almost arrived at the conclusion that he was an impostor, and prided myself upon having defeated his designs, when the poor fellow made his appearance, loaded with the testimonials for which he had been sent. The sand was found to contain globules of quicksilver: they might have been introduced by Leonardo to deceive me; but, on a closer inspection, the minute particles of mercury were so firmly imbedded, that they could not have been so intimately blended by any trick of which I was aware. Moreover, the fragments of stone did exhibit the black oxyde of mercury: this evident fact decided the question so far to my satisfaction, that a day was named for commencing our journey, in order that further investigation might be prosecuted.

“ It is well known that the king of Spain commanded his viceroys to prohibit the search for quicksilver, that his subjects in South America might be dependant on the mother country for all the mercury required in its numerous mines ; and, as there are many ores which can only be effectually refined by amalgamation, the Spaniards reaped the double advantage of supplying the metal at their own price, and taxing the net produce of the silver.

“ Even when the Peninsula could not furnish a sufficient quantity of mercury, it was imported from China and Hungary, to be re-shipped at Cadiz for America. The same short-sighted policy induced the Spaniards to destroy all the vines on the continent of the New World, that Old Spain might have a monopoly of the wine trade. Grapes of the finest flavour are now flourishing in various parts of the republic, and vineyards will doubtless be formed as the prosperity of the country advances.

“ Mines of quicksilver may also be discovered, now that the fetters of despotism are broken ; and, if so, they will be worked as extensively as those of gold and silver.

“ Leonardo would not accompany me. He said he had reasons for not being seen in the villages through which we must pass; but at a certain time and place he would wait for me, where we should diverge from the public road. I knew the spot which he mentioned, from a remarkable accumulation of those lofty cones of earth raised by the ants to an altitude which renders them distinguishable for many miles: it is neither easy nor safe to disturb the inmates of these ant-houses; for when you have battered the crust of their citadel, the myriads of ants which issue from the breach, and the pain which their bite inflicts, effectually prevent any farther examination. You can just perceive that the interior is an intricate labyrinth, and must make a speedy retreat. I was endeavouring to find the portal by which the ingenious artificers had entered their fortress, when Leonardo joined me, and urged me to proceed immediately. I wished to remain for the night at the village which I knew to be within an hour’s journey, but Leonardo assured me that a house on the direct road to the mines would afford us accommodation, and that, in fact, he had ordered the people to prepare supper for me,

and plenty of freshly-cut and tender sugar-cane for my mule. The cunning rascal had observed my partiality for the docile but spirited animal upon which I was mounted. Probably, I should not have gone upon a strange road at that late hour, had I not been seduced by the supper promised to my invaluable mule.

“ I had remarked a deep ravine or chasm in the lofty mountains which bounded the savannah : it was positively black, when all the surrounding country shone in such a blaze of light as dazzled the eye. My impression was, that Leonardo would lead me into this awful cleft ; but I had resolved that, for all the mines in the world, I would not venture into that lonely dell in such suspicious company. He assured me that he had never entered that gloomy recess, and that, in fact, it was inaccessible. ‘ Even the sun-beams,’ said Leonardo, ‘ cannot penetrate that obscure place ; it is the abode of tigers and serpents ; human beings have no business there.’ I was anxious to go to Peladeros, the governor of which was well known to me : he strongly objected to it. ‘ The object of your journey,’ said he, ‘ will transpire, and we shall lose all the advantage of this great

discovery ; for, by the laws of mining, only those who first take possession can establish their claim to the exclusive privilege of working and selling the mine. If the governor becomes acquainted with our good fortune, depend upon it, he will secure for himself the best share.' Yielding to these arguments, and remembering the important fact that I had seen the black oxyde of mercury, and believing that a fortunate acquisition might be the result, I followed my conductor through a scarcely perceptible opening in the dense mass of foliage which bordered the plain : we found the path so narrow, that it was necessary to force away the branches on either side, and often to cut them down before we could proceed.

“Leonardo told me that he had been labouring for a whole week to open the path. ‘But,’ said he, ‘what can be done by one pair of hands? one end is choked up before the other is cleared.’ This gave me some notion of the distance. I put my sword in a convenient place for prompt action, and kept my finger upon the trigger of a pistol, which I had taken the precaution to discharge during the afternoon at an armadillo, making Leonardo observe that it was re-loaded with ball, lest, as I

told him, we should meet with molestation on the road.

“ Never had I felt the solemnity of a primæval forest so forcibly as at this moment. The shrill cry of insects, the howling of monkeys, and the growling of tigers kept up excitement, but caused no actual alarm, knowing, from experience, that the tigers were more likely to avoid than to attack us: the danger chiefly to be apprehended was from our mules treading upon reptiles, especially the boa-constrictor, which, if startled, will coil itself round the intruder, and crush out his life.

“ The darkness seemed almost palpable as we groped onward. When in the plains, the southern hemisphere affords sufficient light; but through the leafy canopy under which we travelled, no star was visible. A glimmering produced by the fire-flies in rapid unsteady flight occasionally enabled us to see each other. I took care to keep Leonardo before me; for I found it was impossible to repel the idea that a stiletto might put him in possession of what little property I had about me. The attempt to be cheerful when you have to combat with positive apprehension is very hard

work. I made the man sing; and in this way, about midnight, we reached the cottage. A supper was indeed provided, and the promised sugar-cane was ready for our mules.

“ It required no penetration to discover that this cottage was a smuggling station for the contraband dealers in tobacco. The inmates gave me a very hearty welcome; but I did not feel easy; and, under pretence of eating supper in the hammock which they had suspended for me, I contrived to dispose of it, without running the risk of giving offence. When a notion of treachery gets hold of the imagination, it is quite sufficient to prevent sleep. To avoid drinking the guarapo which they offered, I bade them good night. The Indians of the desert possess a poison called *curare*, so potent, that the quantity which can be concealed beneath the thumbnail will cause certain death. In the use of this composition they show surprising skill. Daylight dissipated all my uneasiness. Leonardo had saddled our mules, and was ready for the journey before his friends had risen. We had to cross the deep and rapid river Oculto, the appearance of which is very remarkable. Smooth

as glass, and black as ebony, it might have been mistaken for a stagnant pool, but for the floating masses of broken branches and weeds which passed with a celerity sufficiently indicative of the dangerous velocity of the current.

“The method of crossing this river is not uncommon, but hazardous enough to shake the nerves of a novice. Two ropes are fastened to a tree: the guide then swims across, and secures them on the opposite side, carrying a third rope, to one end of which a sort of cot formed of a bullock’s hide is attached, and suspended by loops to one end of the tightly-stretched cords. In this cot the traveller takes his seat, generally sending his luggage as an *avant-courier* to ascertain the strength and stability of the apparatus. Another day’s toil brought us to the mysterious spot; and certainly I did find globules of quicksilver. The rock was easily broken, and in every interstice there was evidence of the fluid metal, notwithstanding the absence of the geological characteristics which usually accompany this mineral. Still I suspected some deception, and therefore determined to make further investigation, more especially as the country abounds in anomalies; and this might

be a proof that theory is not always to be relied on. Leonardo was to meet me again in ten days: meanwhile he earnestly charged me to keep the secret; and he thankfully received all the money which at that period I felt disposed to advance.

“ I have seldom been more pleased than I was when I reached the mansion of Don Manuel Truxillo, the governor of Peladeros: he received me most cordially, and I felt that his welcome was sincere. Don Manuel gave me credit for some knowledge in medicine; and, having received benefit from a prescription of mine, he wished to establish a greater degree of intimacy with me, and insisted on my staying a few days under his hospitable roof.

“ I was riding one morning with Don Manuel and some other friends near the spot which I had previously visited with Leonardo, when one of our party said to the governor, ‘ Some one has been seeking for quicksilver in the Quebrada (a name given to a shallow rivulet in the vicinity); but of what use is quicksilver now, even were there a mine of it? for now we have no silver to refine, our mines have perished in the war, and

the entrances are choked with rubbish. I remember when this road was the principal line of communication between the cities of Antioquia and Cartagena. I was then *comandante*, and employed a train of mules to convey quicksilver to the interior as it arrived from Cadiz. Anxious to make some improvements (for I had always a sort of mechanical genius), I caused some wheel-carriages to be constructed, to be drawn by bullocks, according to the European fashion. For some time I used them only for the conveyance of general merchandise; but subsequently we ventured to employ them in removing the quicksilver. An awkward slave contrived to overturn the carriage at this very spot; the cases containing the mercury burst; and this mineral having insinuated itself into the rock, we could not dislodge it thence without blasting. But the war broke out, and all the gunpowder was required for other purposes. No further attention could be bestowed on this object, which would have been forgotten, had it not been the custom of the Indians to come down after the heavy rains to collect the few grains then brought to light, and which they use medicinally.'

“ ‘ I suspect,’ said the governor to me, ‘ that I know the identical rascal of whom the *comandante* is speaking, and I am told that this fellow has been seeking employment from the foreigners who are settling amongst us ; but I would caution them to beware of him : he lives by fraud : he would murder his own parent, if the profits derived from the old man’s labour did not exceed the sum which this ungrateful vagabond would receive by the sale of the rosary, and a few articles of furniture which the father still retains in his own possession. If ever he applies to you,’ added Don Manuel, ‘ send him to me.’

“ The secret of this clever scoundrel having cheated me out of a few dollars and a night’s rest was now divulged. I heard nothing more about him until, two years afterwards, I saw him with a felon’s chain working in the fortress of Cartagena.”

EL SALTO,
OR THE WATERFALL.

NEAR the ancient town of Bocanema, at a place called El Salto, ("the Leap,") is to be seen one of those primitive and picturesque suspension-bridges which are so frequent in South America: it was constructed by the villagers in a single day. The generous feeling which stimulated them to perform this arduous task deserves to be recorded. The venerable priest of Bocanema was anxious to visit an Indian family whose hut was separated from his own dwelling by the rapid torrent of El Salto. The only place at which he could ford it was so distant, that he had not strength to accomplish the journey. No sooner was this difficulty made known to his flock, than with affectionate promptitude they prepared to prove

their attachment, by making it practicable for him to pass El Salto.

The bridge was formed of the light but almost imperishable canes which exuberantly border the mountain-stream : the tough and flexible creeping plants afforded an excellent substitute for cordage. Two trees, which were firmly rooted at the brink of the torrent, served for buttresses, giving stability to the rude arch they had formed, by uniting the woven flooring with a rustic railing, which was further strengthened by split and flattened bamboos. All these were attached to the strong branches of the trees before mentioned, and formed the abutments of a light but enduring structure. The narrator of this occurrence crossed the bridge with the priest for whose accommodation it was erected, and from his own lips learned the history of its origin. This respectable man was rich in anecdote and traditionary tales, with which he captivated the attention of his auditors for hours together. He had taken an active part in the revolutionary war, and was compelled to take refuge occasionally among the yet unconquered Indians, with whose habits and legends he became familiarized. His love of

natural history was very remarkable, and his dwelling was frequently called *The Cage*, from the number of feathered favourites he had domesticated. He was well versed in Spanish history, and so perfectly aware of its sterility, that, on being presented with "The Talisman," one of the Tales of the Crusaders by Sir Walter Scott, elegantly translated under the auspices of those spirited publishers, Messrs. Ackermann and Co., his delight was manifested by tears of joy. Knowing our admiration of the simple ballads which the natives sing so touchingly, the *padre* often conducted us to the house of some one of his congregation, who (to use his own words) "possessed a good voice," and always delighted to oblige the pastor: he had only to express a wish, and its accomplishment was certain.

One evening, having introduced us to an old lady; "Child," said he, (such was his affectionate mode of addressing her,) "Child! can you remember that ballad which, years ago, was a great favourite of mine: it was the song of a young girl returning from the Waterfall, whither she had been sent by her anxious mother. The innocent girl was deeply enamoured, but was unable to

define her own sensations." "I remember the ballad," said the lady; "but such a ballad should only be sung by the rosy lips of youth, and with a more melodious voice than mine; but your command is sufficient." Addressing a beautiful girl, (who we thought could have given the song we had heard so highly eulogized with better effect,) she said, "Barbara, assist me with thy guitar: don't be impatient, girl: give us a good long prelude; but do not play while I am singing: keep thy finger on the strings to support me in the last cadence of each verse." These preliminaries settled, the aged Señora, in a low but exquisitely modulated voice, sang the following stanzas:

Oh dear! how shall I venture home, and tell my mother all
That Julian has said to me beside the Waterfall.
I did not mean to linger, but my calabash to fill,
And hastily return again, obedient to her will.

I really cannot tell how long that Julian made me stay;
I told him many, many times, that he must go away:
But there he stood, his large black eyes set full upon my
face,
And I know not what possess'd me—but I could not leave
the place.

He never kiss'd my cheek : if he had, I should have run,
And told my mother instantly what Julian had done :
But he look'd a thousand kisses, at every word he said :
I never told my mother, lest she should be afraid
To send me to the Waterfall ; I know that Julian will
Be watching, tho' I told him not, my calabash to fill.

Oh, how sincerely do I wish that Julian were poor,
Then he might come at pleasure to our ever open door !
My mother thinks his rank a crime : I'm sure she must
do so,
For she dreads to see him enter, and delights to see him
go.

But I delight to see him come—would keep him all day
long—
He charms me with his stories, and enchants me with
his song ;
But my mother says it cannot be, that Julian must not
stay,
And bids me, if by chance we meet, to coldly turn away.

Oh dear ! I think my heart will break ; but, if it must be so,
I'll hasten to my mother, and tell her all I know.
If I do not tell my mother all, I feel my heart within,
Concealment will oppress me like an unrepented sin ;
And my mother must tell Julian, what I could never say,
“ We do not want your company, and you must keep away.”

“ Very well, indeed ! ” said the *padre* : “ why, Doña Jacinta, you could not have sung that pretty song with more feeling fifty years ago, when you first introduced it at the Fertillas, which we enjoyed so much at the vice-regal palace in New Granada. Can you recollect that song of the damsel, (we must not call her a coquette,) who having been strictly guarded by her cautious mother, and pleading for her liberty, expostulates with her, and sensibly affirms that her own discretion will more effectually prevent imprudence than bolts and bars ? ” “ I do remember that old-fashioned ditty ; and while you and your English friends are taking your chocolate, we will remove the cotton, which you see we have been clearing from husks and seeds, and then you shall have as many songs as you please. ” “ The travellers, ” replied the *padre*, “ will leave us at the close of day : they must pass the river before the vesper-bell is heard from San Pedro’s : they can only remain with us half an hour. I see that you are afraid that we should be covered with the flakes of cotton which have been put in motion by the vibrations of Barbara’s guitar : we will go into the corridor. ” “ No, ” said Doña Jacinta, “ the

full glare of day does not suit my complexion. Even when I was thought rather good-looking, I never sat near the light: it was only by such stratagems that I kept up a reputation for beauty, of which really I had a very small share." "I am a living witness," said the *padre*, "to the contrary, even if your presence did not render my testimony unnecessary: your fame was not exceeded by that of the most celebrated beauties in the kingdom." "In the republic," said Doña Jacinta; (for she had never been reconciled to her confessor's desertion of the Spanish cause: she was, at heart, attached to the ancient order of things, and she looked with bitterness at her altered state; for heavily indeed had the calamities of war fallen upon the family and fortune of Doña Jacinta Ramon.) This slight allusion to happier days had saddened the spirits of the generous woman: her eye wandered over the bare walls of the spacious saloon: places, once occupied by pictures, were still apparent; and various remains of costly furniture still threw an air of melancholy grandeur over the apartment. "We now live," said Doña Jacinta, "in a state of barbarism." "In a state of patriarchal simplicity," said the *padre*.

“ In all but its innocence,” said Doña Jacinta. “ We might fancy this the Garden of Eden ; for a richer display of fruit and flowers could hardly have adorned the abode of our first parents.” “ How much I should enjoy,” said one of the visitors, “ a rural banquet, entirely composed of every variety of fruit, and ornamented with all the flowers of this fertile country : it would afford me the highest gratification, if Doña Jacinta would employ people to collect every fruit and blossom, without exception, which could be found within a day’s journey, and invite us to the feast which Flora and Pomona would afford us.” Doña Jacinta was delighted with the idea, and gracefully accepted the stranger’s purse, to enable her to put this plan in execution. We were preparing to take our leave, but she would not permit us to depart without hearing the song :—

Why, dearest mother, why restrain each action of your
child ?

E’en locks and bars would be in vain, if I were bold and
wild.

You watch me from the rising to the setting of the sun ;
But I had penn’d a letter ere your fruitless watch begun.

The lamp which unextinguish'd burns before our patron
saint,

Enabled me in secrecy to pour forth my complaint ;
And now, beneath the pinion of my fondly cherish'd dove,
I send a full confession to my harshly banish'd love.

When Juan in his country's cause had lost his gold and
land,

Then first you frown'd upon his suit, denying him my
hand.

In vain you close the lattice, and keep the portal barr'd ;
Oh mother dear, confide in me, for I myself will guard :
Severity may urge to guilt—indulgence never will :
My safeguards are the precepts which you carefully instil.
Then trust me for the future ; let your guileless child be
free ;

My own high sense of virtue is the best defence for me.
I know that I shall not forget what to myself is due,
What to my lover I may grant, and what I owe to you.
Henceforth discard suspicion ; for your child can proudly
claim

The richest heir-loom of our race—a high untainted name.

“ Pardon me, gentlemen,” said Doña Jacinta :
“ except to my children, I have not sung for
many years ; and I feel an embarrassment which
defeats my intention to gratify you : I see that
you are interested in these ancient ballads ;

I would readily continue to sing, if I could command my own feelings: you will require no further apology; and you will not be surprised if I make this stipulation—that when you do come to our projected entertainment, you will not ask me to sing.” “Child, child,” said the *padre*, when he saw that Señora Ramon was weeping; “my dear daughter, pardon me: in my desire to please my friends, I have inconsiderately taxed your feelings too highly: farewell, daughter! I did not mean to trespass.” “Indeed, father, you have not done so,” said Doña Jacinta; “you have not trespassed: but years and affliction have weakened my nerves, and enfeebled my spirits.” The venerable priest saluted the hand of Señora Jacinta, and she bade us farewell.

“I know,” said the priest, as he kindly rode with us a little way on our journey homeward, “what produced Doña Jacinta’s emotion.” “Was it,” said one of the party, “that any painful association was produced in her mind, by the words of the song having any reference to her own history?” “No,” said the *padre*; “the ballad has no foundation that I am aware of in real life, except that it expresses unquestionably what any

pure-minded and high-spirited girl, who had known the world and her own heart, would have felt: it was neither the sentiment, nor the air, which tried the feelings of the estimable Doña Ramon; but she saw around her the blooming daughters of her only son, and could not avoid contrasting their present obscurity with the bright dawn of her own brilliant prospects. When at their age, she was the ornament of her illustrious family, she was very beautiful; every advantage which wealth could command was lavishly bestowed by her indulgent parents. Preceptors from Madrid were engaged to instruct her in the important branches of education, and the accomplishments were imparted to her by the best masters in the Caraccas. I have heard her mother say, that a thousand dollars had been expended on her musical studies; and now you see her reduced to the necessity of preparing cotton, and compounding her own chocolate." "But," said the interrogator, "as the Señora cannot alter the established order of things, why does she not reconcile herself to the change which has taken place? As her son's family is portionless, such accomplishments as she possesses would

only tend to render them discontented like herself. Although masters of polite art and science have not been employed to teach these young ladies, they are still elegant, and indeed, by your instructions and care, they have acquired much useful knowledge. Doña Ramon should consider, that her fine understanding would be better engaged in cheerfully participating in the general good, than in embittering, by her despondency, the feelings of her blooming relatives, by contrasting the poverty they now endure, in common with many other families of distinction, with the prosperity which she enjoyed, in the morning of her own eventful life." "Such is my own opinion," said the *padre*; "but neither my exhortations nor your arguments, Señor, can eradicate the sorrows of Doña Ramon: her sensibility has been so far blunted, that, before this evening, I have not seen her weep for years: her prejudice against republicanism is so far subdued, that not even a murmur escapes her lips: she occasionally goes into public, and then appears cheerful; but she cannot efface from her remembrance her former elevated station; and mix with the people of yesterday, without feeling her

own superiority, and lamenting the change in society. But forward, my friends; you must spur on your mules, or you will not reach the pass before sunset. Our conversation would assume a political tone, if we were to pursue the subject of the family at El Salto; there is now no time for discussion—therefore adieu!” The kind-hearted *padre* would not allow us to dismount to receive his benediction, but cordially shook hands with us according to the custom of our own country. We highly esteemed this truly valuable man; and, while relating to each other various traits of his benevolence, which many persons had communicated to us, we reached our own pleasant dwelling.

We had remarked, during our ride from El Salto, that an uncommon stillness prevailed: the feather-like foliage which fringed the bank of the river was unmoved; and, before the obscurity of evening was cast over it, each plant was so distinctly reflected on the smooth surface of the water, that a drawing of the whole scene might have been made with equal fidelity from the shadow, as from the substantial object. The

fire-flies remained stationary, instead of chasing each other as usual at eventide ; their subdued scintillations studded the low shrubs : on this evening there was not an insect on the wing : the hoarse croaking of the bullfrogs was louder than ordinary, but they did not venture from their lurking-places : the shrill chirping of the grasshoppers was not heard : even the wailing night-jar was mute, and flitted like a shadow silently across our path. On reaching our mansion, we found our attendants engaged in chasing from the saloon numerous bats, which maintained possession of the apartment with singular pertinacity, winging their noiseless flight in eccentric curves, and eluding the blows aimed at them with astonishing dexterity ; every door and window was opened, but not a single bat could be driven out. We joined our servants in the endeavour to expel these unsightly intruders, and fired at them many times without effect : sometimes, as if in very defiance, they flitted so close to us, that we attempted to strike them down with a blow ; but our efforts proved ineffectual. A certain method of driving away these

creatures is to fumigate the apartment with pastiles prepared for the purpose: we were in the act of collecting the ingredients for the process, when a hollow rumbling beneath the floor announced the approach of the dreadful earthquake. The females shrieked, and fled to the open street; the candles and every moveable object oscillated; the beams creaked; some of us sank on the floor, our faltering limbs having become powerless from fright: others, with more presence of mind, stood under the door-ways, that, if the roof should fall, the arch might shelter and protect them. A second and a more violent shock followed, and a third quickly succeeded: the furniture was scattered about the saloon, the lights were thrown down and extinguished, large patches of plaster fell from the walls: dismay seized on all present; supplications loud and fervent were raised in the street and dwellings; but all were affected with that deep emotion, which can only find utterance in prayers and lamentations. Thunder, in loud and deafening peals, and lurid flashes of lightning, added terror to this awful moment; the thunder continued to roll incessantly. Loud claps were heard at intervals,

which were connected by an unbroken, deep, hollow rumbling, even more appalling than the astounding bursts which entirely drowned the human voice. The earthquake having ceased, the rain fell in torrents: the natives knew from experience that the danger was over; and, it having been ascertained that no houses, churches, or other public edifices had been destroyed, a sense of gratitude succeeded.

This visitation was so far forgotten on the following day, that it was only spoken of as a common event. Earthquakes occur very frequently during the rainy season: we remarked that they were always preceded by a feeling of sadness; even children ceased to smile, or to pursue their pastimes; and even gamblers, at the moment they feel the *Temblor*, as the earthquake is called, cease playing, and do not resume their amusement until another day.

