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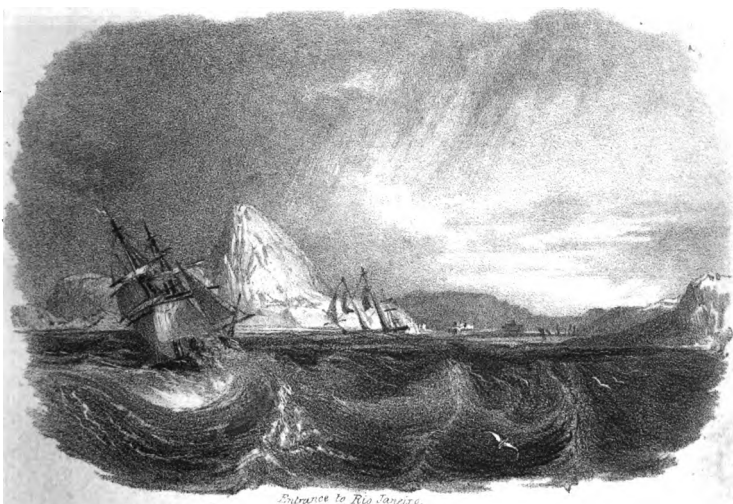
A WILD FOREST IN SOUTH AMERICA

Wm. B. King

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STORIES
OF
POPULAR VOYAGES
AND
TRAVELS.

SOUTH AMERICA.



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Entrance to Rio Janeiro.

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LONDON

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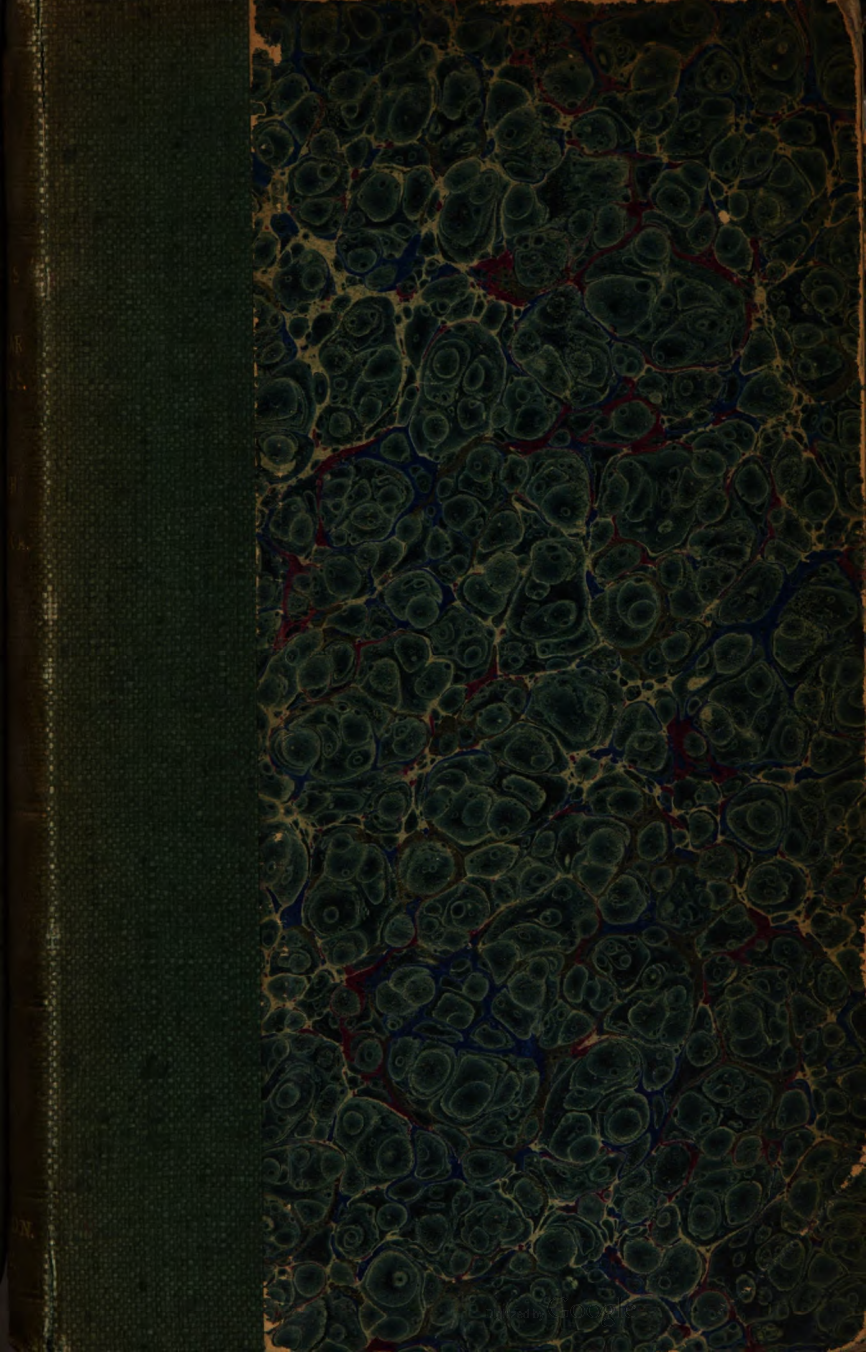
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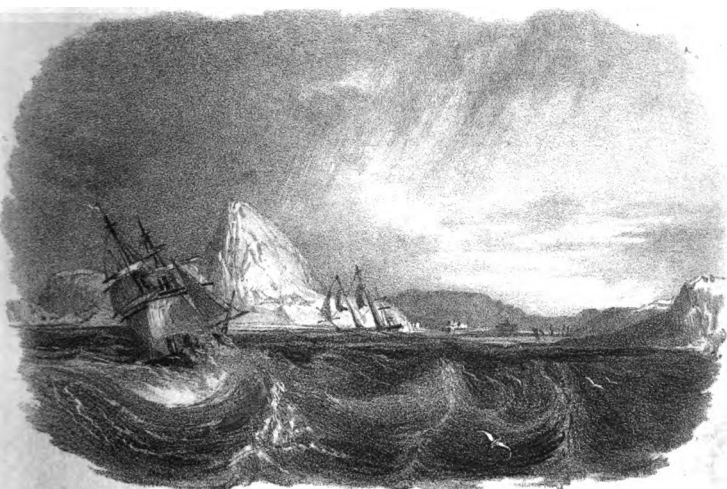
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THE object of this volume is to give in an abridged shape a Narrative of the Travels of some of the most popular writers who have recently visited South America. The means by which this is sought to be accomplished, are, by throwing the substance of the work into a story, in the most clear and condensed form, and introducing in their proper order those subjects and occurrences which are pre-eminently interesting or instructive.

If the execution shall be found worthy of the design, it will answer several important purposes:—To those who are able to purchase, and

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Chiefly, with a view to the latter class of readers, an outline of the Geography of the country to which the works relate, is prefixed to the volume ; and it is for that class most particularly that the abridgments have been made.

As no works but those of eminence and confirmed worth have been selected, it may induce

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many readers to refer to, or possess themselves of the original publications, in which must be found much that is valuable (particularly the scientific details) and interesting that could not possibly, or in justice to the Proprietors of them, be introduced in a small volume merely intended to display the most striking features of the Voyagers' narratives. Some few quotations have been made from the original works, and in such instances they are generally either directly acknowledged or indicated by inverted commas.

THE Embellishments which illustrate this volume, are from the Lithographic Press of ENGELMANN and Co., Dean Street, Soho. Among them is one from the humorous pencil of Mr. GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, designed expressly for this work. The View of Mexico Cathedral is taken, with the kind permission of Mr. Ackermann, from one on a large scale published by that gentleman.

GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
SOUTH AMERICA.

SOUTH AMERICA is, in every respect, one of the most interesting portions of the earth's surface. It embraces every range of temperature, from the most chilling cold, to the most intense heat; every degree of moisture, from the flooded fen to the parched sand; every shade of fertility, from fields always gay with flowers and trees laden with fruit, to cold and barren rocks, upon which even the hardiest moss and lichen cannot find nourishment; and every variety of healthiness, from the delightful plain, where the sky is never clouded and every breeze gives life, to the pestilent marsh, where the air is death. In the diversity of its surface, and the value and variety of its productions, both upon the soil and in the mine, it is not less

worthy of being known. The ridges of mountains in South America, are the longest which are any where to be found; and the peaks of the most elevated, pierce the regions of clouds and storms, and stand in cold and tranquil majesty above the reach of any living thing. The rivers of South America are more magnificent than those of any other part of the world; and their being navigable for vessels of burden to a much greater length, must enhance their value when the country is more thickly inhabited, and completely cultivated, and hasten the period when that shall be the case. The giant streams from the vast ridges of the Andes, are collected from numerous torrents that rush in a succession of cascades, down the sides of the mountains, and then roll their united waters over a comparatively level course, in some instances, of two thousand miles. There are very few lakes in South America, and there is hardly an island worthy of the name; but the want of lakes is, to a very considerable extent, compensated by the rivers. The plants of South America consist of those that require the climate of every region of the globe, though the species be in general different from those of the corresponding genera on the other continent. There are also many kinds, and some entire families of plants peculiar to South America. Of these latter, some are used for medicinal purposes, as the different species of Cinchona or Peruvian bark; and the Balsams of Copaiva, Tolu,

and Peru : others again are poisonous, as the manchaneel apple ; and some are of great request in the arts, as the nopal, upon which are produced the cochineal insects, of which the dye for the most beautiful crimson and scarlet is made. Of the timber that grows in South America, or on the adjoining islands, some is of the greatest beauty and durability ; as the mahogany and rosewood, of which the most costly and beautiful furniture is made ; and the plants which yield sugar, cotton, and coffee, are more easily cultivated there than in any other part of the world. The metals and gems are in great abundance. Gold, and especially silver, are more plentiful than any where else, and though the finer species of gems are said not to equal those of Asia, either in hardness or in lustre, they are found in greater abundance. The birds are very numerous, some of them, as the condor, or vulture of the Andes, and the ostrich, are of very large size ; and others, such as many of the humming birds, which are most exquisite in their forms and their colours, do not exceed the dimensions of an ordinary fly. Quadrupeds are not so numerous as in the other continent, neither are the beasts of prey so strong or so fierce as those of Asia and Africa ; but of the animals which have been carried there, more especially of the cattle and horses, which run wild in the plains toward the south-east, the increase has been almost beyond credibility.—In giving a slight sketch of a country so large and so very interest-

ing, the best way will be to notice, separately, a few of the leading particulars.

I. THE EXTENT, FORM, AND BOUNDARIES.

Cape de la Vela, the northmost part of South America, is about twelve degrees north of the equator, and the southmost point of the mainland is about 55 degrees south ; so that the extreme length is 67 degrees, or about 4,650 miles. Cape St. Roque, the eastmost point, is about 35 degrees west of the meridian of London, and Cape Blanco, the westmost, is about 80 ; so that the greatest breadth from east to west, is about 45 degrees, or 3,100 miles.

The regular figure that South America most nearly resembles is a triangle, having its longest side toward the west, its next to the south-east, and its shortest to the north-east. These may, in round numbers, be estimated at 4600, 4000, and 3000 miles ; and the whole surface, in square miles, does not differ very much from 5,923,000 square miles. The western or longest side, is wholly washed by the Pacific ocean, across which, lie New Holland and the isles between that country and the south-east of Asia. The southern half of this side lies nearly upon a meridian, that is, north and south, only it inclines a little north-east and south-west. The northern half inclines a little north-west and south-east, and has a considerable bend outwards, toward the

ocean. This side terminates northward at the isthmus of Darien or Panama, by which North America is joined to South.

The North-east side is divided into three portions of nearly equal length, by the termination of the West Indian Islands, at Trinidad, and the mouth of the Marañon or Amazon river, just under the equator, in longitude 50 degrees west. The first portion which lies farthest to the north, and is the longest and most irregular of the three, is washed by the West Indian or Caribbean sea—that part of the Atlantic ocean which is partially divided from the rest, on the east and north-east, by the West Indian islands. The other two portions are washed by the Atlantic.

The south-east side is divided into three portions of nearly equal length, by Cape Frio, which projects into the sea near the city of Rio Janeiro, the capital of Brazil, and by the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, in about 34 degrees of south latitude.

The islands that lie upon the shores of South America are, as compared with most other continents, very few. The largest lies close upon the south point, and is divided from the mainland by the strait of Magellan, a long and narrow passage, of very difficult navigation, both on account of interrupting rocks, and of the violent storms to which that region is subject. This island is Terra del Fuego. It is about 400 miles long, and the average breadth of the western half is about 150 miles

but the breadth of the eastern half does not exceed 50 miles. There are some islands in the neighbourhood of Terra del Fuego, and the group of the Falkland isles lies about 430 miles to the east, but they are all cold, dreary, unproductive and desolate.

About 800 miles of the southern part of the west coast is very rugged, broken by small bays, and studded with islands; but these are mostly cold, stony, and barren. A little further to the north, and about 400 miles from the mainland, lies the island of Juan Fernandez, the place where Selkirk, whose story is the foundation of the beautiful tale of Robinson Crusoe, had his solitary residence. This little island is fertile, and has a delightful climate; and the same is the case with one or two other small islands, which lie further to the north, and far from the land.

In this long line of coast, there are some creeks that serve for harbours, but there are no gulphs of any magnitude, save the gulph of Guayaquil, a little to the south of the equator, which is of a circular form, and about 140 miles each way; and the bay of Bonaventura, a little to the north of the equator, which is merely a bending of the coast.

This coast, with the adjoining country, and the coast of Mexico, a little further to the north, are those chiefly alluded to in the voyage of Captain Hall.

On the south-east coast, there are some excellent natural harbours, of which the principal are Pernam-

bucco, St. Salvador, Rio Janeiro, and Santos, in Brazil; the estuary of the St. Pedro on the southern confines of that country; and the estuary of the Río de la Plata, between Monte Video and Buenos Ayres. The last is of great extent, being, at 200 miles from Cape St. Maria which forms its extreme boundary, at least 50 miles across, and with hardly any perceptible saltness in the water. South of the Plata, the coast is more irregular, but as the province is no where thickly inhabited, and in few places susceptible of supporting much population, the bays and harbours are of less interest or value.

Upon two thirds of the north-east coast, from Cape St. Roque to the island of Trinidad, there is hardly an island, save the little one in the harbour of Maranh, and some trifling ones at the mouth of the Amazon river. On the remaining part of this coast they are more numerous. Trinidad, situated on this coast opposite the western and smaller mouths of the Orinoco, is about 60 miles long and 50 broad. The climate of this island is good, the soil remarkably fertile, and if it were properly cultivated, there are few spots of the same extent of which the produce would be more valuable. A chain of smaller islands extends from Trinidad, westward to Cape de la Vela, the principal of which are Margareta, Cúracoa and Bonair. Immediately east of the last mentioned cape, there is the only portion of water in South America, which, in any way, deserves

the name of an inland sea. This is the lake of Maracaybo. It is of circular form ; about 100 miles across ; and the entrance to it is very narrow.

II. GENERAL SURFACE, MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS.

There is no large portion of the earth of which the general features are so few and bold, and therefore so easily described and understood, as South America. Along the whole western side of it, and preserving nearly the same distance from the shore of the Pacific, there extends a vast *plateau*, or table land. This varies a little both in breadth and in height, being broadest and most elevated under the equator, and narrowing and subsiding toward both extremities. In some places it consists of but one elevation, but generally it is composed of a series of plains, rising like terraces the one over the other. The average height of this table land above the level of the sea, may be estimated at 12,000 feet, or rather more than two miles ; that is, fully three times the height of the highest mountain in England. Along its whole extent, the base of this table land is seldom more than thirty or forty miles from the Pacific ; and even where it is broadest, it is not above one hundred and eighty or two hundred miles across. This table land gets the general name of the base of the Andes.

About 100 miles north of the equator, it divides into three parts. The westmost of these follows the line of .

the coast, by the isthmus of Darien, and connects the Andes with the mountains of Mexico and the more northern ridges in the west part of North America. The central branch proceeds directly northward, having the river Cauco on the west, and the river Magdalena on the east, each of them flowing along a deep and narrow valley. After a course of about 500 miles, this central chain terminates, and the rivers unite, and flow united, for about 100 miles further, to the Caribbean sea. The third branch, which gets the name of the chain of the Caraccas, proceeds northward by the eastern side of the Magdalena; and, after a course of about 500 miles from the sources of that river, it divides into two branches, the one of which, passing by the west side of the lake of Maracaybo, terminates at Cape de la Vela; and the other, bending to the eastward, skirts the shore of the Caribbean sea, through the provinces of the Caraccas, to the shore opposite Trinidad.

All those table lands that have been mentioned, are the bases of mountains of greater or less altitude. The great chain of the Andes, and those which are most immediately connected with it, have the greatest elevation. Upon the table lands, there are plains of considerable extent, and valleys, between parallel cordillera or chains of the mountains; so that the whole of this elevated country has an appearance and character quite distinct from those of the low plains, which are often not many miles distant. Chimborazo, Pichincha, Cayambe, and

Cotopaxi, are among the most elevated of the Andes. Of these, Chimborazo is nearly four miles above the level of the sea; and which is rather a singular coincidence, it forms the southern termination of a chain, just as Mont-Blanc does in Europe.

Many of the summits of the Andes still emit flames and smoke, and scatter calcined stones, sulphur, and ashes, over the dreary plain by which they are more immediately surrounded. The dark colour of that plain forms a singular contrast to the pure white of the perpetual snow upon the mountains, and the deep azure hue of the sky, which, from the absence of vapour, is intensely so. Nearest to the mountains, those plains present an exceedingly dreary, and even frightful appearance. Regions of volcanoes, are generally regions of earthquakes; and such is the case here. The smaller hills and rocks have been rent in pieces; and the fragments mixed with ashes, and without any vestige of vegetation, present, as it were, the ruins of a world. As one penetrates eastward into the interior, the chains of mountains become less elevated, and vegetation begins to appear. Among these secondary ridges, the valleys are sometimes of singular depth compared with their width; and the rude bridges, of wood, of ropes, or twisted bark or hides, by which the inhabitants pass from one part of the country to another, are often at a dizzying height above the stream that foams below.

The mountains in the interior chain, which stretches towards the isthmus, are, after their separation from the others, of no great elevation. Their height never exceeds 900 feet; on the average it is not more than 400; and at the source of the Atrato, which falls into the gulf of Darien, in the Caribbean sea, and the San Juan, which falls into the bay of Bonaventura, in the Pacific, there is a complete interruption, where it is reported, that a canal uniting the eastern and western oceans could be constructed without much difficulty.

The ridge between the Canco and the Magdalena, is of far greater elevation,—many of the peaks having a height of from 15,000 to 17,000 feet. As the greater part of the valleys between which those mountains are situated, are but little elevated above the level of the sea, the mountains, many of which are perpetually capped with snow, have a very majestic appearance. The base of the ridge too, is very narrow, the average distance of the rivers not being above 70 miles; so that the sides of the mountains, and the ravines by which the lateral streams are discharged into the rivers, are remarkable for their steepness and sublimity. In some places, those ravines are crossed by natural bridges, from the torrents having moved the softer strata from under the harder; and at some points, the traveller sees, as it were, the ends of the earth brought together within his view,—there being all the warmth and luxury of the tropical climates in the valley, only a few miles below

him, whilst all above there is the snow and the climate of Lapland.

The ridge on the eastern side of the Magdalena, stands upon a plateau of about 8,000 feet in height; and few of the mountains have an elevation of more than 4,000 feet additional; so that the character of this part of the country is quite different. The mountains are upon the eastern side of this plateau; which is steep toward the Magdalena; so that the passage across, from Bogota, the capital of Colombia, which stands upon this plateau, to Popayan and the valley of the Cauco is very difficult. The pass is through forests, and along ravines, where for miles of severe labour the traveller meets with no hut or other trace of human beings. The ascents are dangerous, as well on account of their steepness, as of the tough clay by which the hollow of the ravines is lined. Those ravines are, in many places, not more than two or three feet wide, and so deep, that he who passes along sees nothing but their rugged sides and the sky. The descent is rather more easy; and the traveller, forming for himself a life-preserver of some light sticks tied across, is often enabled to cast himself into a stream, and float down with the current. In some places, a canoe might be made to descend those streams, but the ascent would, in almost every case, be impossible. Those mountains and passes, and, indeed, the whole natural appearances of this singular part of South

America, are admirably described by Humboldt and Bouguer.

About the parallel of the third degree of north latitude, an elevated plain, in many places of considerable breadth, extends from the Andes eastward to the north side of the mouth of the Amazon, and divides the valley of the Orinoco on the north, from that of the Amazon on the south. This elevated land has not been completely examined, and cannot, therefore, be accurately described. From what is known of it, it does not appear to contain any mountains of great height; but rather to be made up of an alternation of deep and impenetrable forests, and open plains, or *llanos*, which are parched and sandy in the dry season, and covered with luxuriant vegetation during the rains. The northern slope of it seems to be one vast and tangled forest, from the Andes, to the eastern part of Guiana—a distance of, at least, 1500 miles.

The Orinoco does not traverse the centre of the great valley between the mountains of Caraccas and the elevated plain. Its source is almost as far to the east as its mouth, and in its course it describes a complete circle of from 400 to 500 miles in diameter: before it leaves the high land, some of its branches unite with those of the Amazon, and may, at some future period, form canals of great utility. Where the Orinoco leaves the high ground, there are some falls and rapids,

but they do not seem to be of great height. From the west and north, the Orinoco receives many branches, all of which are to a greater or less extent navigable; and the united streams, as they flow along the flat plains in the lower part of Colombia, would, in any other part of the world, be accounted a river of the largest magnitude. The Orinoco is about the same length as the Danube, but the quantity of water that it discharges is much greater. In the rainy season a great portion of the lower country is laid under water.

The upper part of this valley, northward of the Orinoco, is composed of *llanos*, or elevated plains; the intermediate parts are wooded; and toward the river, the flooding in the rains occasions temporary marshes.

Eastward of the Orinoco, the shore is flat; and, in Surinam and Guiana, the shores are, to a considerable extent, cleared and cultivated, and yield abundant crops of sugar, coffee, and the other tropical productions. In the interior there are those extensive and tangled forests, among which the scene of Mr. Waterton's travels is chiefly laid.

Before the immense valley of the Amazon, even in the little that is known respecting it can be described, it is necessary to notice the elevated part of the east side of America,—that which is situated in the territory of Brazil.

From the vicinity of Pototi in Peru, about 20 degrees south of the equator, and not more than 200 miles from

the shore of the Pacific, may be traced the central summit level of South America, which separates the great valley of the Amazons from that of La Plata. Strictly speaking, this level begins about 500 miles further to the north, at the source of the Apurimac, one of the chief sources of the Amazon, and proceeding by the east side of the lake of Titicaca, a lake which has no outlet, it turns eastward for about 500 miles more, between the branches of the Pilcomayo, which falls into La Plata, and those of the Madeira, which falls into the Amazon.

Though this part of the country has a very considerable elevation above the level of the sea, there are not what can properly be called mountains. The soil is mostly sand, and that sand is formed into swells like the ridges of great waves. Much of it is unproductive; and there are some extensive portions as destitute of vegetation as the deserts in the north of Africa.

From the point last mentioned, the summit level (passing over the most extensive of those sandy deserts in its way, and between the branches of the Paraguay, flowing southward on the east, and those of the Madeira flowing northward on the west), stretches about 500 miles due north; and about the very centre of the continent, bends round the source of the Paraguay, at about 12 degrees south latitude. It then turns to the south east, in the direction of Rio Janeiro, or rather in that of Cape Frio, and after a length of about 800 or

900 miles in that direction, reaches the central plateau of Brazil within 400 or 500 miles of Rio,—at which plateau the chief rivers of Brazil have their source. From this plateau several sierras or elevations branch out, and divide the valleys of the rivers, or the coast lands along the shores of the seas. The sierra of Amambay, extends southward between the Paraguay and the Parana. The ridge of the Parapanema, lying in general much nearer to the shore than the river, divides the valley of the last mentioned river, from the coast. Two chains extend toward the north, one between the river St. Francesco, and the coast ; and the other and larger, between that river and the Tocantins. The last joins a cross ridge, in the north, which extends from Pernambucco, to the bank of the Tocantins. If a straight line be drawn from the confluence of the Paraguay and Parana northward, to the mouth of the Tocantins, the country to the eastward will contain the table land and smaller valleys of Brazil ; and that westward to the Andes, will be divided between the valleys of the Amazon and the Plata ; but by far the larger portion to the former.

Like the Andes, the elevations of Brazil have their steepest sides toward the sea ; and in the central parts they glide into extensive plains, of nearly the same elevation with themselves. There are no mountains in Brazil of such an elevation as to be covered with snow, and there are but few places where the climate is colder than that which we call temperate. The whole of it

may be considered a country beautifully diversified, and capable of producing the most abundant and valuable crops,—consisting of the tropical plants in the warmer regions, and of the choicer productions of Europe in those which are more temperate.

We have now traced the boundaries of the great valley of the Amazon, by far the most extensive on the face of the globe. From the source of the upper Marañon, in the Andes, to the final confluence of the river with the sea, the length on a straight line is not much less than 2000 miles; and from the northern bend of the Negro, to the sources of the Madeira in lake Grande, in the province of Chaco, the breadth is about 1500. We shall not err much if we estimate the whole extent at 2000 miles long, and 1200 broad; and this will give to the valley a surface of 2,400,000 miles; a capacity, from the nature of the soil, of supporting a population many times greater than that of all Europe. This is about one twentieth part of the whole land upon the earth's surface; and as the valley of the Amazon receives a great portion of the humid air which is carried westward by the trade wind across the Atlantic, the Amazon may very fairly be estimated as discharging a full twentieth of all the water which the rivers pour into the sea. It need not, therefore, be wondered at, that though this mighty flood be so wide that the keenest eye can hardly see across it, it should have a depth of 600 feet. Though the mass of water which

it discharges occasions a continual struggle with the sea, yet the re-action of the tide is felt at more than 700 miles from the mouth of the river. In the variable season, when the change is from drought to rain, or the reverse, the Amazon is subject to storms, which are as terrible in appearance as those on the ocean ; and, as fresh water, from its not being so heavy as salt, rises into greater waves, these storms would be very dangerous for shipping.