During the lax administration of the Spaniards, the number of feast-days, (exclusive of Sundays,) on which the labourers were not expected to work, had so greatly increased, that the republicans found it necessary to effect a reform, by limiting these holydays to twelve, which were to

be appointed by them. To avoid shocking the prejudices of those who had been accustomed to celebrate the anniversary of every saint in the calendar, it was ordered, that the usual honours should be paid on the Sunday preceding or following each saint's-day, according to its proximity; and that labour should be entirely suspended only on certain holydays. The Alcalde or chief magistrate had a discretionary power to issue proclamations for particular festivals, whenever it happened that this established custom would combine the advantages of commerce with the indulgence of the love of pleasure, and the devotional feeling of the natives, by inducing them to barter their mountain produce for the luxuries of the savannah. Many towns had become celebrated for the fairs held on the anniversary of their patron saint; it was therefore thought inpolitic to alter this custom: the *Cabildo*, or town council, had also the power of proclaiming extraordinary festivals, whenever they thought it expedient. We were surprised one morning by a visit from the clergy, in full canonicals, the Alcalde in his robes, and the *Cabildo* with their wands of office, who stated that they were deputed by the citi-

zens to request, that on the anniversary of the saint's-day, (whose name was borne by one of the party) we would attend a ball, which would be given at the Hall of Justice. It was evident that there had been a communication between our friends at El Salto and the deputation; for a note, carefully enveloped in a richly embroidered napkin, was at this moment delivered to us from Doña Jacinta, inviting us to partake of the entertainment at her *quinta*, on the morning of the approaching festival, which she had prepared in compliance with our wish. It would have been ungracious towards the *Cabildo*, and uncourteous to the lady, to have refused invitations given with such respectful ceremony: it was therefore decided that we should breakfast at El Salto, entertain all the public functionaries at dinner in our own mansion, and attend the public ball in the evening. The villagers had provided a banquet, which seemed to realize the Garden of Eden. A temporary table, which extended the whole length of the saloon, was covered with the cool broad leaves of the plantain: more than eighty dishes, or rather groups of fruit, were ranged upon it; for Doña Jacinta, to gratify her visitors,

had decorated each variety of fruit with its own leaves and blossoms : next to such fruits as were not usually eaten in a crude state, she had placed the preserves or confections prepared from them, in small silver plates ; richly carved cocoa-nut cups, handsomely mounted in silver, stood next to those fruits which were most esteemed for imparting their flavour to the beverage they contained.

On our return to our own mansion, to receive the deputation who had visited us, we found that our excellent housekeeper had prepared every thing requisite for a dinner party. It is not customary to sit long after dinner ; but during the short time the guests are assembled at table, every incentive is employed which hospitality can proffer or politeness suggest. It is not usual in Columbia for the master of the house to take the head of his own table : this place is always occupied by the most distinguished visitor, who gives the first toast, which is generally introduced by eulogizing the host : the usages of the country admit of such latitude in complimentary phraseology, that, if repeated, it would appear hyperbolic.

The perfect stillness which immediately succeeds this hour of festivity and exhilaration, forms a most striking contrast, and is a peculiar feature of Columbian society. Some of the party retire to their hammocks; some, throwing themselves back into their chairs in a convenient position, fall into a sound sleep; others, in anticipation of the ball, creep to some retired couch, that, with renovated activity, they may shine in the gay assembly: Englishmen are frequently obstinate in keeping up the habits of their own country, and do not always like leaving the table so soon. We afterwards took a ride, to watch the sun, pavilioned in crimson and gold, crowning with glory the peaks and frozen snows of the Cordilleras: as we descended the declivity, we lingered to observe the flames leaping from the volcano of Tolyena, which could only be seen when the sun's disk was completely obscured. As a turn in the road excluded the awful volcano, a singular phenomenon attracted our attention:—the wide expanse of plain was nearly shrouded with a veil of misty vapour: on the opposite side arose two isolated mountains, of similar form and altitude, about two miles apart; on the summit of both,

the misty exhalations were collected in an arrangement exactly corresponding. As the brief twilight faded, we remarked that the clouds were charged with electricity : a lambent glow of fire, as if occasioned by refraction, illumined the congregated mass of clouds, without effacing the distinctness of their outline. We had not surveyed this beautiful spectacle for more than a few seconds, when it vanished ; but, to our great delight, the same splendid illumination was transferred, by some mysterious agency, to the opposite mountain.

We could not determine whether the state of the atmosphere was such as actually to transmit the subtle fluid across the savannah ; but, be that as it may, while one summit was glowing with light, the other remained in darkness ; and the alternations occurred repeatedly, with wonderful rapidity and precision : sometimes the clouds were flame-coloured, at others of a deep saffron tint ; then, again, they changed to an amethystine hue ; the next moment blushed with a delicate pink ; then deepened into a ruby glow, like that which is produced by burning the preparation of strontian used in theatrical representations. Our attention was diverted from this interesting phe-

nomenon, by a report of artillery and the ringing of bells, to the Great Square, of which the most striking features are the Hall of Justice and the Church of St. Sebastian. We observed that these edifices were illuminated by immense torches, which blazed from their lofty roofs and towers; from every door and window were suspended paper lanterns, such as are used in China; so that, at whatever distance these buildings were discernible, their outline was distinctly defined by a tracery of light. Another discharge of cannon announced the commencement of a display of fire-works: innumerable rockets, whizzing through the still atmosphere, seemed to chase each other with winged speed, as if endeavouring to outshine its predecessor.

Catherine-wheels, (a very favourite species of fire-work in Columbia,) the ship, and various other well-known *constellations*, palm-trees, fountains, chariots, and other devices, although we could not distinguish them at the distance, contributed to give interest to the spectacle: the loud acclamations of the assembled crowd testified the admiration and delight with which the natives beheld these pyrotechnical exhibitions...

We anticipated a very gay assembly after the preparations, with which we were in some measure acquainted ; but, impoverished as the Republicans have been by a long-continued war, we were not prepared for the *coup-d'œil* on entering the ball-room, or for the splendid appearance of the company. The jewels worn by many of the ladies might have graced the proudest peeress at a drawing-room ; but these brilliants were shorn of their beams by the more dazzling radiance of the living gems which adorned some of the dresses. The luminous fire-flies, called Candelarios, were, by various contrivances, rendered useful in decorating the heads and garments of the ladies, who had chosen to appear with these splendid insects attached to or confined in various ways about their robes : some were enclosed in the broad folds of the flounces ; in others, muslin, gauze, or crape was cut out in a pattern laid upon coloured silk, and these formed a sort of transparent cage for the brilliant prisoners : sometimes the insects were threaded on a thin slip of grass, introduced through a hollow membrane which passes along from the thorax the length of the fly, and thus they are

made to form girdles or bandeaus round the head. This last process occasions a degree of irritation, which causes them to emit more vivid and frequent coruscations, but does not destroy or injure vitality; for, in those latitudes where this species of Candelario is not to be obtained, they are purchased, and preserved for a whole season by ladies, who carefully detach them from their dresses when they have been employed as ornaments, and place them in boxes formed of excavated sugar-cane, and feed them with any saccharine, or dew-diluted sirop.

A full military band had been provided; and, as many of the officers were present, and the Columbian army had not, at that period, a regulation uniform, every soldier wore a costume according to his own fancy: the wide latitude of extravagantly expensive dress which these military fops had indulged in, induced Bolivar to insist upon a reduction of this luxury. It was generally believed that many distinguished characters had sacrificed important possessions, and even necessary comforts, to retain the epaulette of brilliants, the diamond-hilted sword, and the emerald stud: in the ball-room, however, these gay ap-

pendages imparted splendour and effect to the scene.

Some of the old Cavalleros ventured to wear the unpopular, but still, to them, becoming Spanish hat of grass, bleached nearly white, of exquisitely fine texture, turned up in front, and looped with a jewel, or ornamented with the drooping plumes of the heron, the quezal, or the rose-coloured spoonbill.

Many of the females who shone in that assembly were beautiful, very beautiful; elegant in attire, graceful in form, and lovely in feature; their expressive eyes beaming with pleasure: their feet, which might claim the fabled slipper of Cinderella, moving in perfect time to the music, they gracefully floated through the movements of the waltz, which is only deprecated when it is not understood. The gentlemen, accustomed to the dance, sustained their parts with ease; and, as each couple in succession, with flexible and buoyant grace performed the evolutions, they seemed to exhibit the poetry of motion.

There was one fair girl, for whose appearance in the ball-room, her mother, the Marquesa de —, thought it necessary to make a formal

apology : she said that her daughter's delicate state of health had rendered it necessary to convey her to the festive party on the couch on which she still reclined : the interesting invalid claimed universal sympathy and admiration ; she was in her softened loveliness extremely beautiful : her fine regular features bore the impress of melancholy, and her dark eyes had the subdued expression which so touchingly appeals to our sensibility : her long tresses of raven black fell in natural ringlets upon the lace cushion which supported her head ; her white crape robe was confined by a cord of silver ; no bracelet was clasped round her finely-formed arm ; no ring adorned her long and slender fingers : so remarkable a contrast did this lovely vision present, that it was not wonderful her appearance should excite attention. Poor girl ! her story was well known, and may be told in few words :—her lover fell at the memorable battle of Caraboba ; life had no longer charms, when he, for whom alone she valued it, was lost. On her mother's account she had made great exertions to conquer the melancholy which was destroying her ; and she suffered herself to be carried from place to

place, and to be present at scenes of festivity, although it seemed rather to foster than remove her deeply-seated grief; and when an amiable girl, who seemed to be her favourite friend, knelt by her couch, and whispered words of cheering import, the invalid caught her hand, and, pressing it close to her eyes, seemed anxious to exclude the recollections which the gay assembly had revived: tears gushed forth when their fountains were concealed, but her feelings had been tasked beyond endurance; she was instantly borne away from a scene, which, although it appeared at first pleasing to her, had, by some unknown associations, touched the nerve of agonised sensibility.

By this incident the ball was in some degree interrupted: a majority of the company left the room after the removal of the invalid; but many still kept up the dance, until the dawn of day reminded them of the necessity of retiring.

MERIDA.

THE city of Merida is the capital of an extensive province, bounded on the north by Maracaibo, on the east by Varinos, on the south by Llanos, and on the west by Santa Martha.

This city formerly contained twelve thousand souls, and was celebrated for its college and episcopal palace. The bishop of Merida is the only mitred dignitary in the republic: this venerable prelate is also in possession of the see of Maracaibo. Bagota and Caraccas are also bishopricks, but have been vacant since the Revolution.

The earthquake, which overwhelmed Barquisimito, nearly destroyed the city of Merida: the former is still a scene of desolation; the latter was speedily restored to its present condition by its energetic inhabitants: unfortunately, their further exertions were terminated by the commencement

of that exterminating war, which, by its fearful devastation, not only suspended all public works, but destroyed the very spirit of enterprise. Formerly there was a flourishing manufactory for cotton and woollen cloth; but these branches of industry have been annihilated, and the means of re-organisation exist no longer. Nearly all who could bear arms have perished in those desperate encounters between the Godos, as the Spaniards were called, and the Columbians: no quarter was given: freedom or death was the war-cry of the oppressed: the oppressors shouted victory or blood. The plains of Merida have witnessed many of those scenes so terribly fatal, that, in some instances, after the conflict, not a single individual escaped to proclaim the victory or defeat.

The country is mountainous; but there are fertile plains rich in pastures and cattle, plantations of coffee, cotton, cocoa, and sugar-cane.

Of the numerous convents, the only one habitable is that of Santa Clara, containing a sisterhood of twenty inmates, twelve of whom are nuns. Rich embroidery, the most exquisite sweetmeats, and fruits preserved so admirably, as

to retain their original flavour and appearance, are sold at the grate of the convent.

The nearly perpendicular mountains which rise in the immediate vicinity of the city are covered to their very summits with a dense mass of the most luxuriant and varied foliage. Beyond these mountains are seen the distant Andes, reaching to an elevation of fifteen thousand feet, their snow-clad peaks forming an object of the most striking grandeur.

In former times, the voluptuous monks and wealthy citizens of Merida employed relays of slaves to fetch down the frozen snow from those almost inaccessible regions, for the sole purpose of cooling their beverage and delicious fruit. A beautiful *hacienda*, or estate, is pointed out, as the country residence of a very remarkable person, whose eventful history affords an illustration of the trials to which the Columbians have been exposed, in effecting the expulsion of Spanish despotism.

Leona Leyba was the daughter of a nobleman, who held a post of honour under the Spanish government, when the South American continent was still under the dominion of Old Spain. Don

Ildefonso Leyba remained true to his oath of allegiance, and fell in defence of the royalists : his widow was descended from the Incas of Peru ; and, to avoid the cruelty of a conquering army, she fled with her only child, the beautiful Leona, to the Peruvian capital, and found a refuge in the convent of Santa Rosa, the abbess of that popular sanctuary being her near relation. Leona was strongly urged by her surviving parent to take the veil ; but the conscientious maiden firmly refused her assent to these entreaties ; her heart having long been given to Don Mateo Luzano, the commander of the Venezuelan liberators, and worthy of the devoted love of the high-minded Leona.

During the lifetime of her father, Don Mateo had been his frequent guest : Leona had known him from childhood ; he was her acknowledged and accepted lover, before the hateful war had sown discord among families who had long been united in the strictest friendship. Forbidden to visit Leona, Don Mateo contrived to see her by stealth : the lovers met at the hermitage of San Pedro ; for at this celebrated shrine Leona was accustomed to pay her daily homage. Under

various disguises, the ardent youth, as if on a pilgrimage, offered his prayers at the same altar with his beloved Leona ; and if she lingered in the grove of palms, or rested beneath the grateful shade of the tamarind, that she might still be near her betrothed, the sternest moralist might excuse the devoted girl ; for never did a purer flame animate humanity than love had lighted up in the hearts of Leona Leyba and Mateo Luzano. Often did the enamoured youth refer to the by-gone days, when every fragrant flower, every glittering insect, and every bird which warbled, as if to them, formed subjects for their contemplation. The orange-grove in which they had rambled, and the songs which they had composed, were brought to remembrance ; making the sweet hours pass with cruel swiftness, and bringing the parting moment before they dared to give utterance to the under-current of their thoughts. The subject which apparently engrossed them was but an amiable subterfuge to prevent the deep anguish of their hearts from breaking forth. They knew that it would be impossible for them long to enjoy these stolen interviews : soon, they knew not how soon, a separation would be un-

avoidable : but the pain of a last adieu was spared them by the death of Don Ildefonso, and the sudden flight of his widow and Leona.

The journey from Merida to Lima occupied three months : Doña Isidora, the mother of Leona, could not sympathise with her lovely daughter, or comprehend the deep anxiety with which she left the place of her nativity : certainly she was aware of the attachment which had grown up between Mateo and Leona ; but she knew nothing of those keen emotions, which a susceptible heart must frequently endure. Doña Isadora's had been a sort of royal marriage, in which the affections are seldom consulted : she was told to marry Don Ildefonso Leyba ; and having been entirely secluded, she had never learned to dispute with her guardian, and yielded gracefully to his command. In after times she had been heard to say, that if she had been free to choose, she would have preferred a husband of her own race to the most wealthy and noble Spaniard ; for to her unsophisticated mind, she could never reconcile the fact, of the Spaniards, strangers to the land, ruling over the people, "*paysanos*," as she called them, natives of the soil. Often would she

ask in her own artless way of Don Ildefonso, how he could reconcile the act of Ferdinand and Isabella, who granted to one of his ancestors honours and estates for exterminating the brave Indians, whose peaceful dwellings once covered the plains of Merida; and whose monumental remains still prove how tenderly they must have regarded the living, when so much care was taken to preserve the dead. "Ours was the right of conquest," was the general reply of her husband. Isidora maintained, with more energy than was to be expected from one who had been accustomed to entire submission, that the Spaniards should have remained at home; at all events, they should have made treaties with the newly-discovered countries, and not have usurped their dominions; seizing their wealth, and not unfrequently annihilating the very race and name of those whose birthright had been invaded.

The aborigines of Peru had not been sacrificed to the same extent as those of Mexico and Columbia. The descendants of the Incas, those priest-kings whose regal state was viewed with astonishment by the Spanish plunderers, are still respected: they are generally tall, handsome,

and scrupulously careful of their persons; preserving many of the ancient customs, and especially that of allowing their nails to project much beyond the tips of the finger. Consummate pains are bestowed upon those incommodious evidences of exalted rank: to polish and preserve in a certain form those superfluous appendages, require the sole care of an attendant. The folly of submitting to the inconvenience of this custom will not continue; for this undeniable evidence of the individual's incapacity of employing himself in labour is no longer the exclusive privilege of the royal race, but is general in Lima, one of the most voluptuous capitals in the world, affording numerous examples of the countless follies resulting from pampered indolence.

The mother of Leona had a kind feeling towards the lover of her daughter, because he was a native; but duty towards the memory of Don Ildefonso sealed her lips, and the name of the young soldier was never introduced. Yet, even to the formal Doña Isidora, the attachment of her daughter seemed very reasonable; for Don Mateo was all that a fond heart could desire; handsome, young, brave, eloquent, wealthy, and, above all, a

man of honour. What a pity, thought the mother, that Leona cannot be his wife, since she will not make up her mind to remain the inmate of a cloister!

It soon became manifest that Leona was drooping like a transplanted flower, which frequently will not take root in a strange land; as plants which are removed will vegetate for a season in the natural soil, adhering to the fibres, but can only for a short period sustain vitality. Leona lived on past remembrances: she met with no congenial heart amongst her own sex, round which to entwine her affections. In pensive solitude she divided her hours between the duties of the convent, until symptoms of danger had become so manifest, that Doña Isidora proposed that they should return to Merida, to look after, as she stated, the estates, which in her distress or fear had been left to the care of agents.

The alacrity with which Leona prepared for the journey afforded sufficient evidence that hope had re-entered her bosom. She endured the toil of the journey surprisingly for one so delicate, and beguiled the lonesome hours, by relating to her mother her own vivid recollections of the

happy scenes of childhood. Poor girl! she did not confess how Don Mateo mingled with her reminiscences, and how fondly she dwelt on the possibility of meeting with him, or at least hearing of him on their journey. Her mother had other cares and sad forebodings; for, as they approached Columbia, she saw destruction and desolation on every side: she could not endure the sight of so much misery without feelings that finally impaired her understanding: thus afflicted, and being compelled to journey through an unhealthy district to avoid the immediate scene of civil war, a fever terminated her existence.

The courage of Leona had sustained her so long as her mother's state called forth her exertions; but when she found herself alone, she felt that unutterable anguish which results from self-reproach:—had I been contented to remain in Lima, said her accusing heart, this calamity would not have befallen me. In this state of distraction she was carried by her attendants towards the plains of Merida. Sad change for the heart-stricken Leona! four years of anarchy had altered the very face of nature: the plantations upon her own estate were entirely destroyed: women and chil-

dren alone remained to welcome her. She proceeded to the city, but misery attended every foot-step: all that had been near or dear to her had fled or fallen; the population was entirely changed, and greatly diminished; the great cathedral was deserted; rich furniture and vestments lay scattered in confusion on the marble floor; the altar despoiled of every costly ornament: the splendid wardrobe of the Virgin, which Leona and her mother had assisted to prepare, was gone; service was no longer performed; the priests of the august temple had refused to betray the Spaniards; and in one brief hour fourteen of those venerable men were seized in the sanctuary, dragged like common felons to the market-place, and shot.

The total extinction of learning and refinement by acts of such barbarity, was deplored by the republicans as the loss of a mere luxury, but the evil proved incalculable; for the rising generation became exposed to the blight of bad examples, uneducated, and without reverence for religion: the boasted acquirements of liberty and independence withered in the hands of those who knew not the real blessings of peace, nor the true nature of freedom.

Don Mateo Luzano had been ordered to the banks of the Oronoko, soon after the death of Don Ildefonso Leyba: during the arduous campaigns in that sharply-contested province, he had won the greatest distinction; the public despatches mentioned his name coupled with the highest eulogies; and this was the only notice which had reached Leona of her lover. His kindred had fled for safety to Caraccas; it would have been in vain therefore, even if delicacy had allowed her, to make those inquiries which might have been a balm to her troubled spirit. The convent of Santa Clara was open to her; but she conquered her own feelings sufficiently to establish herself beneath her lone paternal roof.

Don Mateo had been informed of this by the good bishop of Merida, whose official duties enabled him to communicate with the army. Hitherto it had been impossible for him to correspond with Leona: he had despatched messengers to Lima; but none of them reached their destination.

A medium was now open, and soon did Leona receive letters—the anxious outpourings of a faithful heart, precious tokens of an unalterable

affection, and tender appeals to their long-cherished attachment. At length, taking advantage of an appearance of tranquillity, he obtained leave of absence: a touch of romance tinged the character of Don Mateo; and, in conveying to Leona the joyful tidings of his temporary release, he fondly requested that she would meet him in the grove of orange-trees, and that, as in the first days of their love, they would observe the honey-bee enter the blossoms of the magnolia, and watch the joyous insect piercing the corolla of the fragrant jasmine.

“Let us wait around the haunts of our youthful days,” said the enamoured soldier, “until we hear the chimes of the hermitage; then will we repair to the shrine of San Pedro, and once more our prayers shall be offered in unison before the same sacred shrine.”

The lovers met—not indeed in the manner suggested: Don Mateo reached Merida a day before the period fixed for their first interview: he did not linger; but, with the speed of love, hastened to his faithful Leona.

The transports of tenderness are not to be ex-

pressed: in their unreserved confessions, the lovers had a full compensation for all their sufferings—a reward for their perfect fidelity.

When the period of mourning terminated, Don Mateo was to claim Leona's promise to share with him whatever might be his lot. During the interval, his duty required that he should return to the Oronoko; and, on the breaking out of the insurrection in Peru, he was ordered to that distant station. On his march from thence towards Lima, his regiment was surrounded by the Spaniards, and entirely defeated: the report of this disaster, coupled with the rumour of Don Mateo's death, reached Leona, who, in the distraction of her sorrow, resolved to take the veil; and at the expiration of the probationary year the ceremony was performed in the convent of Santa Clara.

Don Mateo was not dead. The malignity of the Spaniards towards their captive was exercised in a more refined form of vengeance: they maimed the prisoner; deprived him of sight, and left him without a covering on the burning sands of a Peruvian savannah.

Blind, lame, and feeble, Don Mateo was conducted to Merida, to find his hopes blasted by the

seclusion of Leona. The heart of Luzano was a stranger to despondency, and, even in this extremity, his fine mind conceived a project based on the noble philanthropy which had distinguished his conduct upon all occasions, although stimulated in the present instance, as he unquestionably must have been, by the eventful circumstances of his own peculiar position.

Bouquets of the flowers consecrated by a fond remembrance were constantly left at the convent-gate for sister Leona; and in the deep stillness of midnight, a guitar was frequently heard by the nuns of Santa Clara, occasionally blended with a rich manly voice, which, to one of them, was known full well; for to her, at least, there was but one such voice in the universe. It was a violation of decorum to encourage those touching serenades;—the blind minstrel was forbidden to repeat them.

Don Mateo Luzano became a member of the senate, and by his wisdom assisted in framing those statutes by which the infant republic was established.

A code of laws was formed, beautiful in theory, but dictated in far too high a tone of refinement.

for the degree of civilization to which the Colombians had at that period attained: their moral and intellectual growth was at too low a standard to insure the faithful observance of such statutes; and thus the inestimable privileges so generously bestowed would have been dangerous.

An Act passed the legislature, which produced a powerful sensation at the court of Rome, which, it is needless to say, originated with Don Mateo Luzano. At the momentous crisis when society was in a state of convulsive excitement and vicissitude; many females took refuge in the various convents in consequence of temporary destitution or imaginary bereavement of fortune, relations, or friends; it was therefore enacted, "that all the nuns or novices who had entered the sanctuaries under any erroneous impression, derived from false reports or designed misrepresentation, were to be directly restored to freedom and society, without stain or reproach."

It was matter of surprise to the anti-monastic party that a law which struck such a blow at these powerful auxiliaries to catholicism should have produced so little effect. It was a general

opinion that the religious houses would be entirely deserted ; but, flattering as it might have been to popular prejudice against all ancient institutions, the fact stands on record, that many convents did not lose a single member ; and, from Santa Clara to Merida, *Leona Leyba* was the only nun who could be prevailed upon to quit the cloister.

The blind senator of Santa Fé, as Don Mateo was now denominated, was an object of universal sympathy. Still in the flower of his age, and retaining a certain air peculiar to military men ; gifted with the most powerful eloquence and exalted mind ; this remarkable character became extremely popular, and soon acquired the same degree of influence in the assembly of the nation which he had before exercised in the camp. A wide field of useful activity was now opened to this patriot ; still, the object nearest to his heart was but in part accomplished : once more he returned to his native plains, and sought a conference with *Leona*. It was evening when he reached the avenue of splendid acacias which terminated in the grove of noble palms surround-

ing the orphan's dwelling: his ear, more acute since his loss of sight, caught the accents of Leona's voice: he listened to expressions familiar to him, full of tender allusions and treasured recollections of former scenes. Possessing a talent for poetry, so remarkable in the South Americans, Don Mateo adopted a method of announcing his presence, perfectly consistent with the usage of the country, and availed himself of a custom which is perhaps a vestige of the chivalric gallantry inherited from the cavaliers of Seville and Granada. He composed a song which detailed the peculiarities of his fate, and adapted it to a Spanish air, the noble simplicity of which had formerly delighted himself and Leona. Striking a few notes on his guitar, as a prelude to attract her attention, he commenced his serenade.