Some of the branches of the Amazon are in themselves vast rivers. The Madeira, the longest and central one on the south part of the valley, is nearly 1700 miles in length. It passes through woods, from which it derives its name ; and is navigable, or *might be* so for a very long way. The Apurimac and Ucayle, which together, form the most remote, though not the central source of the river, have a course of about 1,200 miles ; and as their junction is at least 1700 miles from the mouth of the river, they give it a length of nearly 3000. The Zingu from Brazil, has a course of nearly 1000 miles, and the Tupayas, between the Zingu and the Madeira is not much shorter. The valley on the north bank is not so wide ; but the Negro, which flows with a slanting course, is more than 900 miles long, and discharges a great quantity of water.

Of the rivers that flow wholly through the territory of Brazil, the Tocantins is by far the most considerable. Its length, from the central table land to the Atlantic, is

about 1400 miles; and though the courses of the Brazilian rivers be, in general, more rapid than those of the branches of the Amazon, it is navigable to a considerable extent. In the rainy season, the country between the mouths of the Amazon and Tocantins, and the delta between the two branches of the latter river, are subject to inundations. Some of the valleys that open to the sea, north and eastward of the Tocantins, are of considerable length. Two rivers of about 300 miles in length each, enter the little bay of Maranhão; and the Parnaíba, a little further to the east, has a course of 500 miles.

The San Francisco, which flows northward, and then east to the sea, has a course of more than 1100 miles through a finely diversified country; and it is said, for a short space, to flow under ground.

From the San Francisco eastward, there is no river of any magnitude that flows directly through Brazil to the sea. The shores in that part are very bold, and beautifully diversified by romantic rocks, steep and wooded hills, and delightfully healthy and fertile glades; and the longest rivers have their courses westward and fall into the Parana.

Though at its confluence with the sea, the Plata be a broader river than the Amazon, it is not nearly as deep, neither does it discharge an equal quantity of water. The longest branch is nearly 2000 miles in extent. The Parana, which rises about only 150 miles from Rio

Janeiro, has a course of at least 1200. The Uruguay, which joins the main river, from the north, a little above Buenos Ayres, has a course of 800 miles; the Pilcomayo, which rises near Potosi, on the confines of Chili and Peru, has nearly the same length of course; but as it passes across a dry and sandy country, the quantity of water which it discharges is much less. The other western branches of the Plata, of which the Vermejo and the Salado, having each a course of about 600 miles are the chief, also flow over an arid country. Indeed, the entire western half of the valley of the Plata is, comparatively, a dry country; and continues so to the northern boundary of Patagonia. The southern part of the dry and level country is the Pampas, across which Captain Head made his excursions.

On the south of the Pampas, rising in the Chilian Andes, and emptying themselves into the Atlantic, flow the Colorado and the Negro, the former having a course of about 1000 miles, and the latter, one of about 400.

In the southern extremity of this continent, there are cold and barren mountains huddled together, without much to tempt either the avarice or the curiosity of mankind.

On the west side of the Andes, there is, as has been said, a very narrow stripe of low land, across which short streams run to the sea, many of them being only

seasonal, and having their channels dry, except during the rains.

III. POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

Though the object of this sketch be rather to give a brief account of the natural appearance of South America, than to point out the manner in which it is parcelled out among different nations, yet the mention of the names and positions of the different states will save some repetition when we come to notice the climate and productions.

It may be remarked, in general, with regard to the states, more especially those independent ones that have been established in what were long the Spanish Colonies, and which comprise more than half the extent of the entire continent, that they are still in a very unsettled condition as to their extent and boundaries; and that of the other territories, Brazil in the east, and Surinam and Guiana in the north, the boundaries inland are by no means well defined, the cultivation and inhabitants not having extended so far as the extent of territory nominally claimed. We shall begin our enumeration at the southern extremity.

PATAGONIA.—This is the name given to the first 500 miles in length of the continent, or to that portion which extends from Cape Froward in the strait of Magellan, to the 45th degree of south latitude. This country is bounded on three sides by a vast ocean; the surface

is very irregular, and therefore it is cold and barren, and a region of perpetual storms. It has not been very much examined, and indeed the cold and the privations to which a traveller would have to be subjected, are such as seem well calculated to damp the most ardent curiosity. The vegetables and animals are few ; and the only subject of interest is the inhabitants. Though few in numbers, exposed to great hardships, and apparently at the very bottom of the scale of civilization, they are, by most voyagers, both ancient and modern, represented as considerably exceeding the standard of mankind, in more favoured and cultivated climes. One of the most recent and minute accounts of them represents the very shortest man that could be found, as measuring about six feet, while the *tall* men were about two feet more. The east side of Patagonia is composed of sandy and rocky plains, which have a tranquil atmosphere, but are almost destitute of vegetation. The western side is mountainous, contains many forests, and is subject to frequent and heavy rain and snow. Even in summer, the heat seldom reaches that degree which we call temperate.

CHILI.—This country extends from the confines of Patagonia to the southern tropic, where it borders upon Peru, and from the ridge of the Andes to the Pacific. Its length is about 1500 miles, but its breadth is not above 150. Chili is completely insulated from the rest of the world. The ridges of the Andes are lofty, abrupt,

and difficult to be passed. Patagonia to the south, is wild and mountainous; and for several degrees between Chili and Peru, the Andes touch the coast; and form a natural barrier of precipices and snowy summits, with dreary wastes between.

Along the shore there is a narrow beach, above which rise hills of considerable elevation, and their summits extend in an elevated plain or terrace to the foot of the Andes, many of which latter have volcanic summits, which by blazing over the snow, give an air of majesty to the scene. Many streams from the Andes flow across the terrace, and unless where it is affected by sulphur or metallic ores, or destitute of moisture, the soil is remarkably fertile. The cedars of the Andes rival those of Lebanon; and the fruits and vegetables are of the choicest description. The myrtle attains the height of 40 or 50 feet; the olive rivals the largest trees in our forests; and in the meadows, the grass is so luxuriant as to conceal the herds.

The air is very healthy, and the seasons are remarkably uniform; no part of the world is indeed more favourable to human life and enjoyment; and further cultivation alone is wanting to make southern Chili the paradise of the American continent. From May to September, the winter of the Chilian year, the wind blows from the north, accompanied by rain; during the rest of the year, the wind is from the south, and dry.

The mines of copper in Chili are very productive;

those of gold and silver are situated in the snowy summits of the Andes; and the working of them is alike difficult and dangerous, from the situation, the extreme cold, the violent storms, and the frequent earthquakes. The gold and silver of Chili, like those of most other parts of South America, were the first objects that attracted the curiosity and cupidity of Europeans; but compared with the produce of the soil, they are obtained at great peril, and apparently small profit. The condition of the principal mines in Chili is noticed by Captain Head.

The countries of Cuyo and Tucuman lie on the east side of the Andes, on the edge of the Pampas, or desert, which, under the name of the Pampas, occupies the greater part of the valley to the south, the west, and the north of Buenos Ayres.

The capital of Chili, St. Sago, is a place of considerable magnitude, and there are many natural harbours, and towns along the coast.

Mendoza, the capital of Cuyo, on the east side of the Andes, is also a place of some magnitude; and from the extent of the plains there, provisions are both abundant and cheap.

The earthquakes do not always spend the whole of their fury among the mountains; for they occasionally produce havoc and ruin on the plain, and even at the coast.

PARAGUAY.—Under that general name are included

all the countries that lie more immediately upon the banks of La Plata. The province of Chaco, which lies on the west bank of this river, and borders with Peru and Tucuman, consists of arid plains, impregnated with salt, sandy deserts, and pestilent marshes. The banks of the rivers are, however, more fertile ; in some places they are well adapted for the cultivation of indigo, cotton, and Indian corn ; in others, they are covered with forests, in which a vast quantity of wild honey is produced.

The country around Buenos Ayres is very fertile ; but it is damp in the rainy season, and remarkably destitute of forests. To the south and west of the city, nothing is to be seen but the dreary and unbroken flat of the Pampas.

At Monte Video, on the opposite bank of the river, the soil is as rich and much more diversified. The wild cattle on the plains constitute the chief wealth of both places.

The countries on the Uruguay, which are diversified and woody, and those between the Parana and the Paraguay, to the confines of Brazil and the valley of the Amazon, are still in the possession of the natives, and but imperfectly known.

It was in this part of Paraguay that the Jesuits established those colonies for the civilization of the Indians, which led to their expulsion from America in the year 1767.

BRAZIL.—The boundaries of that immense territory have been already described. It is, though not separated from the rest of South America by any natural boundary, a peculiar country. The mountains which form its centre, have no connection with the great ridge of the Andes—the summit level between the sources of the Amazon and those of the Plata consisting not of rock, but of sand.

The highest ground in Brazil is the district of *Cerro do Frio*, immediately behind Rio Janeiro, in which the Parana, the Tocantins, and the San Francisco, have their sources. On the surface, this district has little to recommend it, being in many places destitute not merely of forests, but of almost every species of vegetation. There, however, the sterility of the surface is in some measure compensated by the riches that are below.

A portion of this cerro, or ridge, about fifty miles from north to south, and half the same extent from south to west, is called the diamond district, from the numerous quantity of those stones that are found in it. The diamonds are found in a conglomerate stratum, consisting of pebbles of quartz and earth, and wherever this is found, it is sure to contain diamonds. This matrix of the diamonds is found in the beds of the mountain rivers, as well in the hollows and cavities, even up to the summits of the cerro; but there has been no instance in which the diamond has been met with, in what one might call its original locality, or im-

bedded in solid rock. Lapidaries and naturalists are not agreed respecting the Brazilian diamonds: the former allege that they are crystallized in a different form, and inferior both in hardness and in brilliance to the diamonds of the east, while the latter say there is no difference. Topazes, chrysoberyls, and various other precious stones are found in great abundance in this district of Brazil; and though gold has not been found in any quantity (if at all) in the *lode* or vein, as it occurs in the Andes, a very considerable quantity is obtained by washing the gravel of the rivers. The gold is found in the same ridge with the diamonds, though not in the same part of it, being a little farther to the south. The stratum which immediately contains the gold, is found under a red soil, tinged with iron; and immediately over the rock, which is there of the primary description, granite or gneiss. A bowl full of the gravel can be washed in about an hour, by one labourer, and the quantity of gold found in it amounts to something more, upon the average, than the value of one shilling.

In a country so extensive as Brazil, there must of course be considerable varieties, both as to climate and productions. With the exception of the ridges of mountains, the general character is an excess of vegetation—more especially of trees. The numbers and thick foliage of these tend, by keeping the rays of the sun from the ground, and by the great evaporation that

they occasion, to mitigate the heat of summer ; but they at the same time render the air humid and unhealthy. The forest trees grow to a great size ; but as their growth is very rapid, they do not stand to a great age, neither is the timber very durable. Creeping and parasitical plants are so entwined with the trees, that a Brazilian forest is almost impenetrable ; and they swarm with insects, and abound in those species of the monkey family that are found on the American continent, and with parrots, parroquets, and other birds of the most brilliant plumage. These woods abound in aromatic plants ; and, what has been fabled of “ the spicy groves of Araby the blest,” is found to be fact here ; for the perfumes of the Brazilian forests are often wafted many leagues to sea. The Tocantins, Zingu, Madeira, and other rivers in the north west of Brazil, have vast forests of cocoa trees on their banks, which seem roped together by the long tendrils of the vanilla. Palms are abundant in every part of the country, and the cotton and coffee plants might be cultivated throughout its whole extent. From some trials that have recently been made, it appears that in the elevated part of Brazil, in the neighbourhood of Rio Janeiro and San Paolo, the tea-plant could, with proper care, be brought to the same perfection as in China ; and there can be no question that, if Brazil were properly peopled and cultivated, it would be one

of the finest countries in the world ; but hitherto only a very limited portion of its natural advantages have been turned to the use of man.

Rio Janeiro, the capital, is a large city, containing about 150,000 inhabitants, and the situation is singularly picturesque. That part of the city which lies low is unhealthy, but the buildings upon the eminences are airy and delightful.

The district of Rio Grande in the south part of Brazil, in which there is an inlet of the sea of more than 200 miles in length, is an agricultural country. It yields fine crops of wheat, and coals are found in many parts of it.

Another very fine portion of Brazil, is that opposite the small island of St. Catherine's, about latitude 27° south. The vale of Picada, in this district, is full of orange and coffee groves, and studded with white cottages of great neatness. The plain of Corriteva, behind the mountains in this part of Brazil, extends to the source and near to the bank of the Parana, and is, perhaps, the most fertile and beautiful plain in the world. From this plain, the capital and many other towns on the coast are supplied with mules and cattle. The quality is unrivalled, and there is no limit to the quantity. But though nature thus, as it were, forces food upon the Brazilians, they mar the gift by a most absurd law relative to salt. In consequence of this law, the salt requisite for curing the carcass of a bul-

lock, costs fully three times as much as the bullock itself; and therefore the whole of those that are killed for the purpose of selling the hides, are abandoned to wild beasts.

The district of Bahia, that around the bay of All Saints, upon which the town of Bahia, or St. Salvador (little inferior to Rio Janeiro in population) is situated, is one of the best in Brazil, in a mercantile point of view. The soil is rich and produces a great deal both of sugar canes and tobacco, together with a considerable quantity of indigo, but the last is of an inferior quality. The timber in the interior about Bahia, is well adapted for ship building, and extensively used for that purpose.

Pernambucco, to the north of Bahia, produces immense quantities of cotton, as also dye woods, sugar, coffee, and rice. Pernambuco contains a population of about 60,000.

The country from Cape St. Roque to the termination of Brazil, at the mouth of the Amazons, resembles in most of its features the country of Guiana, only the air is probably not so moist.

The King of Portugal has made Rio his capital, and taken the title of Emperor of the Brazils.

GUIANA.—Guiana is the general name given to the country from the mouth of the Amazon to that of the Orinoco; and from the Atlantic to the Rio del Negro, and lower part of the Amazon. This tract of country

contains various settlements on the sea coast, but the interior has not been much explored, nor would the exploring of it be a very easy task.

Guiana contains three distinct kinds of surface, the back country, the woods, and the coasts. The back country consists of the central elevation between the Amazon and the sea; the woods are on the northern slope; and the shores are remarkable for their flatness. The mangrove grows in the sea, as well as in the shallows formed by the rivers; the sea water is turbid from the quantity of mud; and the marshes, together with the immense quantity of vegetable matter in a state of decomposition, render the air very unhealthy; but they contribute much to the fertility of the soil. Every tide overflows a considerable portion of the land, and when the rainy season sets in, the water rises so much, that the forests are nearly submerged. Still, when the soil has been once so much cleared as to permit the cooling breezes from the sea to play over it, and drive the pestilent exhalations into the forests, the shores of Guiana are not so fatal to human life as might be supposed. The humidity of the earth occasions a great deal of evaporation, which cools the air till the heat is not so insupportable. The inundations in Guiana are described by an eminent geographer in the following words:—"Guiana is subject to annual inundations; all the rivers, swollen by continual rains, overflow

their banks, forests, trees, shrubs, and parasitical plants seem to float upon the water; and the sea, tinged with a yellow clay, adds its billows to the fresh water streams. Quadrupeds are forced to take shelter in the highest trees; large lizards, agoutis, and peccarió quit their dens, now filled with water, and remain on the branches. Aquatic birds spring upon the trees, to avoid the caymans and serpents that infest the temporary lakes. The fish forsake their ordinary food, and live upon the fruits and berries of the shrubs among which they swim: the crab is found upon trees, and the oyster multiplies in the forest. The Indian, who surveys from his canoe this new chaos, this confusion of earth and sea, suspends his hammock on an elevated branch, and sleeps without fear in the midst of so great danger."

Where the shores of Guiana are cleared and cultivated, they are not without their beauty; they form as it were a golden fringe to that thick mantle of wood which covers the rest of the country; and from the luxuriance with which vegetables grow, there is a wonderful freshness and luxury about the place.

It is to the interior of this country that the travels of Mr. Waterton relate.

COLOMBIA.—This used formerly to be the Spanish colony of Terra Firma, or New Grenada. It comprises the whole tract of country from the mouth of the Orinoco to the shores of the Pacific, and from the shores of the Caribbean sea to that extension of high

land from the Andes, which divides the valley of the Orinoco from that of the Amazon.

The principal features of it have already been noticed, in describing the mountains and rivers of this part of America. It consists of the greater part of the valley of the Orinoco, in the western and elevated part of which is situated Bogota, the capital,—the Caraccas, or coast of the Caribbean sea, with the small hills and valleys among the steep and rugged mountains that follow the line of that coast. This part is picturesque and fertile, and not unhealthy; but it is very subject to the devastations of earthquakes. These, with the long and narrow valleys of the Magdalena and Cauco, with that of the Atrato, opening upon the gulf of Darien, and a small part of the shore of the Pacific, about Panama, constitute the territory to which the general name of Colombia is given. The length of the whole of Colombia, from east to west, may be reckoned at about 1200 miles; and its breadth, from north to south, at about 550; but in that wide extent there are very many districts with few inhabitants, and not a few that are incapable of supporting any.

PERU.—This is the only country that remains to be noticed. Following the winding of the shore, Peru extends about 1800 miles from north to south; but the breadth is in many places inconsiderable.

Peru is, in its situation and its principal features, one of the most singular countries on the face of the earth.

Situated immediately under the equator, and possessing mountains that rise far above the regions of perpetual snow, it enjoys every variety of temperature and climate that can be imagined.

Peru consists of three distinct parts of country, each of which has a character peculiar to itself. These are the Valles; the Sierra, or Upper Peru; and Interior Peru, or the country beyond the great ridge of the Andes. The Valles, which is also called Lower Peru, is a narrow stripe of coast lying between the first ridge of the Andes and the Pacific. Its breadth nowhere exceeds 40 or 50 miles. It is a peculiar country, being totally exempted from the thunders and rains which periodically agitate the air, and drench the earth in most other parts of South America. In consequence of this absence of rain, a great part of the Valles is parched into a desert, formed of dry sand, without vegetation and without inhabitants. On the banks of the little rivers which flow across this stripe of land to the sea, and where there are springs, or any other means by which the soil can be watered, the Valles is a fertile and delightful region, enjoying perpetual summer, or rather, perpetual spring and autumn blended together.

One would at first suppose that a country like this, sheltered from cross winds, and lying under the equator, would have the very highest degree of temperature. But such is not the fact: the heat is very uniform, and it is never high: the thermometer at Lima, which, though

in the plain of Rimac a little elevated, is in Lower Peru, has never been lower than 60° at noon, and very seldom higher than 85° . Two causes tend to mitigate the heat of Peru: the current of cold water from the south end of America, which sets northward along the coast; and the *garua*, a thick dry mist which covers the sky, and absorbs great part of its heat.

The Andes, in great part of Peru, consist of two chains of summits, the Sierra of the coast, and the great or interior Sierra. The ground upon which both of them stand, is the high table land already mentioned; and where it is free from mountains, the soil is fertile, the climate delightfully healthy and temperate, and the whole year has the character and charms of a mild spring.

It is in the Sierra that the mineral riches—the gold and the silver of Peru are contained; and, as is the case in Chili, and in the diamond district of Brazil, that wealth is placed in situations that are the least accessible, and that contain the fewest substances that can be in any way useful, either in supporting the miner, or in facilitating his operations. Few mines have yielded more wealth than those of Pasco: they are situated at more than thirteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, near Laurachocha, on the elevated part of the Sierra. Most of the other valuable mines are in similar situations; and thus the expense of obtaining the metal is very great. Nor does it appear

that, in these high situations, the expense could be very much lessened by the introduction of European machinery; for, as every thing has to be carried to the mines on the backs of mules, up the steep acclivities of the mountains, the transporting of heavy machinery would cost an immense sum in roads and other preparations. The privations, too, with which the miner must put up, are very great, and the dangers from cold, from storms, and from earthquakes, are not small.

The agriculture of Peru has been neglected for the sake of its mines; and the population of the country has certainly declined considerably since it was first taken possession of by the Spaniards. In the disturbances with which the establishment of independence, both in this and the other Spanish colonies in America, has been attended, the mining operations, as well as all the other arts and operations of peace, have been of course suspended; but after tranquillity has been for some time re-established, it is to be hoped that all these operations will be prosecuted with more vigour than ever.

Thus we have thrown a cursory glance over the great points in the character of South America,—the last land which has been added to the dominions of the free,—the land which most forcibly attracted the avarice of European adventurers, and probably the land which, more than any other, gave that impulse

to the human mind, the fruit of which has been, that intelligence, those arts, and that knowledge of, and love for, civil liberty, which in these latter days have begun to dawn upon the countries with the natural wealth of which they have been purchased.

The longer and the more minutely this vast portion of the earth is considered, the more wonderful does it appear. It seems as though it were a mighty magazine of riches and resources of all kinds, which nature has kept in store for the human race, after the other continents shall be exhausted.

Every notice of such a country must be fraught with information and pleasure ; and, of the travellers, of whose works we are now to abridge the stories, and insert the beauties, each has his peculiarities, both in the region which he describes, and the views he had in searching it. In Captain Hall, we have the most acute observation and the most fascinating narrative, blended with a philosophy which is as sound as it is useful : in Captain Head, we have delineations equally remarkable for their rapidity and their force : and in Mr. Waterton, we have that which arouses alike our astonishment and our credulity.

STORY

OF

CAPTAIN BASIL HALL'S

VOYAGE TO CHILI, PERU, AND MEXICO,

IN 1820, 1821, 1822.

CAPTAIN HALL sailed from England on the 10th of August, 1820, in the Conway ; and, after touching at Teneriffe and Brazil, received orders from the British commander in the Rio de la Plata, to proceed to the port of Valparaiso, in the republic of Chili, which had then just succeeded in throwing off the yoke of Spain.

His passage lay round Cape Horn, the southern extremity of America, and a point which, from the perils with which it is supposed to be beset, is always one of great interest to sailors.

On the night of the 25th of November, they made the longitude of the Cape, and towards the end of the twilight they discovered it, rising above the waves, and illuminated by the rays of the sun. By Captain Hall's

estimate, it was then about eighty miles westward of the Conway. As the night set in, a singular phenomenon made its appearance, at some distance northward of the Cape, and apparently over or on the island of Terra del Fuego. This was a great jet of light, which, at intervals of about four minutes, shot up to a considerable height, and then subsided, growing fainter as it disappeared. It continued the whole of the night, and was only lost sight of when it was hid in the superior radiance of the morning. Captain Hall conjectures that it must have been a volcano, that the same may have been seen by Magellan, and that he may, from this, have given the name of Terra del Fuego, or the land of fire, to the island on which it appeared; and it is by no means improbable that the Captain's conjecture is well founded.

On the following day they passed Cape Horn, about ten or twelve miles distant. It is a lofty Promontory, but cold, bleak, and barren, and the neighbourhood did not appear to contain any inhabitants, or, indeed, to be capable of supporting them. After passing the Cape, the captain had to contend for some time with contrary winds; but he ultimately reached the anchorage at Valparaiso on the 19th of December.

The anchorage at Valparaiso is very safe in the summer months, that is, from November till the end of March; but the north winds in June and July, render it not so safe. Though the Spaniards gave it the name

of Valparaiso, that is, the Vale of Paradise, there is nothing paradisaical in its appearance, the situation being sandy and barren.

Captain Hall arrived just in time to see the Christmas festivities of the natives. These consisted of bull-fights of a very harmless description, music, gambling, morris dancing, conversation and drinking,—and in the drinking houses, the occasional guests sometimes came into the public room on horseback, took there a glass of liquor, and then galloped off. The climate was at that season agreeable; but on days when the south wind blew strongly, pyramids of sand were carried along the streets by whirlwinds and eddies. In the summer there is no very violent weather; but there are severe storms in winter (June and July), and the ships are cut off from all communication with the town. In the merry-makings, the ladies go about disguised, as spies upon the conduct of their male friends—more from frolic, however, than from jealousy.

Captain Hall found the people, more especially the lower classes, remarkably civil and well bred; but the sex do not meet with those courtesies which are awarded them in Europe, and education was sadly behind.

On the 6th of January, Captain Hall set out for Santiago, the capital of Chili, in company with a brother officer, who knew the country. There being no wheeled carriages, except heavy carts drawn by six or eight oxen,

they set out on horseback, and travelled at the usual galloping pace of the country ; but as they chose the middle of the day, they felt the heat very intense, and that was increased by the nature of the country, which was dry and barren, with here and there a little patch of green. A little before sunset, they came in sight of the lofty and snowy peaks of the Andes, the appearance of which was peculiarly striking.

Our traveller found the society of the capital more polished than that of the sea coast, but the ladies, though in the same room as the other sex, drew up their files on one side, and seldom mingled in the conversations. Learning that some armed ships belonging to France, were coming to Valparaiso, Captain Hall returned. Their visit was friendly, and, neglected as the ladies appeared to be by their countrymen, the conquests made by the lively Frenchmen were so many, as to occasion much lamentation when they took their departure.

At Valparaiso the Captain continued to amuse himself with balls, pic-nics, and observations on the habits of the natives, with an occasional alarm at that great scourge of all the countries west of the Andes, an earthquake, until the twenty-second of January, when the Owen Glendower relieved the Conway at Valparaiso, and Captain Hall sailed in a few days after, for Callao, in Peru.

Nine days sailing before the steady wind of the Pa-

cific, brought the Captain to the roads at Callao, though the distance from Valparaiso is 1300 miles; the climate was delightful, the sea smooth, and hardly a rope had to be shifted during the time.

Lord Cochrane was then blockading the port of Callao, and the inhabitants both of that town and of Lima, were in great agitation: the latter in a state bordering upon want, from the sterility of the immediate neighbourhood, and the impossibility of getting provisions from the more fertile parts of the country. The ships in the harbour of Callao were huddled into a corner, and the people, both there and at Lima, surrounded as they were by revolutionized colonies, and pressed by the revolutionary forces, both by sea and land, were in a state of great agitation. The Royalists were quarrelling with and changing their leaders; but amid all this, they did not neglect their favourite bull-fights—a part of the description of one of which cannot be so well given, as in Captain Hall's own energetic language:—"After one of the bulls had been repeatedly speared, and tormented by darts and fire-works, and was all streaming with blood, the matador, on a signal from the viceroy, proceeded to dispatch him. Not being, however, sufficiently expert, he merely sheathed his sword in the animal's neck, without the intended effect. The bull instantly took his revenge, by tossing the matador to a great height in the air, and he fell apparently dead in the arena. The audience applauded

the bull, while the attendants carried off the matador. The bull next attacked a horseman, dismounted him, ripped up the horse's belly, and bore both him and his rider to the ground: the horse was not suffered to die in peace, but being raised on his legs, was urged, by whipping and goading, to move round the ring in a state too horrible to be described, but which afforded the spectators the greatest delight. The noble bull had thus succeeded in baffling his tormentors as long as fair means were used, when a cruel device was thought of to subdue him. A large curved instrument called a luna, was thrown at him, in such a way as to divide the hamstrings of the hind legs: such, however, were his strength and spirit, that he did not fall, but actually travelled along at a tolerable pace on his stumps—a most horrible sight! This was not all; for a man armed with a dagger now mounted the bull's back, and rode about for some minutes to the infinite delight of the spectators, who were thrown into ecstasies, and laughed and clapped their hands at every stab given to the miserable animal, not for the purpose of killing him, but to stimulate him to accelerate his pace; at length, the poor beast, exhausted by loss of blood, fell down and died."