DON MATEO'S SERENADE.

As opening blossoms to the thirsty bee
Breathe an assurance of refreshment nigh,
Thy soothing voice bids every sorrow flee,
As my heart banquets on its melody.

As weary pilgrims journey to the shrine
At which their toils and sufferings will cease ;
So would I fondly seek that face of thine,
To beam on me a pledge of joy and peace.

Sweet are thy words, as when thy early vow
Was fondly pledged beneath this sacred grove ;
And, though I cannot see thy beauty now,
My heart's devotion shall repay thy love.

This appeal was not made in vain ; the bishop of Merida soon joined the hands of Don Mateo and Leona, whose hearts had been so long united. In the archives of the republic are deposited numerous important documents, which reduced the chaotic confusion of Colombian law to a regulated system of discipline, and were calculated to amalgamate the discordant elements of society. These precious records were dictated by the mastermind of Don Mateo Luzano ; but the handwriting was known to be that of his devoted Leona. They still live beloved and revered. The blind senator now enters the Chamber of Deputies guided by his eldest son, in whose graceful form

and demeanour his fond mother retraces the lineaments and noble figure of the youthful lover whom she formerly met at the hermitage of San Pedro.

TOLYMA.

AT the foot of a terrific pass, in the Andes, there is an isolated palm of remarkable elegance: it is upwards of forty feet high, and perfectly straight; its slender shaft, of equal thickness from the root to the footstalk of its leaves, may be grasped with the hand. The fruit of the palm is attached to delicate capillary filaments, and is much esteemed for its oil, which the natives extract by steeping the fruit in tepid water. A blow with a sword makes but little impression on the polished and flinty bark. Analysis has proved that these trees secrete silex to a surprising extent; and *tabaskee*, or vegetable opal, is produced by a chemical process.

The wild cane, growing by the side of this beautiful palm, exhibits the same peculiarity,

and contains in its fibrous structure so much flint, as to make it difficult to cut it.

The rocky mountains of the neighbourhood present many indications of their having been occupied by powerful tribes of Indians, long since swept from the face of the creation. There are no written records relative to those children of the sun; nor any history of them beyond traditions like the following, which, in memory of the heroine, bears the name of

QUITALENA.

Zatacombo, the Cacique of Tolyma, had an only daughter, who, in remembrance of his wife, (who died before the first anniversary of her marriage,) was named Quitalena, an Indian term, which implies "constancy in sorrow," or might be more freely translated, "we shall always deplore."

Quitalena was in her sixteenth year, when her father was compelled to check the encroachments of a neighbouring prince, the ruler of Zapacera. Hitherto, war had been welcome to Zatacombo: until this period its summons was hailed with delight; but he could no longer conceal from himself that his daughter was emerging from the

control of her attendants; that she refused obedience to her nurse, and demanded opportunities for obtaining a knowledge of the people over whom she was to rule, and of seeing the kingdom of which she was the sole heiress.

“If my child had been a boy,” said the warrior, “he should have ridden by my side, and learned from me, as I did from my father, the noble art of war; but this girl perplexes me: to take her with me would be madness; to leave her, hazardous.”

Quitaleña seemed to have read the thoughts of her father; for he was still musing on her destiny, when the affectionate girl knelt before him, beseeching him to feel no anxiety on her account: “I know,” said the maiden, “that I cannot go with my king and father to fight Zoolamano, the fierce ruler of Zapacera; but I have courage to remain here, alone, invoking the spirits that preside over our race, and offering incense at the altar of our god. The fruits and flowers with which I will decorate the temple will serve for emblems of my esteem for the brave men who go forth with my father. The crimson blossoms and purple clusters shall represent those warriors

who bear about them the trophies of many victories. The fragrant blossoms of the Almendron, and bright scarlet Pomegranate, will remind me of those who again go forth to battle, and who have already given proofs of valour, but whose names are not yet distinguished. The snow-white Iaputo, in which there is a semblance of two nestling doves, and the silver Lotus, shall represent those aspirants who are now, for the first time, to behold the face of an enemy."

"And what further sacrifice art thou prepared for?" inquired the monarch, as he raised the trembling girl, and held her to his heart. "This further sacrifice," said Quitalena, "I am prepared to make: I will, if such be thy wish, bestow my hand upon that warrior who brings to the feet of his prince the head of Zoolamano."

"Then victory is certain," said the delighted monarch; "for a reward such as thy virtues offer will inspire our brave men with invincible courage. But, daughter, examine thyself well: my own reward for conquering a kingdom was the hand of thy mother; but she gave me her hand only—her heart had long been yielded to another. With noble resolution she removed from her sight

every memorial of him whom it was her duty to forget. "All, did I say? no, not all; there was one precious bracelet, on which her eye sometimes rested with an expression of sadness which tortured me. With most culpable harshness, I commanded her to cast away this treasured ornament: she did not hesitate to obey me, and held out her arm, that I might unclasp the sculptured gem from her slender wrist. I took her trembling hand: the fatal result of my stern mandate was soon but too evident—in that same month thy mother died! Be warned therefore, my child, and tell me truly, if, in giving thy hand to the successful warrior, thou canst indeed bestow thy heart also." The enthusiastic princess declared that she would do so: bravery was her ideal of perfection. Her deep devotion to the beauties of Nature, and solitary communings with her own heart, had imparted to her feelings unusual energy. She saw, with that sublime awe which delights rather than dismays, earthquakes and threatening storms; the solitary forests and lofty mountains, the tremendous cataract and terrific volcanoes of Tolyma having conquered the timidity of her feminine heart, as far as regarded all external objects.

She thought that, if it became her duty to marry even the surly Motatan, she could do so, although this aspiring chief was her aversion; and she could not imagine that he would prove the most valiant, as she knew him to be devoid of generosity, and that all his actions were influenced by selfishness.

The mandate for calling the warriors to council proclaimed also that, whoever brought to Zata-combo the head of Zoolamano, might claim the hand of the princess of Quitalena.

The princess was now introduced, for the first time, to the assembled adherents of her father; she was alike courteous to all, conferring without distinction her graceful attentions. At daybreak she led them to the palm-tree grove, sacred from time immemorial to the Great Spirit of the universe, whom the Tolymanians worshipped under that most exalted type—the glorious sun. At noon, she sang to them beneath the shade of the pendulous acacia; or listened to the warriors, as each strove to win her esteem by devoted attentions. In the evening, she danced before them with her attendant maidens, according to the custom of these children of the sun; but mingled not with

the warriors, except for the few brief moments when to each she presented one of those fragrant blossoms which live but a single day, expanding with the first blush of morning, and closing as the shades of evening obscure them: she thus elegantly expressed her intention of taking leave of them for the night.

The monarch saw with exultation the rapid development of that lofty mind and stately form which distinguished his daughter. Her dress was now no longer confined to simple garments, fashioned by her attendants from materials gathered and fabricated under her own superintendence.

The costume of Quitalena was henceforth to mark her station. Ornaments of the finest gold which could be furnished by the mines of Malpasso; emeralds of the deepest green, from the caves of Muzo; pearls from Panama, and rubies found in the alluvial deposit which confines the lake-like rivers of Batatal, decorated the robes of the princess,—robes which deserved to be called imperial, for besides the costly gems so profusely employed in their decoration, they were composed of that gorgeous plumage for which the

tropical birds are so much admired, especially the topaz-throated and the fire-crested humming-birds; the toucan, the queral, and the velvet-like rifle-bird. The lace of her sandals were strung with the flat sparkling stones which are found amongst grains of platina, and which, even at the present day, the Indians refuse to part with for the most costly toys of Europe.

In the countenance of Quitalena there was a noble simplicity: her complexion was a pale, pure olive, radiant with the joyful hues of health and contentment. Her eyes were deep black; and upon their lashes, in more youthful days, her father would playfully balance a feather to point out their remarkable length. Her hair was black; and the custom of passing these long tresses through the vapour of essential oils, obtained by macerating unripe almonds, had imparted to them a silky glossiness and a most grateful perfume. Chaplets of fresh-gathered flowers, and the matchless plumes of the queral, were her only coronet. The most precious ornaments which Quitalena wore, were a bracelet, and a girdle of diamonds clasped by one precious opal: this had been the bridal zone of her

mother, and now, for the first time, graced the person of her lovely representative.

Hitherto, these regal appendages had been regarded but as toys; and when, to pass a tedious hour, she was indulged with the casket which contained them, her delight had been to decorate her playmate, Tevito, the son of that nurse whose affectionate solicitude had supplied the place of her lost mother. The familiarity and confidence with which she had treated this boy had increased with her own stature: with feelings of surprise which she could not define, she discovered that his presence was essential to her happiness.

The princess had seen Tevito, while yet a child, cling to the mane of her father's war-horse, and place himself by his own effort on the back of that noble animal. She had seen him fling himself into the torrent which rushed down the adjacent mountain, fearless as if the water had been his natural element. He seemed emulous to outstrip the very birds that were startled by his presence. He would dive after the glittering fishes, which he captured for his mistress, or chase with untiring activity those myriads of gem-like but-

terflies with which Quitalena was so delighted. His lasso, a coil of smooth rope with a simple noose,—an instrument which, in more mature life, he would use to capture the wild horse of the savannah,—was now employed in obtaining for the princess festoons of convolvuli, which had run up the tall cedar's stem, displaying their expanding blossoms to the sun's full influence, and, as if anxious to return to earth, their interlaced plants of various colours fell in curtains of the most gorgeous drapery.

Tevito gathered fruits for her by the assistance of the lasso, swinging it round his head until it had acquired a projectile force sufficient to reach and drag the branch, or snap the stem, as best suited Quitalena's purpose.

At eleven years of age Tevito had mounted horses upon which there had never been a rider. Heedless of the lightning speed at which the wild animal bounded across the almost interminable plain, he goaded him with his sharp spurs until its strength was exhausted; and if, before its fury was subdued, the wild horse fell, and rolled upon the ground, the lad still kept firm hold of his mane,

and vaulting upon its back, as the animal regained its power to proceed, applied the spur until its spirit was broken, and the passive creature might be guided at his pleasure. All the accomplishments and manly games of his tribe were known to this brave youth: he could take aim with such unerring skill, that he was seldom known to let a bird or an animal escape, after he had once fixed his gaze upon it. Sometimes killing, sometimes only stunning his game by blowing pellets of clay, or seeds of the Indian shot or *Caña Indica*, through a tube of cane. But, from the moment the war-peal was sounded, the pursuits of *Tevito*, like the occupations of *Quitaleña*, had entirely changed. No longer attracted by childish sports, he mingled with the warriors; sharing in their games of mimic combat, or keeping watch with them upon the summits of the highest mountains, in order that the last rays of the setting sun might fall upon the consecrated banner, on which was emblazoned a representation of the rising sun.

Zatacombo was not only the ruler of his kingdom, but also the high-priest of his people: every morning did the monarch, attended by a multitude

of his subjects, ascend the mountain sacred to their deity; uniting with them in adoration, and joining his subjects in a full chorus, they sang the following hymn :—

HYMN TO THE SUN.

Almighty Sun! thy children kneel,
Thy first beams' genial warmth to feel,
As, glancing from eternal snow,
They pave with light the plains below.

Hail, glorious Sun! almighty, hail!

Life draws from light creative power,
Light pencils each expanding flower;
Our fruits, our grain, O Sun, from thee
Derive their rich maturity.

Hail, glorious Sun! almighty, hail!

Our foes are thine—this banner bless;
So shall our enemies confess,
Their fiercest threats will not appal
Thy children when on thee they call.

Hail, glorious Sun! almighty, hail!

Tolyma's crater ceased to blaze,
Quench'd by our God's effulgent rays;

The mountain-torrent leapt to light,
Rending the sable veil of night.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

Behold yon cloud of mist arise,
Glowing with thy prismatic dyes ;
Refract the halo's broken ray,
And fall in iridescent spray.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

Our lakes reflect thy flood of light,
Like liquid gold intensely bright ;
O'er every copse and tangled dell
Thy lustre flings its magic spell.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

Spanning the wild and dark ravine,
Thy rainbow's lustrous arch is seen ;
O'er all the gloom of stern repose,
An evanescent splendour glows.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

When thy diurnal course is run,
Protect thy children, glorious Sun :
May we thy sacred influence feel
When shades thy sinking orb conceal !

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

The Zoolamanians put their trust
In gods of stone, in breathing dust :
They come, thy temple to deface,
And war with a devoted race.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

Our sacred groves they may destroy ;
They may their savage force employ
To hurl thy temple from its base,
And raise their idols in its place.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

Still shall we gaze, as we gaze now,
Upon thy awful burning brow ;
Still to our mountain-heights retire,
And watch thy quick ascending fire.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

When Zatacombo leads us hence,
Exert thy power for our defence :
When the foe strikes, O king of day,
Dart o'er his sight a blinding ray !

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

At morn, accept our praise, and deign
To fertilize each hill and plain ;
We bow at no inferior shrine,
O glorious Sun ! our hearts are thine.

Hail, glorious Sun ! almighty, hail !

On that day, the last which Zatacombo was to remain in the palace, he found Tevito preparing to accompany the warriors: his quiver was full of arrows, each tipped with poison, and feathered with the plumes of that king of birds, the mighty condor. A spear, suited to his years, was in the hand of the youthful warrior; from his belt hung a murderous weapon of sharp stone and one of those reeds, of almost metallic hardness, from which he could produce a note like the piercing cry of a wounded pelican.

Thus equipped for the campaign, Tevito pleaded for permission to attend his sovereign: the king, touched with his enthusiasm, and remembering how successfully he had banished the vultures which infested the sacred grove, at length yielded to his entreaties.

After his formal investment with a chieftain's authority, Tevito was appointed to remain near the person of Zatacombo; the warriors having been instructed that, whenever the sound of Tevito's reed was heard, they were to rally round their monarch. A tradition, common to many aboriginal tribes, induced a belief that the capture of a king would decide the fate of a nation;

and that, if Zatacombo should either be slain or taken prisoner, the inhabitants of Tolyma would become the subjects of Zoolamano.

Motatan saw this distinction conferred upon Tevito with undisguised vexation, and ventured a remonstrance against the monarch's decision. "Is it fitting," said he, "that a mere youth should be placed so near the king? Let the rash boy resign his office, and let a warrior of established fame and unquestionable fidelity have the power to give the signal which we are bound to obey."

A murmur of displeasure followed the words of Motatan; and each warrior, in token of his regard and confidence in Tevito, commanded him to touch their vest with a death-fraught arrow.

In three days, the hostile tribes met, and rushed with impetuosity to that fearful conflict which amongst the Indians is frequently decisive at the first engagement. The encounter once begun, the struggle is seldom terminated until one party is victorious. The arrows had been discharged with terrible effect; the lance and the battle-axe spread carnage in the closer ranks, until the invaders gave way and were pursued to the verge of the black river, which formed the natural boun-

dary of Tolyma. Frequently had the signal of Tevito summoned the warriors to make a living rampart round their prince, and vainly did the desperate courage of Zoolamano endeavour to penetrate that devoted barrier: the sacrifice of life was rather courted than avoided; for it was one of the delusions which darkened the minds of these brave men, that an immortality of glory would be secured when their valorous career was closed by death on the field of battle.

The slaughter was suspended by darkness: at day-break Zoolamano and his followers were discovered crossing the river, the Tolymanians pursuing them with increasing vengeance. Tevito's early habits had enabled him to be eminently useful in the pursuit; for even the rapid current of the river did not suspend the death-dealing blows which he inflicted on the crest-fallen enemy. He was the first to land on the invader's dominions; and was seen, with invincible courage, to encounter the warlike Zoolamano. A huge snake lay supinely in his path. The uplifted weapon of Zoolamano fell powerless; his eye rested upon the omen, and, yielding to its influence, he surrendered himself a prisoner.

“ Brave follower of Zatacombo,” said the royal captive, “ I have read my destiny in the emblem before me : none will dispute with thee the hand of Quitalena ; and, as her love will reward thee, be merciful.”

The noble nature of Tevito was touched ; and as he stooped to receive from the supplicating prisoner that pledge of submission which is rarely violated, a blow fell on his head, which laid him motionless. On recovering his senses, he found the fiend-like Motatan holding up the gory head of Zoolamano.

A relay of messengers had conveyed to Quitalena hourly information of the battle. She heard with silent horror that Motatan had presented to her father the head of Zoolamano ; and, forbidding her attendants to follow her, she proceeded to the sacred grove of palms, in which stood the temple of the Sun, where she had been a daily worshipper.

There was only circumstantial evidence that Motatan had inflicted the blow which laid Tevito senseless ; but it was deemed conclusive by the Council, consisting of every warrior in the train of Zatacombo. Motatan was doomed to suffer death,

which his crime deserved, and Tevito was acknowledged as the lawful claimant of that high reward which had stimulated him to such heroic actions.

Joyfully did Zatacombo hasten towards his palace; but he was met by messengers of woe. The princess had not returned from the temple at the accustomed hour, and her anxious nurse sought her, but, alas! in vain. A vague hope that she had fled to meet her father had induced the anxious attendants to meet the king. Dreadful presentiments, which the heart trembled to admit, distracted the monarch; but it was not until every part of his dominions had been explored that the disconsolate parent mourned for his daughter, as lost for ever.

The mystery of her fate was at length revealed by the incessant search of the heart-broken Tevito: he saw, in the deep recess of a trackless forest, a tiger's cub sporting with the bracelet and jewelled zone of his lost Quitalena.

PAMPLONA.

THE city of Pamplona is situated on a plain, or rather in a valley, of about six miles in extent, surrounded on all sides by very high hills, some of them of extraordinary configuration. In consequence of the earthquake which destroyed Caraccas, the outline of an eminence to the right of that city was materially changed in appearance: the rock which had been previously concealed by earth and foliage, being shaken from its site, and sliding into the lake at its base, formed a small island, which the inhabitants still regard with a superstitious feeling.

A striking effect is produced by the variously-coloured ochreous earths which some of the formations exhibit, and which seem to be unfavourable to cultivation; but in the immediate neigh-

bourhood abundant compensation is afforded by the most profuse and gorgeous vegetation.

Like all Spanish towns, the city is divided into squares and streets running at right angles. There are some massive towers and other objects of architecture, which, seen at a distance, produce a good effect; but, on a nearer approach, these buildings are found to be in a sad state of decay, and many of the houses are entirely abandoned.

The interior of the cathedral is richly but rudely ornamented: there is much costly gilding, and numerous figures of Saints splendidly attired in satin, velvet, and brocade: but the golden crown, the silver sceptre, the rosary of diamonds, and stomacher of precious stones, which once formed the paraphernalia of the Virgin, have been appropriated to pay the soldiers of the republic. One treasure is left—a picture by Velasquez. A race of the Indians called Guayaberros once occupied an empire which included the province now called Pamplona, obviously so termed from the capital of Upper Navarre in Spain. Some of the regal ornaments, which it is believed did belong to the monarch of this tribe, were obtained by the writer, and are now in his possession.

They are of pure gold, and of elegant form, but the workmanship is rude. The Spaniards found the Guayaberros a warlike and (as they are called by the invaders, in their dispatches) a most obstinate people, giving more trouble to the conquerors than any other of the aboriginal tribes. Their cacique was a man of superior talent and extraordinary bravery: after many perilous encounters, he was made prisoner; but he had taken measures to defeat the rapacious designs and hopes of the plunderers, by removing from his palace the gold so much coveted by Cortes and his followers; nor could the threats or persuasions of the Spaniards prevail upon their captive to disclose where he had concealed his immense treasures. At length, upon receiving an insult of the most humiliating character, and being threatened with instant torture, he gave a reluctant consent to make known the hiding-place of his wealth.

The cave in which his riches had been secured was in a situation to which he could not direct the Spaniards; but he promised to conduct them to the spot. Dreading the escape of a prisoner of such importance, they chained six slaves to the fetters of the fallen chief: but he refused to move,

unless the vassal soldiers were released, and six persons of the highest nobility among the followers of the Spanish general were substituted. This demand being agreed to, the cacique led them to one of those frightful paths, or ledges of the rocky pass, of which there are so many to be seen in crossing the Andes; where one false step would precipitate the traveller to the bottom of a chasm, which the noontide beam of a tropical sun could never penetrate. From this path the cacique threw himself with such a sudden and effectual plunge, that he dragged with him the six Spaniards to whom he was chained.

It is said that the bodies were never found, and that, for a long time after this catastrophe, shrieks were heard from the gulf:—even to this day, the ravine, said to be the scene of this tragedy, is known by an Indian term, which signifies ‘the unburied dead.’

Many of the Spaniards who first invaded South America remained. The monarch, whose possessions they had so greatly augmented, having awarded large grants of land to them, some were united by marriage to the regal scions of the conquered aborigines; and their descendants are still

considered persons of the highest distinction. Don Ferdinand Alfaro became the proprietor of the rich plains of Pamplona by the double claim of a royal charter and his marriage with the daughter of the dethroned Cacique. The recent disasters in Colombia have fallen heavily on the descendants of this noble and once opulent family. The following interesting account of them has been extracted from the journal of a traveller, whose veracity may be relied upon:—

“The journey which, I had been told, might be accomplished in forty days, has occupied nearly five months: the funds provided for this undertaking were exhausted in the third month; and the stores, for which an order had been given for the forty days, were consumed before even that time had elapsed; so ignorant are the merchants, who reside in the sea-ports, of the extent of this vast continent. I was compelled, under the most vexatious circumstances, to part with luxuries supplied by my European friends; but, determined to reach my destination, I did not scruple to convert all my property into current coin. Books, trinkets, and clothes, proved acceptable to the natives. With the money thus raised I

reached this place. An attack of ague, with its inseparable companion, fever, had reduced me to such a state of debility, that I could not walk. The only asylum where I could find shelter was a *pulpeno*, or general store-shop,—a residence ill-suited to an invalid. Here I was annoyed by the incessant twanging of the guitar: the noisy mirth and riotous conduct of the inmates were intolerable: the place was dark, damp, and dirty; the attendants indolent, unfeeling, and ignorant; and the landlord mindful only of such guests as afforded him the best harvest. The place was crowded with disorderly company, and the mat which was spread on the floor for me was frequently usurped by drunken intruders, whom I had not the strength to repel. For ten days I had no alternative but to submit to this annoyance: after that time a remittance from Bogota, and an introduction to the governor, enabled me to quit this disgusting abode. I crawled out of my dungeon-like apartment, firmly resolved never to re-enter it. I proceeded from door to door, entreating to be accommodated with lodging; but the prejudice of the natives against my countrymen was so great, that none would receive me.

The foreign auxiliaries, who had done so much in aid of the Colombian army, had not always conducted themselves with propriety; and the peaceable citizens had an insuperable dislike to these adventurers. I resolved to throw myself on the urbanity of the governor, although conscious that my appearance did not warrant my calling at his official residence. A boat-cloak, much worn, hung round my emaciated frame; and my head was wrapped in flannel. Although the heat of the sun was so intense that the natives seldom ventured to leave the shade of their verandas, I was shivering with that internal cold, occasioned by ague, which benumbs the whole frame, so that the blood seems frozen in the veins. 'Lead me to the governor's house,' said I to a soldier who was passing, offering him, at the same time, a dollar. I was at that moment seized with dizziness, and sank exhausted at the door of a mansion. I lost all consciousness for several hours; on recovering, I found myself lying on a mattress upon a table. The soldier had, in compliance with my request, informed the governor of my situation, and he kindly came immediately to offer his assistance. I learned that I had been

admitted into the house of Doña Maria Alfaro, and that an arrangement had been made by the governor that I should remain under her care. A single glance at the venerable matron convinced me that she would not neglect her charge. Doña Maria was far advanced in years: she had passed the autumn of life, and, now in the winter of her days, her form still retained its elegance: her manners, combining dignity with suavity, bespoke her rank: the benevolent expression of her countenance evidently emanated from a gentle and affectionate heart. 'An apartment shall immediately be prepared for you,' said Doña Maria; 'in the mean time allow me to place the pillow under your head; let me shade the light from your eyes.' 'What shall we do with the pictures, the doves, the sedan, and the banners?' 'Well, well, take them all into the courtyard; it is a long time since the sun has shone upon them.' '*Si, si, mi Ama,*' said the domestics (by this phrase, I knew them to be slaves, for *ama*, or owner, is a term discarded by the republicans). Doña Maria placed her chair near me, and in the intervals of directing and sometimes assisting her slaves she applied fresh leaves of

the fragrant lime to my feverish brow, and moistened my parched lips with the pomegranate. This noble lady could not conceal her emotion, as she silently pointed to her domestics where to remove the faded remnants of costly furniture; neither could I observe, without powerful interest, these memorials of past magnificence. There was a massive chair of state, richly carved and profusely gilded, and an immense parasol, which must have required more than one person to carry it: this splendid article of luxury was covered with silk damask, with a deep tarnished fringe. There were also caparisons for many horses, from which the metal ornaments had been removed: the purple velvet was much decayed; all were broken and useless; yet these relics of former days seemed to be still treasured and reverentially treated by the old slaves, whose gloomy aspect and tattered garments assimilated closely to these wrecks of former splendour. 'To-night,' said Doña Maria, 'I shall sleep in the adjoining chamber, and my servants shall remain with you here; to-morrow you shall occupy the next room, which will be quieter and cooler than the saloon: we have long used that apartment for our de-

votions; a lamp, which has not been extinguished for many years, burns before the image of the Virgin—will that disturb you, Señor?’ I assured her that it would not, but, on the contrary, it would distress me very much if any thing were to be displaced on my account. This seemed to give her pleasure: the slaves were instructed to attend upon me, and, with a parting benediction, my kind hostess quitted me for the night. The next morning I was removed to the chamber, which had thus been rendered habitable: one portion of the room was hung with tapestry, partially screened from that allotted to me. From the humble but commodious bed prepared for me I had a view of the domestic altar, which exactly resembled those in churches; the same description of rich needle-work covered the table, which was ornamented with vases of flowers and various other customary decorations. An altar-piece of the Virgin particularly attracted my attention: I never saw any picture so touchingly beautiful; perhaps the mellow light which fell upon it, contributed to the effect: it appeared to me the most perfect work of art I had ever beheld. The governor called upon me, and was

pleased to see me so well accommodated; he offered to send his own physician, which I did not decline, although I felt no confidence in the skill of any of the medical men of the country, so entirely is their practice opposed to that of Europe. The governor asked Doña Maria if she had introduced her daughter to me; 'for,' said he, 'an occasional air on her lute or guitar would cheer the invalid.' Doña Maria replied, that she did not think me strong enough to see company at present; the most perfect quiet being indispensable. 'My daughter,' said the Señora, when the governor was gone, 'is called Maria Dolores, a most appropriate appellation, as events have proved; for she is of a melancholy disposition, which renders it painful to her to be in company, and she lives entirely secluded: few persons in this large town know her. Poor girl! how can she be otherwise than sad? troubles have been constantly gathering around us; and from her earliest recollection she has been in the midst of affliction; all the companions of her youth have perished, or are lost to her; some have fled to the mountains, some escaped to the islands; others have taken refuge in convents; many have been

murdered by the infuriated soldiers ; some have died of grief, and others have perished from absolute want. When you recover and have strength of nerve sufficient to bear recitals fraught with horror, you will find many who can tell you heart-rending tales of what they have themselves experienced ; but for the present you must be very obedient to me, and speak only to express your wishes.' I promised implicitly to observe her directions, and she quitted me, charging the female slave not to leave my apartment. No sooner was the mistress gone, than the domestic approached, and most earnestly intreated me to allow her to send for a confessor : with honest but indiscreet zeal, she told me it was impossible that I could recover ; that the fever, which now returned at regular intervals, would consume me, and that absolution was indispensable. From this period I had no recollection of any thing that occurred, until one morning my returning senses were awakened by the rude jingling of bells, the firing of artillery, beating of drums, and loud hurrahs. An old negro was watching me, and, on my inquiring the cause of such rejoicing, he told me it was *El Dia Buena*—it was Christmas-day.

A pang, such has had never before pierced my heart, deprived me of utterance ;—the sacred festival of our Redeemer's nativity was my own natal day : ever since I can remember, it was to me a day of peculiar excitement : in my boyhood, the presence of attached relatives, and, later in life, the congratulations of friends endeared by sympathy and association, had rendered that day especially sacred to me : the anniversary had always at home been celebrated with more than usual hospitality : it was a sort of jubilee, to which we looked forward with anticipations of delight ; and I was here alone in a strange land, on a sick bed : tears came to my relief ; from that moment the fever abated, and when Doña Maria came to console me, I was able to inform her of the cause of my distress. Her tenderness inspired me with respectful gratitude ; I thanked her for her solicitude during my ten days' insensibility, which the pleasure she evinced on my restoration convinced me had been almost maternal. In the course of that day Maria Dolores was introduced : she brought me a delicacy which was new to me ; it was the fruit of the passion-flower, the bottom of which was cut in such a manner, that twelve of

them would stand upright on a plate: the tops were sliced off, so that the edible portion might be extracted with a spoon; the pulp and seeds were mixed with wine, sugar, and Cayenne pepper, without being removed from the convenient cup formed by the external rind. I felt a great degree of embarrassment at this our first interview: I was conscious that my appearance must be unprepossessing, in consequence of the fact that my beard had not felt the razor during the whole period of my illness; for the Colombians are never shaved during the progress of fever. I felt also considerable vexation from being unable to express myself with any fluency in Spanish; but the frankness and delicacy of Maria gave me confidence, and the polite readiness with which she supplied the deficiency in my vocabulary flattered and delighted me. 'Now you are so much better,' said Maria, 'I shall frequently visit you, and shall learn how we can best reconcile you to remain in your room till you are well enough to leave it.' She then asked me whether I was fond of music, of flowers, of birds:—'you need not reply,' said she, 'I see that you are.' Nothing could be more artless than her manners,

or more simple than her attire ; yet all the grace and refinement which good society and education impart were evident. She was very beautiful, and, although her beauty was of a dignified character, it was less severe than sedate ; and if at first glance one did come to a decision, it would be, that Maria Dolores was rather formed to inspire friendship than a more tender sentiment.

“ As my eye wandered from the pensive brow of Maria to the picture over the domestic altar, the resemblance was so striking, that I almost concluded Maria Dolores had sat for the portrait.

“ My scrutiny did not escape observation, but the passing thought was mistaken ; for Maria inquired, as her mother had before done, whether I was disturbed by the lamp, or disliked the arrangement of that part of the room, as she could place some drapery in such a manner as to form a screen which should effectually conceal the altar ;—‘ but,’ said she with a tremulous voice, ‘ it would grieve us to remove any thing to which we have been so long accustomed.’

“ I entreated her not to mistake me for a barbarian, on account of my wild appearance : she

answered only by a smile, and, before she quitted the apartment, she reverently knelt before the shrine, and I saw that she was in tears. A fortnight elapsed before I could stand alone: during that period I had so far recovered, that for many hours every day Señora Alfaro and her daughter sat with me, amusing me by every device which their ingenuity could suggest. They frequently related interesting stories, and sang beautiful songs, which delighted me: Maria's guitar was superior in tone and power to any I had before heard: she also played on an instrument, in sound resembling a flageolet; but I never saw it—it was her pleasure that I should only hear it. The simple and pathetic melodies which she played sounded to me more like the warbling of a bird than regularly arranged music. Many of the tragical events connected with the revolution had been commemorated in verses adapted to popular airs. The following simple ballad, founded on a fact of recent occurrence, was of this description:—

Carlos wrote a letter to inform the Spanish chief,
That Bogota must yield, if he did not send relief;

Carlos.—‘ Where shall I find a messenger in whom I may confide ?’—

He spoke to her, when war should cease, who was to be his bride.

Paulina.—‘ Dear Carlos,’ then Paulina said, ‘ I’ll bear thy message hence :

You told me that in Orleans once, there died for its defence

A young and timid maid like me : with her may I not vie ?

Our courage slumbers in our hearts, till roused by liberty.

’Tis true I cannot wield a sword ; I cannot look on blood ;

But well I know the secret path which threads Tocyma’s wood.’

Carlos.—‘ Stop, maiden ; when thy mother wakes, and does not find her child,

How to thy absence, noble girl, will she be reconciled ?’

Paulina.—‘ Tell her the truth without disguise—she is Alfaro’s daughter ;

Tell her I go to save our race from the impending slaughter.

The Virgin will protect me, as I tread that path
alone.'

She caught the fatal document, and instantly was
gone.

Paulina was discovered e'er she reach'd Tocyma's
grove :

They search'd, and found the letter, which was
written by her love ;

Don Carlos' name was not subscribed—his writing
was unknown :

Paulina let the foe believe the treason was her
own.

Her youth, her sex, her beauty, the assassins
heeded not ;

Bound as a traitor she was dragg'd, and as a
traitor shot.

Don Carlos never sheathed his sword from that
disastrous day,

Until they bore him lifeless from the battle-field
away.

Beneath a pair of stately palms, with votive
wreaths around,

And trees whose pendant branches protect the
hallow'd ground,

Compassion planted emblems, their graves to consecrate,
In memory of their virtues, and in sorrow for their fate.

“ ‘ Maria,’ said Señora Alfaro, when the song was concluded, ‘ you must not sing such melancholy stories to our invalid ; try to recollect some more cheerful strain.’ ‘ Mother,’ said Maria, ‘ I have endeavoured to do so, but I do not know, nor can I recall, those more joyful airs which were familiar to me in childhood—but hark ! it is noon.’ I listened, and I heard a sound somewhat resembling the stroke of a bell twelve times repeated ; I had heard those sounds frequently before, and concluded they were the notes of a bird, which was indeed the case. Maria informed me that this living time-piece, which was called *Cantar las Horas*, (literally, ‘ sing the hours,’) was in their garden, and, although remarkably tame, it never willingly entered the house ;—‘ but you shall see this bird,’ said Maria ; and in a few minutes she had coaxed it into my room. It was a species of heron, with long bright scarlet legs, exactly of the tint of sealing-wax ; slate-coloured

plumage, and a long curved neck of singular elegance. For many years this bird proclaimed the hour with undeviating precision. 'Can you explain this miracle?' said I. 'We do not regard it as miraculous,' said Maria; 'but we are not the less grateful to the Creator for this valuable bird than we should be if we believed it to be an especial ordination of his providence.' 'How do you account for this faculty?' I earnestly inquired, and was thus answered: 'Formerly we had a *quinta*, four miles from hence, and there we obtained this bird when it was still unfledged: we had observed that it imitated sounds, but not with that accuracy for which parrots and some other birds are so remarkable. When we removed hither, we brought it with us: at first, it seemed dissatisfied with the small inclosure and the trickling of an artificial fountain, as it had been accustomed to an extensive range and the water of a stream which meandered through our estate: at length, the bird resumed its playfulness, and, to our astonishment, commenced the custom of noting the hours, which it still continues. At first we could not account for this habit; but at length it occurred to me that the clock of the church

near our quinta had a bell, the tone of which resembled the sound uttered by the heron : we listened, but could not hear the bell, which we knew to be appropriated to the sole purpose of striking the hour ; but, supposing that many animals had a more acute sense of hearing than human beings, we imagined that the bird distinguished and imitated the familiar sounds, until the habit was confirmed.' I inquired whether the heron imitated the bell when it was rung. 'The bell never does ring,' said Maria ; 'it is fixed for the sole purpose of indicating the hours ; a smaller bell rings for vespers, and a still smaller is used for the other services of the church.' 'And,' said I, 'perhaps the heron has too good a taste to imitate that discordant jangle.' A smile followed the remark ; for I had complained of the clattering of bells throughout South America. The bell is not swung as in Europe, but remains fixed to a beam in the belfry ; a rope is passed through a hole in the heavy iron tongue, and is generally carried to the outside of the church ; the tongue can only be brought into contact with the sonorous metal by sudden jerks, the force of which it is impos-

sible to regulate: an harmonious tone is therefore unattainable.

“ One morning, I saw Maria pass my door in the walking costume of the country: she wore a black silk skirt, very full and long; a mantilla of dark blue cloth, which is worn upon the head, and thrown across the face, so as to form a complete mask; over this, she had a beaver hat, with a crown fitting the head closely, like a skull-cap; the brim was flat, and equally broad all round: this formed a singular but not ungraceful dress. I addressed her by name; and she turned to inquire how I could have recognised her: I said I should know her shadow: ‘ That is very strange, for few would have discovered me in this dress.’ ‘ But you have not been their nurse, Maria.’ She made a low and formal curtsy, and thus conveyed the slightest possible shade of reproach with equal grace and dignity, and proceeded on her walk. ‘ When my daughter returns,’ said Señora Alfaro, ‘ she has promised that she will sing you a song composed by herself: she begs you to excuse her presence, for the guitar alone is not a sufficient accompaniment to

give full effect to the song: moreover, she wishes me to ask you to tell us one of the tales of your country, or that you will recite any verses which you can remember.' To this I readily consented; for I had amused myself by translating into Spanish a few stanzas, dictated by gratitude for the obligations they had conferred upon me.

“ ‘ Maria is ready,’ said Señora Alfaro; ‘ listen!’

THE MOCKING-BIRD.

I had a bird—a mocking-bird—
 Which was so fond of me,
 That, if a mournful strain it heard,
 It answer'd mournfully;
 But if a cheerful note occur'd,
 Then it sang merrily.
 Glee, Glee, G-l-e, G-l-e, Gl-ee;
 Glee, Glee, G-l-e, G-l-e, Gl-ee.

I never knew from whence it came:
 When first I heard its song,
 It seem'd to syllable my name,
 As if with human tongue:
 The pretty creature was so tame,
 It warbled all day long.
 Glee, Glee, G-l-e, G-l-e, Gl-ee.

Sometimes upon my almond-tree,
 Or from the cedars tall,
 When other birds sang cheeringly,
 It sweeter sang than all ;
 Sometimes it sat upon my knee,
 Responding to their call.
 Glee, Glee, G-l-e, G-l-e, Gl-ee.

One day I saw a falcon's wing
 Deepen our fern-tree's shade,
 Where oft I heard my favourite sing,—
 Shrill cries its woe convey'd ;
 The warbler saw the hateful thing,
 And flew to me for aid.
 Glee, Glee, G-l-e, G-l-e, Gl-ee.

With bitter anguish was it seen ;
 My scarf with blood was red ;
 The falcon, with its talons keen,
 Had pierced its victim's head ;
 Scarce did a moment intervene
 Ere the poor bird was dead.
 Woe, Woe, W-o-e, W-o-e, W-o-e.

Sometimes, methinks, I hear it now,
 With modulated gush,
 Trilling its cadence from the bough,
 Or whispering softly—hush !

He seems to speak a sacred vow :

I answer it—and blush.

Adios! Adios! A-d-i-o-s!

“ The exquisite pathos with which this tale was told, and the wonderful imitation of the mocking-bird’s varied cadences, surprised and delighted me. ‘ Now,’ said Maria, ‘ you must repeat some verses to us. I can easily make an accompaniment with my guitar, which will harmonize with your intonations, if you slowly repeat an English ballad.’ In obedience to her, I repeated the following stanzas, in a voice still feeble from my recent illness :—

GRATITUDE.

Love is sweet—a first pure love—

Where no ungentle thoughts intrude ;

But, soaring all its joys above,

Is truly heartfelt GRATITUDE.

Wealth is precious when it spreads

Its gifts with friendship’s grace imbued ;

But brightest is the beam it sheds

On deep yet silent GRATITUDE.

Power, when wisdom guides its sway,
 Will listen, if by sorrow sued,
 And, as its proudest gem, display
 The heart's devoted GRATITUDE.

But how express the secret joy?—
 Emotions, such as speech elude,
 Are mine to feel, without alloy,—
 Unfetter'd, perfect GRATITUDE.

“ The first day that I could walk so far as the saloon, Señora Alfaro threw over me a sort of mantle, which greatly excited my curiosity: it was entirely of needle-work; most grotesque devices were wrought, in white, upon a bright scarlet ground; strange animals, birds, and beasts, were all represented in attitudes of defence, like the heraldic griffins, lions, dragons, and birds of prey, by which it is presumed our valiant ancestors intended to typify their own prowess when they became crusaders. This singular garment was ornamented with long wiry feathers of uncommon structure: there was an air of antiquity and barbarism about the mantle, which induced me to inquire its history. ‘ Do you wish to know how it was fabricated, or for whom?’ said Señora Alfaro. ‘ Both,’ I replied;

‘every thing you can relate about it will be interesting.’ ‘It belongs to remote antiquity,’ said the lady; ‘the material is that imperishable cotton which formerly grew on the plains of Pamplona; the wool is from the Llama, an animal which formerly abounded in this region; the scarlet colour is procured from the cochineal insect, still existing in this province; the feathers are from a bird, which, like the race of the Guayaberros, is now extinct. Being anxious to replace the decayed feathers, we once offered a reward for some more of the same kind; but we could not procure any. The whole fabric is of needle-work; looms being unknown when it was made. This mantle belonged to the cacique whose fate is related by those who live near the ravine of the ‘Unburied Dead.’ One of the ancestors of my husband married his daughter; and, through all the vicissitudes which our race has experienced, this robe has been preserved. To-morrow you shall see our garden;—*adios!*’

“She immediately quitted the apartment; and I sincerely regretted that my curiosity had awakened any painful emotions. Addressing Maria, when she brought me refreshments, I

said, 'What can have happened to your servants Pedro and Tomasa? Pedro very seldom appears; and when he comes, he looks so grave, that I fear some misfortune has befallen him. Why do you give yourself so much trouble? Why does not the old Indian come to me?' It was Maria's habit, occasionally, to check my garrulous familiarity by asking me a question, instead of replying to mine. 'Are you weary of your present attendant? Very well; I see you are not: you are to walk in the garden this morning, and to-morrow you are to be at the governor's house: it is a festival: there will be a procession, which can be seen from the balcony: an official invitation has been sent, and you must accept it: it is a day of mourning with us, and our windows will be closed.'

"The next day I went to the governor's, and found a large company assembled, who paid me the most polite attention, as a stranger and an invalid: a chair was placed for me in the balcony, which commanded a view of the whole square through which the procession was to pass. I was introduced to Doña Castello, who very obligingly offered to explain to me the ceremonial. She

had been informed of my residence with the Alfaros; and, with feminine curiosity, endeavoured to draw from me various particulars, which I did not feel at liberty to communicate; and I was heartily glad when the appearance of the procession terminated her inquiries. I felt no interest in the splendid pageant, until I saw the representative of Santa Veronica, modestly attired and carefully masked: she was leaning forward, in a studied attitude, and displayed a napkin, on which the features of the Redeemer were faintly depicted. She appeared anxious that the emblem, commemorative of the event for which Santa Veronica was canonized, should be thrown into the shadow of the person who bore the ponderous crucifix. I could not mistake the figure: I saw at the first glance that Maria Dolores had assumed this disguise; and, as she passed beneath the balcony, I dropped a sprig of jasmine, which I was pleased to see fall on her robe, and that it was retained within its ample folds. No look or token of recognition was interchanged; and, to my surprise, I heard Doña Castello conjecturing by whom the saint was represented; and again reverting to the Alfaros, she inquired if they did not lament the

loss of their favourite old slave, Tomasa. ‘What,’ said I, ‘has become of her? She does not attend me as she used when I was first admitted by the humanity of Señora Alfaro; but I have never been informed for what reason they have parted with her.’ ‘Parted with her!’ said Doña Castello, ‘why, she is dead: she caught the fever which had nearly occasioned your death: she died, and was buried near the family-vault of the Alfaros.’ ‘How strange,’ I exclaimed, ‘that no intimation of this event ever reached me until this moment!’ ‘It is indeed strange,’ said Doña Castello; ‘but now I remember that some of our domestics mentioned that the remains of Tomasa were conveyed through a back window. I cannot imagine why they should have kept you in ignorance of this circumstance; but the Alfaros have singular opinions, and are peculiar in all their transactions, as you will hear when you are enabled to mix in society.’ I told my informant that so long as I was permitted to remain beneath the roof which had afforded me an asylum under circumstances of suffering and difficulty, I could only receive visits from the friends of my noble hostess; and the bad state of my health would preclude

all visiting on my part, except an occasional call upon the governor. ‘ You must not persevere in this resolution,’ said the lady, ‘ for to-morrow you will have numerous invitations; and we are not accustomed to refusals.’ After this conversation I withdrew, resolving to make Doña Alfaro some compensation for the loss she had sustained in consequence of my being her inmate. This might be in my power, as far as related to pecuniary arrangements; but for the hospitality, the delicacy, the friendship they had evinced in their conduct towards me, I felt that I could make no return.

“ On my arrival home, I found that a change had taken place in every apartment of the mansion, except my own. Black drapery, like a funeral pall, screened the family altar; and, long after I had retired to rest, I heard sobs, and low breathings of prayer and praise. The occurrences of the day had awakened a train of recollections in my mind. My first introduction to this amiable family had transferred me from the rude inmates and other annoyances of the Pulperia to the refined and exalted society of inestimable friends, who now considered me as one of themselves: yet,

had I not experienced the contrast, what a different estimate I should have made of the Columbian character! Manners, customs, and climates may differ; but these are only superficial characteristics, and do not designate the individual or private virtues, which exist unknown, till called into action by imperative circumstances. General society will always present a great proportion of national character; but that universal charity, which belongs to all the good and amiable beings of every country, is not so prominently displayed. But for an accidental circumstance, I might have supposed myself authorized, by personal experience, to state that the general character of the Columbians was such as I had suffered from in the Pulperia. This accident brought me acquainted with the Alfaro—models of benevolence and charity—of refined and dignified manners. How cautious therefore ought travellers to be in forming their judgments! and how still more cautious in publishing them to the world!

“ When I saw Doña Alfaro, the morning after the procession, she told me that her daughter was sorry that I had recognized her as the representative of Santa Veronica; and she intreated that

I would not mention it to any one, or allude to the circumstance to Maria. I expressed my regret at having betrayed my recognition of her daughter by dropping the flowers: this however, I assured her, would be considered entirely accidental, even had it been observed by any of the party in the governor's balcony, and that, amongst the many names which I heard attributed to the disguised figure, that of Maria Dolores did not occur; but nevertheless, for that day, the sensitive maiden did not favour me with a visit.

“ When I was strong enough to leave my apartment, I passed a great deal of my time in the garden, which was kept in the most perfect order by the care and superintendence of Maria. About two acres of ground had been inclosed by a very high wall: the mansion and its appendages occupied one acre, forming a regular square or court. A corridor, extending along the sides of the garden, formed apartments, in which the family passed a considerable portion of the day: these shady corridors were paved by lozenge-shaped bricks; and round the carved Moorish pillars were twined jasmine, clematis, vanilla, passion-flowers, and most of the creeping

plants, so carefully trained, that their slender stems decorated, without concealing, the sculptured columns, and sustained the more redundant foliage, which, spreading over the roof of the corridor, entirely concealed the heavy masonry. This flowery tapestry, in some places, fell nearly to the ground ; in others, by an exquisitely tasteful arrangement of the festoons, only a partial shade was permitted. The effect of art seemed to arise only from the graceful caprices of luxuriant nature. Maria had interwoven the snowy white with the purple and crimson passion-flowers, and linked the caressing tendrils of the vine with those more delicate plants, whose blossoms only expand freely in the brightest sunbeam, and which, without foreign aid, would trail on the ground. Beneath the deep shade of palms, magnolias, acacias, pomegranate, cotton, citron, cinnamon and orange trees, was a fountain, the statuary of which was worthy of admiration : a beautiful group of children supported the vase, from which, once, had poured a copious flow of the purest water. This ornament of the Patio was less attractive than it had formerly been ; for time had choked up the tubes which fed the vase. The

spring bubbled up near the useless fountain, and formed a pool, which was invaluable for domestic uses, and supplied the remarkable heron (the *Canta las Horas*) and a few other aquatic birds with abundance of water.