At Lima, Captain Hall met with an old priest, who had been chief inquisitor, and had great respect for the inquisition. There was some bowels in the inquisitorial father, however, as he expressed his sorrow that the

young men, so rosy-looking and so good, should all go "to the devil!"

The dress of the ladies of Lima consists chiefly of two petticoats—the saya, which displays the form of their limbs, and the manto, which conceals the upper part of their bodies, all but an eye, or part of an eye. Their figures are described as elegant, and their manners as graceful. Lima is the "heaven of women, the purgatory of men, and the hell of jack-asses."

From the state of parties, Captain Hall was obliged to be very circumspect in Lima, and that prevented him from obtaining that perfect knowledge of the manners of the people, which otherwise he was so well adapted for acquiring.

On the 18th of February, he heard that two of his officers had been arrested at Callao, and hastened there for their liberation; an operation which, on account of the agitated state of the public mind, was not without considerable danger in the first instance; and owing to the cumbrous nature of the Spanish law, not without considerable vexation and delay in the end.

Legal swearing seemed to be well understood in the court of Callao, for there were fifteen persons who swore that Captain Hall's two officers had been two years with Lord Cochrane. This was, however, rebutted by the testimony of some persons of more respectable character, who had been prisoners on board his Lordship's vessel, and the officers were liberated.

One of the most singular customs that Captain Hall noticed, on this short visit to the capital of Peru, was that of smoking in the theatre between the acts. On these occasions, the viceroy voted himself absent by retiring to the back seat of his box ; all the gentlemen pulled out their flints and steels, and the house was enveloped in a cloud of smoke, to the density of which a lady would, occasionally, add, by whiffing away at a cigar behind her fan.

On the last day of February, Captain Hall sailed from Callao, and returned to Valparaiso on the 18th of March. The people-crowded around him, anxious to hear the condition of their relatives at Callao and in Lima. Two young English-women wished to see the captain, on the subject of a passage home. One of them had followed the fortunes of a mad adventurer, who, because she would not give him their child to kill, did justice upon himself with a pistol, and left her a widow in a strange land.

On the 23d of March, Captain Hall returned a second time, for Santiago ; and thence, he, in company with some others, took an excursion into the interior. In the course of their journey, they had to cross the river Maypo, by one of those singular suspension bridges which are occasionally found in South America. As these bridges, though of a very different material, are constructed on precisely the same plan and principle as the English chain bridges, it is by no means improbable

that the hint of these may have been taken from them. The Maypo is, at all times, a considerable stream ; and during the rainy season it is a torrent of much rapidity. The one abutment of the bridge is a rock thirty feet high ; and at the other side there is a frame-work of twelve. The sustaining chains are three on each side ; the road-way, which is composed of planks, is hung to these by smaller ones ; and the whole of the chains are of hide-rope, twisted and dried in the sun,—a substance which appears to be more durable, in that country, than even iron is in England. The span of the bridge of Maypo is about one hundred and twenty-three feet ; and from the great elasticity of the materials, it vibrates much in passing.

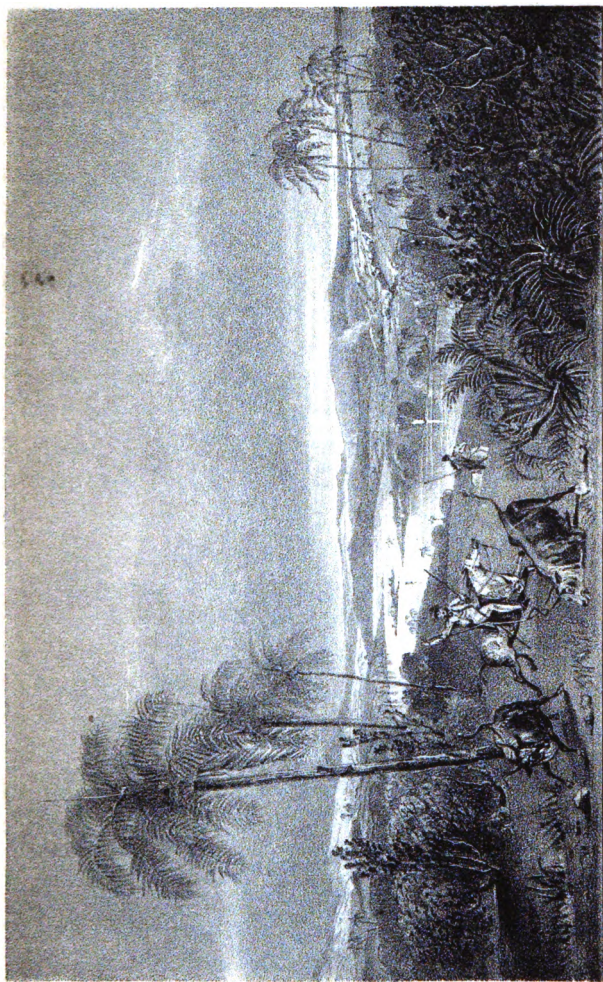
After crossing the Maypo by this singular bridge, the captain and his friends proceeded onward, highly delighted with the scenery of the Andes. They found much hospitality in the houses of the country Chilians, and there was a very agreeable freshness and fragrance in the air. The morning is, however, spent in occupation or solitary rambling, and the family do not assemble till dinner-time.

A singular instance of the effect of religious vows, occurred in a guest at the chacra or farm-house which they were visiting. The first dish, at dinner, was a very savoury soup, enriched with fish ; upon tasting which, the man under the vows, started, looked as if the whole had been arsenic, and exclaimed, “ O Lord, there is fish

in the soup!" It was Friday, in Lent, and the man had vowed to eat neither fish nor meat. He had, however, resolved to break the meat end of the vow that day, in consequence of the tempting appearance of a dish which was on the table; but the inadvertent breach of the fish-end baulked him of his dainty, as he could not prevail upon himself to break both ends the same day. A dessert of the most delicious figs, grapes, and water-melons, followed the dinner, and the whole repast was closed by home-brewed wine, of very pleasant taste, and not over-exciting. After enjoying these good things for some time, the party soon leave them all to enjoy the luxury of the siesta, or mid-day sleep.

After the siesta, the ladies rode out to gossip, and the gentlemen to see the cattle, and the mode of catching them with the *lasso*, an instrument in universal use in the southern parts of America, both on the east side of the Andes and the west.

The lasso, so called from the Spanish lazo, a noose, "consists of a rope made of twisted strips of untanned hide, varying in length from fifteen to twenty yards, and is about as thick as the little finger. It has a noose or running-knot at one end, the other extremity being fastened by an eye and button to a ring in a strong hide belt or surcingle, bound tightly round the horse. The coil is grasped by the horseman's left hand, while the noose, which is held in the right, trails along the ground except when in use, and then it is whirled round the



Engraved by Englewood, C. 1851.

P. 3. and 4. 1851.

CATCHING WILD CATTLE WITH THE LASSO.

head with considerable velocity, during which, by a peculiar turn of the wrist, it is made to assume a circular form; so that, when delivered from the hand, the noose preserves itself open till it falls over the object at which it has been aimed.

The unerring precision with which the lasso is thrown, is perfectly astonishing, and to one who sees it for the first time, has a very magical appearance. Even when standing still it is by no means an easy thing to throw the lasso; but the difficulty is vastly increased when it comes to be thrown from horseback and at a gallop, and when, in addition, the rider is obliged to pass over uneven ground, and to leap hedges and ditches in his course. Yet such is the dexterity of the guassos, or countrymen, that they are not only sure of catching the animal they are in chase of, but can fix, or as they term it, place their lasso on any particular part they please; either over the horns or the neck, or round the body; or they can include all four legs, or two, or any of the four; and the whole with such ease and certainty, that it is necessary to witness the feat to have a just conception of the skill displayed. It is like the dexterity of the savage Indian in the use of his bow and arrow, and can only be gained by the arduous practice of many years. It is, in fact, the earliest amusement, as well as business, of these people; for the captain often saw little boys, just beginning to run about, actively employed in lassoing cats, and entangling the legs of every

dog that was unfortunate enough to pass within reach. In due season they became very expert in their attacks on poultry ; and afterwards in catching wild birds : so that, by the time they are mounted on horseback, which is always at an early age, they begin to acquire that matchless skill, from which no animal of less speed than a horse has the slightest chance of escaping.

Suppose that a wild bull is to be caught, and that two mounted horsemen, guassos as they are called in Chili, or guachos in Buenos Ayres, undertake to kill him. As soon as they discover their prey, they remove the coil of the lasso from behind them, and, grasping it in the left hand, prepare the noose in the right, and dash off at full gallop, each swinging his lasso round his head. The first who comes within reach aims at the bull's horns, and when he sees, which he does in an instant, that the lasso which he has thrown will take effect, he stops his horse, and turns it half round, the bull continuing his course, till the whole cord has run out. The horse, meanwhile, knowing, by experience, what is going to happen, leans over as much as he can in the opposite direction from the bull, and stands trembling in expectation of the violent tug which is to be given to him by the bull, when brought up by the lasso. So great, indeed, is the jerk which takes place at this moment, that were the horse not to lean over in the manner described, he would certainly be overturned ; but standing, as he does, across the road, with his feet

planted firmly on the ground, he offers sufficient resistance to stop the bull as instantaneously as if it had been shot, though, the instant before, he was running at full speed. In some cases, this check is so abrupt and violent, that the animal is not only dashed to the ground, but rolls along at the full stretch of the lasso; while the horse is drawn sideways, and ploughs up the earth with his feet for several yards. This, which takes so long to describe, is the work of a few seconds; during which, the other horseman gallops past; and before the bull has time to recover from the shock, places the noose over his horns, and continues advancing till his lasso is at full stretch. The bull, stupified by the fall, sometimes lies motionless on the ground; but the men soon rouse him up, by tugging him to and fro. When on his legs, with a horseman on each side, he is like a ship moored with two cables; and however unwilling he may be to accompany the guassos, or however great his struggles, he is irresistibly dragged along by them in whatever direction they please.

If the intention be to kill the animal for the sake of the hide and tallow alone, as is often the case, one of the guassos dismounts, and running in, cuts the bull's hamstrings with a long knife, which he always wears in his girdle; and, instantly afterwards, dispatches him, by a dexterous cut across the back of the neck. The most surprising thing is, the manner in which the horse, after being left by his rider, manages to preserve the

lasso always tight ; this would be less difficult if the bull were to remain steady, but it sometimes happens, that he makes violent struggles to disentangle himself from the lasso, rushing backwards and forwards in a furious manner. The horse, however, with wonderful sagacity, alters his place, and prances about, as if conscious of what he is doing, so as to resist every movement of the bull, and never to allow the lasso to be relaxed for a moment.

When a wild horse is to be taken, the lasso is always placed round the two hind legs, and, as the guasso rides a little on one side, the jerk pulls the entangled feet laterally, so as to throw him on his side, without endangering his knees or his face. Before the horse can recover the shock, the rider dismounts, and snatching his poncho or cloak from his shoulders, wraps it round the prostrate animal's head ; he then forces into his mouth one of the powerful bits of the country, straps a saddle on his back, and, bestriding him, removes the poncho ; upon which, the astonished horse springs on his legs, and endeavours, by a thousand vain efforts, to disencumber himself of his new master, who sits quite composedly on his back ; and, by a discipline which never fails, reduces the horse to such complete obedience, that he is soon trained to lend his speed and strength in the capture of his wild companions."

After returning from the field, they spent the evening in the enjoyment of music and the dance ; and here,

again, they met with a singular instance of a *promisa*, or vow. The lightest and liveliest belle of the family would not dance; her mother having, without consulting their inclinations, made a vow, that her daughters should not dance for twelve months. A younger sister danced, and pleaded that, as the vow was made in town, it could not be binding in the country. The argument was conclusive, and they both began to trip like sylphs.

Next morning the Captain and his party accompanied their friends to witness that which in most countries is a disgusting sight, but which is in Chili one of great interest. The cattle had been selected from the wild herd on the preceding evening, and were now confined in the *corral*, or inclosure, to be brought out, one by one, for the slaughter, which the Captain describes as having more the character of a field sport, than that of a mere butchering.

A line of four or five *guassos*, on horseback, and with their lassos in their hands ready prepared, was drawn up upon a level piece of ground in front of the corral; "and opposite to them, another set of men on foot, similarly equipped, so as to form a wide lane, extending from the gate of the corral to the distance of thirty or forty yards. When all was prepared, the leader of the *guassos* drew out the bars closing the entrance to the corral; and, riding in, separated one of the cattle from the drove, which he goaded till it escaped in the opening. The reluctance of the cattle to quit the corral was

evident, but when at length forced to do so, they dashed forward with the utmost impetuosity. It is said, that in this country, even the wildest animals have an instinctive horror of the lasso; those in a domestic state certainly have, and betray fear whenever they see it. Be this as it may, the moment they pass the gate, they spring forward at full speed, with all the appearance of terror. But were they to go ten times faster, it would avail them nothing against the irresistible lassos, which, in the midst of dust, and a confusion seemingly inextricable, were placed by the horsemen with the most perfect correctness over the parts aimed at. There cannot be conceived a more spirited, or a more picturesque scene than was now presented; or one which, in the hands of a bold sketcher, would have furnished a finer subject for the pencil. Let the furious beast be imagined driven almost to madness by thirst, and a variety of irritations, and in the utmost terror at the multitude of lassos whirling all around him; he rushes wildly forward, his eyes flashing fire, his nostrils almost touching the ground, and his breath driving off the dust in his course:—for one short instant he is free, and full of life and strength, defying, as it were, all the world to restrain him in his headlong course; the next moment he is covered with lassos, his horns, his neck, his legs, are all encircled by these inevitable cords, hanging loose, in long festoons, from the hands of the horsemen galloping in all directions, but the next instant as

tight as bars of iron ; and the noble animal lying prostrate on the ground motionless and helpless. He is immediately despatched by a man on foot, who stands ready for this purpose with a long knife in his hand ; and as soon as the body is disentangled from the lassos, it is drawn on one side, and another beast is driven out of the corral, and caught in the same manner.

On begging to know why so many lassos were thrown at once on these occasions, he learned that the first rush of these cattle, when driven out of the corral, is generally so impetuous, that few single cords are strong enough to bear the jerk without breaking. As an experiment, a cow in a very furious state was let out, and directions given for only two men to attempt to stop her. The first lasso fell over her head, which it drew round, so that the horns almost touched her back, but the thongs snapped without stopping her ; the second was intentionally placed round the fore part of the body, and it also broke without materially checking her progress. Away went the cow, scouring over the country, followed by two fresh horsemen standing erect in their stirrups, with their lassos flying round their heads, and their ponchos streaming out behind them, an animating and characteristic sight. The cow galloped, and the horse galloped, and such is the speed of cattle when accustomed to run wild, that at first the horses had but little advantage. The ground being covered with shrubs and young trees, and full of hollow places,

and sunk roads, the chace was diversified by many leaps, in which, although the poor cow did well at first, the horses, ere long, gained upon her, and the nearest guasso perceiving that he was just within reach, let fly his lasso. The cow was at such a distance that it required the whole length of the rope to reach her, and the noose had become so contracted by the knot slipping up towards the end, that it was barely large enough to admit the horns ; had the cow been one foot more in advance, the circle would have become too small, and this feat is considered the perfection of the art. When the rider saw the noose fixed, he stopped and turned his horse, upon which the poor cow, her head nearly wrung off, was cast to the ground with great violence. The second horseman dashed along, and on passing the cow, instead of throwing his lasso, merely stooped on one side, and laid the noose, which he had contracted to a small circle, over her horns. This done, the guassos turned their horses' heads and trotted back with their unwilling prize, not having been more than four or five minutes absent from the ground.

There is another method of arresting the animal's progress, without using the lasso, which is said to require even more skill and presence of mind than that formidable instrument itself. A horseman is stationed a little way from the entrance of the corral, armed with a weapon called a luna, which consists of a steel blade about a foot long, and curved, as its name implies, in

the form of a crescent, sharpened on the concave edge, and having a pole ten or twelve feet long screwed into the middle of the blunt or convex side ; so that when held horizontally, the horns of the crescent point forward. The rider carries his luna in his right hand, couched like a lance, the blade being then about two feet from the ground, in advance of the horse, while the staff is kept steady by passing it under the arm. Having allowed the animal to rush past, he puts spurs to his horse, and gallops after it; on coming close up, he places his weapon in such a situation, that when its right hind leg is thrown backwards, it shall enter the fork or crescent of the luna, and by striking against the edge, which is kept as sharp as a razor, divide the tendon. The weapon is then quickly transferred to the left leg, where in like manner the least touch properly applied divides the other tendon. They saw this cruel feat performed by the principal guasso on their host's estate, who was described as being the best rider and the most expert man in that part of the country. The ground was very dry and dusty, so that by the time he overtook the bullock he was in chase of, there was such a cloud raised by the animal's feet, that they could scarcely see what was doing. The guasso contrived, however, to cut both hamstrings, but his horse becoming confused, fell over the bullock, and they were in considerable alarm lest the man should be cut in two by his own weapon, or be transfixed by the beast's horns : but he never lost his

self-possession, and having first flung the instrument high into the air, raised both himself and horse from the ground, and rode out of the cloud unhurt, and without having ever lost his seat.

While this more serious business was going on, a parcel of mischievous boys had perched themselves on a pile of firewood close to the corral; and being each armed in his way, with a lasso made with a small strip of hide, or of whip cord, got the first chance to noose the animals as they rushed out. They seldom failed to throw successfully, but their slender cords broke like cobwebs. One wicked urchin, indeed, more bold than the rest, mounted himself on a donkey that happened to be on the spot; and taking the lasso that belonged to it—for no description of animal that is ever mounted is without this essential equipment—and placing himself so as not to be detected by the men, he threw it gallantly over the first bullock's neck. As soon as it became tight, away flew the astonished rider: the terrified boy soon tumbled off; but poor Neddy was dragged along the ground, till a more efficient force was made to co-operate with his unavailing resistance.

When a sufficient number of bullocks had been killed, they were dragged away by means of a small car, to which the heads were tied, with the bodies trailing behind on the ground. The corral, or place to which they were removed, was an enclosure from fifty to sixty yards square; the inner half, or that far-

thest from the entrance, being left open to the sky, while the other part was shaded by a rude sort of roof, consisting of branches of trees, and long broad leaves placed on trellis-work, forming a texture sufficiently close to exclude the sun, but not intended to afford any defence from rain; for in these countries, it must be recollected, that wet and dry seasons recur at such stated intervals, that the inhabitants can regulate the periods of their different occupations with a much greater degree of certainty than can be done in Europe."

The process of dividing the carcasses, and making the muscle into *jerked* beef, the staple article of rural produce in Chili,—and which is merely the lean of the beef, deprived of the bones and fat, split into ribbons, and dried in the sun, is a process as singular as that of the taking and dispatching of the animals that produce it.

The lake of Aculeó among the Andes, which Captain Hall visited, is described as being one of the wildest, but, at the same time, the sweetest scenes in nature. Enclosed among lofty and rugged mountains, having its margin bounded by luxuriant groves, with here and there a cottage peeping out, with flocks of parrots chattering over the head of the traveller, and the flamingo, rich in its crimson vesture, hovering over the tranquil water. The valley which contains it, seems much more

worthy of the name of Valparaiso, than the barren and sandy notch in the coast to which that name is given.

As the friends at whose country house the captain had been visiting, were obliged to return to Santiago, he was forced to cut short his excursions, and return with them. He returned after an absence of three days, and met with no adventure on his return, save the familiarity of a traveller whom they met at the port-house at Maypo; and his familiarity was not rudeness, but the custom of the country.

During the few days that the captain spent in Santiago on his return, he was told a very good instance of Chilian coquetry. A foreigner, a heretic, became enamoured of a fair Catholic of the place, and in the ardour of his love read his recantation, and signed the confession. That would not do, however, unless he also underwent fourteen days' purification in the house of exercise. This he did; but alas! when he came forth whipt and disciplined into a good Catholic, he found that the false fair one had given her hand to another.

From the 4th of April to the 26th of May, Captain Hall remained at Valparaiso, alternately occupied in making observations on the pendulum and the natives. Among the latter, he found the state of education extremely low; but they were anxious that it should be improved; and though their wishes in that way were resisted by the priests, the influence of these was on the decline.

On the 26th of May, Captain Hall again sailed toward the north; and by standing nearer the land than he had done on the former trip, he had an opportunity of examining the coast. The winter in the southern hemisphere was now, however, approaching, and a dense cloud which rested on the top of the cliffs, often hid the ridge of the Andes from his view.

The first place at which he touched was Arica, which is about the 18th degree of south latitude, and in that long and dreary desert which skirts the Pacific—with only the interruption of a mountain torrent or two, which carry snow water along a little stripe of green from the mountains to the ocean—from Coquimbo, in Chili, to the gulf of Guayaquil, a distance of more than 1800 miles. Arica had just before been the scene of an attack by the patriot forces, and thus the ravages of war conspired with its native dissolution to form a picture of the utmost misery.

The next place that the captain visited was Ylo, which has fallen sadly from the splendour attributed to it in former times. Captain Hall found the place in ruins, and the chief magistrate in the costume of a beggar. Leaving Ylo, the captain touched at Mollenda, (the sea-port to the city of Arequipa) still having a governor with a guard of six soldiers, fifty huts of reeds, and a hundred inhabitants. Leaving Mollenda, the captain made his second anchorage in Callao roads, on the 24th of June. He then had an interview with San

Martin, the patriot leader ; and remained in Peru till Lima was taken possession of, and tranquillity restored by the wise and temperate measures of that general.

The captain remained in Peru till the 10th of August, when he again proceeded for the south. He reached Valparaiso on the 28th, and found the weather as disagreeable as it had been pleasant on his former visits.

On the 1st of October, Captain Hall made an excursion, in another direction, to Concepcion, one hundred and twenty miles southward of Valparaiso, and the southmost port in the Chilian republic.

The more immediate object of Captain Hall's excursion to the south, was to ascertain the fate of some British and American seamen, that had been made prisoners by Benavides, a piratical chief, who had gone over to the Araucan Indians, and had his head-quarters at Arauco, their capital. Arauco is a little to the south of Concepcion.

The adventures, the crimes, and the fate of Benavides, have all something of interest about them. Vincent Benavides was the son of the gaoler of Quirihue in the district of Concepcion. He was a man of ferocious manners, and had been guilty of several murders. Upon the breaking out of the revolutionary war, he entered the patriot army as a private soldier ; and was a serjeant of grenadiers at the time of the first Chilian revolution. He, however, deserted to the Spaniards, and was taken prisoner in their service, when they sus-

tained, on the plains of Maypo, on the 5th of April, 1818, that defeat which decided their fortunes in that part of America, and secured the independence of Chili. Benavides, his brother, and some other traitors to the Chilian cause, were sentenced to death, and brought forth in the Plaza, or public square of Santiago, in order to be shot. Benavides, though terribly wounded by the discharge, was not killed; but he had the presence of mind to counterfeit death in so perfect a manner, that the imposture was not suspected. The bodies of the traitors were not buried, but dragged away to a distance, and there left to be devoured by the Gallinazos or vultures. The serjeant who had the superintendence of this part of the ceremony, had a personal hatred to Benavides, on account of that person having murdered some of his relations; and, to gratify his revenge, he drew his sword, and gave the dead body (as he thought) a severe gash in the side, as they were dragging it along. The resolute Benavides had fortitude to bear this also, without flinching or even showing the least indication of life; and one cannot help regretting that so determined a power of endurance had not been turned to a better purpose.

Benavides lay like a dead man, in the heap of carcasses, until it became dark; and then, pierced with shot, and gashed by the sword as he was, he crawled to a neighbouring cottage, the inhabitants of which

received him with the greatest kindness, and attended him with the greatest care.

The daring ruffian, who knew the value of his own talents and courage, being aware that General San Martin was planning the expedition to Peru, a service in which there would be much of desperation and danger, sent word to the General that he was alive, and invited him to a secret conference at midnight, in the same Plaza in which it was believed Benavides had been shot. The signal agreed upon, was, that they should strike fire three times with their flints, as that was not likely to be answered by any but the proper party, and yet was not calculated to awaken suspicion.

San Martin, alone, and provided with a brace of pistols, met the desperado; and after a long conference, it was agreed that Benavides should, in the meantime, go out against the Araucan Indians; but that he should hold himself in readiness to proceed to Peru, when the expedition suited.

Having procured the requisite passports, he proceeded to Chili, where, having again diverted the Chilians, he succeeded in persuading the commander of the Spanish troops, that he had force sufficient to carry on the war against Chili; and the commander in consequence retired to Valdivia, and left Benavides commander of the whole frontier on the Biobio.

Having thus cleared the coast of the Spanish com-

mander, he went over to the Araucans, or rather, he formed a band of armed robbers, who committed every cruelty, and were guilty of every perfidy in the south of Chili. Wherever Benavides came, his footsteps were marked with blood, and the old men, the women, and the children, were butchered lest they should give notice of his motions.

When he had rendered himself formidable by land, he resolved to be equally powerful upon the sea. He equipped a corsair, with instructions to capture the vessels of all nations; and as Arauco is directly opposite the island of Santa Maria, where vessels put in for refreshment, after having doubled Cape Horn, his situation was well adapted for his purpose. He was but too successful. The first of his prizes was the American ship, *Hero*, which he took by surprise in the night; the second, was the *Herculia*, a brig belonging to the same country. The captain and crew of the *Herculia*, were, as may easily be imagined, treated with great cruelty by the pirate, and compelled to serve with him, as pirates, under pain of instant death.