“ I was now able to ride out daily, and made some new acquaintances, although I kept my resolution not to invite company to Señora Alfaro's house. The humid atmosphere was unfavourable to my recovery; and I was advised, before I proceeded to the capital, to reside a few months at a place, about one day's journey nearer the mountains of Ibaque. My kind friends approved of this plan, especially as a friend of theirs would accommodate me as they themselves had done. To insure this desirable object, Maria wrote to her friend Don Domingo Martilla, who answered her letter in person on the following day. Maria had prepared me to meet a very singular person in this friend. He was, she told me, of the old school, the youngest son of a Spanish grandee, who had fled with a part of his family to Trinidad, on the first breaking out of the Revolution. Don Domingo's peaceable disposition and eccentric habits had prevented his being molested: he was exempted

during the severest conscription, and had remained with his mother and sister, to whom he was so affectionately attached, that he seldom left them for more than one day at a time. 'If Don Domingo therefore should come, as I hope he will,' said Maria, 'we must part with you to-morrow; but we shall hear of you almost daily, and soon see you again, restored, as we trust, to robust health. You will find Doña Antonia, Don Domingo's sister, a perfect gentlewoman: you will not see his mother, for she is very aged: they have thought it necessary to adopt, for twelve years, a plan of systematic deception towards her, which it requires extreme caution to pursue with success. A favourite daughter of the venerable lady met with an accident, which eventually caused her death, at the moment when the distracted mother was grieving for the loss of her husband: this calamity was, at the time, concealed from the agonized parent: she was persuaded that her daughter had taken refuge in a convent until she could travel in safety. This web of duplicity was first woven to spare the suffering parent; but they had never dared to unravel the mystery; and it has occasioned the greatest perplexity, and increased de-

ception; for, to this day, letters are read to the infirm and almost childish lady, as if written by her absent daughter; you must not, however, condemn with severity this deviation from truth: the family are really very amiable, and, although I blame any departure from that rigid rectitude which should govern all our thoughts and actions, the Martillas were peculiarly circumstanced: and charity will reluctantly condemn them for a pious fraud. Don Domingo himself is a man of the most unblemished reputation: his honourable conduct and chivalric feelings are not understood by the cold republicans; but you will appreciate his worth, and find amusement in his harmless foibles.'

“ I never felt so much at a loss to give expression to my feelings: Maria saw my emotion struggling for utterance, and hastily left me as if answering her mother's summons: she did perhaps hear the voice of Señora Alfaro; but certainly I did not. The arrival of Don Domingo aroused me from a deep reverie: he had arranged the mode of my removal more speedily than was agreeable to me; but I was obliged to submit. He had left a relay of mules on the opposite bank of a river, at about

two hours' distance, and at day-break I was to be conveyed to that point, in a kind of litter or palanquin. We were to rest in a tower, now dismantled and ruinous, where he had stationed the mules: during the sultry hours, and in the cool of the evening, we were to ride to his quinta. Contrary to my own secret wishes, Doña Alfaro had invited the governor and a few other persons to meet Don Domingo, and afford me an opportunity of taking a temporary leave: never did hours pass so anxiously as did this last evening to me. When the guests departed, Don Domingo led the ladies to an apartment, into which I had never been invited: it was called the work-room; but I was ignorant of the employment which so long detained my friends in its seclusion. It was settled that Don Domingo should occupy the couch which had been placed in my room for old Pedro, during his attendance in my sickness. I watched for the return of Don Domingo with a fretful feeling of his being an intruder on my privacy; but when he did arrive, I instantly felt my irritability subdued into a feeling of deference, which was due to his years and character. He had been commissioned by Maria and her mother

to tell me that fatigue prevented their bidding me the accustomed adieu; and that I must excuse their rising in the morning, as every thing would be ready for our journey at a very early hour; that Pedro was to accompany me the first stage of the journey, and then to return with the palanquin-bearers. I was obliged to submit; but that night it was in vain I attempted to sleep. I wrote to Maria and her mother, and thus found some relief in acknowledging the heavy debt of gratitude so justly due to them. Silently I partook of the cup of chocolate which the poor old negro presented to me before day-break. I held the lamp up to the altar-piece of the Madonna, which had so deeply interested me: and, whilst replacing it, I observed among the votive offerings a withered sprig of jasmine. I knew not, indeed, whether it was the same which I had let fall from the governor's balcony; but the bare possibility occasioned an emotion which I could not conceal from Don Domingo, who had followed me to urge our immediate departure. The letters I had written were in my hand: I placed them on the faded flowers, and passively followed my conductor to the conveyance provided for me.

“The Indian mantle, which had before engaged

my attention, was spread over a mattress covered and curtained round by drapery, attached to a slight frame-work of reeds. The novel but unvaried dipping of the palanquin, the change of air, and want of rest, combined to lull me into a sort of stupor : before I was aware of it, we had reached the bank of the river. Old Pedro now inquired if I had any command to his ladies : I never felt any partiality for this old servant, yet I could not part even from him with cold indifference : he carefully took charge of the mantle ; and, almost as long as we could distinguish his harsh tones, he repeated and shouted the farewell—*Adios ! Adios ! Adios.*

“ Don Domingo’s servant was provided with refreshments, which he had spread upon a ledge of rock, the base of which was upon the bed of the river, and formed an obstruction which produced a gentle cascade. ‘ Maria told me,’ said the cavalier, ‘ that you would prefer taking your repast in this situation. Would you like to hear the history of the tower, Señor, and of the hut which can just be discerned beneath the palm-trees ? Many a time have I heard the poor maniac who dwelt there sing to the music of the winds and the stream.’ I inquired if he could re-

member the song, assuring him that I should be most thankful to hear it; and, without hesitation, he sang the following stanzas :—

THE MANIAC'S SONG.

River, rapid, smooth, and clear !
 Stay thy course, my wrongs to hear ;
 So intense my misery,
 Human beings shrink from me.

River ! once my peerless daughter
 Drank of thy pellucid water :
 Once, my brave heroic son
 Sported thy bright wave upon.

River ! once my noble sire
 Did to thy sweet banks retire ;
 He built the tower thy waters lave :
 It was my birth-place, and his grave.

River ! I have seen thy flood
 Crimson'd with my kinsmen's blood :
 Frantic, from thy banks I fled
 When carnage on thy shore was spread.

River ! in my care-worn face
 Canst thou a daughter's features trace ?
 River ! alas ! thou canst but show
 An aged form—a face of woe.

River! I am of all bereft—
 Son, daughter, parent—none is left!
 But thou, sweet river, pitiest me;
 And I have still a friend in thee.

River! no longer will I roam;
 Of wild bamboo I'll build my home:
 The fruits reflected by thy flood
 Henceforth shall be my only food.

River! to thee I come at last—
 My race is run, my course is past:
 Thy bed shall be my resting-place:
 Receive me in thy cold embrace!

“ ‘ Does the poor woman still live?’ I said, touched with the history. ‘ We know not,’ said Don Domingo; ‘ she was removed to a distant province by some relations, who heard of her destitution.’ ‘ Can you favour me with another song, Don Domingo? You have gratified me highly by the first; and I shall listen with great pleasure.’ ‘ I do recollect one,’ said Don Domingo, ‘ but it is not very suitable for a man at my age to sing it. The song is not of my own composition; for I never in my life could make a verse; and that lost me the favour of her whose

charms had so infatuated me, that I used to wander about the mansion of her father, every night, until the lamp in her apartment was extinguished.' 'And did she not reward your constancy, Don Domingo?' 'No, Señor, she did not. One night, in my rambles about the house, I heard the soft tones of a lute preluding a serenade, which you shall hear:—

Softly on the dew-gemm'd leaves
 Falls the moon's resplendent light :
 With noiseless wing the heron cleaves
 The gentle breeze, this tranquil night.

No danger, maiden, need'st thou fear :
 Fail not, but hasten to the grove ;
 For, oh ! to me, thou art so dear,
 I only live, that I may love.

Beneath the tamarind-trees I watch—
 Oh, blest is that secure retreat !
 For there, at evening's fall, I catch
 The welcome music of thy feet.

The doves, dear maid, have ceased to coo :
 I listen'd to their notes of love ;
 And I have learnt of them to woo
 Their faithful type—thou art my dove.

Think what fond cares my heart consume
When thou art absent from my sight!
Forgive if I too far presume,
And bless me with thy love to night!

“ ‘ But,’ said I, ‘ Don Domingo, the young lady could not help this serenade.’ ‘ No,’ said Don Domingo, ‘ but this was no masquerade joke: the girl did elope, in earnest, with the serenader.’ ‘ And did you lose sight of her?’ ‘ Only for one month,’ said Don Domingo: ‘ it was a foolish thing of her to play me such a trick; but we are now very good friends. You might be very likely to meet her at the governor’s house; and, if you did, you would be introduced to Señora Castello.’ Thus did we beguile the time, until the fierce blaze of the sun was tempered by the evening breeze. We then mounted; and before dusk we reached the quinta of the Martillas. It was impossible to see Don Domingo without thinking of Don Quixote. His tall, spare figure and long thin visage, his peculiar costume, the measured cadence of his sentences, and the lofty courtesy of his manners, were in strict accordance with the fine portrait drawn with such nice discrimination by the inimitable Cervantes.

“ The quinta of the Martillas was very similar to the mansion of the Alfaros. In the spacious and uniform dwellings of the grandees, they seldom deviated from the Moorish style of architecture. It was, however, evident that Doña Antonia had not the same refined taste, and veneration for antique furniture, as the friends from whom I had parted so reluctantly : painted chairs, of the modern European manufacture, had usurped the place of their tall leather-covered predecessors. Coloured prints of saints, small common mirrors, and tin ornaments for candles, gave a mean and tawdry appearance to the spacious saloon : plates and dishes of Staffordshire ware were ostentatiously arranged on shelves ; and the curtains, of printed cotton, had a paltry effect over the large latticed windows : nothing in the apartment was consistent with its noble dimensions, except a pair of large jars, which Doña Antonia had suffered to remain, as she told me, very unwillingly, on account of her brother’s prejudice in their favour. I had not been an hour in the house before she favoured me with a list of her own qualifications, and the trouble it gave her to manage, as she was pleased to say, her amiable

but romantic brother. Don Domingo heard all, without making a single comment: he was so accustomed to his sister's loquacity, that he appeared unconscious of half she said. When she appealed to him, he gave his assent or dissent, as she half dictated; and when she left us, he said, what he certainly thought, that she was remarkably clever. The patio, or court, was not ornamented like that of the Alfaros, but was occupied by mules and pigs: not a single cultivated flower was to be seen; every room was in confusion and disorder, except that which was appropriated to me. The slaves, a number of whom the Martillas still retained, were dirty, and, I thought, insolent and disrespectful to Don Domingo. Señora Antonia was evidently the head of the establishment: I was therefore glad to find excuses for absenting myself from the quinta, and made daily excursions in the neighbourhood, in which Don Domingo was always ready to join me. He was an enthusiastic sportsman: the fowling-pieces and rifles, with which I was provided, delighted him; and it was a great source of amusement to him to cast bullets, and keep our sporting gear in order. The cost of

gunpowder and shot had been a serious check to his favourite amusement : it was delightful to see his enjoyment of the abundant stores which I had placed at his disposal. Necessity had made him frugal ; he seldom fired except he was sure of his game, and thought it extravagant to bring down any smaller game than the *gallina del monte*, wild-fowl, turkeys, deer, armadillos, or something useful for the table. If he saw two or three birds perched on one tree, he would steal round it in every direction, until he found the precise angle which brought more than one victim within the line of his sight, that he might have the chance of hitting two, at least, of the unconscious *roosters*. On one occasion, his gun being loaded with slugs, three turkeys fell at one shot : his joy was certainly extravagant ; he showed the birds, and explained his achievement, to every person we met. Don Domingo knew, and was respected by, every body. He had a kind word for all his neighbours, of every age, from the venerable patriarch to the prattling infant ; it was evident that his notice was regarded as an act of condescension : the salutations due to rank were

never omitted : even Doña Antonia always addressed her brother as Don Domingo.

“ This single-hearted gentleman had so much influence in the district, that he had lately been appointed to an official post. One of the magistrates told me that his sincerity and simplicity frequently caused the utmost consternation. Upon one occasion, a delinquent, accused of some misdemeanour before the tribunal in which Don Domingo had a seat, had endeavoured to bribe the cavalier by sending his sister a present. Don Domingo, after hearing the evidence, was called upon to vote. He said, “ The prisoner has won my sister’s favour, and obliged her very much by sending her a *demi-jon* of brandy. Luckily, she has only consumed a small quantity of it ; the remainder shall be sent to the prison. Certainly the accused is guilty.” On another occasion, a poor man was charged with attempting the life of a person with whom he had been quarreling : Don Domingo, having witnessed the altercation, gave his testimony in favour of the accused ; but, as the poor fellow had not been able to pay a legal advocate, he was condemned to a severe punish-

ment. This act of injustice Don Domingo could not endure; and, after vainly attempting to obtain a reprieve, he assisted in the escape of the prisoner: he made no secret of this action; and so far did the public feeling sanction his interference, that no inquiry into the conduct of the liberator was ever instituted. My friend was a devoted brother of the rod and line; fishing, and particularly fly-fishing, was a great enjoyment to him. He could imitate every insect which the fishes fed on; he took infinite pains to collect materials of the colour and texture required to fabricate the *fac-simile* of the living fly, and by his skilful imitation he seldom failed to catch the particular fish which he had promised his sister to procure. I remember his showing me an artificial fly with grey legs: he told me he had employed a portion of his own whiskers in making this choice bait; and, although he had tried horse-hair of the same colour, and wearied himself in seeking for substitutes, and had even endeavoured to use some part of the grizzly locks which he could well spare, the wary fishes could only be taken by those artificial flies whose legs were supplied from his whiskers and mustachios. The kindly

feeling with which he related these particulars, the air of sincerity which gave a charm to every thing he said, and the uprightness of his conduct, gained my perfect esteem. He was incapable of an ignoble act; and, although frequently engaged in the most servile occupations, he was still the cavalier. I have seen him seated at his own door, sewing up the rents in his garments, repairing the trappings of his mules, even mending his own shoes; yet every passenger paid him obeisance: the forward child, the heedless youth, the timid maiden, the bold beauty, alike paid their tribute of deference to my friend. I was very seldom alone, for Don Domingo accompanied me almost everywhere. Notwithstanding our intimacy, I never ventured to expose to him the petty artifices which Doña Antonia had employed to extort a higher payment for the accommodation afforded than had been agreed on. He was the only man I ever met with, from whom I never heard a complaint against his fellow-creatures.

“In speaking of the judges who had condemned the poor man whose fetters he had removed, he only said that they did not view the case in the same light as himself.

“The Alfáros had frequently been the theme of our conversation; and this brought to his recollection many melancholy events relating to that family, which he had himself witnessed; and, connecting these with information received from a source too painfully authentic, Don Domingo gave me the following detail of their sad history:—

“Doña Maria Alfaro was the daughter of the governor of New Granada, and was, early in life, married to one of the richest and most noble of the Spanish settlers. Don Miguel Alfaro was a general in the royal army, and opposed to the republicans. At the commencement of the revolution, he had been aware of the danger which threatened the Spanish ascendancy, and had prepared for removal to his native country. The treasures which he forwarded to his banker at Madrid were, according to report, so immense, that it was difficult to conceive how any individual could have amassed it, although he was a shareholder in the richest gold-mines in Vega di Sapia. Don Miguel’s family had quitted Pamplona, and were to wait for him at La Onda: a boat was moored in the river Magdalena, and a

ship was lying off the coast of Santa Martha, ready to convey him; but, before his schemes were fully accomplished, he was taken prisoner, and, with the awful rapidity which characterized the proceedings of that period of sanguinary conflict, he was condemned to be shot as a traitor. Humanity seems to have been utterly extinguished by party-spirit in the breasts of the contending forces; a death-peal had been rung, and no mercy was extended to those who were faithful to the cause they had espoused. It was not enough that Alfaro was to die,—but his wife and daughter were commanded to witness his death! He was murdered beneath the balcony, where, by savage force, they were compelled to take their station; but they saw not the last appalling struggles of the general; they heard the signal given; Maria's shriek startled the soldiers; and when they fired on the victim, the orphan and the widow fell insensible, as if they had themselves been shot. The officer who commanded the troops that performed this hateful duty had once been the intimate friend of Alfaro, and had pledged himself to the general that his remains should be conveyed to those who felt the deepest interest in per-

forming the last sad duties. When the soldiers fired, the general did not fall: the balls rebounded, and a murmur of suspicion was heard among the excited mob against the commanding officer, who was himself unpopular; and it was perhaps thought possible that he might have concerted some measure to save the captive's life. The dangerous result of such an impression was obvious, and it was probably this consideration which had prompted Alfaro to step forward, and desire that the soldiers would aim at his head, which was soon literally shattered to pieces. On lifting the body, some of the soldiers discovered the cause which prevented the bullet from penetrating his body. The deceased wore a shirt of mail, formed of small gold links, curiously interwoven. The soldiers, in raising the body of the hapless Alfaro, discovered and claimed as their booty the gold and jewels about his person; and having first seized and shared the plunder, their illustrious victim was trampled under the bare feet of the ruffian slaves; and I alone,' said Don Domingo in a faltering voice, 'was left to remove the mangled and insulted corpse of the brave and high-minded general. From that day, I have

felt as a brother towards Señora Alfaro, and as a father towards Maria : I am not familiar with the world or the crooked policy of worldly men ; I could not render much assistance to my friends in their destitution. I have no money ; I never had any personal occasion to require it ; but my sister, who is a remarkably clever woman, advanced two hundred dollars upon the security of some jewels, which was all the Alfaros had left of their once princely fortune. A government license was procured for the manufacture of cigars, and the ladies applied themselves to this trade, with the assistance of their two old slaves. Pedro bought the tobacco, and, when the cigars were manufactured, Tomasa sold them at the Pulperias.

“ ‘ The room into which I retired with Señora Alfaro and Maria, on the day before you left them, is exclusively appropriated to the fabrication of cigars : and you, sir, were not informed of it, lest you should suspect that the hours passed in attendance on you, during your sickness and convalescence, could ill be spared from the employment so essential to their support.’ I inquired whether the public was aware of the

source whence the ladies derived their subsistence. 'No,' said Don Domingo; 'for although such a business cannot be carried on without a license, the administrator had the delicacy to make the grant private; and the general impression is, that the Alfaros are supported by the charity of some private friend.'

" 'It is a long time since we have seen these amiable ladies,' said I; 'let us pay them a visit to-morrow.' 'Gladly,' said Don Domingo, 'if my sister Antonia does not object to it.' Antonia did object to it; but we out-voted her, and then she told us that two days before, she had received a letter from Maria Dolores, stating that some heavy calamity had occurred, and entreating that her brother would go to them. 'Why was this concealed from me?' said Don Domingo. 'Why!' said the manœvrer, 'because I knew it would grieve our guest: I was afraid also that my inexperienced brother would involve himself in difficulties, without being able to assist his friends.' Don Domingo spoke not: there was a fixed sternness in his indignant eye, before which even the subtle Antonia quailed. Mechanically, but with un-

usual celerity, he saddled his own mule. He seemed to have forgotten me; and when I entreated to go with him, he assented, as if I was the acquaintance of half an hour. His manner was entirely changed—formal even to coldness, although still courteous; and we rode onward for hours, without exchanging a single sentence. The prison is in the suburbs of the town: as we passed a grated cell, I was accosted by one of its inmates; it was Pedro, the old negro, who had attended me during my long illness: he was cursing himself in all the bitterness of despair, for having, as he said, brought utter ruin on his kind mistress. In answer to Don Domingo's interrogations, the miserable man confessed that he had been sent with money to purchase tobacco at the regular office, but that he had been induced to buy some which was contraband: the fraud was detected; his mistress's house had been searched and condemned, their furniture sold, and if she did not pay a fine which was imposed, she must also be imprisoned. All that could be done to avert the impending disaster was to save the lady from the horrors of a common gaol. The excise-laws relative to tobacco are extremely

severe. It was impossible by the most correct representation of the case, to rescue the heart-broken sufferers from the sentence which had been pronounced: the fine was paid, and we found a refuge for them in a remote quarter of the town, until we could provide them with a more suitable dwelling. Their own mansion was converted into a barrack, as I was informed; but I never could endure to witness the spoliation. It was not easy to offer consolation to feelings so deeply wounded. This last stroke of undeserved and unexpected affliction, aggravated by the treachery of her slave and the cruelty of her oppressors, had almost bereaved Señora Alfaro of reason: the idea of her daughter being dragged from the asylum which had been held sacred, and that she might soon be left without a guardian or a home, had occasioned such acute mental suffering, as to endanger her life. She was released from her misery, about seven weeks after her expulsion from the house in which she had fondly hoped to breathe her last. This mournful intelligence was sent to me in a few lines, from the orphan Maria Dolores. She told me that I should see her no more, as the abbess

of the convent dedicated to Santa Veronica would receive her, in accordance with the last wishes of her parent. She informed me she did not intend to take the veil, but had determined to devote herself to the duties of the cloister, as a *beata*, or holy woman: her resolution was sincere and unalterable. She conjured me never to inquire for her, or to associate any painful ideas with her fate, as conventional seclusion would have been her choice, even had her family still retained all their original wealth and splendour. She promised to pray for me, and begged me to accept the treasured picture of the Madonna, and the Indian robe which I had so frequently admired as an offering of friendship from Maria Dolores, 'the last of the Alfaro.'

THE RIVER CLARO.

NUMEROUS rivers are engulfed in the Magdalena, (many of them having a course almost as long as, and running nearly parallel with, this majestic river,) increasing its grandeur until the accumulated volume of water, rushing into the Atlantic, can be traced for some leagues beyond the shore, refusing to mingle with the briny wave for an almost incredible distance.

The Claro is not the most important, but it is one of the most admired of the tributary streams. Its waters are beautifully transparent, and, as if unwilling to blend with the less pure current of the Magdalena, they expand at the point of junction into a broad placid lake. It is remarkable that although the caiman, or alligator, does not ascend

the Claro, the lake swarms with them. They may be seen in countless numbers, and might be mistaken for trees recently felled, with their bark still fresh and green, united in rafts for floating down the stream, so closely are they wedged together. These vigilant monsters are so still, that, when lurking for their prey, they will suffer a barge to graze against their impenetrable coats of mail, without quitting their station. Fortunately, they never attempt to invade the boats; but if any thing acceptable to them falls overboard, or is thrown into the lake, they boldly snatch the food, regardless of the shouts, and, in some cases, of the blows inflicted by the boatman's pole. A poor girl who had been tempted to gather guavas from a tree which overhung the water, fell from a branch, and was snatched by one of these dreadful animals: her brother saw the horrid spectacle, and gave an alarm, but it was in vain—the damsel was seen no more. Great anxiety prevailed to destroy this monster, for it was believed that he would return to the precise spot, and wait for other prey. Thousands of bullets were fired at every caiman which made its appearance, in the hope of avenging the poor girl's death; but the

balls glanced from the bronze backs of the impervious creatures. They are only vulnerable in two places—the eye, and the soft elastic skin between the fore-shoulder and the trunk: their eyes are small, and generally half-shut. The other point of attack is only exposed when the animal moves on land, or basks on the sand of the small islands, which, continually shifting, always defeat every attempt to make a regular chart of the Magdalena. On these small islands or sandbanks, the alligators deposit their eggs, which are not much larger than those of the swan. The colour is a dirty, dull, pale green; the surface is not rough, nor is it polished like the eggs of a bird, but harsh and unpleasant to the touch, like the surface of a recently fractured block of marble. The sunbeams hatch the young caimans, whose first care, on issuing from the egg, is to escape from their dreadful parents. The rapid movements of the active offspring is their best protector; for the full-grown animal cannot turn with facility, and the young avail themselves of their instinctive knowledge of this peculiarity to elude the murderous jaws, which are ever open to destroy their own race.

The caiman is very cowardly; rather skulking and snatching its prey by stealth, than venturing upon an attack where resistance can be made. We have seen them captured by the most simple weapons—ropes and staves. The former are noosed like the lasso, and cast over the indolent unwieldy animal; the latter are employed to secure the ropes, gag the caiman, and break his ponderous jaw. This achievement is not however frequently witnessed, as it requires a coincidence of favourable circumstances: the animal must be found asleep, or when he is in a supine state after gorging a heavy meal; he must be without companions, which is very rare; and the situation in which he is to be surprised must afford a safe approach: not less than ten men, of unflinching courage and practised in the sport, are required to insure success.

Occasionally, a good marksman does send a bullet into the brain through the orbit of the eye, which causes instant death: but such is the general horror and dread of these formidable creatures, that the capture or death of an alligator is an event which the natives celebrate with tumultuous rejoicings.