Benavides having manned the *Herculia*, it suited the mate, (the captain and crew being detained as hostages), to sail with the brig to Chili, and seek aid from the Spanish governor. The *Herculia* returned with a twenty-four pounder, two field pieces, eleven Spanish officers, and twenty soldiers, together with most flattering letters and congratulations to the worthy ally

of his Most Catholic Majesty. Soon after this he captured the *Perseverance*, English whaler, and the American brig, *Ocean*, bound for Lima, with several thousand stand of arms on board. The captain of the *Herculia*, with the mate of the *Ocean*, and several men, after suffering great hardships, landed at Valparaiso, and gave notice of the proceedings of Benavides; and in consequence, Sir Thomas Hardy directed Captain Hall to proceed to Arauco with the convoy, to set the captives free, if possible.

It was for the accomplishment of this service that Captain Hall sailed from Valparaiso; and he called at Conception on his way, in order to glean information respecting the pirate. Here the captain ascertained that Benavides was between two considerable bodies of Chilian force, on the Chilian side of the Biobio, and one of those bodies between him and the river.

Having to wait two days at Conception for information, Captain Hall occupied them in observing the place; the country he describes as green and fertile, and having none of the dry and desart character of the environs of Valparaiso. Abundance of vegetables, wood, and also coals, are found on the shores of the bay.

On the 12th of October, the captain heard of the defeat of Benavides, and his flight, alone, across the Biobio into the Arauco country; and also that two of the Americans whom he had taken with him had made their escape, and were on board the *Chacabuco*.

As these were the only persons who could give Captain Hall information respecting the prisoners of whom he was in quest, he set out in search of the vessel, and after two days' search, found her at anchor near the island of Mocha. From thence he learned that the captain of the Ocean, with several English and American seamen had been left at Arauco, when Benavides went on his expedition, and he sailed for that place immediately.

He was too late, however; the Chilian forces had already made a successful attack; and the Indians had fled, setting fire to the town and the ships. The Indians, who were in league with the Chilians, were every way as wild as those who arrayed themselves under Benavides. Captain Hall upon his return to Concepcion, though dissuaded from it by the governor, visited the Indian encampment.

When the captain and his associates entered the court-yard, they observed a party seated on the ground, round a great tub of wine, who hailed their entrance with loud shouts, or rather yells, and boisterously demanded their business; to all appearance very little pleased with the interruption. The interpreter became alarmed, and wished them to retire; but this the captain thought imprudent, as each man had his long spear close at hand, resting against the eaves of the house.

Had they attempted to escape, they must have been taken, and possibly sacrificed, by these drunken savages.

As their best chance seemed to lie in treating them without any show of distrust, they advanced to the circle with a good-humoured confidence, which appeased them considerably. One of the party rose and embraced them in the Indian fashion, which they had learned from the gentlemen who had been prisoners with Benavides. After this ceremony they roared out to them to sit down on the ground, and with the most boisterous hospitality, insisted on their drinking with them; a request which they cheerfully complied with. Their anger soon vanished, and was succeeded by mirth and satisfaction, which speedily became as outrageous as their displeasure had been at first. Seizing a favourable opportunity Captain Hall stated his wish to have an interview with their chief, upon which a message was sent to him; but he did not think fit to show himself for a considerable time, during which they remained with the party round the tub, who continued swilling their wine like so many hogs. Their heads soon became affected, and their obstreperous mirth increasing every minute, the situation of the strangers became by no means agreeable.

At length Peneléo's door opened, and the chief made his appearance; he did not condescend, however, to cross the threshold, but leaned against the door-post to prevent falling, being by some degrees more drunk than any of his people. A more finished picture of a savage cannot be conceived. He was a tall, broad-shouldered

man; with a prodigiously large head, and a square-shaped bloated face, from which peeped out two very small eyes, partly hid by an immense superfluity of black, coarse, oily, straight hair, covering his cheeks, hanging over his shoulders, and rendering his head somewhat of the shape and size of a bee-hive. Over his shoulders was thrown a poncho of coarse blanket-stuff. He received them very gruffly, and appeared irritated and sulky at having been disturbed: he was still more offended when he learned that they wished to see his captive. They in vain endeavoured to explain their real views; but he grunted out his answer in a tone and manner which showed them plainly that he neither did, nor wished to understand them.

Whilst in conversation with Peneléo, they stole an occasional glance at his apartment. By the side of the fire burning in the middle of the floor, was seated a young Indian woman, with long black hair reaching to the ground; this, they conceived, could be no other than the unfortunate person they were in search of; and they were somewhat disappointed to observe, that the lady was neither in tears, nor apparently very miserable; they therefore came away impressed with the unsentimental idea, that the amiable Peneléo had already made some impression on the young widow's heart.

Two Indians, who were not so drunk as the rest, followed them to the outside of the court, and told them that several foreigners had been taken by the

Chilians in the battle near Chillan, and were now safe. The interpreter hinted to them that this was probably invented by these cunning people, on hearing their questions in the court; but he advised them, as a matter of policy, to give them each a piece of money, and to get away as fast as they could.

Captain Hall returned to Concepcion on the 23d of October, reached Valparaiso on the 26th, and in two weeks thereafter, the men of whom he was in search, made their appearance.

The bloody career of Benavides now drew near to a close. The defeat on the Chilian side of the Biobio, and the burning of Arauco, with the loss of his vessels, he never recovered. He tried to get pardon from the intendant of Concepcion; but could not himself believe that it would be granted, and so attempted to escape to the Spaniards, whom he supposed to be in Peru. He was in a state of madness, and one of his own men having informed upon him, at Taho, in Lima, he was taken, and executed at Santiago on the 21st of February, 1822.

The prisoners being thus found, and the objects of Captain Hall's mission to the south being accomplished, he again proceeded towards the north, touching at the several ports as he went, in order to ascertain how he might forward the British interests at any of these.

On the 18th of November, Captain Hall took his departure from Valparaiso, and the following day a

little before sunset, he came to an anchor in the bay of Coquimbo, and proceeded to view the town. He had no sooner landed on the beach than two English gentlemen, from the town of Coquimbo, which was only two leagues distant, came galloping to meet him. They were rather disappointed, having mistaken the Conway for an American frigate, in which the one of them expected his son a passenger; but they carried the captain and his companions to their house, and made them their guests during the four days that they remained at Coquimbo.

Coquimbo, otherwise called La Serena, is not so much exposed to the ravages of earthquakes as some of the other towns upon the same coast; and the manners of the people, as well as the climate of the place, appeared to accord well with its latter appellation. The people are simple and happy, apparently in easy circumstances, and have not much commerce or intercourse with the rest of the world. Captain Hall seems to dread that when they shall have more of that intercourse, it will not either improve their manners or their morals.

Proceeding about twenty-five miles up the valley of Coquimbo, with their kindly host, they met with one of those singular indications, which show that a lake has once filled what is now a dry and open valley, and that the waters have made their escape at successive periods. They found a series of parallel beaches, (or

roads, as they are called when they occur in the British islands, as at Glenroy in Inverness-shire, and some other places); the stones that form these beaches are rounded, as if they had been at some period rolled in water. The valley where these lines are found is now without inhabitants, and nearly barren.

Taking leave of the hospitable inhabitants of Coquimbo, Captain Hall sailed, on the 19th of November, for Guasco, which he reached on the following day. He immediately set out for Assiento, the village of the mines, which is situated about fifteen miles from the sea, and in a valley, the hollow of which is rendered fertile, by a little stream of snow water.

The west coast of South America, which is very fertile about Conception, gradually diminishes in fertility as one proceeds to the north, and when Coquimbo is passed, one may be considered as in the desert. Every where, indeed, that a stream of water is to be found, the banks of that stream are verdant; but the streams are few, and the vallies deep, so that the fertility appears only as a thread of green, here and there, seaming the red mantle of the desert.

In this dreary region there are very rich mines of copper, which form the chief wealth of the country, and almost the only inducement that people have to live in it. In this dreary place, however, the captain found the females remarkable for their beauty, and the whole population courteous and hospitable in the highest

degree. Their kindness induced Captain Hall to invite a party of them to dinner, on board the Conway, and he describes their final parting as being as tender, as if he and his companions had been bidding adieu to the place of their nativity. The night of their parting was calm, and the sea almost without a ripple, and the fair ones sat upon the rocks waving their farewells, till night veiled them from the retiring mariners.

After some difficulty, in consequence of the inaccuracy with which it is laid down in the chart, they made the harbour of Copiapó. The town is at a considerable distance from the sea, being more than 50 miles inland; but it had been destroyed by a dreadful shock of an earthquake, as recently as the year 1819, so that Captain Hall felt anxious to see it.

The district along which they had to pass, seemed to have once been the valley of a great river, though now a barren waste, covered with Glauber's salts to the depth of several inches, and with a scanty rivulet of brine flowing in the centre, through stunted shrubs and coarse grass.

It was dark when they arrived at Copiapó, so that they could not see the havoc which the earthquake had made till the following morning. The house in which they lodged was the only one in the Plaza, or square, that had been able to resist the concussion of the earth, and it was rent throughout its whole extent. Many of the houses were so shaken, that not one brick remained

in its original situation ; and as the party moved along the street they could not but be apprehensive that they might be buried in the ruins. The church had fallen on an early day of the calamity ; and where the walls of the houses, had been attempted to be made more secure by buttresses, these had been shaken down, while the walls that they were intended to support, though shattered, were still standing. Captain Hall suggests that, in places which, like Copiapó, are subject to earthquakes, the houses should be formed of timber, like a ship, and as little connected with the earth as possible.

When, on the following morning, Captain Hall and his associates looked down upon this scene of desolation, it was as affecting as could well be imagined. They could trace the situation of the streets and squares, but it was by heaps of rubbish and not by houses.

While the captain was examining the ruins of the church of La Merced, there came to him a ruin of the once wealthy priesthood,—an aged monk, of emaciated frame, who, though the more vigorous had removed, still lingered, with a religious veneration, amid the wreck of that edifice which, in its and his better days, had been to him a comfortable home.

The chief temptations that people have to reside at a place subject to such dreadful visitations as Copiapó, are the mines. Of these, the copper mines are by far the most profitable, the silver next, and lastly, the gold ;

and such is the difference of their productiveness, that a copper mine, properly worked, is a sure fortune, a silver one a lottery of pretty equal chances, and a gold one a certain loss, even under the best management.

Saline substances every where impregnate the soil ; and in one of the mines, at a considerable depth, Captain Hall was shown a lake, the sides of which, and the roof over it, were studded and shining with saline crystals.

After having examined the mines, Captain Hall sailed for Lima, which he reached on the 9th of December. He found things in a condition very different from that they were in on his former visits. The standard of independence had displaced the flag of Spain upon the castle of Callao. The jealousy, suspicion, and rancour were at an end ; the harbour was thronged with ships, and the quays and warehouses were all bustle and activity. There had been, in fact, a complete revolution, not in the government only, but in the manners, and as it appeared, in the very minds of the people.

In Lima, the change was still more remarkable. When there formerly, the captain had seen enough of gloom and distrust to justify the character of "the purgatory of men," and almost wherever there are jackasses, the world is "hell" to them ; but he had met with nothing to evince the "paradise of women." Now, however, there was enough of life and bustle, and activity and happiness, to justify the epithet as

applied to women, as well as to warrant a change of that applied to men.

The circumstances were, indeed, peculiarly interesting. To see the inhabitants of a large, wealthy and populous city, who had been little better than slaves, farmed out to favourites of a foreign power, from the time that the first stone of the place was laid,—to see them in the first blush of young freedom, when they felt that it was delightful, and yet hardly knew how, was one of the greatest treats for a man of observation and feeling.

Captain Hall remained in the enjoyment of this pleasurable change for a week, and then weighed anchor, and coasted along toward the north. On the 20th of December he touched at the town of Payta, a little to the south of the Gulph of Guayaquil, and the last town upon the verge of the vast Peruvian desert. Lord Anson destroyed Payta in rather a rancorous manner; but, much to the credit of the Paytians, Captain Hall found that the impression of the kindness with which Anson treated his prisoners was much more lively than the recollection of his having destroyed their town. This is a most important lesson for conquerors, if they would but attend to it. An invader comes from a strange country, and, without any known or visible provocation from the people themselves, he knocks down their dwellings, and destroys their property; but, the

conqueror is a man of kindness and humanity, executing the orders of that state by which he is employed, with as tender a regard to human life and human comfort, as the nature of his mission will allow ; and for that the third generation bless his memory.

Though Payta be, from its situation, and especially from the deserts around it, one of the most secluded spots on the face of the earth, yet Captain Hall found in the people that courtesy which is so agreeable a characteristic of the whole west coast of South America. Water is the greatest luxury at Payta. The place is only about six degrees from the equator, there is never any rain, and the only supply of water that the inhabitants have, is a scanty and precarious one brought from a distance of nine or ten miles. Yet those towns along the barren coast of this continent are necessary, in order to connect the wealthy districts within the desert with the sea.

From Payta, Captain Hall proceeded for Guayaquil, which being in a low and moist situation, forms a striking contrast with the arid unproductiveness around Payta. The passage up the river of Guayaquil to the city winds through groves of trees, and demands the utmost skill and experience in the pilot who conducts a large vessel.

Captain Hall found the ladies of Guayaquil swinging from the roofs of the apartments in large hammocks, in which they could sit or recline, or swing themselves as

they felt inclined. The latter seems to be their favourite occupation; for, in one house which the Captain entered, he found three generations swinging together in the same apartment. Across one corner swung the grandmother, stretched out at her ease; the mother was in a single hammock across the room, and three young ladies, the daughters, were in a joint-stock one, which extended the whole length. Captain Hall, at whose entrance the ladies did not cease their vibrations, found some difficulty in working his way to a sofa at the other end of the apartment. They paused till the introductions had taken place, and that instant they were off again in full swing.

The ladies of Guayaquil are the flowers of South American beauty; they are finely formed, their hair is light and their eyes blue; and even the old grandmother in the hammock had a bloom on her countenance which is seldom found in tropical countries even in young women. They seem, too, to be as amiable as they are fair; indeed, it is matter of common observation in all countries, that the dispositions of females are in unison with their forms and appearances. One little trait cannot be better or more briefly told than in Captain Hall's own words. He had been introduced to a numerous party, of which some were swinging, and others sitting on a large sofa; and they were all engaged in that strictly amusing conversation which is characteristic of the place. After the Captain and his

friends had been introduced, and the conversation had been resumed, a daughter, a young married lady, came tripping into the room, and with a pretty and mirthful expression of countenance, and much elegance of manner, went round the company, and begged to let fall a few drops of lavender-water on their handkerchiefs. To each person she added something appropriate in a neat and graceful way, beginning with the strangers, to whom she gave a kind welcome, and hoped that their stay would be long and agreeable. She retired amid the plaudits of the company, who were delighted with the manner in which she had done the honours of the house; but she returned immediately, bringing with her a guitar, which she placed in the hands of a young lady, her friend, who had just come in, and then dropped off modestly and quietly to the further end of the great sofa.

Guayaquil, situated only two degrees from the equator, and almost on a level with the sea, is very warm, but the air is softened by the evaporation from the river on the one side, and a marsh on the other. The town contained about twenty thousand inhabitants, and the district around about fifty thousand. The country is fertile, and, according to Captain Hall's account, the manners of the people are delightful.

The Captain's vessel was washed down the river, stern foremost, by the operation of *kedging*, that is, dragging the anchor with a shortened cable, so that the

ship must move with less velocity than the tide, a precaution which, from the windings of the channel, and the rapidity of the ebbing current, is absolutely necessary in the river of Guayaquil.

The Conway cleared the bay of Guayaquil on the thirtieth of December, and steered westward to the Gallipagos, a cluster of uninhabited volcanic islands that lie almost six hundred miles off the shore. Those volcanic rocks are very rugged in their formation, rising abruptly to the height of more than a thousand feet in some places, and in others being washed into caves. The more elevated ones are still studded with eminences containing the craters or mouths of the extinguished volcanos, by the eruptions of which the islands have been produced.

The Captain's object in making these islands, was to make experiments with Captain Kater's pendulum, in order to ascertain the curvature of the earth's circumference; and thus he had not much leisure to examine the islands themselves. Captain Hall regrets that he was not able to make a complete survey, as there is no good chart of the Gallipagos.

Generally speaking, those islands are luxuriant, though some of them are covered with brush, and the whole covered with the mossal, or prickly pear. This vegetable is the food of a species of land tortoise, which is very abundant in those isles, and sometimes grow to a very large size; some of them weigh from one to two

hundred weight. They are sought after by the voyagers in these seas on account of the wholesomeness and delicacy of their flesh and fat; they are rather docile animals, and are taken on board in the tropical seas; but none of them have been able to endure the cold of a passage round Cape Horn.

The observations at the Gallipagos being completed, Captain Hall steered in again for the coast, and reached the gulf of Panama on the 2d of February. He found there the same joy at the hopes of independence, as at Lima on his last visit to that city; and even the negro *slaves* were keeping it up during the night by dancing round a bonfire in the square, and shouting, "Liberty!" "Liberty!" It is unnecessary to add, that the Captain met with a welcome and kind reception; for, independently altogether of his personal character, the mission that he was upon,—to see how England could promote the commerce and happiness of those infant nations, which were then as yet in the very act of birth,—would have been sufficient.

Panama was a place of great strength in the times of Spanish greatness; but it fell with their fall, and Captain Hall found it in ruins; and the ruins of a city, not caused by an earthquake, is a very unusual sight on the American Continent.

Captain Hall, from his own observations, as well as from the declarations of the intelligent inhabitants of the place, mentions, that though there should be no

navigable canal opened across the Isthmus, yet that a good road would be of the utmost value to the inhabitants generally, and to those of Panama, in an especial manner. At the time of his visit, churches, streets, squares, and public buildings, some of them of tasteful and even magnificent architecture, were in ruins; and, where had once been the most gay and crowded parts of the city, he had to wade knee deep through wild flowers and grass.

The days are too hot at Panama for admitting of much enjoyment of the exquisite scenery by which the town is surrounded; but as the sun declines, all come abroad; and in the moonlight evenings, the environs are truly delightful.

After a stay of only two days in this place, the exquisite charms of which no misrule of man, or ruin of his works can spoil, Captain Hall proceeded to the beautiful little island of Taboga, in the entrance of the gulf, to water his vessel. No place can be more delightful than this island. The anchorage in a snug cove, the huts of the village wattled with canes, the church, whitened like snow, appearing through the cocoa-nut-trees, the wild exuberance of vegetation, and the cooling stream at which the ships water, stealing its way, hidden alike from the sun and from observation, till it at once leaps living from the rock, at the very place where their casks are brought—all conspire to render this the most pleasant, and, as one would think

the most 'innocence-inspiring place in the world; and yet Captain Hall mentions that this little retreat was robbed by a man, and an Englishman!—the commander of a Chilian privateer; as if the inhabitants of an island, the size of a parish, and situated at the distance of two thousand miles, could in any way prevent the establishment of freedom in Chili. How little the people resented this treatment, appears from the way in which they received and returned the courtesy of Captain Hall.

The Captain waited on the Alcalde, or Governor; the Governor had a party to meet him; the Captain presented each of the females with some European trinkets, and took his leave; the whole party rose to accompany him to the beach, and there all the inhabitants joined them, to bid him one general adieu; the Governor accompanied him on board, the little nation came around in their canoes; without stopping to argue the etiquette of the matter, the guns of the Conway fired a salute; the anchor was weighed; the Captain proceeded on his voyage; and the inhabitants of the little fairy-land of Taboga returned to their homes, bidding the Conway God speed, and blessing the name of Old England.

From Panama, Captain Hall steered along the coast of central America, but for some time without seeing land; and he regrets that, while he was on the coast of Peru, the state of the weather—the haze that hangs over the land skirting the sea, was such as to prevent

him from seeing the peak of that giant of American mountains, Chimborazo.

When he had proceeded to the northward of Guatemala, two conical mountains of immense altitude appeared hovering above the clouds. These were two of the Mexican mountains, and according to the Captain's mensuration, they were each about fifteen thousand feet in height. The distance at which they were seen was about eighty or one hundred miles—sufficient to conceal, not only all the low country between the mountains and the sea, but the mountains themselves, to the height of some thousand feet.

The sea in which Captain Hall had hitherto been, since his passage of Cape Horn, is that which properly deserves the name of the Pacific; upon which there is nothing to disturb the regularity of the trade wind, and the uniformity of the sea and land breezes, save the periodical winds from north to south, as the season changes, and these are chiefly felt at the southern part of the Continent. Now, however, he was getting near a region of storms, and he was passing from the tranquillity of a southern summer, to the gales of a northern February and March.

On the evening of the 24th of February, the sun set with astonishing splendour, but with a wild and lurid appearance; when considerably above the horizon, the sun became of a blood-red colour, and the surrounding clouds exhibited fiery tinges fading into purple toward

the zenith. Captain Hall never saw the sky look so angry. The sea was smooth, but the reflection of the sky threw upon it a strange and unnatural redness. Notwithstanding the experience which Captain Hall had had of the fineness of the climate, these appearances alarmed him, and he gave orders to lower sail; but before that could be accomplished, even by the promptitude with which it is done in a well manned and disciplined ship of war, there came a strong gale, which split the sails, snapt the ropes as if they had been cobwebs, and the greatest exertions became necessary in order to prevent the Conway from being dismasted. The storm continued with unabated fury for two days, and during the whole of that time they durst not venture to set a stitch of sail, because it would instantly have been blown to rags.

The Conway was caught in this storm off the gulf of Tecoautepec, opposite the bottom of the bay of Campeachy (on the east side), where the land is narrow; and it is not a little singular, that this is about the same parallel of latitude at which tiffoons and storms are most violently felt in the Chinese sea, and among the islands on the opposite side of the Pacific.

They reached the spacious and secure harbour of Acapulco on the 8th of March. It is supposed to be the best and safest natural harbour in the world, there being no hazard either in the entrance or in the harbour itself. Mexico, to which Acapulco is the prin-

cipal harbour on the west side, had been by this time revolutionized, and thus Captain Hall was very heartily welcomed by the governor of Acapulco.

The inhabitants of Acapulco are very unlike the South Americans, not merely the fair inhabitants of Guayaquil, but the Spaniards and even the mixed breed which are a cross with the Indians. In features and colour, they have some resemblance to the Malays: their foreheads are broad and square; their eyes small, but prominent; they have high cheek bones; their hair is straight and lank; and though not exceeding the middle stature, they are compact and well made. These are the country people who supply the town with provisions; they are found sitting with their wares under the verandas of the houses, or in booths curtained and covered with mats. These people are the native Mexicans, with little or no admixture with the Spaniards. The labourers, porters, and other working people in the town, are a far more powerful race; they are of a bright copper-colour, and are a mixed breed, having probably a good deal of Spanish blood in their veins.

The negroes form also a class of the population of Acapulco, and out of the three original stocks—the Mexican, the Spaniard, and the negro—that go to form that population, there are produced endless varieties both of colour and of features.

Were it not for its harbour, Acapulco has little to tempt any population there. The town is small, con-

sisting of about thirty houses, with a suburb of huts ; the vicinity is not very fertile ; and the road inland to Mexico, is difficult of passage, and there are no riches either agricultural or mineral on the way. The fortress, however, which was built at the period when the rich galleons sailed hence for Manilla, is powerful, and commands the whole harbour. A considerable part of Acapulco was, at no very remote period, thrown down by an earthquake ; and from its disadvantageous situation, it may, (notwithstanding its admirable harbour) be some time ere it is rebuilt.

Captain Hall sailed from Acapulco on the 12th of March, and proceeded for the harbour of San Blas, situated nearly opposite the south point of California, and near the entrance of the gulf of that name. In their progress here, they were sailing in the teeth of the trade wind, or rather monsoon, which at that time of the year blows from the north east ; but by keeping near the land, and taking advantage of the land breeze, they worked their passage in sixteen days, anchoring off San Blas, on the 28th of March.

San Blas is a point which had not been very much visited by Europeans, and never by an English ship of war, until the Conway cast anchor before it.

The town is a singular place, perched on the top of a rock, one hundred and fifty feet in height, quite a precipice on three sides, and with a very steep access on the other.

At San Blas, Captain Hall was informed that his arrival had been anxiously looked for by the merchants of the neighbouring towns of Guadalajara and Tepic, to which San Blas is the port: they wished to open a direct trade with England, and would be glad to avail themselves of the Conway, in which to transmit the price of their intended purchases. In consequence of this, the Captain set out for Tepic. The first part of the journey toward the city, was over grounds of no very inviting appearance, flats and swamps covered with brushwood, and enveloped in low creeping fogs. When, however, they got out of the flat and came to the hills, the country was much more pleasant. It was diversified in surface, richly wooded, and the trees were laced together with creeping plants, as they are in Brazil and Guyana.

At the half-way house, the Captain met with a party of Englishmen, whom he had previously met in Lima, and his companions were a Spaniard from Calcutta, and the captain of an English East Indiaman. This varied company "clubbed their dinners," and sat down to enjoy them in the depth of a Mexican forest. The occasional friends passed on to San Blas, while Captain Hall and his two companions remained in the forest to enjoy their siesta. All things around seemed to dispose to that purpose. The creaking of the sugar-mill was staid, the labourers and cattle lay down to rest under the branches,—all conduced to drowsiness; and so the

travellers observing the shadow of an immense tamarind tree, followed the example which was set them by nature all around.

Refreshed by the siesta, they again pursued their journey, by paths which led through forests and from one height to another, till they had gained an elevation which caused a considerable change in the temperature. The scenery was uncommonly grand, and they continued to enjoy it, till all its colours as well as those of the sky were lost in the sober grey of the evening; and they began to build their dwelling for the night. The rude Mexican peasant who conducted this operation, gave a very favourable specimen of the untaught shrewdness and good sense of the inhabitants of that country. His objection to the king of Spain was, that "he lived too far off." "If a king be really good for a country," said the peasant, he ought to live in that country, and not two thousand leagues off. When asked his opinion on free trade, "It is this," he replied, "I formerly paid nine dollars for the cloth of this shirt—I now pay two." They rose next morning with the dawn, and after travelling over the hills, they came to Tepic, the second city in New Galicia, a place of very considerable magnitude, beauty, importance, and wealth, though none of the European geographical-compilers had even deigned to notice it; and though Captain Hall had not been for very many days aware of its existence.

The situation of Tepic is very pleasant. It is in the

centre of a basin, surrounded by woods and hills ; the town is intersected and adorned with terraces, promenades, and rows of trees ; and a fine river which encircles the city on three sides, keeps vegetation always fresh and green.

At Tepic, the gay world, refreshed by their siesta, turn out at an hour before sunset, to the broad walk that leads to the church of Santa Cruz. This walk is of great breadth, and shaded by a row of chestnut trees.