We found it expedient to remain for three days at Cara, a neighbouring village: we there noticed the body of an alligator which had recently been destroyed: some sharp instrument had apparently been thrust into its mouth, for the lacerated tongue was nearly torn out, and the blood had flowed so rapidly, that the sand, though hot, had not yet absorbed it. The creature lay imbedded in its own dark clotted gore; it had evidently been dragged from the bank of the river. A number of bald vultures were eyeing us, anxious no doubt to commence their feast the moment we departed. The dogs, fearless of man, had already taken hasty snatches at the tongue, and growled when we beat them off from their meal, which we effected in order to procure a tooth for each person of our party. It was difficult to break the firmly-fixed teeth, as we had nothing but smooth pebbles to use as hammers: to dislodge the tusks from the enormous jaws was impracticable. We counted seventy of these destructive teeth in the head of the animal, which was twelve feet long. A sharply-defined projecting row of pyramidal scales extended from the head to the tail: its fore-feet were covered with

a substance so hard, that a penknife was broken in an attempt to cut a portion. The hinder legs are much longer, and armed with more formidable claws. Our further investigation was interrupted by a party advancing with rapidity, and evidently under great excitement: a female with dishevelled hair, her eyes lighted up with a triumphant expression, and brandishing a bloody spear, shouted in a voice rendered hoarse by exertion, "I have killed the caiman!—I—I have killed the caiman!" She struck the dead animal with her rude weapon: when she could no longer articulate words, passionate bursts of the wildest grief succeeded, till, quite exhausted, she fainted, and was carried senseless to the village by her friends. We soon learnt the cause of the bitter anguish we had witnessed. "That poor woman," said a person who was left in charge of the dead caiman, "gets her living by carrying water from the river to the village. Some years ago, her daughter was snatched by a caiman, and seen no more: this morning Barranca, as we call her from the place where her family lived, was stooping to fill her calabash, just where the water is shadowed by the mangroves, when her infant son

fell into the stream, and was instantly snapt in two by a lurking alligator. Barranca fearlessly rushed into the river, and saved the remnant of her child from becoming food to the hateful destroyers. Barranca's was an act of frightful daring; and had any one been present, they would, no doubt, have prevented it; but she was always at her employment before the other villagers, and thus it was this disastrous morning. From long familiarity with the habits of the caiman, Barranca well knew the method of capturing it; but, except under the impulse of delirious desperation, she could never have done as she did. She ran home, and, taking the hunting-spear which had been her husband's, she fastened two sharp knives and the blade of a razor to its pointed head, and baited this weapon with all that remained of her own sweet babe. She stationed herself in ambush behind a tree, to which she secured the instrument of death by a coil of rope; she carefully watched till she could allure the identical caiman, which, after having tasted once such a tempting morsel, was sure to lie in wait near the spot, for a second. She was successful in her dreadful experiment; and with temporary strength, exceeding

her usual power, she dragged the monster from its element, and saw it expire.

“There is in deeply concentrated feeling an energy which impels persons even of weak nerves to perform the boldest deeds,—scorning assistance, and refusing sympathy. No participation is admitted in their all-absorbing motive: one object only animates the mind and body, and gives superhuman strength till the purpose is effected; but when the crisis is past, then the highly-wrought mind sinks with the exhausted mechanism of the body into its original weakness. Such was poor Barranca’s state: she had destroyed the destroyer of her babe by her own courage, but she could not venture alone to seek in that horrid tomb her imprisoned infant; yet, under the strong persuasion that its mutilated limbs would be obtained on opening the body of the alligator, she had brought her relations and friends to assist in the search—and you, gentlemen,” said the informant, “see the result.” We would have remained to see the animal dissected, but so much time had already been consumed, that we left the spot reluctantly, and never afterwards could learn the result of

the disgusting inspection of the alligator and its victim.

The priest of the nearly exterminated parish of Claro was born and educated in Europe: he therefore courted the society of strangers: with him we paid visits to several families, and partook of refreshments at the house of the principal land-owner, whose mansion had once been splendid, but was now rapidly decaying. One large room, called the saloon, still displayed some good furniture: at each extremity were rooms separated only by drapery from the principal apartment, which served for dormitories—one for the owner of the mansion and his lady, and one for the rest of the family. The priest observed that it might appear strange to us, that the sleeping-rooms had no better protection;—"but," said he, "custom converts that thin curtain into a wall of adamant. I have lived twelve years amongst these people, and during that period in all our troubles we have never known that sanctuary to be violated: even I, privileged as my order is said to be, should not presume to enter, without special permission, within those veiled apartments."

The mountains which confine the pellucid

Claro are of singular form: the pointed and inaccessible peaks are apparently naked rock; the intermediate hills and valleys have been highly cultivated, but from neglect the plantations are nearly destroyed. A few scattered huts mark the enclosures of cotton, coffee, sugar-canes, and plantains; the village is neat, but almost deserted; a double row of cocoa-nut trees extends along the only street which is entire, and forms a splendid avenue to the humble church. It is inexpressibly painful to trace the desolating effects of war in this neglected land of loveliness. Of seven hundred families who formerly cultivated these productive estates before the Revolution, four hundred have left the station never to return. We observed that the pastor of Santa Rosa De Claro was supplied by the villagers with all the necessaries of life—free-will offerings to their spiritual guide, counsellor, and physician; for the padre belonged to the respected order of the monks of San Juan De Dios, whose education includes a knowledge of medicine and surgery. There is, in fact, a hospital attached to every convent of this valuable order. The patriarchal simplicity of the padre's life rendered him indepen-

dent of foreign luxuries. Money apparently he had not: his poverty became proverbial. "As poor as the Padre," was a declaration implying that the person who made it had not a single coin in his purse. Still the priest was rich in the goodwill of his flock; and when he wished to receive strangers with cheerful hospitality, he could always rely on the generous contributions of his neighbours, to furnish the board. He had great pleasure in educating the children; the school-room was under his own roof, which was in excellent order: his pupils displayed their acquirements in penmanship and arithmetic; some of them readily recited poetry, and could promptly answer various questions relating to their religious creed. The difficulty of procuring books was a great source of trouble to the worthy teacher, and it required much patient toil to copy printed books for those who could not read manuscript characters. The labour of his own hands furnished nearly all the materials necessary to prosecute the studies of his scholars. Fine sand was sifted over flat tables; on this surface, made even by heavy wooden rollers, the children formed letters and words with a pointed reed. As they became

more familiar with the characters, and could form sentences, the smooth, hard, and thin leaves of the Ballia admirably supplied the place of paper, which was too expensive for his establishment. A few sheets of foolscap presented to each of the children, were received with the most rapturous gratitude. The duties of this school are commenced and concluded by a prayer, which is chanted by all the children. When we visited, we heard a hymn, to the following effect :—

Holy Virgin! to thy care
We commend our humble prayer;
Bear the offering to our Lord,
Whose name shall ever be adored.

Santa Rosa, our Patrona!
Intercede with the Madonna,
That we may from sin be free,
As we put our trust in thee.

Saints around our Father's throne!
Make our supplications known;
Be our advocates above,
For health and peace to all we love.

When I bade adieu to the river Claro, I did not expect that I should ever see it again; but I returned under circumstances so remarkable, that a detail of the event may prove interesting, as it shows the difficulty of navigating the Magdalena.

The rainy season was commencing as we left El Claro; the river rapidly swelled, and our progress was very slow: after sixteen days of hard toil, we reached Angostura, a place so called, as the river is there confined in a strait between rocks: there is at all times considerable difficulty in getting a heavy boat through this strait, but at particular seasons it is extremely dangerous. On our arrival, the river had swollen until the pressure of the water above the Angostura forced the current through the strait with such violence, that it formed a cascade, or *salto*, as the natives call it: we did not attempt to brave its fury. The foam accumulated until it formed large yeasty masses, so firm, that it resembled discoloured snow, and was of nearly equal density. We resolved to convey the cargo by land to the nearest safe station, for re-embarking, and then to attempt towing the boat up when empty. The cargo was in part landed, and secured under a

shelving rock. The boat was fastened by a rope to a tree, the roots of which had been loosened by the action of the water and the rapid current ; but it still offered apparent security. The master of the boat and all his men resolved to sleep on shore ; but, as there were still many things of great value on board, I chose to remain in my usual berth. I saw the men make a large fire, to prepare their evening meal, and listened to their songs ; for the hard and unusual labour they had sustained this day had not depressed their hilarity. I watched until all was still : the loneliness of my situation struck me : I had with me, on board, a dog, which was not my own, but it had taken a liking to remain with me ; and although I had previously sent it ashore, it swam back to the boat, which had been driven a little off the bank that it might ride more easily. About midnight, I was awakened by the barking of the dog, loud and close to my ear : I felt that the boat was moving ; but it was so intensely dark, that I could not understand what had happened. As I looked at the few stars which dimly shone, and endeavoured to trace the outline of the banks, it appeared to me that I was rapidly floating down

with the mighty stream. That deep and hollow thunder which, in continuous rumblings so generally denotes an approaching earthquake, produced a sensation of indescribable horror. The dog crept to my feet, and lay crouching there, and howling so piercingly, that I was in terror, and called loudly to the patron, to the boatmen, and to my servant; but a flash of the vivid lightning, which not only rendered visible, but seemed to burnish, every object with light, revealed to me how fruitlessly I called for help. The tree to which the boat had been fastened had been uprooted, and was now floating down the river with the boat, at a rate that I could partly estimate by the cutting sensation produced by the velocity with which I was passing through the atmosphere. Successive peals of thunder, and flashes of lightning, continued throughout the night; at one moment the sky seemed to be rent by a stunning explosion. In front of the glowing furnace which the separating clouds disclosed, streaks of red forked lightning darted with a distinctness and suddenness which made me shudder. At daybreak I had reached El Claro: it was in vain to call for assistance, as I perceived the surround-

ing objects casting long shadows; for I remembered having heard the padre say, that it was not usual for the people to stir abroad until the shadow of the church was contracted within the boundary of its nearest enclosure: still I gazed at the peaceful village, with straining eyes, and with alternating hopes and fears. The boat shot beyond it with a rapidity which made me giddy; and sometimes I was obliged to close my eyes, still trusting to that Power which, under all circumstances, either of danger or of security, was ever present, sustaining or chastening me, but always in mercy. A thick fog came on, which hid the distant mountains, and even the banks of the stream. I heard the boatmen singing their Hymn to the Virgin, as they commenced their toilsome labours. I fancied they answered my call, but I did not see them. The dog barked; which pleased me, for if the patron had followed me, as I expected, it would have guided him in his search. At noon I caught a glimpse of a peak known to me: I had in a few hours traversed the same distance which had, at the ordinary speed, before required many days to navigate. The tree, which was still attached to my boat by the

rope, was now laden with various floating substances entangled in its branches; my progress was consequently checked: I endeavoured to increase the accumulating mass, by throwing whatever substance I could reach upon it, hoping that the tree would sink, and answer the purpose of an anchor: but this plan was injudicious; the heavy load split off the branches, and the boat, losing the counteracting weight, spun round, and was driven before the current so unsteadily, that it appeared highly probable it would at length be swamped. At sun-set the bark was driven close to a group of trees, which were apparently growing out of the water; the small island on which they were rooted being covered by the advancing flood. Fortunately, I was enabled to attach a rope to one of the stems, and, before dark, was moored in comparative safety. I slept soundly during the night of that eventful day: in the morning all was serene and beautiful; the waters had so far subsided, that a sand-bank was just discernible, not twenty yards from the submerged island, upon which the slender reeds, shattered and divested of their flowers, began to appear. The river was so broad, that I could not see the

boundary to the right ; and on the left, from the island to the shore, was about fifty yards ; but an extended wilderness of wild canes was the only object now visible above the surface of the water. I had no food in the boat except a bag of rice, the last of four which I had purchased at El Claro, and which had fortunately been left on board. To appease the cravings of hunger, I had eaten the hard grains, until I was no longer able to masticate. The poor dog betrayed symptoms of its sufferings from want of food : I crushed some of the rice, and steeped it in water, but it would not take it : I was in hopes that mice, or some other animal food, might be found at the bottom of the boat, and carefully removed every remaining package, but could discover nothing to satisfy the starving animal, whose glaring eye and hideous howling shocked me more than my desolate situation. A few birds were perched upon the trees, but I had sent my gun on shore. I had no means of procuring fire to boil the rice, and every hour increased the sullen and savage aspect of my canine companion. As the sun gained its meridian, a number of alligators left the muddy river, to bask on the sand-bank : when the dog saw

them, he barked and howled at them: the creatures rolled themselves into such a position, as enabled them to fix their keen small eyes upon me and the dog: in vain I endeavoured to pacify him, and induce him to eat the rice. Thus passed the weary day, and still more weary night. I did not dare to sleep, being more afraid of my companion than of the monsters which still watched us until I could no longer distinguish them. The next morning, I was compelled to commit an act, for which my heart even now reproaches me!—the dog snapped at me; foam was oozing from his mouth, and in my horror I threw the poor animal overboard, towards the shore. I saw it swim for some distance; but of its ultimate fate, I know nothing.

A mail-boat passes between Cartagena and Mompex twice every week. When I recollected this circumstance, I was much consoled, as I thought it probable it might afford me assistance. I endeavoured to make my situation known, by tearing linen into long strips, and hoisting them as signals on poles, which I had contrived to splice together, and fix upright. I could not swim; and could I have done so, I should have been deterred

by the formidable and still vigilant crocodiles. I had made rafts of the Toldo, or covering composed of planks, and hoped that by launching them, with strips of linen attached, they might attract the attention of the conductor of the mail-canoe, and induce him to look out.

On the third morning of my disastrous voyage, I saw what I thought was the canoe I had so anxiously watched for, like a speck on the river : I shouted until I was hoarse, but the faint echo of my own voice was the only response. The waters having subsided, I could now land upon the island, and wonderful it was to observe how soon the plants reared their drooping heads and broad leaves to the light : before the recent flood, the Palma Christi, or castor-oil plants, had flourished here ; many had been beaten down, and some up-rooted ; a few only had escaped with slight injury. I was surprised, on the third morning of my bondage, to see one plant of the Palma Christi, which was six feet high, entirely divested of its leaves by the ravages of those brilliant green insects, which have the lustre of gems like the diamond beetle : the stem, and every twig, were so covered, that their form could be traced only

by the clustering myriads that concealed the plant. I could not resist venturing on the slime-coated island, to obtain some of these glittering treasures; and I secured many. I found a wild guava, on which numbers of the Mantis, or walking-leaf, as they are sometimes called, had congregated. As they moved slowly along the branches, it was difficult to distinguish their singular wings from the pale delicate leaves of the tree. I found there, also, an innumerable variety of butterflies; one especially, which, it is ascertained, is unknown in Europe: it was of exquisite form, and swallow-tailed; nearly black, and barred with emerald green stripes of intense lustre. I returned to the boat with my large straw hat covered with beautiful specimens of the insect tribe. Thus I beguiled another day. I will not deny that the deep under-current of my thoughts was not diverted by this pursuit: anxiety I did feel; but the heart-breaking misery which, I fear, all must feel at some period of their lives, did not then oppress me. I was weary of my vegetable diet, and was still apprehensive; but that night I slept soundly, and awoke in health and spirits: the next day, with inexpressible joy, I beheld

three canoes, their white streamers hoisted at the prow, and I was convinced relief was approaching: my signals had been observed, and the patron and some of his companions came up to me.

I need not describe our meeting, nor the particulars of our return to Angostura; but if, reader, these Narratives have interested you, I shall indulge the hope, that at some future time I may engage your attention to the details of adventures in other parts of the world.

A P P E N D I X .

APPENDIX.

Clase de Frutas que hay en esta Ciudad y sus inmediaciones, utiles para comerlas en crudo y en conserva ; *a saber* :

1. *El Mamey* ; fruta redonda ; su peso de una a seis libras ; su color entre amarillo y nacar. Arbol grande. Se come dicha fruta en crudo, siendo muy dulce ; y tambien se hace conserva de ella, cortandola en tajadas.

2. *El Sapote del Pays*. Esta fruta solo se come en crudo ; es dulce ; su color, por dentro, es entre amarillo y encarnado ; su peso media libra, ó poco mas. El arbol es grande.

3. *El Sapote Villaney*, ó Canquero, es fruta dulce, y solo se come en crudo ; su color, por dentro, es como color de canela ; su tamaño como de una libra.

4. *La Guanabana*; fruta agria y dulce; se come en crudo, y se hace tambien en conserva; su color verde por defuera, y blanco por dentro; su peso de una á seis libras. El arbol tiene seis varas de alto; pero no es muy grueso.

5. *El Caimito*; fruta dulce; y solo se come en crudo; su color es morado y blanco por dentro; su peso una onza. El arbol es grande. Hay otro caimito tambien dulce, pero de distinto gusto; su color, por dentro, entre amarillo y blanco; su peso dos onzas. Es arbol grande.

6. *El Nispero*; fruta dulce; y solo se come en crudo; su peso de una onza; su color, por fuera y dentro, como el de la canela. Es arbol grande.

7. *El Aguacate*. Esta fruta se come con sal; no es dulce, pero de un gusto muy agradable. Se come en crudo y tambien como ensalada; su peso de una libra, poco mas ó menos; su color verde por fuera, y amarillo por dentro. Es arbol grande.

8. *La Papaya*; fruta dulce, y se come cruda, confitada, y en ensalada, y tambien guisada; es de color amarillo por defuera, y de nacar por dentro; su figura como la del melon; su peso de una á quatro libras; es un vastago alto de quatro hasta seis varas.

9. *La Naranja* es una fruta dulce con un poco de ácido; se come en crudo; su color amarillo por defuera, y por dentro amarillo, tirando á nacar; su peso de tres á quatro onzas. El arbol no es muy grande.

10. *La Lima* es una fruta de la misma familia de la naranja; es tambien dulce, y con menos ácido. Se come en crudo, y no de otra suerte; es menor que la naranja; su peso de dos onzas. El arbol pequeño como el limon; su color amarillo por defuera, y por dentro blanco, inclinándose á amarillo.

11. *El Mango* es una fruta dulce con un poquito de ácido; su color amarillo por fuera y por dentro; su peso de dos á tres onzas: se come solo en crudo. El arbol no es muy alto.

12. *La Chirimoya*; fruta dulce: se come en crudo, y no de otra suerte; su peso de dos onzas hasta una libra; su color verde por afuera, tirando algo á amarillo, y blanca por dentro. El arbol no muy alto.

13. *El Anon*, llamado *de Castilla*, es casi lo mismo que la chirimoya, ya en su tamaño, ya en su figura, con la diferencia ser berrugado. Es dulce, y solo se come en crudo. El Anon de la Tierra es entre amarillo y nacar; es tambien dulce, y se come solo crudo: su color por

dentro es blanco amarillo ; su peso de media libra á una. El arbol no es muy alto.

14. *El Ticuco* es una fruta dulce, pero no muy penetrante ; se come en crudo, pero no es muy agradable. Hecho en conserva es muy bueno ; su color entre morado y encarnado ; es pequeño, pues apenas pesa una dracma. Es arbol como de cinco varas de alto.

15. *La Granada* es una fruta dulce con un poco de ácido ; su peso de media á una libra ; su color amarillo y nacar, como el de la manzana. Es muy buena para los enfermos, y mitiga la sed por ser muy cordial ; se come solo en crudo. La cáscara es muy medicinal para la curacion de las úlceras. El arbol de tres varas de alto.

16. *La Piña* es fruta dulce, y con algun ácido ; su color amarillo por defuera, y por dentro un poco mas claro ; se come en crudo, hecha en dulce, y en aqua con azucar ; su peso de una hasta seis libras. La planta no da mas de una piña, y luego muere ; pero da brotes para reproducirse.

17. *La Piñuela* es silvestre, y muy chica ; su figura es distinta, pero muy semejante en el gusto á la piña. La planta da hasta doscientas piñuelas. Se come en crudo, y no de otra suerte ; su color es pardo por defuera, y

blanco amarillo por dentro ; su peso como de un cuarto de onza. La planta, como la de la piña, muere despues de dar fruto.

18. *La Guayaba* es dulce con un poco de ácido. Se come en crudo, y se hace dulce de ella ; su color es amarillo tostado por fuera, y por dentro entre rosado y encarnado ; su peso una onza, poco mas ó menos. No es arbol muy alto.

19. *La Guayaba agria* es del mismo tamaño que la anterior ; su color amarillo claro : se come en crudo, y en aqua se hace como limonada y naranjada, y es muy agradable. No se hace otro uso de ella.

20. *La Guayabita en Ancerma* es chica ; su peso como un cuarto de onza ; su color amarillo claro ; es dulce y de buen gusto ; se come en crudo, y no se hace otro uso de ella.

21. *La Ciruela* es amarilla, inclinando á encarnado : se come en crudo, y tiene bastante ácido ; su peso un cuarto de onza ; quando está verde se cuece, y se echa en encurtido, y asi es muy gustosa : no se hace mas uso de ella.

22. *La Breva* es lo mismo que el higo, aunque doble mayor ; su color nacar, inclinando á morado ; se come in

crudo, y es muy dulce. Tambien se hace dulce de ella quando estan tiernas.

23. *La Guama, ó Machete*, es una vaina que se abre en dos, lo mismo que la del frisol, y dentro estan las semillas cubiertas de una mota blanca, de la misma figura que un copo de algodón ; esta se come, y es muy dulce ; la semilla es negra ; se come solo en crudo, y no se hace otro uso de ella ; su color verde, y su peso de una libra, poco mas ó menos.

Hay muchas clases de esta fruta, de distinta figura, color y tamaño ; pero el gusto es casi el mismo.

24. *Chupa* es una fruta amarilla por un lado, y verde por donde tiene el cabito ; su color por dentro amarillo tostado, quando está madura ; se come con sal y pan, lo mismo que el aguacate ; es de muy buen gusto ; su peso una onza, poco mas ó menos. Es fruta silvestre, y no se produce sino cada cinco años, pero con mucha abundancia : se come en crudo ; y no se hace otro uso de ella.

25. *La Castaña* es tambien fruta silvestre ; se cuece para comerla, y no se hace otro uso de ella ; su color como el de la canela ; su gusto semejante al de la turma ; su peso un quarto de onza.

26. *El Almendron* es fruta silvestre, y tampoco produce

fruto sino de cinco en cinco años, y es al mismo tiempo que la Chupa; se come en crudo, confitado, en conserva y en orchata: de todos modos es de buen gusto; tiene mucha manteca; la almendra es blanca, y la cáscara de color de cera virgen; el peso de la almendra como media dracma. Este árbol es el más corpulento que se conoce en estas montañas, y hay algunos que tienen ocho varas de circunferencia, y veinte y seis de alto, de suerte que se fabricaría un champan de una pieza: la madera es muy dura y trabada.

27. *El Cachipá* es también silvestre, y producida de una palma; su color es de lacre; se come cocida, y se le echa sal al tiempo de cocerla; es de muy buen gusto; su peso una dracma. Se crían en racimos como de cuatro libras cada uno. Esta palma es la que de la macana, que es muy dura y fina; su color negro; y todo el tronco de la palma está cubierto de espinas, un palmo de largo, muy finas, y del color negro; crece hasta veinte varas. De esta madera hacen los Indios sus arcos para tirar flechas envenenadas.

28. *El Coca* es una palma que se planta en los solares. Esta fruta se come cruda, y en varias clases de dulce muy bueno. También se hace en orchata; su peso como una libra, y su corteza muy dura; de modo que se tornea en forma de jícaras para tomar chocolate, adornándolas con pie y asa de plata. Esta palma crece tanta como la

anterior ; pero no tiene espinas, y se sube por el tronco para cojer los cocos.

29. *La Badea* es una fruta que cria un bejuco ; es dulce, con poco de acido : la cáscara es tambien dulce, y se come ; su peso de quatro libras ; su color amarillo encarnado. Esta planta necesita cultivo, y solo se come en crudo.

30. *El Plátano*. Esta es planta de cultivo, y cada vástago da un racimo por el cogollo, y cada racimo da comunmente de 40 à 60 plátanos ; estos son de la especie llamada Anton, y cada plátano pesa como una libra. La especie llamada Domínico da el racimo mas grande, y tendrá como 200 plátanos, poco mas ó menos ; pero son mucho menores que los Antones. Para cojer estos racimos, se corta el vástago. La altura de la planta es de tres á quatro varas, y el grueso poco menos del cuerpo de un hombre. Se reproduce esta planta echando colmos (las puntas) al pie, de suerte que un plantío de platanar dura 16 á 20 años, cuidando de quitarle la yerba del pie. Se come esta fruta estando tierna, crecida, madura, y aun estando pasada ó seca com los higos : se come cocida, asada, frita, y hecha mazamorra : quando está madura, se come en crudo. Esta es la fruta mas apreciable en la América, y del mayor consumo por ser el pan que usan las personas mas pobres ; y aun las que no lo son ; siendo de buen gusto, de qualquiera manera que se come. Hay

otra especie de plátano se que se llama Guineo, y tiene distinto gusto. Su mas frecuente uso es en crudo, quando está maduro: su gusto es muy agradable, y su olor muy fragante. Tambien se hace mazamorra, y lo que se llama Colí: sirve tambien para hacer vinagre de este modo:—se cojen quando estan maduros, se les quita la cáscara, y se ponen en una canasta á destilar, como se hace la lejía: este vinagre es muy superior á los demas del pais.

31. *El Cacao* es un grano de mucho aprecio, producido por un arbol de cultivo, y su altura de cinco á seis varas. Este arbol da dos cosechas al año, una en el mes de Junio, y la otra en Diciembre. La fruta tiene cerca de una libra, se separa con un cuchillo, y se saca el grano el qual está cubierto de una cosa blanca, que es bastante dulce, con un poco de ácido. Se pone este grano en pila por tres dias para que alli se piedra y destile aquel dulce el que se hace fuerte; pasados los tres dias se pone al sol en un tendal ó barbacoa de madera, quedando bien estendido; y cada dos ó tres horas se revuelve con una tabla, llamada rastrillo, para que se seque bien; lo que se hace en cinco ó seis dias de sol, hasta que, partiendo un grano, se vea que ya no tiene humedad.

32. *El Café* es otro grano muy apreciable, y se recoje lo mismo que el cacao, y es de muy buen gusto. Este

grano es el fruto de un arbolito que tiene dos varas de alto, y cada fruta es del tamaño de una avellana, y da dos granos: su color es colorado quando está madura; la corteza es de un dulce muy penetrante. Se echa esta fruta en un pilon, y luego se machaca para despedazar la cáscara; se pone despues al sol en cueros, hasta que se seque bien, y se vuelve á echar al pilon para que se pele y largue la cáscara blanca, que se llama pergamino; luego se avienta para que largue la cáscara y quede limpio. Un color azul verdoso es prueba de ser bueno.

33. *El Arbol de la Canela* se da muy hermoso en este clima. La canela que da no es tan buena como la de Ceilan por ignorarse el beneficio que necesita: florece, y la semilla que da produce muy bien.

34. *La Cidra* es de la familia de la naranja. Esta es fruta de un arbusto que no tiene tres varas de alto; y asi es que las cidras que da tocan algunas al suelo. Sirve esta fruta para hacer dulces secos, en almibar y en conserva; y los estrangeros hacen una cerveza que es muy grata al paladar y saludable.

35. *El Tuno* es una planta que da un higo muy dulce, que solo se come en crudo, y de ninguna otra suerte.

36. *El Tomate* es la fruta de una planta pequeña como

media vara de alto, y sus ramas llegan al suelo. Se usa mucho esta fruta para todo género de guisados, y para salsa la que es muy buena: tambien se hace dulce de ellos: es planta que se cultiva; su peso es media onza los grandes.

37. *La Berengena* es la fruta de una planta pequeña que tendra vara y media de alto; su peso es de quatro á seis onzas: solo se come guisada, y en encurtido y es muy buena: su color es morado y blanco; la sazón para comerla es quando está tierna, porque quando está madura es amarilla.

38. *La Patilla* es fruta de un bejuco que se estiende por el suelo: se come la fruta en crudo, y es muy dulce; se hace dulce de la corteza, y las pepitas sirven para orchata, la que es buena para muchos enfermos: su color es verde por fuera, con líneas blancas; y por dentro es de color de nacar rosado: su peso es de quatro á seis libras.

39. *El Melon* es tambien fruta de un bejuco que se estiende por el suelo: se come en crudo, y es bastante dulce; su color es amarillo por defuera, y por dentro es de nacar: no se come de otra manera. De las pepitas se hace el mismo uso que de las otras.

40. *La Calabaza* es tambien fruta de un bejuco, y solo

es util para guisarla y hacer dulce de ella, el qual es muy superior. Hay dos clases : la una es larga y delgada, y la otra es redonda y de mucho mas peso : la primera se llama de Castilla, y la segunda Americana ; está tiene media arroba (12 lbs.) de peso, y aquella seis libras : ambas son blancas por fuera y por dentro.

41. *La Vyama* es tambien fruta de otro bejuco, y solo se come guisada : se hace tambien en salada, estando cocida : su peso es de tres á seis libras : su color es verde oscuro por fuera, y por dentro amarillo, medio encarnado.

42. *El Melon de Olor* es lo mismo que el otro, con la diferencia de que no es bueno para comer, por no tener dulce ninguno, y solo sirve para olerlo por ser agradable : su tamaño y color es como el de un limon.

43. *La Vaynilla de Olor* es el producto de una planta que se sustenta de la humedad en algun arbol, porque siempre se cria pegada á ellos. Quando está madura, es amarilla ; se coje y se cuelga al humo en las cocinas, hasta que se enjuga ; y toma el color del cafe quando está tostado. En este estado se quita del humo y se guarda, sin riesgo alguno de que se pudra. Reducida á polvo, se mezela al chocolate, y es de ecelente gusto. Tambien se pone una vainilla entre una petaquilla, y les da un olor muy suave, y los mantiene con blandura, y no se resecan.

44. La planta nombrada *Rabo de Cuiman* se cria tambien encima de los arboles. Esta planta solo es buena para los que tienen postema interior en el pecho ; sacado el sumo de la penca y hervido en un poco de agua, se le añade un poco de azucar y se bebe. Esto hace arrojar la postema. La fruta que da esta planta no sirve para comer.

45. *La Pitaya* es una planta que nace sobre las paredes, tejados y en las horquetas de los arboles : da una fruta del peso de dos onzas : su color naçar por defuera, y muy encarnada por dentro : se come y es muy dulce ; tiene una semilla negra, semejante á los granos de la pólvora gruesa. El que come esta fruta arroja la orina lo mismo que sangre, pero sin causar daño alguno.

46. *El Cardo* es una planta que no da fruto alguno. Su uso es solo para hacer cercas. Sembrados los vástagos muy unidos producen muy bien y crecen muy rectos, y asi es que la cerca parece una tabla por su igualdad. Este vástago tiene quatro filos llenos de espinas ; de suerte que no es muy facil el cojerlo, sin que se claven las espinas ; y para poderlos cargar, es necesario poner dichos vástagos en un pedazo de cuero y amarrarlos muy bien. Su color es verde claro.

47. *El Caracoli* es un arbol silvestre que abunda mucho

en todos los bosques: da una fruta que se llama cornezuelo: es muy dulce, y solo se come en crudo. Esta fruta es muy util para la cria de puercos, porque se mantienen muy bien con ella, y por ser muy abundante. La madera solo sirve para hacer pilones en los que se pelan el maiz y arroz; tambien se hacen bateas para echar miel.

48. *El Madroño* es tambien arbol silvestre, y da una fruta que se come en crudo: tiene un poco de ácido, y es de buen gusto; no tiene otro uso: su color es de un amarillo muy hermoso. Este arbol crece hasta doce varas de alto.

Various remarks relative to this Catalogue of Fruit having been obtained from Thompson's *Alcedo*, the works of Spix and Von Martius, Madame Merion, and others; many interesting particulars having also been communicated by G. A * * * Esq., whose residence in Mexico rendered him familiar with many of the Specimens; it is presumed that, by blending the information thus obtained, the reader will derive more satisfaction than from a mere literal translation of the original.

1. EL MAMEY (*Mammea Americana*). A round fruit, which weighs about five pounds: the colour of the edible portion is yellow passing into red or salmon-colour. The tree is large, and bears a near resemblance to the laurel. I have seen them forty-feet high. The fruit is eaten raw: it is fragrant, and of a delicious flavour: the rind is fibrous and flexible, about two lines in thickness, rough on the outside, and unpleasant to the touch; of a brown colour.

It generally contains two rough seeds ; occasionally but one, and sometimes three ; they are similar in form and size to the kidney of a sheep. When preserved, this fruit is a great delicacy. It is also esteemed as a conserve, which is sun-dried in cakes, and afterwards very delicately shred.

2. EL SAPOTE DEL PAYS, or, as it is sometimes called at El Salto, El Sapote de Mamey, is very similar to the *Mammea Americana* : the fruit is of singular form, an irregular oval, as the end is nearly an acute angle : it is covered with the same brown rough rind as its congener : the colour of the pulp is of a carnation tint : the seeds are smooth and black. This fruit weighs about two pounds, and is solely used in a raw state.

3. EL SAPOTE VILLANIA, ó CANQUERO, is a sweet fruit of the same family. It weighs about one pound, and grows upon a tree about twenty feet high. The flesh is of a cinnamon-colour, of most peculiar flavour, and only eaten when raw and quite ripe.

4. LA GUAVABANA (*Annona Mauricata*). A fruit of the size of a melon : the peel is of the consistency of a dried orange, of a deep green colour, and covered with dark specks. The pulp consists of several layers, about one inch thick each, the substance of which resembles

that of the orange, but is white as snow and very sweet : each layer has a stone of a brilliant dark colour, resembling the sloe ; but the end of it is obtuse, not pointed. This fruit is eaten raw, or prepared in various ways. A beverage flavoured with its agreeable acid is much esteemed. The tree is about eighteen feet high ; the stem slender, but of durable wood. The fruit weighs from one to four pounds.

5. EL CAIMITO (*Chrysophilium Caimitum*). A plant and genus of the class Pentandria Monogynia. The calix is campaniform, and divided into ten segments, which open alternately. The fruit contains ten seeds : there are two species ; both of which are peculiar to America. The fruit, which is round, is at first green, but afterwards brown, with a mixture of yellow, and lastly red, when arrived at full maturity. The rind, which is moderately thick, is smooth on the outside, and fleshy within, adhering to the pulp, which is also fleshy, white, and full of an acid fluid ; so that, when eaten, it causes an involuntary contraction of the muscles of the mouth and lips. It is pleasant to the taste, and the disagreeable effect just mentioned may be taken away by merely rubbing the mouth with the rind. The fruit does not weigh more than an ounce. The tree is large and elegant. There is a variety of this fruit, which attains the weight of two ounces, and differs in this particular, that it preserves its bright green colour even when ripe.

6. EL NISPERO (*Achras Sapata*). A plant of the class Hexandria. It is very abundant in America, and the fruit is one of the best which the country produces. It is of the size of an apple, of an oval figure, the rind brown and somewhat rough; the pulp is white, very sweet, and resembles in taste the bergamot pear. It has only three long seeds. This fruit is so wholesome, that it is usually given to the sick, to procure an appetite: it is reckoned amongst the astringents. The tree is large and bushy, and bears fruit during the whole year. The wood is held in great esteem, and is of a tobacco-colour, inclining to purple. It is capable of receiving a very good polish, and is so hard, that they actually make pegs with it, instead of nails, to fasten boxes.

The leaves of the Nispero are also astringent; and a decoction of them is given for inflammation of the throat. In some parts they call this tree *Chico Sapote*. The fruit is always eaten raw.

7. EL AGUACATE (*Laurea Persea*) is known by various names—the Alligator Pear, or the Vegetable Marrow. It is a large tree, and in form, as well as in the appearance of its fruit, resembles the pear-tree of Jersey. The fruit, in size and colour, resembles that of the Don Guindo; but the neck is somewhat longer. Its pulp is of a light yellow green, or straw-colour, and soft, like butter. It tastes very insipid; for which reason it is never eaten but with salt. The peel is tough, like that of a dried

orange. The stone is large, of an elliptical figure, and terminates in a smooth point. It is of a chestnut-colour; and, if rubbed upon a white linen cloth, gives it a cinnamon colour, both permanent and beautiful. The natives relish this fruit, and prepare it in various ways. It makes an excellent salad.

8. LA PAPAYA (*Carica Papya*); a fruit of the size and shape of a moderate-sized melon; at first of a green colour, but yellow when arrived at maturity. The pulp is very similar to that of the melon, very good, and full of small seeds of the magnitude and shape of a peppercorn: it is very refreshing, and is generally taken about eleven in the morning. The tree is frequently forty feet high, of the thickness of a man's body; hollow and spongy in the inside, and so soft, that it may be severed transversely at one blow. The tree is covered all the year with blossom and fruit, which is attached by long pedicles growing out of the tree, at the footstalk of the leaves. The flower is very large and fleshy, consisting of five divisions: it is of a yellow colour, and resembles the lily in its odour. The leaves are of an elegant form, very large, and grow similar to the palms on the top of the stem, which, for two-thirds of its altitude, is generally naked. The fruit weighs from one to four pounds.

9. LA NARANJA (the Orange) is so well known, that

description would be superfluous. The fruit abounds, and is of good flavour; and as fruit and flowers are on the tree all the year, it is usual to plant them near dwellings.

10. LA LIMA (the Lemon) is a fruit of the same class, and much in request in all tropical climates. At El Salto, linen is cleansed with lemons instead of soap, as an economical substitute.

11. EL MANGO. This fruit is sweetish, but slightly acid; yellow inside and out: each fruit weighs from about three to eight ounces. Strangers seldom like this fruit, when they first taste it, on account of its turpentine flavour; but if perfectly ripe, tender, and fresh, it is very delicious. When in perfection, small, bright, scarlet specks are seen on the smooth, oily, rich yellow tint of the "sunny side" of the fruit. The tree is not lofty; but its branches spread widely, and the fruit hangs in bunches of forty or upwards, and frequently drag down the branches to the very ground.

12. LA CHIRIMOYA (*Annona Squamosa*), and, in the language of Quecha, Chirmuyu, meaning fruit with cold seeds; and they are truly cold in a very high degree. This fruit may vie with any other in the world. The tree which produces it is of moderate size, with branches nearly

to the bottom. The leaves are elegant; the flower, which is small, consists of three narrow fleshy leaves, between a green and a straw colour: the skin is green, very thin and delicate, and sometimes marked, like scales, with beautiful regularity: the pulp is very white and soft, and has sometimes a greater, and sometimes a smaller number of seeds, which are of a bright black, a little flattened; about an inch long, and half an inch broad: the seed is of no uniform shape, some being round, others pyramidal cones, others rather flat, with various other irregularities, though they may have all grown on the same tree. This matchless fruit is sweet, without producing satiety; some are rather aqueous, with a little acid; and others are destitute of this quality. It is eaten cut into small pieces, or with a spoon, occasionally mixed with wine or cordiments; but nothing can improve its excellence. The size and quality of the fruit vary according to the soil and climate. In Quito, they are small, and full of seeds: in Harro, Humbato, Loxa, and Cuença, they are of a better quality; and those of Popayan, which are the best in America, are five or six inches in diameter; and some may be seen as large as a man's head, with very few seeds. Some writers say that the rind is rough and uneven, like that of the pine-apple; but it is only in this state whilst green; and after it becomes ripe, it grows smooth, leaving only some superficial lines in a semi-circular form, one over the other, like the plates of mail

in armour. When the fruit is in its perfect state, it would be utterly destroyed if it fell from the tree; indeed, it requires a careful touch, to avoid breaking the rind and letting the precious pulp escape.

13. **EL ANON** (the Anon) is a plant of the Polyandria, Polygynia kind. The calix is tripartite, and has six petals; the fruit is round, and contains tubular seeds. There are eight species of Anonas—the muricata, squamosa, reticulata, polustris, glabra, triloba, Asiatica, and Africana—which, for the most part, are indigenous to America. It is eaten in a raw state only, and resembles in many respects the far-famed Chirimoya.

14. **EL TICACO** is a fruit which is subacid, if eaten fresh. The flavour is not particularly agreeable; but as a preserve, it is very delicious: the colour is between purple and red: it is a very small fruit, and scarcely weighing a drachm. The tree is about twenty feet high.

15. **LA GRANADA** is a fruit slightly acidulous, and weighs from half a pound to a pound; it is of a scarlet and yellow colour, like the apple. This cooling fruit is excellent for invalids, and for alleviating thirst. It is only eaten whilst fresh; the rind is considered medicinal; and in cases of ulcers, a powder is made of the bark. The

tree is about ten or twelve feet high, delicate and graceful ; the blossoms are bright red ; the calix is also of a vermilion colour.

16. LA PINA (*Bromelia Anonas*), Pine-apple ; one of the best fruits in the world, peculiar to America, and very abundant in every part of it. Its pleasant taste and fragrance are only equalled by the beauty of the fruit. At its top there is a crown, consisting of small leaves of the same nature as the leaves of the plant, but much thinner and more delicate ; and when the crown is cut, and planted in the ground, it produces fruit in the same year. The smell is somewhat similar to a muscadine grape.

There are several kinds of piñas ; the best is white, ten inches in diameter, and from fifteen to eighteen inches long. The dark blue piña is much prized ; and there is one nearly black, and also with many shades of red. In situations favourable to their growth, they attain an altitude which enables a person, when on horseback, to cut the fruit without dismounting.

17. LA PINELA is a wild tree, and very small : the form of the fruit is very different from that of the pine-apple, although the taste is similar. The plant produces about 200 piñelas. It is eaten only when fresh from the tree : the colour of the fruit is a pale yellow inside, and brown outside. It weighs about half an ounce. Like the pine-apple, this plant withers after the fruit is over.

18. LA GUAYABA (*Psidium Pyrifera*); a fruit which grows in great abundance in every part of America. As a plant springs up wherever a seed is dropped, the country is overrun with trees of this sort. The fruit very much resembles the rennet apple, except that it has a little crown; the pulp is full of seeds, and the taste is a singular mixture of sweet and sour, but very agreeable. The tree is about the size of the plum-tree, which it resembles: it blossoms twice each year, and is very odoriferous. It is an astringent; and a decoction of the seeds is administered in cases of diarrhœa.

There are several kinds of this fruit, differing only in the colour of the pulp: red, white, and purple, are the most general. Cakes are made of this fruit preserved and dried.

There is an intermediate variety between the red and white of this fruit; the whole nearly transparent and most exquisite.

19. LA GUAYABA AGRIA. This fruit is very similar to the former, but of a bright clear yellow colour. Like a lemon, its pulp and juice is sometimes mixed with water, and makes an agreeable beverage.

20. LA GUAYABITA is a very small fruit: it weighs about a quarter of an ounce, has a bright yellow colour, and a pleasant sweetish taste. It is only used fresh.

21. LA CIRUELA is of a yellow colour, inclining toward scarlet. It is used fresh, and has a somewhat acid flavour: when green, it is boiled, and then pickled. It weighs a quarter of an ounce.

22. LA BREVA is the same as the fig, only twice its size, of a reddish purple colour: it is eaten when fresh, and is very sweet; when green, it is preserved.

23. LA GUAMA (*ó Machete*) is a Bean which separates into two like a French-bean, inside of which are the seeds, covered with white threads, similar to the bud of cotton. It is edible, and very pleasant. The seed is black, and is not preserved or pickled: the colour is green, and the pod weighs a pound.

24. LA CHUPA is a yellow fruit on one side, but green or brown at the insertion of the stalk. The interior is of a brownish yellow: when ripe, it is eaten with bread and salt, in the same manner as the alligator pear. It grows to about an ounce in weight on trees in the forests, and only bears abundantly once in five years: the flesh is not unlike the carrot.

25. LA CASTAÑA (the Chestnut) is also a wild fruit, and is boiled or roasted for use, but not eaten raw. It is of a brownish colour, and weighs about a quarter of an ounce.

26. **EL ALMENDRON** is a wild fruit, and, like the Chupa, only bears every five years. It is used when fresh or preserved, or in various liquors. In all ways its excellence is proverbial. It contains much oil, which is highly esteemed. The weight of the nut is about half a drachm: the shell is very hard: the tree is the largest with which we are acquainted; many of them being twenty-one feet in circumference, and eighty feet high, towering far above the tallest palms, and presenting, when seen from a distant elevation, the remarkable appearance of forests growing upon forests. The wood is hard and most durable.

27. **EL CACHIPÁ** is also a wild fruit, the produce of a palm. It is cooked with salt. The fruit is of a bright orange tint, very agreeable, and weighs a drachm. The palm which yields this fruit is very hard, fine, black-grained; and the whole stem is covered with thorns.

28. **EL COCA** (*Muceifera Cocas*). The tree which produces this fruit is very high and straight; its growth is continuous, and is thinner in the middle than at the extremities. It puts forth the principal stem, which is soon surrounded by others smaller, which interweave one with another, and strengthen the tree. It blossoms every month in the year, and is always covered with flowers and fruit, which hang in bunches, and afford a constant and rich

supply. When one fruit arrives at perfection, it measures seven or eight inches in diameter in the middle, and from ten to twelve inches in height. In it there are two things to be considered—the nut and the shell: this latter, which covers and encloses the former, is composed of soft fibres, of a flaxy nature, adhering closely to the kernel, which is covered with a thin skin, smooth, hard, and of a green colour; and the pulp is in proportion more white as the rind is hard. The kernel, when stripped of the rind, is five or six inches in diameter, and seven or eight inches in height; four or five lines thick in the middle, and six or seven at the end. It is very hard, and of a dull colour, with some grey threads mixed with white: at its extremity, where it is attached to the tree, there are three circular holes, two or three lines in diameter, closed with a grey spongy substance resembling cork, through which it apparently derives nourishment: when these are pierced, it emits a white liquor, like whey, which has a very agreeable pungent taste: whilst the Coca is tender, that is to say, a considerable time before it is ripe, it is full of this water, which decreases in proportion as the fruit ripens. When the shell is broken, we find the inside lined with a white substance, which, before the fruit is perfectly ripe, is about the consistency of cheese curds, five lines thick, and as white as snow; it is very refreshing and agreeable to the taste, but very compact and indigestible. When ripe, it contains very little

water; this, having concreted by degrees, serving as a nutriment to the solid substance. In some nuts there are found round balls, like cotton, called sponge of cocoa, which seems to have been the surplus of the common nutrition, of which they make a sweetmeat very delicious and scarce, as the sponge is found in very few, but the sweetmeats made of the kernel of the nut are very common. The rind of the cocoa, when pounded, is made into oakum. There is a great variety of palm-trees and cocoa-trees, which are distinguished by their size, without any other material difference.

In that most splendid work of modern times, by Dr. Von Martius, many varieties of the American palms are faithfully delineated.

29. LA BADEA (a Pumpkin, or Fruit). The plant which produces it throws out large stems necessary for supporting the fruit, which is very weighty, and of the shape of a common melon, without furrows, of a bright yellow colour and fragrant smell: the pulp is covered with a thin tender rind, and is about two inches thick: the inside contains a quantity of water, of an orange colour, far superior to the pulp in taste and flavour. The seed is covered with a soft substance of a very agreeable taste. It is only eaten raw, and can be improved by cultivation.

30. EL PLÁTANO (*Musa*), a genus of the class Mo-

noecin Polyandria : the cup of the male is destitute of a corolla, and that of the female consists of some leaves : the stigma is bent downwards, and the seed is circular. The fruit is generally about an inch and a half in diameter, and ten or twelve inches in length, somewhat curved. It is not circular, but rather an hexagon, with the angles made nearly round, and terminated in hexagonal points. The skin, which is smooth, and of a green colour before it is ripe, afterwards becomes yellow, and contains a substance resembling cheese, without seeds, and having only a few large fibres. After the plantain is past maturity, the rind turns black, and the pulp becomes sour. Its taste is very similar to that of a pear : it is the best food which the natives have ; and all classes of animals are very fond of it, which is an incontestable proof of its goodness.

The tree, or rather the plant, which bears the plantain, gives fruit only once, in large bunches, and is immediately cut, or, if left, it withers and falls ; but the root, which is large, round, and solid, produces fresh supplies, which in twelve or fourteen months yield fruit, and decay : the roots shoot forth again, however, without any necessity for re-planting. The plant is not woody, nor has it any bark ; but it is a thick cylindrical body, consisting of a great number of long, broad leaves, wrapped round each other, the outer ones serving as a rind to the others. It arrives at its full height in about nine months, and is then

about ten or twelve inches in diameter, which does not render it any harder, or more difficult to cut. This plant requires a rich, moist and solid land, as it needs much nourishment; and if any of these be wanting, it ceases to prosper, and produces an inferior kind of fruit. Before it is ripe, it is boiled, like turnips, with meat, and is eaten in various other ways. Sometimes it is roasted on the coals, and used as a substitute for bread. When boiled in wine, with sugar and cinnamon, it assumes a beautiful red colour, and acquires a delicious taste and fragrant smell, and is one of the preserves which the Creoles make. There are four species of Plantains, distinguished by the name of Bananas, Guineos, Dominicos, and Cambares. In the conservatory of Messrs. Loddiges, near London, a bunch of plantains was cut, which weighed sixty pounds. At the present time this delicious fruit is becoming an article of importation from Madeira. A bunch, weighing upwards of thirty pounds, was purchased at Sparrow's, on Ludgate Hill.