The females were the only devotees that entered this temple of the holy cross ; and the murmuring sound of their devotions, put Captain Hall somewhat in mind of the hum of a bee-hive. " Sometimes," says the Captain, " a group of six or eight damsels would arrive together, and vanish at the entrance ; or a stray demure Beata would steal in at the side, with affected humility. A compact cluster of merry lasses, a minute before in high gossip, might be seen sobering down their looks, and adjusting their shawls, as they approached the church ; while another party, still running over their last ' Ave,' were pressing outwards, and, as soon as the threshold was passed, flying off in all directions."

At Tepic, the middle of the day is so hot that no one can venture to stir abroad ; but towards four o'clock, it gets cool, and walking and riding parties make their appearance.

The men of business attend their counting-houses at an early hour in the morning ; but the ladies do not

appear until ten, at which hour they receive company in their sala or principal apartment, or in their principal bed room. One is the hour of dinner; and that meal lasts till half-past two, when all the world take their siesta till about half-past three or four, when they come abroad to enjoy themselves. The siesta answers two very important purposes: it refreshes them after the heat of the day, and by giving them a certain portion of sleep, it leaves them more of the night, the most pleasant time, to enjoy themselves. After the siesta, the walks, the promenades, and the devotions at La Santa Cruz, the happy and hospitable people of Tepic, throw all their houses open for company in the evening.

The ladies of Tepic were, when Captain Hall visited them, beginning to adopt the costume of Europe—a little behind the fashion of course; but the gentlemen retained many of the peculiarities of the country.

They wear broad brimmed hats, with a thick band of gold or silver, twisted like a rope. When mounted, each is armed with a sword, thrust into the left flap of the saddle. The saddle has an elevation at both the pommel and the crupper, in order to afford security to the rider, both in descending and ascending the steep roads of the country. The coverings of the rider, are an immense apron of shaggy skin, which defends the legs, and a Mangas or oblong piece of cloth, with a hole to admit the head, which covers the body, and at once emerging the arms. A continuation of the reins of the

bridle forms the whip, and the spurs are of immense length and generally of silver.

They are fond of public sports, as well as of private entertainments; indeed, their entertainments cannot with propriety be called private; because there is at least one every night to which every body may go without a formal invitation.

Their Sundays are passed in a succession of solemnities and festivities. High mass, feasts of harmony, sleep, and plays. The latter are rude, but they amuse the people.

As Captain Hall remained in Tepic from the end of March to the beginning of May, he had many opportunities of observing the habits of the people. He was at dinner parties, evening parties, marriage feasts, plays, and all sorts of entertainments; and seems, indeed, to have been a great favourite with the natives. His account of an evening party, we shall allow him to tell in his own words: those who wish to have the details of the author, which by the way, are very interesting, may have recourse to the book itself; which is accessible in a cheap form, and is introduced into this collection of abridgments, solely on account of its sterling merits.

“Across the upper end of a large room, and for some distance along the sides, were seated the ladies, about twenty in number, in a compact line, and glued, as it were, to the wall. Sometimes, in the course of the evening, a gentleman succeeded in obtaining a station

amongst the ladies, but he was generally an intimate acquaintance, or a very determined stranger. In each corner of the room was placed a small stone-table, on which stood a dingy tallow-candle, the feeble glimmer of which gave a dismal light to the apartment; but by an incongruity characteristic of the country, the candlestick was large and handsome, and made of massy silver. Behind the light, in a glass casê, was displayed an image of the Virgin, dressed up as *Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe*, the patron saint of Mexico, almost suffocated with a profusion of tawdry artificial flowers. The line of ladies on one side reached to the door, and, on the side opposite, to a table about half-way along the room, on which were placed wine and water, gentlemen's hats, and ladies' shawls. Against one of the corner tables rested a guitar; and it seldom happened that there was not some person present ready to play a popular tune, or to accompany the ladies, many of whom sang very prettily. This occasional music went on without interrupting the conversation; indeed, the sound of the guitar amongst the Spaniards or their descendants is so familiar, that it acts more as a stimulus or accompaniment to conversation, than as an interruption. At the further end of the room was a card-table, where most of the gentlemen played at a game called *Monte*. The space in the middle of the room seemed to be allotted as a play-ground for the children of the house, and those of many removes in consanguinity.

The nurses, too, and the old servants of the family, used the privilege of walking in and out; and sometimes they addressed themselves to such of the company as happened to be seated near the door. It may be remarked here, that in all those countries, a degree of familiarity is allowed between the servants and their superiors, of which, in England, there is no example in any rank of life.

In their dinner parties, the New Galicians are joyous, and do not refuse themselves a reasonable allowance of the good things of the world; but the siesta sets all to rights, and they appear in the evening quite refreshed.

Corporation men are, it seems, more busy than wise, in all parts of the world; and, accordingly, Captain Hall, who had been making some measurements in the neighbourhood of the city, was visited by a pretty sharp letter from the Ayuntamiento or town council; who although with official politeness they prayed God to grant him many years, yet assured him, that if he took plans of the city, or any of the hills about it, it would be attended with very serious consequences.

While at Tepic, Captain Hall had opportunities of seeing the native Mexicans, habited in a costume not much different from that which they are described as having worn in the time of Cortez. Each had a bow and about two dozen of arrows, was habited in a tunic of coarse cotton of home manufacture, and wore a large knife in his girdle. They had small-clothes of leather,

which were open at the knees, and had there a number of tags or tassels, which contained an inventory of the wearer's property. The chief of the village, carried a carved staff of office, and his official character was also indicated by the skin of a bird of beautiful plumage, which he wore at the left knee. They were a small and feeble race, and timid and inoffensive in their manners.

Honey is very plentiful about Tepic, but the bees are very different insects from the honey bees of Europe. They have no sting; and they do not build with that nice observance of geometry, which characterizes the European bee. Their honey is contained in bags of wax, and about the size of an egg; and these are about half filled.

By the end of April, a licence was obtained for shipping the silver by the Conway; and on the fifth of May, the Captain returned to San Blas, to superintend the shipment.

San Blas is far from being so agreeable a place as Tepic. The plain, above which the rock that it is built upon rises, is loose and swampy. In the dry seasons and during low tides, it is a tract of half-dried mud, and the surface sends up that steamy and pestilent mist, which Captain Hall observed as he crossed over it on his way to Tepic. At spring tides, a great part of it is overflowed; and this overflowing brings upon San Blas the "plague of flies." Musquitoes, mud flies, and other insects are generated in myriads in the hot and drying

wind; and these, being expelled by the water at every full and change of the moon, envelop San Blas in a cloud of insects. This, with the excessive heat, renders the place as disagreeable as can well be imagined; and, under the agony produced, even the wind, tainted with all the miasmata of the marsh, is looked for with anxiety, and enjoyed as a blessing.

These circumstances happen during what is termed, and what really is, the healthy season at San Blas; that is, the season when no rain falls, and when the air over the place is regularly shifted twice a day by the action of the sea and land breezes. This fine season lasts from the beginning of December to the end of May.

In the remaining part of the year, the appearance of things is very different. In the early part of June, the heat becomes excessive, the sky is overcast, the sea and land breezes cease to play, the wind blows in violent and variable squalls, thunder roars among the mountains, and the rain falls in torrents till it deluges the whole plain, changes the rock on which San Blas stands into an island, and renders it so pestilential as not to be habitable. The people, with very few exceptions, migrate to Tepic during this part of the year; and toward the end of May, there is the singular spectacle of the whole people of a town locking up their houses, and moving off for six months.

Captain Hall remained till he had a taste, and just a taste, of this season. The morning of the first of June

broke in gloom: a dense black haze, like a wall, encompassed the horizon, and the sky over head was full of shapeless and watery clouds; the sea wind was a storm, and lashed the surface into foam as far as the eye could reach; the ships, that had lain motionless for months, were now struggling with the tempest; the flags, which had hung loose, were stretched to their full extent; the sea-birds were whirling and screaming round the rock; and the whole dust of the summer, which had been undisturbed for months, was reared into columns by the whirlwinds, and blown into the very innermost recesses of the houses. The lightning gleamed and the thunder pealed, among the hills; and was followed by rain of such violence, that the steep streets of San Blas became torrents, down which great stones were rolled, and which it was every where dangerous, and in many places impossible, to pass.

Next morning was calm, but the air, instead of being cooled by the storm, was intolerably sultry.

Finding the stormy season regularly set in, and having concluded his business, Captain Hall sailed from San Blas on the 15th of June, and landed at Rio, in Brazil, after a voyage of three months, in which he had not once seen land.

The captain is now (June, 1828) travelling in North America, with the view of favouring the literary world with an account of his observations and researches in that part of the New World.

STORY

OF

CAPTAIN HEAD'S

ROUGH NOTES OF SOME RAPID JOURNEYS ACROSS THE PAMPAS,
AND AMONG THE ANDES.

It is somewhat singular that the attraction of the people of England, towards South America, should have been almost the same at the time when England was encouraging the people in gaining, or, at least, consolidating their independence, as that of the Spaniards was when that country was discovered and subdued—the mines of the precious metals. Such, however, was the fact; and two causes tended to render it so: the unbounded mania for joint stock speculations, which then afflicted the metropolis, and spread thence over the country; and in the ignorance of the nature and value of the South American mines, especially those in the southern part of the Andes—the total ignorance of the nature and situation of the mines,

especially in Chili. Not knowing any thing of the way in which they had been worked, or of the character, skill, and habits of the men who had worked them, it was tacitly taken for granted, that they had only to get possession of every part of the mountains in which it was known, or said, that there were *lodes* of silver or gold, and apply English skill and English capital to them, in order to ensure rapid and extensive fortunes. When people had paid for information on these subjects, they found they had been sadly out in their calculations, and they began to think that they might have seen it before; but they did not see it till they had bought their experience—at a good deal more than it was worth.

Captain Head had the sole management of one of those companies; and his rough notes are the jottings which he made in his journeys from Buenos Ayres to the Andes, and across those mountains to Santiago, in Chili, and some of the mines in that province.

His party consisted of two captains of Cornish mines, a French assaymaster, a surveyor, and three miners; and with these he crossed the Pampas, or flat and (generally) desert country, which extends from Buenos Ayres westward, to the mountains—a distance of nearly a thousand miles, leaving the great body of the miners at Buenos Ayres, till he should be able to judge of the work which was intended for them.

Captain Head says nothing of the voyage from Eng-

land to Buenos Ayres, further than that he sailed from the one, and arrived at the other. He did not find the town of Buenos Ayres that terrestrial paradise, which, from its sounding name, and the advertisement, "fat beeves for the catching," one would be apt to suppose. The town is dirty, and badly paved; water is inferior in quality, and deficient in quantity; and the houses are mean and comfortless—the walls are damp and mouldy, there are no ceilings to the rooms, and the floors are of bricks, badly put together, and often broken. Even the apartments of the wealthier classes, some of which are costly in their furnishing, are destitute of elegance, and even of comfort. A Brussels carpet laid over the damp bricks, a lamp hung from the bare rafters, are among the congruities of Buenos Ayrian taste. In the apartments, the ladies stick themselves against the walls, without occupation or conversation; they do not raise themselves from their chairs to welcome a stranger; they do not walk out with the other sex; and even in the theatre, there is a total and formal separation.

The town is not well, or regularly, supplied with provisions. Milk, vegetables, and the lighter kinds of provisions, are brought on horse-back by the Guachos, or peasants, who come at a gallop with their load; while beef is brought in covered carts. It is split into ribbons according to the practice of the country; and sometimes they are dragging in the dirt, or the dogs are

gnawing at them. In consequence of this want of arrangement, various kinds of native produce are often dearer than the same articles are in London ; and even in summer, fruits are not always to be had. The hackney-coachmen of Buenos Ayres are very different from those of this country—they will not ply during rain. If you go out to dine, and engage a carriage to fetch you home, you may have it if the night is fine ; but if it rains, you must either stay where you are, or trudge on foot.

The slaughter field of Buenos Ayres is one of the most singular objects about the place. It is a field of about five acres, destitute of vegetation, and covered with dust and mud. In one part of it, there is a large inclosure or corral, divided into different cells, which contain the beasts marked out for slaughter.

When Captain Head passed it by day, or in the evening, there was not a human being to be seen. The cattle, up to their knees in mud, with nothing to eat, standing under the burning sun, lowing, or rather roaring at each other. Blood literally “lay in lakes” around ; each of them marked the spot where a bullock had been slaughtered ; and the large white gulls with which the place was thronged, seemed to feast in plenty ; some of them were pecking the blood, and others were standing on tiptoe, flapping their wings to recover their appetite. These birds, aided by pigs and

dogs, cleared away the blood each day, so that on the next morning there was none to be seen.

Early in the morning, horses, with the lasso ready in the saddle, were standing around the corral; and the *mataderos*, or cattle killers, were lying about smoking their cigars, and waiting the signal from the clock of the Recoleta. When that signal was given, says Captain Head, "the men all vaulted on their horses, the gates of the cells were opened, and in a few seconds, there was a scene of confusion which it is quite impossible to describe. Every man had a wild bullock at the end of his lasso; some of these animals were running away from the horses, and some were running at them; many were roaring, some were hamstrung and running about upon their stumps; some were killed and skinned, while occasionally one would break the lasso. The horse would often fall upon his rider, and the bullock endeavour to regain his liberty, until the horseman, at full speed, caught him with his lasso, tripping him off the ground in a manner that might apparently break every bone in his body. I was more than once in the middle of this odd scene, and was really sometimes obliged to gallop for my life, without exactly knowing where to go, for it was often Scylla and Charybdis."

After a very short stay in Buenos Ayres, Captain Head made preparations for his long journey across the

Pampas, to the mines which were the more immediate object of his mission. The distance is long, the country desolate, and the road none of the best; but still it may be undertaken, either in a carriage, or on horseback. The carriages are without metal springs like those in Europe; but they are suspended by hide-ropes, which render the motion, considering the road and the rate of going, by no means unpleasant. There are two sorts of carriages, a long one drawn by six horses, and having four wheels, and a smaller one mounted on two wheels, and drawn by three horses.

Captain Head purchased a carriage of the larger description, for the accommodation of his party, an immense two-wheel cart, for the conveyance of about a ton of mining tools, and other implements. He hired a capataz, or headman, to direct the journey, and a number of peons to assist.

The preparation of the vehicles for the journey, appears singular to those who are accustomed only to European travelling. Hides were purchased, soaked in water, cut into slips about three-quarters of an inch wide; with these, while wet, the pole, the spokes, and fillies of the carriage were completely covered; and as they dried, they acquired the hardness of iron. They lasted for a distance of seven hundred miles, and were then only injured by some sharp granite rocks, over which they had to be driven. The mode in which the horses are harnessed to these rude carriages, is singular,

but well adapted to the road over which they have to drive. They have no collars, but draw by one trace, fastened to the saddle; and this leaves their limbs and motions free, and thus enables them to take advantage of every firm spot, in the varied and often marshy soil over which they have to pass. This simple mode of harnessing makes the changing of horses, at least, as far as the yoking and unyoking are concerned (for they have often to "first catch horses," for the relay), a more expeditious method than it is even at the posting houses in England; for it is only to hook and unhook the lasso to the saddle. This is attended with another advantage. If any thing be dropt from an English carriage, the vehicle must stop, and some one dismount and run back to fetch it; but when such an accident happens, while travelling on the Pampas, the carriage does not alter its pace; one of the peons unhooks, gallops back, picks up the article with his lasso, gallops back, replaces it, hooks on, and drives away, without a moment's interruption. Captain Head suggests this mode of harnessing and horsemanship to the horse artillery, and there can be no question that, lasso and all, it would be of great advantage.

Thus harnessed, the carriages, even when heavily loaded, proceeded across the wilderness at a hand gallop; but this is obtained by a mode of proceeding which, in England, would bring the peons or drivers within the penalty of Mr. Martin's statute against cruelty—the

long spurs, heels, and legs of the driver, being literally bathed in the blood of the horse. So expert horsemen are these peons, that when the horse is at full gallop, they can throw the rein on his neck, take a cigar, light it with their flint and steel, and then resume the rein, smoking along.

The post huts, at which travellers can repose, or where the horses are regularly changed, are at considerable distances, never less than thirty-six miles, and sometimes more than fifty. Such distances are, of course, too much for the horses, spurred and driven as they are, and relays are sent with the carriage from each post, sometimes as many as five for one stage. Every carriage has thus a train of wild horses; and for his carriage and cart, Captain Head had from thirty to seventy, according to the stage, driven by a countryman and a boy, and sometimes by two children.

In the matter of provisions, the traveller in the Pampas is something like the heroes of romance :

“ When, thorough desarts vast,
And regions desolate they pass’d,
Except they grazed, there’s not one word
Of their provisions on record.”

Beef and water are the only articles produced on the Pampas itself; at least they are the only articles of which a traveller can make sure. Captain Head’s party intended to take a store in their large cart, but the greater part of it was forgotten at Buenos Ayres ;

and in addition to the fare by the way, they had only some tea and brandy, the latter of which they were obliged to drink out of egg-shells. Appointed in this way, and provided with a dozen of muskets, and some pistols and sabres, the Captain and his party left Buenos Ayres, and proceeded across the desert for San Luis and Mendoza. Their adventures on the road were not many; but the country is singular; and though there be great sameness in large tracks of itself, it has charms of novelty for those who are unacquainted with it.

The plain of the Pampas, from the bank of the Rio de la Plata, at Buenos Ayres, to the Andes, in Chili, is about 900 miles across; and at the latitude at which Captain Head crossed it (about 34° south) it consists of three regions, which, though all in general flat, have each its peculiar and distinguishing character.

The first, which extends for nearly 200 miles westward of Buenos Ayres, is covered with mingled crops of clover and thistles. In winter the leaves of the thistles are large, and give to the country the appearance of an immense turnip field. At this season the clover is very rich and strong, and the wild cattle, with which the plain abounds, find most abundant pasture. In spring the clover disappears, and the leaves of the thistles spread themselves over the whole of the ground; and after about a month, they shoot up to the height of ten or eleven feet, covered with purple blossoms.

“The road, or path,” says Captain Head, “is completely hemmed in on both sides; the view is completely annihilated; not an animal is to be seen; and the stems of the thistles are so close to each other, and so strong, that, independently of the prickles with which they are covered, they form an impenetrable barrier. The sudden growth of these plants is quite astonishing; and, though it would be an unusual misfortune in military history, yet it is really possible that an invading army, unacquainted with the country, might be imprisoned by these thistles, before they had time to make from them. The summer is not over before the scene undergoes another rapid change: the thistles suddenly lose their sap and verdure, their heads droop, the leaves shrink and fade, the stems become black and dead, and they remain rattling in the breeze one against another, until the violence of the pampero, or hurricane, levels them with the ground, where they rapidly decompose and disappear; the clover rushes up, and the scene is again verdant.”

The second region of the Pampas extends for about 450 miles, and is every where, and at all seasons of the year, covered with long grass, without the admixture of almost any other vegetable; and the only seasonal change to which it is subject, is the greenness of each year's crop in the early stage, and the brownness when it ripens, and passes into that decay which affords both room and manure for a fresh one next year.

The third region of the Pampas is about half the breadth of the region of grass. It is clothed with trees; but these have no resemblance to the dull extent of pines in Canada and New Brunswick, or the tangled and impenetrable forests in Guiana and other parts of the north of South America. Being evergreens, the trees do not change much with the season; and they are so grouped and arranged as not to obstruct either the passage, or, altogether, the view of the traveller. Many of the trees are of beautiful species and new genera, hardly known in Europe, and they are all in a state of nature; so that to the botanic and the landscape gardener, they would form objects of much interest and instruction.

Compared with the extent of the country, the rivers in the Pampas are few and of small magnitude; but their absence contributes to the general fertility of the soil. The rain that falls is not, as in countries where the surface is more irregular, carried away, but sinks into the earth, and, remaining there, supports vegetation at that time of the year when otherwise it would be burnt up.

There is a very considerable seasonal difference in the climate of the Pampas. The winter is as cold as November in England, and the ground is then covered with hoar frost every morning, but the ice never exceeds the half of an inch in thickness. The summer is exceedingly hot—much hotter, in the opinion of Cap-

tain Head, than the South of Spain, Malta, Sicily, or the Morea, though the winter be much colder. This is just what, from the situation of the countries, one would be led to expect. As the latitude of those parts of Europe is nearly the same north that the parallel of Buenos Ayres is south, and as the northern hemisphere is, on the same average, a little warmer than the southern, one would conclude that the temperature of the south of Europe should be, upon the average of the year, a little higher than that of the same latitude in South America. But the Pampas lies far from the sea, and cannot have the air over it either cooled by the sea breeze in summer, or warmed by it in winter, as must be the case with those parts of Europe that have been mentioned.

At Buenos Ayres, and throughout the whole region of clover and thistles, the air is moist, and dews fall every night; but as the Andes are approached, the air becomes dry and balmy, though it be at times disturbed by violent gusts and hurricanes from the mountains.

The southern parts of the Pampas are inhabited by Indians, who migrate with their cattle, in quest of pasture, like the hordes in Siberia. The confines of the central desert, too, toward the sources of the Salada, are chiefly occupied by Indians; and, indeed, different tribes of these roam about through the whole of the wide extent. They have a great hatred of the

Guachos, or country people of European descent, and often perpetrate the greatest cruelties against them.

The Guachos are few in number, compared with the surface over which they are scattered; they do not interest themselves in the projects and politics of the towns, but are contented to reside in the same rude huts of mud in which they are born, and follow the laborious occupation of galloping about on horseback, in quest of wild cattle and ostriches. The huts are of rude materials—mud walls, and thatched with long grass: the corral or inclosure, is about half a furlong distant; the putrifying, or rather indurating remains of horses and cattle are strewed about; and there are numbers of hawks, or vultures, attracted to each hut by the scent.

There is but one apartment in the hut, in which are the whole of the inmates, men and women, boys and girls. "In the summer," says Captain Head, "the hut is so filled with fleas and binchucas (which are bugs as large as black beetles), that the whole family sleep on the ground in front of their dwelling; and when the traveller arrives at night, and after unsaddling his horse, walks among this sleeping community, he may place the saddle or recado on which he is to repose, close to the companion most suited to his fancy:—an admirer of innocence may lie down by the side of a sleeping infant; a melancholy man may slumber near an old black woman; and one who admires the fairer beauties of creation, may very demurely lay his head on

his saddle within a few inches of the idol he adores. However, there is nothing to assist the judgment, but the bare feet and ancles of all the slumbering group, for their heads and bodies are covered and disguised by the skin and poncho which cover them."

The reception of the traveller in winter, though different from this, is also highly interesting. He is then received in the hut. The beef is roasted on a great iron spit; and, when ready, the end of the spit is stuck into the ground; the family and guests sit round it on the skeletons of horses' heads, handle their long knives, and cut away. The hut is lighted by a feeble lamp, and warmed by a fire of charcoal. On the walls are hung, upon horns, two or three bridles and spurs, and several lassos and balls; on the ground are several dark looking heaps, which cannot be easily distinguished. On sitting down upon them, when tired, Captain Head often heard a child scream under him; at other times a young woman would mildly ask him what he wanted; and, occasionally, up would jump a great dog. Once when he was seated on a horse's head, warming his hands at the charcoal fire, he felt something touch him, and saw two children, who had crawled naked from under their poncho, crouching over it like toads; and at times, the cock hopped upon his back to crow. They all, however, get up as soon as it is light.

The education of the guacho is suited to the circumstances under which he is placed. When a mere

infant, he is left to swing from the roof in a bullock's hide; when a year old, he crawls about without clothes; and at that early age, a long sharp knife is often his plaything. As soon as he can walk, he is trained to the use of the lasso, by attempting to catch birds and dogs with one made of twine. At the age of four he is mounted on horseback, and assists in driving the cattle into the inclosure. Even then he is adventurous, and can bring back by force those horses that attempt to escape. As his years increase he becomes more daring and manly, and spends his time in galloping after the ostrich, the gâma, the hare, and the tiger, which he captures by killing or laming, with the *bolas* or balls; and he also assists in catching cattle with the lasso. Fed on beef and water, his constitution is strong; and that which would be overwhelming fatigue to the soft youth of luxurious society, is to him amusement and pleasure. With all this wildness, freedom, and hardihood of life, the guacho is not wanting either in kindness or in politeness.

The lives of the women form a singular contrast with those of the men, being as indolent as theirs are active. Marriage cannot always be obtained, not for want of a husband, but of a priest. The bridegroom having to take his bride on the horse behind him, and gallop, perhaps, for several days before he can find any one qualified, according to the rules of Catholic church, to perform the ceremony. Accordingly, there are many

more mothers of families than married women; and sometimes, when Captain Hall interrogated young females, who were in the act of nursing, who were the fathers of the children, the only answer that they gave him was, "Quien sabe?" 'who knows?'

The Guachos are all nominally Catholics; but their being scattered so thinly over so wide a country, prevents them from knowing, and probably from wishing to know, very much about the matter.

Of the other human inhabitants of this immense country—the Pampas Indians—Captain Head had no opportunity of seeing much; but even the little that he did glean, acquires an interest from the scantiness of our knowledge of them.

The Pampas Indians are a daring and hardy race of men, who have never been conquered, and to whom the great changes of the seasons appear to come with singularly little inconvenience. They are always on horseback, whether under the burning heat of summer, or the pinching cold of winter; and they are at all seasons wholly without clothing. They are formed into tribes, under the command of caciques or chiefs, but they have no fixed habitation—they roam about according as they find pasture. They are a warlike people; and, mounted on their fleet and sure footed horses, with their spears eighteen feet long, which they can manage with great power and dexterity, they are most formidable. On foot they are almost powerless; as

their habitual riding almost deprives them of the faculty of walking.

When mounted, however, their fleetness is absolutely incredible. When they march for an attack, they collect a great troop of horses, and, raising their war-cry, set off at a gallop. If the march be long, they change horses several times, and always reserve their best ones to be mounted fresh after they are in sight of the enemy. The horses only are used for riding; but they drive mares along with them to serve as food. Their onset is destructive, and, until their horses are worn out by fatigue, to resist them is no easy matter.

The war between them and the Guachos is a war of passion and extermination; and no quarter is given on either side.

They have some religious notions: they believe in the existence of good and evil spirits, and in a future state; and when their friends die, they kill some of their best horses at the grave, in order that the departed may have something to ride in the land to which they have gone.

Their marriage ceremony is singular: when two parties intimate their wish of entering into the holy state, they are laid down on the ground, with their heads to the west, and covered with the skin of a horse; and if they continue under the skin till the sun rises at their feet, in the east, they are held and accounted to be married persons.

They occasionally visit the towns, where they exchange the skins which they procure in the chase, for knives, spurs, and strong liquors, of the last of which they are very fond. In their cups, however, they have a knowledge of their own weakness, and a caution which, it were to be wished, could be introduced among people who consider themselves far more civilized. "The day," says Captain Head, "of their arrival (at Mendoza), they generally got drunk; but before they indulge in this amusement, they deliberately deliver up to their cacique their knives, and every other weapon they possess, as they are fully aware that they will quarrel as soon as the wine gets into their heads. They then drink till they can hardly see, and fight, and scratch, and bite, for the rest of the evening. The following day they devote to the selling of their goods, for they never will part with them on the day on which they resolve to get tipsy, as they conceive that, in that state, they would be unable to dispose of them to advantage."

The kinds of animals in the Pampas are not very numerous. Those which Captain Head mentions, besides horses and cattle, are the gama or deer, those species of the genus *felis*, which are there denominated the lion and the tiger, the biscacho, ostriches, vultures, hawks, flocks of parrots, and other birds. The biscacho burrows in the earth like a rabbit, and the number of their holes is so great as to render travelling

dangerous, more especially after dark. Their holes often injure very much the feet of the horses, but custom renders the horse cautious amid these dangers; and, as for the Guacho, it is impossible to eject him from the saddle, unless the horse shall actually fall.

The biscacho, which, when full grown, is about the size of a badger, with a head resembling that of a rabbit, and large bushy whiskers, is seldom ever above ground during the day; but the moment that the sun sets, they come out in numbers, as Captain Head says, the most serious looking animals that ever he saw; even the young ones are grey-headed, have mustachoes, and look thoughtful and sedate.

Over this country, so appearing and so peopled, Captain Head dashed on with his retinue. At first he found his head a little confused by the constant galloping, and when he dismounted, he was so giddy that he could not stand; but he in time got accustomed to it, and found it more pleasant. He found the young men the worst drivers in point of speed. The children had no fear, and therefore always dashed on at the most rapid rate, and the old men made up in skill, while the young men wanted alike the daring forwardness of the children, and the experience of the old men.

At the time of Captain Head's excursions, the road from Buenos Ayres was not altogether safe, nor is it very likely that this will soon be the case. At all times

the Indians are dangerous, even to those who are tolerably well armed; and many parts of the route are infested by salteadores or robbers.

After five days of travelling, the captain and his party came to a fortified post. It was dark, and they could with difficulty find the kitchen, and the cook would not cook when they did; so if the courier had not given them his supper, they would have been badly off. The appearance of things here was very wild; the women were almost naked, the house was in ruins, and the travellers had to kill their own mutton.

After twelve days, they were only thirty-six miles distant from San Luis, which they reached the same evening. Their prospects there were far from promising: there was no inn in the town, no coffee-house, and no beds; nothing but bare walls and fleas. At last a woman offered the captain her bed, and rested the cleanness of the whole upon one little white spot on the sheets. He went to the postmaster, in order to get supper. The postmaster said he had every thing in the house; but the captain was obliged at last to sup upon cheese, without bread, and try a bed on which only the weary could find rest.

Next morning the captain got up at day-break, in order to visit the gold mines and *lavaderos*—or gravelly soils washed for gold, that are situated at La Carolina, in the mountains to the north of San Luis. The distance was considerable, and the road rather bad, and so

they, as usual upon such occasions, drove a relay of horses before them.

They stopped about twelve o'clock to change horses; and drove the spare ones to the brink of a precipice, which was quite perpendicular, and formed themselves into a semi-circle, to catch the horses with the lasso. The horses were crowded together, and they were also alarmed; and Captain Head was apprehensive that they would all have gone over the precipice, and been dashed to pieces. At last the hind legs of one went over, and he hung by the fore legs, with his nose resting upon the ground, as far from him as he could stretch it. When they saw the horse in that situation, they allowed the other horses to escape, and a peon threw his lasso with so much precision, that it went under the tail of the horse, like the breeching of a harness; and they all hauling at it, succeeded in recovering the animal.

Having mounted their fresh horses, they rode on, at the rate of ten miles an hour, driving the lame ones before them, over shelving, stony, and difficult roads. In the evening, after a gallop of sixty miles, they reached the wretched village of La Carolina, at a short distance from the mines. The place and the people were poor and wretched in the extreme; but they were civil, and readily shared their miserable accommodation and fare with the captain and his party. Even a huge dog that was savage, and attempted to fly at

them when in the yard, became so civil in the end, as to enter their apartment, and after bidding them welcome in his way, lie down to sleep in the midst of them.

The following day was spent in examining the mines, and the captain succeeded in finding a few grains of gold in the soil of a garden, and in purchasing a little gold dust from the natives; but he found some difficulty in paying for the latter, as they would not take payment in gold coin, which they declared was of no value. After continuing a day or two longer at that miserable place, they returned to San Luis, where, having rested for the night, they set forward for Mendoza in the morning.

Mendoza they found to be a place of some magnitude and note, compared with any that they had seen since they left Buenos Ayres. It is situated near the foot of the Andes, on the eastern side, upon the bank of the river Mendoza, and the ground in the vicinity is irrigated and kept fertile by cuts from that river. The river bounds the town on the lower or western side, there flows a canal along the higher and eastern, and this canal can be made to water both the streets that extend from it to the river, and those that lie in the cross direction.

The town is regularly built with a plaza or open square in the centre; and the streets which proceed from it in straight lines, are crossed by others at right

angles. The houses are built of mud, but they are white-washed, and have rather a neat appearance. They are only one story in height; but the principal ones are built with a square or court, to which there is a carriage way from the street; to some of the best houses the windows are glazed, but that is not frequently the case. There are a number of little shops in the towns, and the principal article which Captain Head saw exposed for sale, was English cotton.

The people seemed mild, peaceable, kind, and were a little polished in their manners; but very indolent. About eleven in the morning they begin to yawn, and be listless; and at twelve the shops are closed, the streets are deserted, and all the world is asleep. The females are never seen before the siesta; and the world does not wake and come abroad again till five, or sometimes nearly six in the evening. During the silence, Captain Head used to walk over the deserted town, which echoed to the sound of his steps, like the aisle of an empty church, and put him in mind of the deserted streets of Pompeii. When he chose, however, he could see the people were not dead, but sleeping. They were on the ground floor, and through the unglazed windows he could see and examine the groups.

When evening comes, the desolate scene begins again to show signs of population: the shops are opened; loads of grass, which conceal the horses that carry them, are seen moving about the streets; a few

Guachos ride about; and here and there may be seen a beggar, "set on horseback," and yet not "riding to the devil," according to the old proverb; but with hat in hand, supplicating the charity of the people, attempting to mollify their hearts by drawling out the notes of a dirge-like psalm.

When the sun goes down, the people stray to the Alameda, or public walk. This is a public promenade of about a mile in length, shaded by two rows of tall poplars; and having on one side of it garden walls, concealed by roses and shrubs; and on the other side, the stream which supplies the town with water. There are tables, at which the gentlemen smoke cigars, or eat ices; and mud benches on which the fair sex recline to display their charms. The mall is occasionally lit up by paper lamps in the form of stars; there is a band of music; and at one end there is a mud temple, of which Captain Head rather admired the architecture. The ladies of Mendoza dressed neatly, and in the European fashion—a little behind the Tuilleries and Kensington gardens, no doubt; but still enough to make them look charming, to those who had to come to view them, either across the long flat of the Pampas, or the difficult passes of the Andes. Captain Head, indeed, complains that the public promenade of Mendoza, was somewhat redolent of charms, inasmuch as the fair heeded not to lave their naked beauties in the stream, in full sight of the crowd. This was wrong; but

in an infant state, there may be an innocence of infancy, which those who are matured in knowledge in an old country, would not like to tolerate.

The promenade had its charms for the Captain, too. "The few evenings," says he, "that I was in Mendoza, I always went, as a complete stranger, to this Alameda, to eat ices, which, after the heat of the day, were exceedingly delightful and refreshing; and as I put spoonful after spoonful into my mouth, looking above me at the dark outline of the Cordillera, and listening to the thunder, which I could sometimes hear rumbling along the bottoms of the ravines, and sometimes rebounding from the tops of the mountains, I used always to acknowledge that, if a man could bear an indolent life, there can be no spot on earth where he might be more indolent and more independent, than at Mendoza; for he might sleep all day, and eat ices in the evening, till his hour glass were out. Provisions are cheap, the people who bring them, quiet and civil; the climate is exhausting, and the whole population indolent—" *Mais que voulez-vous?* "How can the people of Mendoza be otherwise? Their situation dooms them to inactivity; they are bounded by the Andes and the Pampas, and with such formidable and relentless barriers around them, what have they to do with the history, or the improvements, or the notions of the rest of the world? Their wants are few, and nature readily supplies them; the day is long, and, therefore, as soon

as they have had their breakfasts, and have made a few arrangements for their supper, it is so hot that they go to sleep, and what could they do better?"

After having spent his few days at Mendoza, Captain Head left his party there; and, armed with his pistols, and attended by a single Guacho, mounted horse to recross the Pampas, and gallop back to Buenos Ayres. It was now that the Captain tried the velocity, and felt the pleasure of really independent travelling across the Pampas; and his speed can be compared to nothing upon record—even that of the Guacho who accompanied him, or of Mazeppa, as he was bound to the wild horse. Starting from Mendoza before daybreak, he found himself, at half-past seven in the evening, at the distance of 153 miles; which, as he had been just fourteen hours and a half on horseback, was nearly at the rate of ten miles an hour. He was fatigued, and could not get nothing to eat, and so, taking his saddle into a shed, he laid down his head on it, and was asleep in an instant. In two hours, the mistress of the post brought him some soup with meat in it, which he ate, dropt asleep again, till the sharp impatient voice of the Guacho roused him, an hour before day-light. After partaking of some *mati*, the tea of the country, he again mounted and galloped away.

At the first post, he was detained fifteen minutes, for horses; and though the next stage was fifty-one miles, he could procure but one spare horse. He galloped the

first to a stand still; and then mounted the other, and galloped away from the Guacho. The horse failed, however, and fell first on one of the captain's legs, and then on the other; but at this juncture, he was fortunately overtaken by a boy driving horses, one of which he mounted, and putting his own among the flock, arrived at the post. There he got an easy-going horse, out of consideration for his injured legs, but he had to walk, and kick, and spur, before he got to San Luis, which he reached about sunset.

There new perils seemed to await him. He was cautioned not to proceed alone, as a carrier and postilion from Buenos Ayres, with their peons and a dog, had been found on the road with their throats cut. He started next morning with the carrier, the father of the one who had been murdered, together with three peons, all armed with pistols and guns. They rode 102 miles that day; but the captain thinking that too slow, was off next morning before sunrise, accompanied by only one postilion. Two days more riding incessantly, eating nothing but beef, and sleeping on the ground, brought him to that part of the province of Santa Fé, where the murder had been committed.

Here the post-master would not give him horses, unless he also took a guard; and he had to wait the arrival of the carrier. The carrier arrived; and having rested himself for the night, prepared for the perilous part of his journey, by smoking a cigar, praying and

crossing himself, all very fervently, and all at the same time.

Accompanied by the master of the post, and an additional Guacho, all armed, they rode on in the silence of expectation, the salteadores, or robbers, being looked for every moment. When they had advanced a few leagues, they turned off the road to view the ruins of a solitary hut, which had been burnt, and the whole family in it murdered, by the Indians. It was in the centre of a deserted province; and the only animals were a few wild deer. The murderers had thrown the bodies of the carrier, the postilion, the peons, and the dog, into a deep well. Some Guachos had taken them out. The dog lay entire, the horses were nearly eaten up by the vultures and biscachos, and the human bodies were in the ruined hut, partially covered with the sun-dried bricks of which the hut had been built. They covered the bodies completely with the bricks; they stood around the simple tomb, and the old man offered up prayers for the repose of the soul of his son, to which the Guachos said, Amen, and at which the Captain crossed himself. They then lighted their cigars, and leaving the deserted scene, at which was a solitary peach tree in bloom, they regained the road, and galloped on.

Coming to a post hut at sunset, the captain left his former companions, and proceeded with five or six Guachos, who had been making merry, and rode very

fast, so that what with the difficulty of keeping up with them, and the danger of falling into the holes of the biscachos, the captain was pleased to hear the barking of the dogs at the next post house. There he slept for the night, and was off with a little Guacho early in the morning.

That day he observed an ostrich hunter, a boy, riding among the thistles and clover, and swinging the balls round his head. He put some questions to the boy, who in return asked him to sell his spurs, and the one espying an ostrich, and the other falling into the hole of a biscacho, they parted.

Of the remainder of his journey to Buenos Ayres, what he did there, or his return, until he came to the province of Santa Fé, Captain Head says nothing. He had now a *virloche*, or two-wheeled carriage, and two faithful peons. Pizarro, an old acquaintance, acted as caterer, cook, and footman, and while the captain slept in the carriage, the faithful Pizarro slept on his saddle at the wheel.

The province of Santa Fé had been overrun and the Guachos murdered, by the Indians. Captain Head met with a boy, who had escaped from the butchery by mounting a very swift horse. The boy had returned to the hut after the Indians had gone, but it was in ruins, and the bodies of his relations were mangled in a shocking manner.

These things, with what the captain had seen when

he passed through the same province on his way to Buenos Ayres, rendered their situation any thing but an agreeable one ; and it was rendered more unpleasant by the dust which arose from the motion of a body of men along the desert. The captain mustered and prepared his fire arms, and armed his peon with a sabre, resolving to make the best resistance that he could, and moralizing upon his probable fate in being killed in a desert in other people's quarrels. At last, however, the captain was relieved from all apprehension, by finding that the men in question were 700 Guachos, marching from the provinces in the west to join the Buenos Ayrean army, which was then engaged in hostility against Brazil.

Two days after the faithful Pizarro fell and hurt himself, and the captain was obliged to leave him ; but he gave him half a bottle of brandy to rub his back, and two dollars to the girl at the post for rubbing it—taking the precaution to salt the brandy, lest it should have been applied to another purpose. Leaving the carriage to follow, the captain proceeded on horseback by himself, and got to San Luis ; then, after resting only four hours, he set out for Mendoza ; which having reached, and rested for a little, he and his party prepared to cross the Great Cordillera of the Andes.

The party consisted of eight persons ; they had six loaded mules and two spare ones. The mules made

some resistance to being loaded, but that was accomplished by blind-folding them with a poncho.

The parting with the good people of the fonda, or inn, at Mendoza, was rather sentimental; and Captain Head bestowed his green spectacles on the old black cook as a keepsake, with no small grace, she smiling the while through her tears.

The sun was nearly set as they passed along the Alameda; but the country to which irrigation from the river extended, was rich and beautiful. The brown mud walls which bound the road were covered with grapes, hanging down in beautiful clusters; and the number of peach-trees, laden with fruit, and scattered among corn and other agricultural produce, gave the appearance of great luxury and abundance; while the mountains of the Cordillera formed a magnificent boundary to a picture, which, to one about to cross the Andes, was particularly interesting.

When, however, the line of irrigation is passed, and the influence of the water ceases, the change is very great. "The soil," says Captain Head, "light and sandy, produces no sort of herbage; and for more than thirty miles, the road, as it approaches the mountains, passes over a plain which leaves nothing but low stunted shrubs; and when one considers that such has probably been its produce from the beginning of the world, it is surprising, that vegetation, so nearly extinct, should

have lingered so long without expiring. The road across this plain was very tedious, and the mountains seemed to recede from the Captain and his party. They at last, however, gained the south ravine of the Andes, and came to the post of Villa Vicencia, a solitary hut, with one window, and a bullock's hide for a door. The mules were turned loose to find their supper for themselves, and the Captain going to the fire in the shed, wrapped his poncho round his head, laid it down upon a horse's skull, and fell into a sound sleep. When he awoke in the morning, he found two peons and one of his party asleep at the fire, and a great dog snoring at his side.

As there was some delay in recovering and loading the mules, Captain Head went in quest of the baths, which were, as he was informed, about a mile off. The passage was difficult in reality, and much more so in appearance; but he succeeded, and came to two or three ruined huts and some tents which were swarming with people. Enquiring for the baths, a man pointed them out to him, not by description, or pointing his finger, but with his chin. He went to one of them, and instantly started back at finding a lady enjoying the luxury in a hole about the size of a coffin. The Captain went to another of these holes, and found the water agreeably warm. There is a freedom in the bathing of this lonely place to which there is nothing corresponding at the watering places in England. "I

looked into the huts and tents,' says Captain Head ; " they were crowded with men, women, and children of all ages, and mingled together in a way that would not altogether be admitted at an English bathing place ; but among the Andes, customs and ideas are different, and if a lady has there the rheumatism, she sees no harm in trying to wash it away by the warm waters of Villa Vicencia."

Returning from the baths, the Captain found the mules in readiness, so he took some refreshment, and then set out for Uspallata, where they intended to pass the night. The road was in a deep ravine, the sides of which are formed of rocks of a very sublime but somewhat dangerous appearance. After riding about fifteen miles, the Captain gained the summit of the Paramillo, or first ridge, which overhangs Mendoza on the one side, and the valley of Uspallata on the other. Eastward from this height, the plain of Mendoza, and the wide expanse of the Pampas beyond, have all the appearance of an ocean ; while westward the rocky barrier of the Andes, rising to an immense height, and capped with eternal snow, appears quite unpassable.

On the summit of the Paramillo, which is flat for a short distance, and so windy that the keeping of the traveller's hat became a matter of difficulty, the Captain lingered for some time till his party came up. The place is reported to be infested with lions ; and as he saw the prints of their large feet in

his path, and saw some tawny looking substances on both sides of him, which might have been lions, he was not displeased when the party came up.

Descending from the height, they continued their journey till they came to the district in which the mines of Uspallata are situated. The country here was found to be of the most dreary description. The soil, decomposed rock which gave way under the feet, entirely destitute of vegetation, except a few resinous plants that were scattered here and there. There is no rain, and very little water; the day was rather hot, but at night it froze even in the crowded hut. Dried peaches and live goats were the only provisions they could get; and they put some of the former in a pot to boil, and then sent out a boy with a lasso in quest of one of the latter. The goat was caught, shot by the Captain's pistol, and in brief space roasting on the embers. An English lady, with some young children, and a party of peons, who had crossed the Cordillera, entered the hut. The lady had borne the oldest of these children in the hut at Villa Vicencia, about seven years before; and he was now able to ride across the mountains.

As the Captain was riding at an uniform pace, in order to ascertain the width of the plain of Uspallata, he met with an old Guacho engaged in lion-hunting, and accompanied by his dogs. If the dogs face the lion when he stands at bay, the huntsman dismounts,

and knocks him on the head with the balls; if not, the lasso is thrown over him, he is dragged away, and the dogs tear him when he is in that condition.

They slept for that night on the ground, at a place where they found grass for the mules; and the peon, who was a most active man, roused them before daylight. The appearance of this lonely encampment was highly picturesque. The capataz and peon loading the baggage-mules; the Cornish miners eating their breakfast by the light of the fire, seated upon stones, and around a table of rock; the light of the dawn disclosing the snowy tops of the mountains, while the ravines were in dark shade; white clouds sailing along a sky of very deep blue; and a way before them, which, to human judgment, seemed impracticable. The mules found it, however; and indeed, without these patient, hardy, and safe-footed animals, the Andes would be an insurmountable barrier. They march, as the soldiers say, "in rank entire;" the first one has a bell, the tingle of which all the rest follow; and though they resist being loaded, unless their eyes are covered with a poncho, they never offer to throw either the load or their rider; and indeed their perseverance in their labour is such that they bear up to the last extremity, and the withering carcasses and bleaching bones of those that have fallen in this way, are, in many places, so numerous, that the living mule has difficulty in threading his way amid the remains of the dead.

As the Captain and his party ascended the ravine, the road became more and more wild, and the rocks more and more steep and rugged. At one place an immense mass of porphyry had the appearance of a castle of giant mould, and so strong was the likeness, that one of the Cornish miners declared, he "could see an old woman coming across the drawbridge."

The Captain generally contrived to keep a-head of his party; but after he had proceeded a little way from this castellated rock, the capataz rode up to him, and invited him to a reconnoissance of the "Ladera de las Vacas," the most difficult pass in the route, and one which, for some time after the opening of the Cordillera by the melting of the snow, is quite impracticable, though it becomes a little better as the summer advances. They trotted on, and the capataz reported the "Ladera" passable; but the place and the passage cannot be so well described as in Captain Head's own nervous and graphic language.

"The mountain above," says the Captain, "appears almost perpendicular, and in one continued slope down to the torrent which is raging beneath. The surface is covered with loose earth and stones, that have been brought down by the water. The path goes across this slope, and is very bad for about seventy yards, being only a few inches broad; but the point of danger is a spot where the water which comes down from the top of the mountain, either washes the path away or covers

it with loose stones. We rode over it, and certainly it was very narrow and bad. In some places the rock almost touches one's shoulder, while the precipice is immediately under the opposite foot, and high above head are a number of large loose stones, which appear as if the slightest touch would send them rolling into the torrent beneath, which is foaming and rushing with great violence. However, the danger to the rider is only imaginary; for the mules are so very careful, and seem so well aware of their situation, that there is no chance of their making a false step. As soon as we had crossed the pass, the capataz told me it was a very bad place for baggage-mules; that four hundred had been lost there; and that we should also very probably lose one. He said that he would go down to the water, at a place about a hundred yards off, and wait there with his lasso, to catch any mule that might fall into the torrent, and he requested me to lead on his mule. However, I was resolved to see the tumble, if there should be one; so the capataz took away my mule and his own, and then scrambled down on foot till he got to the level of the water, while I stood on a projecting rock, with the two English captains of mines, the three Cornish miners, the assayer, and the surveyor, who were all anxious to witness the passage of the baggage.

“The drove of mules came in sight, one following another; a few were carrying no burdens, but the rest were either mounted, or heavily laden; and as they moved

along the crooked path, the difference of colour in the animals, the different colours and shapes of the luggage they were carrying, with the picturesque dresses of the peons, who were vociferating the wild song by which they drive on the mules, and the sight of the dangerous path they had to cross, formed altogether a very interesting scene.

“ As soon as the leading mule came to the commencement of the pass, he stopped, evidently unwilling to proceed, and of course all the rest stopped also.

“ He was the finest mule we had, and on that account had twice as much to carry as any of the others. His load had never been relieved, and it consisted of four portmanteaus, two of which belonged to me, and contained not only a heavy bag of dollars, but papers that were of so much consequence, that I could hardly have continued my journey without them.

“ The peons now redoubled their cries; and, leaning over the sides of their mules, and picking up stones, they threw them at the leading mule, who then commenced his journey over the path. With his nose on the ground, literally smelling his way, he walked gently on, often changing the position of his feet, if he found the ground would not bear, until he came to the bad part of the pass, where he again stopped, and I then certainly began to look with great anxiety at my portmanteaus; but the peons again threw stones at him, and he reached me in safety: several others followed.

At last a young mule, carrying a portmanteau, with two large sacks of provisions, and many other things, in passing the bad point, struck his load against the rock, which knocked his two hind legs over the precipice, and the loose stones immediately began to roll away from under him; however, his fore legs were still upon the narrow path; he had no room to put his head there, but he placed his nose upon the path to his left, which gave him the appearance of holding on by his mouth. His perilous fate was soon decided by a loose mule that came next, and in walking along the Ladera, knocked his comrade's nose off the path, destroyed his balance, and, head over heels, the poor creature commenced a fall which was quite terrific. With all his baggage firmly lashed to him, he rolled down the steep slope until he came to the point which was perpendicular, and then he seemed to bound off, and turning round in the air, fell into the deep torrent on his back, and upon his baggage, and instantly disappeared. I certainly thought he was killed.

“ But up he rose, looking wild and scared, and immediately endeavoured to stem the torrent which was foaming about him. It was a noble effort, and for a moment he seemed to succeed, but the eddy caught the great load which was upon his back, and he turned completely over; down went his head with all the baggage, and all I saw were his hind quarters, and his long thin wet tail lashing the waters. As suddenly,

however, up his head came again, but he was now weak, and went down the stream, turning round and round by the eddy, until passing the corner of the rock, I lost sight of him, I saw, however, the peons with their lassos in their hands, run down the side of the torrent for some little distance; but they soon stopped, and after looking towards the poor mule for some seconds, their earnest attitude gradually relaxed, and when they walked towards me, I concluded that all was over. I walked up to the peons, and was just going to speak to them, when I saw at a distance, a solitary mule walking towards us."—It was the mule which had fallen from the Ladera, not much injured by his perilous adventure.

The passage of the "Rio de las Vacas," a little further on, is also a point of great peril. It is a foaming torrent, with a very rocky and irregular bed, and as the mules are passing, the peons stand whirling their lassos, to catch any thing that may go down the stream; but Captain Head hints, that they are probably more anxious for the mule, which is their own property, than for either the load or the rider.

When the torrent was passed, they soon came to the edge of the snow, where they found a party of travellers resting; from whom, after some alarm on their part, the Captain succeeded in purchasing some biscuit, jerked beef, salt, and Chili pepper, of which the party made no contemptible dinner. The fate of

the poor mules, all fatigued as they were, was much harder, for the only enjoyment they had was sleep.

The "temporales," or snow storms, are much more dreadful in the Andes, than in any part of Europe. The capataz told Captain Head, that they are so violent, that no animal can live in them. They come without any notice; for, the moment the snow is seen on the mountain, it is in the ravine, and the traveller is unable to escape. Many perish in the snow, and some are starved to death in the huts. Two years previous to Captain Head's visit, the winter had set in suddenly, and ten men had been starved in the hut where they now were. They had eaten their mules and their dog, and when they were found by the carrier, six lay dead, and the other four at their sides, with hardly any symptom of life. The hut showed signs of their sufferings and resources; they had taken all the wood out of it to warm themselves, and the bones of their mules and dog were still scattered about.

After resting for the night in this wretched hut, they proceeded to the Cumbre, or upper ridge of the Cordillera, in which there was no pass. Another hut, the scene of many miserable deaths, was at the bottom, and the ascent was steep and difficult. There was no alternative, however, and so up they went, by a zig-zag path, until they gained the summit.