31. EL CACAO (*Theobroma Cacao*). A tree whose fruit is well known in Europe, on account of its general consumption. The Spaniards learned the method of preparing this fruit from the Indians, and have since diffused this knowledge amongst other nations. It is of the class Polydelphia Pentandria: the corolla consists of five petals; the nectary is campaniform, and the fruit has an

uneven surface. The tree is equal in size to the orange-tree, and the leaves are similar, but something larger and thinner. Herera, the historian, compares the leaves to the chestnut-tree. The plant is so delicate, that, to preserve it from the rays of the sun, they always plant it near some other tree which is already capable of shading it, and it is therefore called "La Madre," or the Mother. The flower of the cacao-tree is white, and it produces fruit twice a year: the fruit is found in a pod, grooved like a melon, and covered with a white skin. In the bud of each flower each one contains from twenty to thirty nuts of the size of large almonds, very compactly set.

There are two kinds of cacao; the one wild and bitter; which the Indians used to prize highly; and, as it is still in some repute, they endeavour to cultivate and improve it; the other is distinguished by its quality, according to the soil and climate in which it grows. The best cacao is produced in the province of Soconusco; but the produce there is so small, that it barely supplies the people of property in that neighbourhood.

The second, in point of excellence, grows in Guatamala; the third is from Motina in the same province; and the fourth, that of Rio de la Magdalena. Caraccas and Guayaquil, and Europe, are chiefly supplied from thence.

The butter which exudes from the cacao is very fresh, and is applied to various purposes in medicine.

32. EL CAFÉ. The coffee is equally precious as the cacao. Infinite care is bestowed on the cultivation of the coffee-tree. The modes of preparing have been detailed in another part of this work.

33. EL ARBOL DE LA CANELA (*Laurus Indicus*), American Cinnamon, which, though of the same genus as the *Laurus*, yet botanists consider it as forming a different species from that of Ceylon; and modern observation has justified the propriety of this distinction. This species was first discovered by Gonzalo Pizarro in the kingdom of Quito, where he found immense woods of this tree-cinnamon in a wild state, and thought that, with cultivation and labour, it would equal that of Ceylon; yet it has since been found to be impracticable: it is, however, much used in South America: it is paler than cinnamon, has a very agreeable smell, and a bitter aromatic taste, somewhat like true cinnamon, cloves, or ginger. Physicians place it amongst stomachics, cephalics, and tonics; and it is consequently proper in all cases where the stomach is weak. It is also esteemed as a good antiscorbutic; and, taken in powder, in doses of one or two scruples each, is said to be a cure for the quartan ague; but this is not always to be depended on.

A more beautiful tree there is not amongst all its lovely congeners: a single tree will perfume the atmosphere of a whole town: the bruised seeds are mixed with chocolate.

34. LA CIDRA is of the same class as the orange : it is from a small tree not above nine feet high ; and thus it often happens that some of the fruit (*citrons*) touch the ground. It is preserved and dried, and also forms a very delicious beverage.

35. EL TUNO (*Prickly Pear*) is the fruit of the Nopal. When the fig is ripe, the external rind assumes a white colour, but the pulp, or inside, is a brilliant red.

36. EL TOMATE is the product of a plant not above half a yard in height, the branches resting on the ground : it weighs from two to four ounces : it is used extensively in stews, or pickled, and for various sauces. The tomate is also preserved : it is a cultivated plant ; and, when they can be had in abundance, are said to make every viand more excellent.

37. LA BERENGENA is the fruit of a plant which is about eighteen inches high : it weighs from five to six ounces : it is only used in pickles or stews, or cut into thin slices and toasted. Its colour is purple and white, and, when young, is considered in perfection, because, when ripe, it becomes bitter. The egg-plant is a variety of La Berengena.

38. LA PATILLA is the fruit of a creeper, which is

very sweet: a conserve is made of the rind, and of the seeds (*Orchate*) which is highly appreciated by invalids. The outside is green with white stripes, and the inside is a reddish pink. It weighs from four to five pounds.

39. EL MELON is also a well-known creeper, of which the varieties are so numerous, that it would be difficult to enumerate them.

40. LA CALABAZA is likewise a creeper, and only used when fried or preserved, which is of a very superior kind. There are two different sorts of calabashes: the one is long and thin; the other is round, and much heavier. The fruit is called the Castiluar, which weighs half an arroba, or 12½lbs. The other is called Americana, and weighs only 6 lbs. They are both white inside.

41. LA VYAMA, a sort of pumpkin, also a creeper. It is only eaten fried or boiled, or made into salad. It weighs from three to six pounds, is of a dark green exterior, and the interior is a reddish yellow.

42. EL MELON DE OLOR is the same as the above; the only difference consisting in its not being edible, as it is not sweet, and is only prized on account of its delightful fragrance. It is of about the size and colour of a lemon.

43. LA VAYNILLA, or BANILLA, (*Epidendron Vaynilla*,) a plant of the thickness of a small vine-branch. The stem is of a clear green, very smooth, bearing a few leaves, which it puts forth at knots, at the distance of a quarter of a yard from each other. The leaves are shaped like those of a pear-tree, but larger: it is very succulent and easily broken. The method of propagating this plant is by tying branches of it to a large tree, which must, of its own nature, be moist and porous; and without any other care (not even putting it into the ground) it grows and twines round the tree, like ivy; and in the space of two or three years it begins to produce fruit in the highest part of the tree; so that it is no easy matter to gather it. When the fruit is green, but of its full size, it has no smell, and resembles the capsule of a French bean: it is then exposed to the sun to dry, and fit it for preservation; and in a few days it gradually changes from green to a dark colour, distilling a balm, or oil, so powerfully aromatic, that it is intolerable, and affects the head. The method of preparing the fruit is very troublesome; for if the balm is not sufficiently extracted, it turns sour and corrupts; and, if it evaporates too much, it loses its odour and virtues. As soon as it is prepared, it is made into small bunches, each bunch consisting of nearly fifty pods, tied with a fine thread, called in the country Ojolete, because made of the bark of a tree of this name: each pod contains upwards of a thousand of almost imperceptible seeds.

It is customary to mix it with chocolate ; and its odour may be imparted to various confections and liquors.

44. **RABO DE CAIMAN.** This plant grows upon trees : it is truly parasitical. It is only used medicinally, and is thought a specific for ulcers in the throat. The juice is extracted from the prickly leaf, and boiled with a little water, to which a small quantity of sugar is added. This beverage is supposed to be efficacious in bilious disorders. The fruit is not palatable.

45. **PITAYA** (*Pita Haya*—*Cactus Pitahaya*) is a large curious tree, of which the branches are so deeply grooved as to have the appearance of long candles shooting perpendicularly upwards from the trunk. They have not a single leaf, and the fruit grows closely attached to the branch itself. The peel of the fruit is covered with spines, and is somewhat similar to the Tuna, or Indian fig ; but the pulp is whiter and more delicious. Some are yellow ; others red. They are likewise distinguished by the appellations of “ sweet,” and a compound of “ bitter and sweet,” but very agreeable to the taste.

46. **EL CARDO** does not produce any fruit : it is only used for fences. The young shoots, when planted, grow readily and very erect, and thus they form a regular flat surface. They contain four rows of thorns, and conse-

quently are not easily approached without danger. The flower is superb, and used for ornamenting churches.

47. **EL CARACOLI.** This tree grows wild in the province of Mariquita, and does not improve by cultivation. The edible portion of each fruit is small, remarkably sweet, and is eaten in a raw state only. The trees are numerous, and the produce so abundant, that the fruit is used for feeding pigs; and porkers thus fattened are said to be most wholesome. Caracoli is the name of a snail's shell, to which this fruit bears so striking a resemblance as to obtain its name from this similarity.

The wood is used for making saddle trees, bowls for sugar, and various articles of domestic furniture.

The gold-seekers of El Salto and the Guali make their bateas or basins of this wood from observing that it does not imbibe or absorb much water.

48. **EL MADRONO** is also a wild tree, the fruit of which is eaten when fresh-gathered without any accompaniment: the exterior is of a rich, deep-yellow colour, of delicate fragrance, and so exceedingly beautiful that it is frequently placed with the flowers in decorating the churches.

Here ends the List of Fruits, as furnished by the notary public, through the medium of our friends at El Salto. A portion of that remarkable document was lost; but in

the complete manuscript we perfectly remember the following varieties of fruit, and many others which cannot now be recalled to memory with sufficient accuracy to warrant a description.

Dr. Mutis, the celebrated botanist, formerly resided in the province of Mariquita, not far distant from El Salto: this distinguished individual enriched that fertile neighbourhood with fruit-trees from various parts of the South American continent, and which cannot truly be said to be indigenous at El Salto, although we saw them flourishing there as vigorously as in their original localities.

SHADDOCK (*Citrus Decumanio*), a very large round fruit, weighing from two to eight pounds: it is similar in form to an orange, but of the colour of a lemon. When fully ripe, it is marked with irregular spots of a bright scarlet; the peel is made into conserve, and the juice is used in preparing a cooling beverage. This plant is remarkably handsome, the branches being more flexile than those of the orange; the fruit frequently drags them to the ground: the leaves and blossoms are larger than those of the orange-tree, and very similar. There is a variety called the pear-shaddock, which differs in form only from the common fruit.

THE INDIAN TORCH THISTLE (*Cactus Ficus Indicus*).

A variety of this plant has been already described: The plant in question is not so much prized for its fruit as for the succulent or fleshy stems which are cut to pieces for cattle, and are useful for many purposes. In the process of washing linen, the leaves and the pulp are employed for softening and purifying the water. Those plants, in common with many others, which derive nearly all their nourishment from the atmosphere, are said to contain a quantity of carbonic acid gas, and are used medicinally.

SAPACAYA (*Lecythis Ollavia, L.*), or *Pot Tree*, is a magnificent tree; its immense stem is above a hundred feet high, and spreads into a majestic and vaulted crown, which is extremely beautiful in the spring, when its rose-coloured leaves shoot out, and in the flowering season by its large white blossoms. The nuts, which have a thick shell, are the size of a child's head, with a lid which is quite round, and which at length, when the weight of the fruit turns it downwards, separates, and lets the seed fall out. In a high wind, it is dangerous to remain in the woods, on account of these heavy nuts falling from so great a height. The seeds are collected in great quantity by the Indians, who are extremely fond of them, and either eat them raw, or preserve them roasted and pounded in pots; and the shells themselves are used as drinking-cups.

SPIX AND MARTIUS.

ANACARDIUM, or *Cashew-nut Tree*, grows wild, and bears a fruit of a strange appearance. The nut resembles a small kidney, and grows at the end of the apple, which hangs down, of the size of a lemon; so that, unlike other fruits, the receptaculum is at the end, and the seed grows on the exterior of the apex. It stains an indelible black, and is an acrid fruit, highly astringent in the mouth.

CAPULI (*Prunus Virginiana*), a tree of a moderate size resembling the cherry-tree; the skin of whose fruit is as tender as the fruit itself. In the town of Tomebamba, province of Latacunga and kingdom of Quito, there grew one of this species in a garden, which excited the admiration of M. La Condamine and other French academicians. It was about nine yards in circumference, very straight, and entirely destitute of branches. At the height of eight yards, there was a broad circular cup, from the centre of which the body of the tree proceeded naked, and a little thinner, to the height of five yards, where another cup was formed, something less than the first, from which the stem, still more slender, grew five yards high, forming the third and last cup, something smaller than the others, in a pyramidal shape; its whole elevation being twenty-two yards.

T. A.

ACHOTE, or ACHIOTE, (*Bixa Orillana*), the heart-

leaved Anotta, indigenous to America. The lower class of people are accustomed to mingle it with their chocolate. It grows amongst the *Mitella diphyla*, or double-leaved *Mitella*, and of the genus *Decandria digynia*. Its calix consists of five segments; the *corolla* of as many petals inserted in the calix; the *capsule* of two equal *valvulas*. The fruit of this tree lies between two small leaves: it contains small seeds, of a vermilion colour, and is of a conical form, being enclosed in a soft prickly husk about three inches long, and makes an excellent paste. It is also a very useful ingredient in sauces, and answers the purpose of spice. It is very plentiful in both North and South America.

CAZAVE, the coarse bread of the negroes, Indians, and most of the indigent people in America. It is made of the Yuca, which they grate and wash, leaving it in water for some time, that it may be purified from its poisonous quality; and of this they make large cakes, which they bake in ovens. Many Europeans prefer this to wheaten bread. When the Spaniards first discovered America, this bread was used by the natives.

AGUAY, a tree which, it seems very probable, is that which Linnæus describes under the name of *Cercera foliis ovatus*, and Bomare under that of *Athovai*. The leaf of this tree resembles those of the African laurel-rose; the

flower is yellow and monopetalous, divided into five oblique lobes, with fine fibres and one pistil. The first resembles the pear, and encloses a dark triangular nut, which is very hard. The Indians wear these nuts hung round their legs, to make a noise, by rattling one against the other. Father Labat calls this the serpent-nut, because, says he, "a cataplasm of these nuts is an effectual remedy for the bite of those reptiles." But Mr. Lemery says that this description, if applied to the trees which he has seen, is by no means accurate. The Indians of Tapueyes make use of the bark of this tree for sandals.

ESPONJILLA (*Mormordia Operculata*). The shape of this plant is that of a hen's-egg, but somewhat larger. It is full of fibres, interwoven with a substance resembling *esponja*, or sponge. The esponjilla serves as a mild and gentle emetic, and an infusion of it is an efficacious aperient. The esponjilla is the fruit of a small plant, which climbs up and sustains itself by the aid of large shrubs which happen to be in its way. This plant is found in great abundance in the province of Loxa, in the kingdom of Quito.

FRUTA DE MONO, or *Monkey's Fruit*, is a species of wild grape: it grows upon a large bushy shrub, with small leaves. In shape and colour it very much resembles the sloe of St. John: its taste is acid, but very agreeable.

The monkey prefers it to all other fruits ; a circumstance which has given it the name of Monkey's Bread.

FRUTA DE PAVA, or *Turkey's Fruit*, is a small fruit. It grows on a tree resembling in its leaves the orange-tree. Bustards feed on its seeds.

GENEPA SABLIER, or *Sandbox Tree* ; a fruit perfectly resembling a sand-box. The traveller is sometimes startled, in riding under them, by a noise from the bursting of the fruit, which sounds like the discharge of a pistol. The sap is of a singularly acrid nature, which, if received into the eye, produces blindness.

GRANADILLA (*passiflora*), a broad-leaved plant which climbs up trees, and bears a fruit about the size and shape of a lemon. The colour of the peel is a mixture of green and yellow. Under this is a white corrosive skin ; and the inside is full of a delicious fluid, and small flat seeds, covered with a sweet, delicate, fleshy substance. This is the fruit of the celebrated passion-flower, of which there are several species.

GUABA (*Mimosa Inga*), a fruit contained in a seed-case, about half a yard long, three inches broad, and half an inch thick. When opened at one end with a knife, it discovers a large almond, about an inch long, placed in

cartilaginous divisions, and covered with a white fibrous substance of a sweet taste, which very much resembles cotton. By pressing the pulp between the tongue and the roof of the mouth, we easily find a brown, smooth pip, of an elliptical figure. There are two species of Guabas; the one is called lanuginous, because it is covered with a soft down, of an orange colour; the other is smooth, and less esteemed than the former.

HICACOS (*Crysoalanus Hicaco*), or *Giacos*; a fruit, about the size of walnut, having also its coat divided into small superficies: some are a mixture of white and brown; others are entirely white. The pulp is of the same colour as the rind, and of the same consistency as blanc-mange, but very insipid and unsavoury, and is covered with a thin skin. The Hicacos is only used in making sweetmeats.

GENGIBRE (*Amomum Zinziber*), Ginger; a plant growing about three feet high: its leaves are long and pointed; the root smooth, broad, and branching out into various figures. The peel is thin, flesh-coloured before it is cut, and, when dry, grey. There are small fibres arising from the bottom of the plant, which extend in every direction throughout the whole, like veins in the human body. These veins are impregnated with a very pungent juice, much stronger than any other part of the plant, yet much

sweeter before it is arrived at maturity. The Gengibre, when cut green, makes an excellent preserve.

GUINEO (*Musca species*), the least and most delicate species of plantain. It is about five inches high, and an inch and a half in diameter: the peel is smoother and more yellow than that of the other; the fruit is extremely hot, and prejudicial if liquor be taken after it; the bunches are of an incredible length. This plant abounds in every part of America.

T. A.

LACUMA (*Achras Mamosa*) is a plant of the class of *Icosandria digynia*. There are five species, distinguished by their respective peculiarities, which are all trees of a moderate size, covered with leaves which are always green, much resembling those of laurel, and producing lanuginous flowers. The fruit is about the size of the melocoton, covered with a yellow skin, which contains a pulp of a whitish colour and sweet taste, with one or two small stones. Of the five species, two only are cultivated—the *Lacuma bifera* and the *Lacuma turbinata*. The former bears fruit twice in the year; that is to say, in the beginning of summer and in autumn; but only those which bear in autumn have stones, which are always two in number, and very like the chestnut. The shape of these is round; differing in this particular from those of the *turbinata*, which are shaped like a top. Though these

fruits attain perfect maturity on the trees, yet it is necessary to keep them for some time in straw, in order that they may lose their acidity, and acquire that agreeable taste and odour for which they are so well known. The other species, which are wild, are called in the kingdom of Chili by the names of bellota, keule, and chañar. The first, called also *Lacuma Valparadisica*, because it particularly abounds in the vicinity of Valparadiso, differs from the others in no respect, except that the leaves are opposite; the fruit is round, oval, or long, and generally has a very bitter taste: the keule grows above a hundred feet high; the leaves are oval, six or seven inches long, and of a brilliant green colour; the fruit is round, of a beautiful yellow, and, as they are very large and numerous, they give an additional beauty to the verdure of the tree. Lastly, the *Chañar lacuma espinosa*, whose trunk is about thirty feet high, beset with thorny branches, and leaves of nearly an oval shape, without any stalk. The fruit is round, like that of the keule, soft, and of a very pleasant taste; and the wood of the tree is solid and yellow, and in great esteem amongst cabinet-makers. T. A.

MAGUEI (Agave Americana), a plant which is very abundant in every part of America, and at the same time the most useful and the most esteemed by the Indians, because it supplies them with water, wine, vinegar, oil, balsam, honey, beams for building houses, tiles, thread

for sewing and weaving, needles, and, with its shoots, for victuals. This plant may be classed with the aloes. The leaves, when half-roasted, afford a quantity of sweetish liquor, which, when boiled to a sirup, is an excellent remedy for cleansing old wounds. It may also be taken in the quantity of half or a whole drachm, in warm water, to dislodge any crude substance from the stomach, and to expel bile or extravasated blood. This plant thrives abundantly in all parts: the principal use to which it is applied, besides those already enumerated, is in making a sort of liquor called *Pulque*, which is prepared in the following manner:—when the plant is six or seven years old, they cut off the head, and with an instrument resembling a spoon, made of steel, and sharpened at the edges, they make a hole in the plant, which distils a sweet liquid, very clear, and of a taste not disagreeable, which they collect twice a day, at morning and at night, in the quantity of about a quart at each time. They then put it into jars, and throw in a few herbs and small fruits, which cause it to ferment; and it is then ready for drinking; but, if preserved more than one or two days, it grows stale. This liquor produces intoxication, and supplies the place of wine, and was used by the Indians before the conquest.

T. A.

MAYA, a very abundant fruit in the province of Guayana. The tree which produces it is a species of

Savila ; but the leaves are much longer, and shaped like a broad-sword. Each branch produces one bunch, consisting of three or four dozen, or more, clusters of fruit, in the shape of a hen's-egg. The rind is yellow and rough, and the pulp white and sweet. It is eaten roasted or boiled, and is somewhat purgative. The Indians apply the name of this fruit to the Pleiades, by which they direct their course during the night. This fruit lasts four or five months, during which time the Spaniards, as well as the Indians, use no other food. It is eaten roasted or boiled, because in a crude state it is apt to cause dysenteries.

T. A.

MARAÑON (*Anacardium Occidentale*), a tree very common in every part of America, which produces the fruit called by the same name. It is nearly the size of the apple-tree ; the leaves are five inches long and three broad, with a very short stalk, smooth on both sides, stiff, like parchment, of a bright green colour, with fibres running parallel to each other. The tree grows to such a size, that furniture is sometimes made of it ; the fruit is oblong, covered with a thin smooth skin, of a yellow colour, striped with red ; the pulp is fibrous, very acid, and is not masticated, but extracted by suction, because, when the juice has been extracted, the remainder looks like tow. The stone is in the shape of a kidney, of a lead colour, and about as large as half a chestnut, and is united to the fruit at the

part where the fruit joins the branch; the kernel contained within the rind, which is about a line in thickness, is covered with a thin pellicle, and resembles the chestnut both in taste and colour. When prepared by the confectioner, like almonds, it is excellent; nor are the sweetmeats made of the fruit less agreeable to the taste. The tree distils a clear, transparent, solid gum, like gum-arabic, but more soluble.

PALMITO (*Palma dactilifera latifolia*, Sloan), the heart or middle of a species of palm, very common in the Antilles and on the sea-coast: the tree grows to the height of thirty feet, and the wood is of a dark colour, very heavy, solid, and so hard that the hatchet scarcely makes any impression on it. It has only one root, of a moderate size, which grows into the ground, and would not support the tree if it were not assisted by an infinite number of smaller ones, which are united to it out of the ground. The branches are long, and shoot from the top of the tree, having two rows of long slender leaves. At the bottom of the trunk there is a kind of case, out of which there grows a bunch of small flowers; from which proceeds the fruit, of the size of a little ball, of which they make a very good oil: the nut is likewise applied to the same purpose. When the trunk is cut a little more than the distance of two feet from the place where the leaves begin, the bark is removed, and the core, or heart, is found consisting of white, tender, and thin teguments, of

a very agreeable taste, and, when washed, is eaten in salad, or boiled with salt, and makes a very pleasant food of easy digestion. The tree is made into tubes for various purposes. There are several species of Palmitos: the best is that of the prickly palm, of a yellow colour; but it is necessary to burn the prickles before it be cut. The leaves of the palm-trees are used by the Indians to cover their houses.

T. A.

TAMARINDO (*Tamarindus Indica*), a large, bushy, tufted tree, about the size of the walnut. The leaves are like the ash, but not quite so large, very hard and strong, and placed two by two on each side. The flowers are white, and united in bunches of eight or ten, like those of the orange. It generally flowers in August and September, during which months it likewise produces fruit, contained in a capsule, three or four inches in length. The outer rind is of a moss colour, dry and brittle; it has also an interior rind, covered with a dark red pulp, interwoven with fibres, or small threads, and of an agreeable acid taste. This pulp is preserved in jars, and is taken in decoction or infusion, in the quantity of two or three ounces, and is very good in abating the acrimony of the bile, and in inflammations. For this reason it is given in acute fevers, jaundice, and burning in the stomach and bowels: it quenches thirst, prevents scurvy, and is a gentle aperient.

T. A.

VERGONZOSA (*Mimosa pudica*), a genus of the class *Polygamia monœcia*. The calix consists of five dentals, and the corolla of an equal number of segments, with a few more threads, and a pistil. The fruit is long and full of seeds. There are forty-three species, all peculiar to America ; it is likewise called the Sensitive Plant, from the singular property of contracting its leaves and branches on being touched. This movement is produced by three different bendings of each leaf to the branch, and the branch to the body of the tree. In the first place, the leaf bends on one side, or doubles, and the next bends to the branch ; and if the touch is sufficiently strong, the branch bends to the trunk of the tree, which is then of a cylindrical form. Some have endeavoured to explain this phenomenon on mechanical principles, but without success ; and some assert, that this contraction does not take place when it is touched by an irrational creature. In several provinces it is called *Cierrate, cierrate*, or “ Shut thyself, shut thyself.”

T. A.

YUCA (*Talropha Manihot*), a plant of the *monœcia* order. It is very large, with branches and a pointed broad leaf : the root is the most useful of any found in America, and grows moderately in temperate, and in profusion in hot climates ; the root is white, and of two kinds, distinguished by the epithets of *sweet* and *bitter*. The former is eaten boiled or roasted ; but the latter, which is

the most useful, is made into a sort of cakes, as red cazabe, which is almost the only bread used in every part of America, and for its pleasant taste is preferred by many Europeans to wheaten bread. They also make of it a sort of starch, of excellent quality, which is in general use in America.

T. A.

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