The path along that summit was a cold and dreary one; the snow, which was very deep, stood as a wall

on each side of the road that had been worn by the feet of the mules; and that path was rough, full of deep holes, and stained with blood. The view, however, when they looked down upon the western, or Chilian side of the mountains, was grand. "What thing can be more beautiful," said Captain Head to one of the Cornish miners. "Them things, Sir, as do wear caps and aprons," was the naive reply.

The descent was difficult, as there is more snow upon the west, than the east side of the Cordillera; and as that now became soft as they descended, they had considerable difficulty in getting forward their loaded mules.

About an hour's labour and difficulty brought them out of the region of snow; and when they came to trees and vegetation, the contrast with the snowy waste was very pleasant. In their descent, they had to pass many torrents and Laderas, but none of them were so dangerous as those which they had met with in their ascent. They came to Villa Nueva de los Andes, a miserable place, where the soldiers upon guard were without shoes. They had dinner, however, and after the hardships that they had met with in the Cordillera, they were much pleased, both with the attendance and the fare. After resting for the night, Captain Head procured a horse, and galloped on for Santiago, leaving his party to follow him. When he got into the plain, he galloped away at the old Pampas rate, and was

soon at the resting place, half way to Santiago. His party came up to him, and told, that they had complained to the Governor of Villa Nueva, of the imposition of the capataz, in not supplying them with the proper number of mules, and he had instructed them to deduct 25 per cent. off the price.

They rested for the night, and at day break, the Captain again galloped on, making his way to the Santiago road, by the compass. When he came within a short distance of the city, the road was crowded with men, women, children, and priests, all cantering along, the cheeks of the latter shaking with fat, to the trot of the mule. Provisions of various kinds were travelling to the city, all at a canter; but the spurs and stirrups of the riders, were inferior to those of the Pampas.

Captain Head did not admire the appearance of the city. The streets were dirty, the houses cracked by earthquakes, and the spires, crosses, and weathercocks threatening to fall. He rode across the Plaza, or great square, at eight o'clock; one of the church bells tolled; the men pulled off their hats, the women knelt down, and they called upon the Captain to stop, and join in the ceremony, which is regularly performed at eight o'clock in the morning and the evening, and at noon.

The Captain passed on, however, in quest of a lodging, and rejecting the parlour of a North American lady, he patriotically set up his staff in a carpenter's

shop, belonging to a civil Englishwoman. The number of priests he found was very great, but the Revolution had considerably diminished their influence, and the opinion that Captain Head formed of their manners and morals, is far from favourable. Of the nuns in the convent of Santiago, he speaks in terms equally severe; and the confessing of a young nun by a young monk, through holes in a tin plate, put the Captain strongly in mind of the loves of Pyramus and Thisbe.

After resting for a little at Santiago, Captain Head proceeded across the plain, to examine the gold mines at El Bronce de Petorca. They left the city early, while the watchmen were yet calling the hour, and chaunting the hymn to the Virgin. They cleared the town, galloped up one hill and down another, and after the sun had set, they came to a village, the church of which had been destroyed by the great earthquake in 1822. It was Christmas; the natives were merry-making, and the Captain and his party were received with the greatest kindness, and treated as if they had been relations. His party had a slight misunderstanding with the landlord, but they went to the ball, danced away, all was forgotten, and before the dawn they were on their mules, riding away and discussing the merits and charms of their respective partners. Next evening they came to the little town of Aconcagua, situated in a valley, fertilized by a pure stream; but like the place of their former night's lodging, shattered by the effect

of earthquakes. They were again kindly received, however, and again they joined in the Christmas festivities of the hospitable Chilians.

They were now about a hundred and fifty miles distant from Santiago, and only six miles from the mines which were the immediate object of the Captain's investigation. A Chilian miner, who accompanied Captain Head, informed him, that he, and several of his comrades, had been at work 100 fathoms deep in one of the gold lodes at El Bronce de Petorca, at the time of the fatal earthquake in 1822. His situation was dreadful. The mountain shook so, that he could hardly ascend, and he was every moment apprehensive that the walls of the lode would come together, and either crush them to death instantly, or leave them to the more dreadful doom of imprisonment in the earth. When they did escape, the wreck on the surface—the dust filling the atmosphere, and the masses of stone shaken from their places, and rolling down the sides of the mountains, were still both alarming and dangerous.

The Captain next visited the mine of Caren, situated at a great elevation, so much so, that it appeared to overhang the Pacific, and the objects in the plain, which was almost perpendicularly below, were yet distinctly visible. While at the hut at this mine, one of the Captain's party shot a large condor, which had been attracted to the hut, and they calculated that it would

fall close by them ; but such is the optical deception arising from the atmosphere in the Andes, that it fell at a considerable distance.

Returning from the examination of these gold mines, Captain Head remained only a single night at Santiago, and set out the next morning to the silver mine of San Pedro Nolasco, situated on a mountain, at a great height above the valley of Maypo, accessible only at certain seasons of the year, and even then with great difficulty and no small danger.

The valley of the Maypo is very beautiful; bounded on both sides by the barren Cordillera of the Andes, it has the advantage of irrigation, and in itself it is really fertile. Captain Head found it covered with cherry and peach trees, which were weighed down to the earth with fruit, while the surface was thick with the stones of those of the former season.

Thirty miles brought them to the suspension bridge over the Maypo ; the torrent was swollen, the water covered it ; their mules were afraid ; the bridge vibrated very much ; but they got safely over. Four miles more brought them to the place where the ores formerly raised from San Pedro Nolasco, had been reduced ; and there they remained for the night.

At sunrise the next morning they continued their course, which for four or five hours was along the banks of the Maypo. The road gradually became narrower, the trees and shrubs more diminutive and stunted, and

the mountains around them every where covered with snow. The path, which, in consequence of the mine not having been worked, had been neglected, was more difficult than any part of that across the Andes. In many places it was only a few inches wide, and the stones were so loose, that they slid from under the feet of the mules, and rolled into the torrent beneath. Captain Head would gladly have dismounted and walked, but the mules cannot be led, and when once a rider is upon one of these laderas, the attempt to dismount, might be a sure means of precipitating him headlong into the torrent, which runs at an immense depth below.

After passing torrents, by some of which the boxes were thrown from the backs of the mules, hurried down and dashed to pieces, and at others they had to put lassos round their bodies, lest they should share the same fate. "We turned," says Captain Head, "toward the south, and began to climb the mountain of San Pedro Nolasco, which I can only describe by saying, that it is the steepest ascent which we made in all our expeditions among the Andes. For five hours we were constantly holding by the ears or necks of our mules, and the path was in some places so steep, that for a considerable time, it was quite impossible to stop.

They passed the limits of vegetation, and climbed from point to point, meeting every now and then with crosses, which marked places where those who had

formerly worked at the mine, had been overtaken by storms and had perished. At last, however, they gained the summit, and found themselves close by the mine, which is one of the loftiest branches of the Andes. One wretched hut was all the habitation, and two or three pale and emaciated miners all the inhabitants. The view, however, was magnificent, "it was sublime; but it was at the same time so terrific, that one could not help shuddering.

Though midsummer, the snow at the mine was from twenty to a hundred feet deep, blown into wreaths, and in some places disclosing the black rock. The valley of the Maypo runs below like a model, and the tributary torrents, seemed as little threads of silver in the different ravines. The whole scene around was destitute of vegetation, "and was a picture of desolation, on a scale of magnificence that made it peculiarly awful; and the knowledge that this vast mass of snow, so cheerless in appearance, was created for the use, and comfort, and happiness, and even luxury of man; that it was the inexhaustible reservoir that supplied the plains with water—made us feel that there is no spot in creation which man should term barren, though there are many which Nature never intended for his residence."

They saw a cloud of smoke issuing from the crater of the great volcano of San Francisco; and the silver lode appeared to run in the direction of that crater.

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When Captain Head enquired into the state of this dismal place in winter, the guide and miners pointed in silence to the crosses which were everywhere about. For seven months of the year, the mine is inaccessible: all communication with the plain being cut off, and yet the miners used to remain there all the winter. The cold at that season is intense, but what the miners most dread, are the "temporales," which come upon them so suddenly and so violent, that many had perished in them, when not one hundred and fifty yards from the hut. In one very severe winter, the provisions of the miners began to fail, and a party volunteered to attempt to reach the valley of Maypo for a supply; but just as they had left the hut, a storm came on, and they all perished.

From the depth of the snow, Captain Head could make little other observation on the surface, than walking from one mouth of a mine to another. When he had done this, he stripped and entered one of the mines, the only one which had not for a long time been deserted. Descending ladders of notched sticks, and walking along levels ankle deep in mud-snow, he at last reached the depth of about two hundred and fifty feet, where the miners were working. Exhausted and emaciated as these seemed, they were working at a rate far surpassing that of English miners; and those who carried the ore to the mouth of the mine, moved up the notched sticks with a load which the strongest of the Cornish miners declared would break his back.

The Captain and his party sat upon their saddles at one end of the hut, refreshing themselves with brandy and water, while the miners, who had been relieved by the night gang, came in to cook their supper. The operation was simple: a cleft stick which served for a candlestick in the mine, now answered the purpose of a spit; they stuck a piece of dried beef into it, and holding it for a few seconds over the embers, they ate away, and washed down their simple meal with a draught of melted snow, out of a cow's horn. They exchanged no words, but sat down upon the sheepskin that formed their only bed. The miners are not allowed any spirits; and perhaps in their situation, the regulation is a judicious one.

Leaving this dreadful place, Captain Head went back to Santiago, to make preparations for re-crossing the Andes. Early on the morning of his departure, he went to the fouda, or inn, to get some breakfast, and found two Scotchmen, who had been performing the national rite of drinking-in the new year. His party had tea, but drank a little brandy with the jolly Caledonians, and then mounted to find their way across the Cordillera.

When they came to Uspallata, they found three horses; and the Captain and two of his party, set out for Mendoza (ninety miles), riding all night. After passing Villa Vicencia, at which they got fresh horses, the Captain saw a number of condors, at a little

distance from the road, engaged about the carcase of a dead horse. The Captain contented himself with observing these powerful inhabitants of the desert, and admiring the vast muscular strength which they displayed in rending the flesh of their prey from the bones; but one of his party, who came up after him, being a *Cornish* miner, resolved to have a hug with the winged monarch of the wilderness. Our condor had so gorged himself, that he was able to fly only a short distance. The miner alighted, and getting his knee upon the bird, tried to twist his neck. The labour was difficult, on account of the strength and struggles of the captive, and there was some apprehension that the other condors that were hovering about, might come to the rescue; the miner gained the victory however; and there with much pride showed Captain Head the *spolia opima*—the large feathers of the wings which he had borne off in triumph.

The party now re-crossed the Pampas, in which, from the sameness of the several regions, there is little to attract a second time, save the adventures of travellers themselves. When passing along, they used to live upon roasted parrots, which are very numerous both in the woody and the grassy regions.

When they came to the river Desaguadero, between Mendoza and San Luis, they found it unusually deep and rapid, and only one little bark in which they could cross. They threw the luggage into the boat, and

prepared for dragging their carriage through the river when Captain Head, finding that the boat would not carry them all, stript off his clothes; tied his watch in a handkerchief round his neck, mounted his horse, and holding his pistols in his right hand, dashed into the river. The horse was out of his depth, but he was an excellent swimmer, and the Captain gained the other side in safety.

The getting of the carriages across was a curious and difficult operation. The bank that it had to descend to the water sloped at an angle of forty-five degrees, and thus they had to take care that the carriage should not be broken nor upset in the descent. To guard against the former accident, the lasso of a peon was fixed behind, and he remained on horseback in the rear to hold on; and to guard against the latter, lassos were fixed to the sides, to act as guy-ropes. Two or three lassos were fastened to the carriage, and a long drag rope was carried across the river, to which eight or ten horses were attached.

To work they went, but the carriage was too weighty for the peons who held on, and rolled into the river, dragging them after it. When they got it half way over, dragging along the bottom, it refused to move, and they were an hour in getting it started again. At last they succeeded in getting it to the bank.

All the time that these operations were going on, the Captain was in "Adam's livery," and occasionally

swam across on horseback to cool himself, and then galloped along the opposite bank of the river, which costume and exercise he describes as being very delightful.

The owner of the boat charged too much for the use of it; the Captain refused to pay, the Guacho flew in a passion, and ordering a horse, declared he would ride to San Luis and complain to the Governor, who was his relation, and he himself a judge. Captain Head laughed at him, and galloped on; but in about half an hour, the judge rode past in his official costume, a coarse blue jacket, with scarlet cuffs and collar, and a long sabre. When the Captain came to the post house, one stage from San Luis, where the postmaster is brother to the Governor, he was asked with much seriousness, if he was the person who had galloped after the judge at Desaguadero, in order to shoot him; and he was informed that the judge had taken a fresh horse in order to get to San Luis before him.

The party came up, and they passed the night on the ground in front of the post, and early the next morning set out for San Luis. They found, at the post house, that the judge had been telling his story with some exaggerations; and Captain Head immediately set out for the barracks to see the Governor. Upon explanation, the Governor ordered that the judge should take nine dollars for the use of his boat, instead of twelve, as he had demanded. So the judge—"took

nothing by his *motion*," which if not so long in time as a motion in Chancery, was much longer in space. The Governor also ordered the blacksmith who had refused to repair the Captain's carriage, to set about it instantly.

San Luis is a miserable place. There is no medical man, no medicines, even of the simplest kind, no luxuries, not even the common necessities of life; and the inhabitants divide the day between eating beef and sleeping. Captain Head left it about an hour before sunset, with three changes of horses, in order to reach the next post the same evening; but it got dark, the road was full of holes, and he and a Guacho slept on the road on their saddles. In the morning the Captain was made rather uncomfortable by the Guacho telling him that the horses were lost; in the end, however, they were found, but the Guacho stole the bridle, and the Captain was obliged to make a temporary one of a slip of hide.

After galloping some time longer through the long grass, Captain Head waited at the miserable village of El Morro, till the carriage came up. Some of them slept in the carriage, and others on the ground beside it; and they were caught in a pampero, or dreadful hurricane, during the night. The flashes of lightning with which it was accompanied, were frequent and brilliant; and during them, Captain Head saw his people running about in all directions, hallooing and

trying to recover their clothes, which had been blown here and there by the violence of the hurricane. The rain was as violent as the wind; and the scene was rendered more dismal by the church bell, which, swung by the tempest, occasionally gave a melancholy knell.

In the morning, however, they found all that they had lost, and Captain Head set off along with a French colonel, who had come from Mendoza, and was then fellow-lodger, to visit the priest of El Morro. This ecclesiastic was about four feet in height, but made up for it in thickness; he wore a gown of serge, and a thick rope for self flagellation; and in his apartment were two or three dusty old books and a crucifix.

Leaving the priest to his devotions, and the carriages to the public road, the Captain set out on a bye-way with a little Guacho, who rode like the wind. He got to the next post, however, and was there furnished with a better horse, and a more powerful Guacho, who like many more of his race, had never seen a town, or been off his native plain.

At the next post, the Captain got not an unsavoury supper of beef; and a little girl of colour, with gold ear-rings, and a red necklace, officiated to him in the character of candlestick. The fleas and binchucas were, however, so abundant in the ravine, that the Captain preferred sleeping in the open air.

The Captain waited here for the carriage; but the carriage had become crippled in the desert, and the



baggage was brought upon pack-horses. After calculating the cost, the Captain, as the cheaper mode, desired the carriage to remain where it was, and set out for Buenos-Ayres along with the French colonel, the two mining captains, and the assayer. The first day they galloped sixty miles, by which the assayer was rendered unable to proceed; and at the end of forty-five miles the second day, one of the miners was in the same state; shortly another gave in; and the Captain, having overtaken a young Scotsman, rode with him till they stopped for the night. The Scotsman and the ladies of the post had a bout of singing and dancing, in which Captain Head was too fatigued to join; but he drew his saddle near them, lay down, and was sung to sleep by a Peruvian air, accompanied on the guitar.

Starting again before sunrise, the Captain was a hundred and twenty miles off before sunset. At one place the ground was spread with locusts to such an extent that they covered the legs of his horse; their colours were gray; they were moving in all directions; and the hum that they made resembled the lower tones of an *Æolian* harp. When he arrived at the post house, he found a jolly priest just sitting down to supper, who invited him to partake of his supper,—a roasted lamb, with sweetmeats. The priest was free in his hospitality; and when the feast was over, he drew some cigars from the sleeve of his tunic.

Next morning Captain Head galloped on as usual;

and having accomplished a hundred miles at sunset, he there left the last of his companions, the Scotsman, and a Chilian Guacho, the servant to the French colonel. He galloped on twenty miles more; and, galloping another hundred and twenty the following day, he reached Buenos-Ayres two hours after sunset, after the most rapid, and perhaps the most irregular travels that ever were undertaken by man.

STORY
OF
MR. WATERTON'S
WANDERINGS IN AMERICA,
1812, 1816, 1820, and 1824.
FIRST JOURNEY.—GUIANA, 1812.

IN April, 1812, Mr. Waterton, struck with the love of nature and natural history, left the town of Starbroek, and resolved to penetrate through the woods into that country of which the Indians still hold possession, in the interior of Guiana. His chief objects were, to collect a quantity of the wourali poison, with which the Indians arm their darts, and, to penetrate to the ridge where the nominal boundary of the English and Brazilian territories is situated.

At the commencement this journey is impracticable by land, on account of the great heat over the swamps by day, and the myriads of musquitoes with which they

are infested at night. The water—the river Demerara—is therefore the only alternative, and our traveller took it of necessity.

For some time the course of the river is slow, the grounds on each side are swampy, and the plantations and works that were once tried have been deserted. As one ascends, however, the country improves; and there is an alternation of extended plains, gently rising hills, and woodland shades, interspersed here and there by the huts of free people of colour, or of wood-cutters. At some distance up, there is a place called the Saba (a stone), from its being the first where rocks appear. These rocks are smoothed by the floods of the river, and the same cause has scattered such fragments over the level ground in the neighbourhood. This is the boundary of the Indian territory; and upon the top of the Saba there stands the hut of the post-holder, who prevents improper people from penetrating up the river.

Here, however, the Indians assemble, and mingle in rude sports with the white men of Europe, and the black men of Africa. The trees are the most remarkable things about this place; and though not above six feet in diameter, Mr. Waterton found some of them so high, that his fowling-piece would not carry effectively to the top. The species of trees are numerous; some of them are remarkable for their beauty; and they are regularly festooned and linked together by different species of vines, till they look like the masts of ships,

furnished with their cordage. The hills are sandy and barren; but the decayed leaves and the *debris* brought down from the hills, cover the flats with very rich mould; though under the thick forests, and near the swamps, there is no grass.

Mr. Waterton did not meet with many species of quadrupeds, and only one species (the peccari) was found in great numbers. It should seem that the alternate parching and flooding to which this country is subject, are not favourable to quadrupeds.

The tiger (a small species of leopard), and one or two varieties of tiger-cats, were the only beasts of prey that the traveller met with. The peccari are numerous, found in herds of two or three hundred; and the Indians shoot them with the wourali dart, blown out of a hollow reed, and they make excellent food. Besides these, there are various species of monkeys, pole-cats, foxes, opossums, ant-bears, armadillos, and porcupines; and this is the native region of that singular animal, the *bradypus*, or sloth.

The scarcity of quadrupeds, and the want of beauty in most of them, is compensated by the numbers and brilliant colours of the birds. The scarlet curlew, with sand-pipers, plovers, spoon-bills, and flamingoes, are found upon the mud flats; humming-birds, in great numbers, hover over the flowers; and parrots, wild fowl, pigeons, and small birds, are found among the trees.

The bats are formidable animals, there being two species of numbers that suck the blood of live animals, one somewhat larger than the bat of England, and the other two feet from the tip of the one wing to that of the other.

Snakes are numerous, more especially near the river, in the woods between the Saba and the plantations: the rattle-snake being mostly confined to one district.

The *cameudi* snake, according to the account of our traveller, rivals the boa constrictor of the East—is, in fact, the same species of reptile, and crushes his prey to death in his folds in the same manner.

The *whip* and the *coral* snakes, the former variegated green, and the latter red and black, are small and harmless. The speckled *libarri* is deadly in its bite, but not so formidable as the *counacouchi*, which grows to the length of thirteen or fourteen feet, glows with the most radiant and varied colours, and is armed with the most fatal poison. He is called the *bushmaster*, and Mr. Waterton says, “both man and beast fly before him.”

The cayman, a species of alligator, is found in the river, like a log of wood; and land lizards are numerous, and beautiful in their hues.

Insects are in myriads, and many of them are exceedingly annoying to the traveller.

The river contains some fish that are well tasted, but they are not very numerous.

The little fire-flies light up the night, and the various species of owls make it noisy with complaints that are almost articulate. "Willy—come—go : whip—poor—Will," says Mr. Waterton.

At the house of Simon, an Indian, a few miles higher up than the Saba, Mr. Waterton had an opportunity of seeing the Indians in their native country and costume. They had some notions of dandyism, or at least dress, in their own way. Their hair was collected into a knot; their bodies fancifully coloured with red, and perfumed; they had necklaces of the teeth of wild bears; wore rings and armlets; bathed in the river; and the belles were as attentive at the toilet as those of more pretending nations.

Here, too, Mr. Waterton met with a wild man of the woods, an Indian, who wandered about the forest, and who had no wife, child, or friend. Refusing to live with the rest of the Indians, he roved about, plundering the wild bees of their honey, and picking up nuts and fruits. If he met with any game, he lighted a fire in the primeval way, by rubbing one stick against another. When he came to a hut, he asked for something to eat, ate voraciously, and did not call again at the same hut for many months. But though he was rude and solitary, he was harmless, and did not interfere with any human being.

From Simon's hut to the Great Fall, which is a journey of about four days, there were four or five habita-

tions of the Indians; but neither the appearance nor the productions of the country vary much from those below the Saba. Six or eight huts formed each settlement; and there were cabbage, papaw, and cotton trees scattered about them.

At one of these huts Mr. Waterton procured a little gourd containing a portion of the *wourali*, which the Indians assured him had been effective in the killing of wild hogs and tapirs. It was tried upon a middle-sized dog, by inserting it into a wound in the thigh. In a few minutes he was affected, looked wistfully at the wounded part, staggered, lay down, barked once, but not as if in pain, and after an agitated and interrupted motion of the heart, he was lifeless in a quarter of an hour.

At the great fall, or rather rapid, the river rushes over a bed of rocks, in channels during the dry season, but in one continuous foaming sheet after the rains have set in; and, even in the dry season, the noise which it makes is considerable. This rapid is not passable either upwards or downwards by any country canoe or craft, and thus the Indians have been obliged to form a path by the side, along which they carry their canoes.

A few miles below the great fall, Sinkerman, a chief of the Acoway Indians, had his residence, at a place which affords the finest view any where on the Demerara.

Mr. Waterton recommends that the traveller who wishes, as he did, to reach the country of the

Macoushi Indians, should send his canoe across to the Essequibo, by the Indians who can conduct it there, while he himself can, by a nearer cut through the woods, reach it in a day and a half. This was the plan taken by our traveller himself.

The path is good, though here and there interrupted by a fallen tree; the trees form a trellis on each side, and the "bush-rope" and other creeping and parasitical plants form a canopy overhead, which being quite impervious to the rays of the sun, renders the day and half's march through this forest not so disagreeable as one would suppose. Nor is this place destitute of provisions or of lodging, though there is no hut, or even human inhabitant: there are abundance of wild animals for food, and plenty of leaves to form a shed whenever you wish to repose. The trees are varied, majestic and beautiful, and are to be seen at once of all ages and sizes, and in every stage of decay.

After giving way to those romantic feelings, which a man of Mr. Waterton's warm heart and ardent admiration of nature, could not but experience in a scene so novel and so striking, his day and half in the direction of north north-west, brought him to the bank of the Essequibo. That river, even there, is three times the width of the Demerara, at Stabroek; the western bank is low and flat, and the country is very picturesque. Hills and mountains, dales and glades, interspersed with forests, and all wearing the most beautiful and luxuriant appearance.

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Passing upwards, there are a great many islands; and in a short time our traveller came to falls and rapids, through which the passage is comparatively easy in the dry season, as the Indians can get upon the rocks and islets and drag the canoe; but in the rainy season it is difficult. This difficult part of the navigation took Mr. Waterton five days to pass, and as there are no Indian huts by the way, his party had to carry their own provisions with them, and find resting places in the best way they could. The perils and fatigue that he underwent were, however, amply repaid by the beauty of the landscape.

After sailing and advancing for some time, Mr. Waterton reached the confines of the Macoushi country,—the land of the most beautiful paroquets, the crystal mountains, the caoutchauc or India-rubber tree, the cock of the rock, and the wourali poison.

He came to a settlement of the Indians: they had but one gun, and that was out of order and rusty; but their poisoned weapons were in the finest order. The pipes from which the darts are blown, were suspended from the roof of the hut by cords of silk grass, and seemed to be in constant use. The quivers were, beside, well stored with poisoned arrows; and it was with the greatest difficulty that the Indians could be prevailed upon to part with any of the wourali, which they said was powder and shot to them, and could not be procured without great difficulty.

Two days' journey above this settlement, the Indians showed Mr. Waterton the place where a white man once had lived :—He had been unfortunate in his speculations, and not very well treated by those to whom he was indebted; and so he had sought an asylum from his cares and his creditors, in the depth of an Indian forest.

About four days' journey from this place, the elder geographers placed the Lake of Parima, or the White Sea of America. Mr. Waterton inquired concerning it, and an old Indian informed him that there was such a place, and the water was fresh and good to drink; but as another Indian added that ships came to it, these hoaxing savages failed to impose upon our traveller.

These Indians are, according to Mr. Waterton, fond of misleading those who ask many questions about the interior; and though they do not talk of

“ Men

Whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders,”

they tell of a nation of Indians, with long tails, who are so very malicious and ill-natured, that the Brazilians have been obliged to stop them off. They have a river story, too, the counterpart of that of the “ Old man of the Sea.” When a horrible beast, called the Water-mamma, takes a spite against a canoe, it rises to the surface, catches hold of the canoe, Indians and all, and, diving with them, devours the whole at its leisure, at the bottom of the river.

Sometimes they manage to play off more practical, and, to themselves, more profitable hoaxes. A savage came down the Essequibo in great state, represented himself as the monarch of a mighty tribe, treated the government of Demerara with princely contempt, got large supplies, and was invited back the next year for more. He came, and his boastings about the length of his country and the extent of his dominions, were so loud and so confident, that the government sent out a deputation to meet their princely ally. When the deputation arrived at the expected capital, and the kingdom of the monarch, they found the palace a solitary hut, the monarch a needy savage, the heir-apparent with nothing to inherit but his father's club and arrows, and all was poor and desolate in the extreme.

As Mr. Waterton ascended the river, the evidences of population did not increase, and he had no reason to conclude that the Indians are numerous in any part of the interior of Guiana. Two days after leaving the late residence of the white man, he came to the limit of the river navigation. There is a creek on the left, and a passage to the open country. The canoe was dragged into the wood and left there; the creek was passed by a mora tree, which had most accommodately fallen and formed into a bridge; and after a walk of an hour and a half, a savanna opened to the view. It was extensive, it was beautiful, it was delightful. The ground was neither a dull flat, nor too irregular; it rose into

graceful swells, with a few clumps of trees, and in the distance some parts of it seemed fenced in with dark rocks as with a wall. To the northward, the forest formed a circle; to the eastward, it hung in festoons; and to the south and west, it was varied and broken, and disclosed new scenes through the openings.

There were no sand flies or musquitos, or any of the annoying insects of the coast; the fire flies spangled the earth, as if it had been a reflection of the heavens in a placid lake; the air was pure, and there blew a refreshing gale during all the day. Many beautiful, aromatic, and balsam bearing trees were found; and in the centre of this delightful plain, upon the summit of a little rising ground, the Indians had founded a settlement.

Mr. Waterton proceeded southward from this beautiful place; and for the whole day, he found the country uninhabited, and the path but indifferent. At night he slept in the forest. Next day the path became more rugged, lying across steep hills covered with stones. After a fatiguing journey of eight hours, he came to one cluster of Indian huts, and soon after that to another, at which he passed the night. Their situation on the edge of a savanna was pleasant; but towards the south-west, the wood began to disappear from the hills.

Next morning, he pursued his journey across a

long and swampy savanna, the hills around had a singularly diversified appearance; some of them were covered with large stones and coarse grass, others wooded, some again were wooded on the top and naked at the base, and others were naked on the top and wooded at the base. For half the day, our traveller had to wade nearly up to his knees in water; and though he saw the jabiru, the largest bird of Guiana, in this marsh, he could not get within shot of it.

He had again to sleep in the forest, but arrived at an Indian settlement early in the morning; and pursued his journey, walking alternately over many savannas, and hills covered with sharp stones. The whole country, for two days, had been barren and desolate, and in the whole extent of it he did not see the foot-print of a single quadruped; and had it not been for the jabiru in the marsh, and some vultures in the mountains, the place would have seemed destitute of animal life; but wherever there was a clump of wood in a low situation, arrow root seemed to be had in the greatest plenty.

The flood on the plain rendering it impossible to pass directly to the Brazilian frontier, Mr. Waterton was obliged to bend his course westward, along by the base of the mountains. There were several Indian settlements here, and the scenery was very beautiful. On the one hand were mountains which rose in fantastic clusters, and on the other a plain, which appeared to

stretch beyond the horizon, while the trees by the side of the rivulet were of the most giant magnitude. A creek, which ran wide and deep, and had steep banks, came in the way, and there were no permanent means of crossing, nor any materials of which to make temporary ones. Mr. Waterton made a raft of boughs of trees and long grass, for the conveyance of his luggage, and swammed across himself, but the labour consumed the greater part of the day.

The fording of this creek is very dangerous, on account of the alligators, and he did not attempt it till he had with a long stick tried the bank for half a mile each way. This being done, the boldest of the party dashed across, tried the other bank with the long stick, and then the rest followed. A few deer were observed at this place, and there were many birds: Toucans of the largest size, Muscovy ducks, egrets, jabirus, plovers and curlews. On those parts of the plain which are secure from inundations, ants' nests are very numerous. They rise to the height of almost ten feet, are impervious to the rain, and can resist the most powerful tornado.

No Indian huts being between this place and the Portuguese frontier, it is usual to dispatch an Indian with a letter and wait his return; but fortunately for Mr. Waterton, the governor of the fort had sent some soldiers and Indians near to this settlement, to build a canoe, and some of them had not left the neighbour-

hood. The soldier who commanded the party, refused to conduct them to the fort; but he hinted, that as there were two canoes, the letter could be forwarded by the one, and they could follow slowly in the other. Here they passed from one river to another; and after four days, the messenger who had been sent with the letter to Fort St. Joachim, returned, with the Governor's regret, that he could not allow a stranger to cross the frontier, but he appointed an interview with Mr. Waterton at a place at some little distance.

Here Mr. Waterton fell sick, and despatched another messenger to the fort, to inform the Governor; and the next morning that officer made his appearance. The sight of the sick traveller induced the Governor to relax his orders, and he carried Mr. Waterton with him to the fort, where, though there was no surgeon, kind treatment subdued the disease in six days.

Enquiring of the Governor if there were any such places as Lake Parima and El Dorado, Mr. Waterton was assured, that though that officer had been forty years in the country, he had never met with any person who had seen the lake. Having now traversed the Macoushi country, to the Portuguese frontier, and collected a quantity of the wourali poison, the grand objects of this part of his wandering were accomplished.

Wishing to obtain the best information respecting the nature and composition of the wourali poison, Mr. Waterton took a long and perilous journey of one hundred and twenty days, into the Macoushi country, and he gives the following account of the preparation of the fatal drug.

A day or two before the Macoushi Indian prepares his poison, he goes into the forest in quest of the ingredients. A vine grows in their wilds, which is called wourali. This is the principal ingredient in the poison. When he has procured enough of that, he digs up a root of a very bitter taste, ties them together, and then looks about for two kinds of bulbous plants, that contain a green and glutinous juice. He fills a little quack, which he carries on his back, with the stalks of these; and lastly, ranges up and down till he finds two species of ants. One of them is very large and black, and so venomous that its sting produces fever; it is commonly found on the ground. The other is a little red ant, which stings like a nettle, and generally has its nest under the leaf of a shrub. After obtaining these, he has no more need to range the forest.

A quantity of the strongest Indian pepper is used; but that he has already planted round his hut. The powdered fangs of the libarri and counacouchi snakes are added. These he commonly has in store; for

when he kills a snake, he generally extracts the fangs and keeps them by him.

Having thus found the necessary ingredients, he scrapes the wourali and the bitter root into thin shavings, and puts them into a kind of colander, made of leaves; this he holds over an earthen pot, and pours water over the shavings; the liquor which comes through has the appearance of coffee. When a sufficient quantity has been procured, the shavings are thrown aside. He then bruises the bulbous stalks, and squeezes a proportionate quantity of their juice through his hands into the pot. Lastly, the snakes' fangs, ants, and pepper, are thrown into it. It is then placed upon a slow fire, and as it boils, more of the juice of the wourali is added, according as it may be found necessary, and the scum is taken off with a leaf. It remains on the fire till reduced to a thick substance, of a dark brown colour. As soon as it has arrived at this state, a few arrows are poisoned with it, to try its strength. If it answers the expectations, it is poured into a calabash, or little pot, of Indian manufacture, which is carefully covered with a couple of leaves, and over them a piece of deer's skin, tied round with a cord. They keep it in the driest part of the hut; and from time to time suspend it over the fire to counteract the dampness.

The preparation of this, which bears no small resemblance to the witches cauldron in Macbeth, is performed with some solemn rules and incantations.

The women and young girls are not allowed to be present, lest the Yabahou, or evil spirit, should do them harm.

The shed under which it is baked, is pronounced polluted, and abandoned ever after. He who makes the poison must eat nothing that morning, and must continue to fast while the operation lasts. The pot in which it is boiled must be a new one, and must never have held anything before, otherwise the poison will be deficient in strength: add to this, that the operator must take particular care not to expose himself to the vapour which arises from it while on the fire. Though this and other precautions be taken, such as frequently washing the face and hands, still the Indians think that it affects their health; and the operator either is, or what is more probable, supposes himself to be, sick for some days after.

It is quite natural that an ignorant people should attach a mysterious gloom to the manufacture of so fatal a poison, and they imagine that it affects others, as well as the maker. An Indian who had promised to make some for Mr. Waterton, refused, because his wife was with child.

This poison is used upon arrows, which are blown from a tube by the breath. The tube is a hollow reed, which grows on the wilds between the Macoushi country and the Rio Negro.

As used by the Indians, it is about ten or eleven feet

long, without any taper or joint. This tube, which is of a fine yellow colour, the Indians call the Ourah. It is too slender for the tube, but it is cased in a species of palm, which is brown, has joints about six inches asunder, and admits of a fine polish. It is called Samourah (the covering of the Ourah); and the pulp is extracted by immersion in water. The mouth end is bound round with silk grass to prevent splitting, and on the other end, the seed of the *acuero* fruit perforated is put, by way of a ferule.

The arrow is made of the leaf of a species of palm-tree. It is about nine inches long, hard and brittle, and pointed very sharp. The other end is burnt to make it still harder, and bound round with wild cotton, till it fits the hollow of the tube. About an inch of the point of the arrow is poisoned. The quiver is ingeniously made of basket work, waxed and covered with the skin of a tapir, and will contain 500 or 600 arrows. Attached to the quiver, there is a little basket for holding the wild cotton.

Thus armed, the Indian sallies into the woods, in quest of game. The birds are often higher on the trees than he can send his arrow with certainty, which is about one hundred yards, so that he has recourse to stratagems, such as imitating their cries, to draw the birds within his reach. When within reach, the aim is so sure, that the prey is seldom missed. Sometimes the wounded bird remains on the tree where it was

shot, until it drops down; at other times it flies off. In about three minutes it is seized with convulsions, and soon after it dies. The flesh of the game is not in the least injured by the wourali.

When the object is to kill quadrupeds, a bow is substituted for the blow pipe. The arrow for this is made of a straight reed, about four or five feet long, with a piece of hard wood on the head, which covers a spike of the palm leaf, poisoned as in the former case. These spikes are about six inches long, and they are notched near their insertion into the arrow, so that the spike may remain in the wounded animal, while the arrow drops off and is recovered.

As Mr. Waterton and his party were crossing the woods from the Essequibo to the Demerara, they fell upon a herd of wild hogs; an Indian let fly an arrow, and the hog was found dead at the distance of 170 yards.

A sloth wounded with the poison, appeared to die without any symptom of pain; an ox staggered, and was convulsed, and died in five-and-twenty minutes. The Indians said, that immersion in water, and anointing with the juice of the sugar cane, were specifics against the fatal effects of the poison; but Mr. Waterton is sceptical upon that point.

The fever which Mr. Waterton had at fort St. Joachim returned, and finding that he had little chance of regaining his health in that wild country, he made his

way back to Demerara, descended the falls of the Essequibo in his canoe; reached Demerara; had the fever again; sailed for Grenada, St. Thomas's, and finally, for England, where he made some experiments with the wourali, the effects of which were partially prevented by keeping the lungs of the wounded animal inflated.

SECOND WANDERING,

BRAZIL, GUIANA, 1816.

In March, 1816, Mr. Waterton sailed from Liverpool, and after being visited by divers, gannets, gulls, Mother Carey's chickens (stormy petrels), flying-fish, and other animals, according to the weather or the latitude, reached the north coast of Brazil in safety, and entered the bay of Pernambuco. The harbour is protected by a reef of rocks; the hill of Olinda on the right, is studded with houses and convents, and there is an island covered with cocoa-nut trees on the left. The town contains fifty thousand inhabitants, is built

on an island, a peninsula, and a plain; and though rendered healthy, and almost temperate by the sea breezes, it is ill built and dirty. The harbour was full of ships, however, and there were all the indications of an active trade. The environs are beautiful; the woods consisting of the finest trees, tenanted by birds of the most exquisite plumage, and the clearest notes. After collecting some of the finest specimens, Mr. Waterton sailed in a Portuguese brig, with none of the best accommodation, for Cayenne, in Guiana, which he reached in fourteen days.

The entrance is beautiful. Wooded islands adorn the shore, hills verdant with foliage rise on the mainland, many trees grow in the vicinity; but the town was in a decayed state. The national plantation of La Gabrielle is about a day's journey into the interior, on which, among other choice trees, there are twenty-two thousand cloves in full bearing. The black pepper, the cinnamon, and the nutmeg, also grow in great abundance here; and when the clove trees are in blossom, no finer perfume can be imagined than that of the plantation of La Gabrielle. Attached to the plantation there is a nursery house, where plants are distributed gratis to the colonists.

Leaving Cayenne, Mr. Waterton proceeded past Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam, then the finest town in Guiana, and new Amsterdam, the capital of Berbice, much decayed; and at last came to the

river Demerara, and Stabroek, the capital of that colony.

Our traveller had originally proposed to take a very different route—to ascend the Amazon to the junction of the Negro; and then to proceed to the sources of the Essequibo, to seek once more for the mountains of crystal, the lake of Parima, and the city of El Dorado, but the current at the mouth of the Amazon was so strong, that it forbade his entrance. Demerara was then thriving: the current year they made forty-four million pounds of sugar, two million gallons of rum, eleven million pounds of coffee, and nearly four million pounds of cotton.

Leaving the inhabitants of Stabroek, Mr. Waterton returned once more into his favourite woods, in order to make collections of their natural history.

The appointments requisite for one who wishes to explore the woods of Guiana, are not many. A painted sheet, twelve feet by ten, to suspend from the trees as a roof, and protection against the rains by day or the dews of night. This, with a hammock forms the whole furniture, and a hat, a shirt, and thin trowsers, all the clothing. The Indians find food for the inexperienced, and one accustomed to the forest finds it for himself.

From animals there is little danger, the tigers are few, and do not attack man; neither do the snakes use their venom unless they be disturbed; and though many of the insects be troublesome, all that they occasion is a temporary annoyance.

In the remote parts of the forest, there are not many birds, these being chiefly found in the open places about the banks of the rivers, the margins of savannas, and the deserted settlements upon which the wood has not recovered its former luxuriance.

First in the class of beauty, Mr. Waterton places the *humming birds*, which are the same in Demerara and Cayenne. "It," says he, "may truly be called the bird of paradise; and had it existed in the old world, it would have claimed the title instead of the bird which now has the honour to bear it:—see it starting through the air almost as quick as thought!—now it is within a yard of your face!—in an instant it is gone!—now it flutters from flower to flower, to sip the silver dew: it is now a ruby—now a topaz—now an emerald—now all burnished gold!"

The blue and green, and the brown—the smallest of birds—not larger than a bee, constantly glitter before you. The largest, of red and changing gold-green, with a black head, does not shew his beauties to the sun. He makes his appearance in the morning twilight, goes to his retreat at sunrise, and does not leave it till the sun has set. Mr. Waterton is of opinion that the humming birds feed upon insects, as they flutter about the plains at the time when insects are much upon them, and he has found insects in their stomachs upon dissection.

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The *Cotingas* are rich in beauty. There are five

species of them to be met with between the coast and the rock Saba.

The scarlet is the richest. He is found in the very depth of the forest. His head is glowing red, his neck brown, his back and tail of a lively red, the feathers of the back tipped with black, the belly light red, the breast black, and the wings brown. He has no song, and his nest has not been met with. The purple-breasted cotinga has the throat and breast of dark purple, the rest of the body of most beautiful blue, and the wings and tail black.

The purple-throated is like the last, except that the purple is confined to the throat.

The pompadour is wholly furnished with white wings, the first four feathers of which are tipped with brown.

The *campanero*, or bell-bird, is very curious. He is about the size of a jay, and all over as white as snow. From his forehead there rises a spiral tube nearly three inches long, jet black and covered over with small white feathers. This tube has a communication with the throat, and can be inflated with air at the pleasure of the bird. His note is exactly like the toll of a bell, and so loud and clear that it may be heard at the distance of three miles. In the depth of the forest, the tolling of the *campanero* has a very singular effect. It sounds through the forest in the deepest silence of the night: three tolls at minute time, a pause of about double the length, and he tolls again.

In point of form, the *toucan* is the most singular. There are three species in Demerara, and three dwarf species, which Mr. Waterton calls *toucanettes*.

The largest species of toucan frequents the mangrove trees on the sea coast, and not met with again till the Macoushi country be arrived at. The other two species are very common, and to the largest of them the Indians apply the very characteristic appellation of the "nose-bird." They are noisy; but though they belong to the order of *picæ*, they are not in any respect birds of prey. They build their nests in hollow trees, and though like the magpies, they occasionally visit each other, they are not gregarious. The bill of the toucan, which is as large as the body of it, is singularly beautiful in its colours, being coloured red, yellow, blue, and black, of bright lustre, and disposed in a very regular manner. Mr. Waterton mentions that these colours are not met with in museums, because the usual preparers of birds do not remove a membrane which lines the bill, and which turns black as it dies. He recommends that this membrane should be carefully removed; that the blue streaks which then become transparent, should be painted inside; then that the inside of the whole should be coated with a paste of chalk, gum arabic and water; and the colours will remain as brilliant as in the living bird.

The *houtou* is a beautiful bird. Green all over, with an inclination to blue, in the wings and tail. He has

a moveable crest, black in the centre, and edged with blue, and a tuft of nine feathers of the same colours on his breast. The houtou plays the barber by trimming and culling the feathers of his tail with his crooked beak. He lives in the remote part of the forest, makes his nest in the mud, and the note which he pronounces is its name.

The *Guiana jay* also inhabits the retirements of the forests. Its forehead is black, the rest of the head white, the throat and breast like a magpie, the back, wings and tail (except the extremity), of a brownish purple, and the belly and tip of the tail white. They are chatting birds, and generally found in companies of eight or ten.

The *boclora*, about the size of a pigeon, and belonging to the same family, is blue on the head and breast, has a naked curvature of about half an inch, round the neck, the belly is yellow, and the back and rump of the colour of the peacock's neck. Its mandibles are furnished with bristles, and it feeds on insects. Its note is single and melancholy. It is met with at all seasons, seems heedless of danger, and is easily got.

The *cuia* resembles the last bird in its habits, but it is larger; and its upper part is green, with a black line down the middle, and its under part vermillion.

The *rice-bird*, about the size of a jackdaw, is wholly black. He frequents the plantations, and has no note.

The habits of the *cassique* are singular. He goes to

the woods to feed, and returns to the habitations of men, as if to enjoy their society. He is about the size of a starling; and he imitates not only the notes of birds, but the cries of animals. The shape of his body is elegant, and the colours are bright yellow and black. There are several species, and they all suspend their nests from the branches of trees. Amongst the colonists he is called the mocking-bird.

Woodpeckers are numerous in the woods of Guiana, and, as in other countries, help to preserve the trees, by destroying the insects.

There are six species of king's-fisher, but not one of them so beautiful in its plumage as the king's-fisher of England.

The *jacaimar* has a bill like a king's-fisher, but it feeds upon insects. There are four species, all beautiful. The largest is rich blue, and golden green. The others have all some resemblance to it. These birds have no song.

The *troupiate* is found in the interior. The form is handsome, its colours orange and black, and its notes so sweet and plaintive, that it is called the Guiana nightingale. In a cage they soon languish and die; and though they can be familiarised, and live in the house without a cage, they do not live long. There are two other species in the woods nearer the creek, but their song, though fine, is not so exquisite; a fourth species still superior, frequent the fields, and feed on the Indian corn.

Of the *tangara*, which resembles the emmet, there are many species, they all inhabit the woods, and do not approach the plantations.

There are several species of *manikins*, some of them of fine plumage—they feed upon the wild figs. The yawaraciri feed on the same trees with the manikins; they are mostly black and yellow, though some species are blue. They are very small birds.

Parrots and parroquets are very numerous. The *hia-hia*, or parrot of the sun, has the head white, the upper part of the body, the wings and the tail green, and the belly tartan. He has a fine collar of tartan feathers round his neck (save the throat), which he can erect round his head at pleasure.

The *ara* is the most beautiful parrot in South America. His body is of the brightest scarlet; his wings, the most beautiful mixture of red, yellow, blue, and green, and his long tail is scarlet and blue. The finest aras are very plentiful in the Macoushi country, where the Indians shoot them for food; they are easily tamed and taught to speak tolerably. There is another aras in the low lands of Demerara, about the same size, but very inferior in colours.

In the swampy places, there are numerous bitterns, water-hens, herons, and ducks, and on the savannas the snow-white egret is met with.

The goat-suckers come abroad in the evening, and break the silence with their singular cries. These

birds, instead of sucking goats, or any other quadrupeds, merely catch the flies that annoy them. These birds of night, have mostly the mottled plumage of the owl; and it is they who call "Willy—come—go," "whip—poor—Will," "who—are—you?" and the other singular sounds that met the ears of Mr. Waterton, in his nightly rambles in the forest. The Indians and negroes consider them as birds of omen, under the influence of evil spirits, and therefore they will not kill them.

Birds of prey—eagles, falcons, hawks, shrikes, and vultures, are very numerous; and one, the king of the vultures, is very handsome. There are also many species of owls, pigeons, and water-fowl; and after the labour that he underwent, and the collection that he made, Mr. Waterton says, that the fruits of his labours are but "as a few grains from an immense granary."

Nor is the exploring of this singular country, according to his account, attended with any danger. In the proper season the climate is far from unhealthy, and the thick twining plants shade the traveller from the sun: the Indians are peaceably and even kindly disposed; and there is no animal of which (always with due care not to annoy the more formidable snakes, or go into the water where you may be snapped up by the cayman) a man needs to be afraid.

"The youth," says Mr. Waterton, "who goes into the lobby of Drury-Lane theatre, after leaving the table sacred to the god of wine, is exposed to more certain

ruin, sickness, and decay, than he who wanders a whole year in the wilds of Demerara. But this will never be believed, because the disasters arising from dissipation are so common and frequent in civilised life, that man becomes quite habituated to them, and sees daily, victims sink into the tomb long before their time, without ever once taking alarm at the causes which precipitated them into it."

No doubt the wilds of Demerara may be better than the lobbies of Drury-Lane; and indeed it would be difficult to find any place that is worse; but as our traveller now and then had ague and fever, that is no absolute proof of salubrity.

After spending six months in the forests, on this his second journey, Mr. Waterton returned to England; the journey, or at least his account of it, being a description of acquisitions, and not of adventures.

THIRD JOURNEY.

1820.

NEITHER home nor a trip across the Alps and Apennines, could wholly wean the affections of Mr. Waterton from the tangled wilds of Guiana, and their sin-

gular productions and inhabitants; nor could he be awed from his purpose by the yellow fever, which was at that time making fearful ravages among the population of Demerara. Accordingly, he sailed from the Clyde, in February, 1820; and, after encountering some rough weather in the early part of the voyage, he arrived safely in the river of Demerara. The appearance of the place was changed very much for the worse. "The yellow fever had swept off numbers of the old inhabitants, and the mortal remains of many a new comer were daily passing down the streets, in slow and mute procession, to their last resting place."

After remaining a few days in the town, Mr. Waterton proceeded up the river, to the former habitation of his friend, Mr. Edmonstone. It, too, was deserted, and in ruins; and, with the exception of a few fruit trees, the wilderness had nearly recovered its ancient sway.

Mr. Waterton hired a few negroes, to repair the house; and the frogs, snakes, and owls, which had taken possession of the deserted tenement were ejected, to make room for more rare and curious specimens of natural history.

Having converted these ruins into a temporary head quarters, and instructed a man of colour in the mystery of preparing and stuffing birds, in such a manner as to give them their natural appearance and air, and preserve them from decay, he equipped himself for his

operations in the forest. His wardrobe was of the most simple kind—a thin flannel under-waistcoat, a check shirt, and a hat, but without any shoes and stockings, which would have encumbered him in the dry season, and annoyed him with damp in the wet. Of food he partook but moderately, and from spirituous and fermented liquors, he carefully abstained. To the latter circumstance he attributed the preservation of his health, under circumstances, which, to say the least of them, were far from being healthful. Even this, however, was not sufficient to protect our traveller entirely from the pestilent miasmata of those reeking marshes with which the wide and wild forests of Guiana are studded.

In June, when the sun was near the solstice, there had been a tremendous fall of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and the evaporation was so great, that for days the adventurous traveller was in what might, without any impropriety, be called a vapour bath. For some days he felt the greatest lassitude and weariness, and yet could not sleep. About midnight one night, he was roused out of his slumber by having thirst, head ache, and pain in his back; and, though he dozed again, he was ever and anon startled with terrific dreams. When the return of the bats to the thatch over his hammock gave notice that sun-rise was near, he rose, and took a copious dose of calomel and julap, and at five o'clock, as his pulse had

reached 130, and was continuing to rise, he opened a vein, and lost sixteen ounces of blood. That lowered the pulse for the time, but it rose again during the night. This led him to have recourse again to the calomel; and in the afternoon the fever abated, and a copious perspiration came on. After this, castor oil, and then bark, restored Mr. Waterton to health. This was Mr. Waterton's course of internal medicine against the fever: and when he wounded his bare feet upon the spikes of hard wood, which he could not always avoid treading upon in the forest, the best cataplasm that he found was the droppings of a cow.

The grand object of Mr. Waterton, was to supply a desideratum in preserved specimens of natural history, which he and Sir Joseph Banks had felt and regretted together, without, at the time, seeing any means of supplying it; and that was, having the lips and snouts entire in the specimens, instead of having "Supplemental and Taliscotian," made of wax, as by that means the character and disposition of the animal could be given, as well as the mere form. The details of this improved mode, however, the traveller leaves to be narrated in his fourth journey; and faithful abstraction demands that the same order should be followed here.

Mr. Waterton very justly attributes the faults which are apparent in the exhibited species of the animals of countries not often visited, as well as the faults in the descriptions of naturalists, to their not being familiar

with the appearance and habits of the animal, in its native locality. There can be no doubt of the truth of this; and Mr. Waterton gives an instance in the sloth, so much to the purpose, that it would be doing him injustice not to quote his own words.

"This singular animal," says Mr. W., "is destined by nature to be produced, and live and die in trees; and to do justice to him, naturalists must examine him in this his upper element. He is a scarce and solitary animal, and being good food, he is never allowed to escape. He inhabits remote and gloomy forests, where snakes take up their abode, and where cruelly stinging ants and scorpions, and swamps, and innumerable thorny shrubs and bushes, obstruct the steps of civilized man. Were you to draw your own conclusions from the descriptions that have been given of the sloth, you would probably suspect that no naturalist had actually gone into the woods with the fixed determination to find him out, and examine his haunts, and see whether nature had committed any blunder in the formation of this extraordinary creature, which appears to us so forlorn and miserable, so ill put together, and so totally unfit to enjoy the blessings that have been so bountifully given to the rest of animal nature; for he has no soles to his feet, is evidently ill at ease when he tries to move on the ground, and it is then that he looks up at you with a countenance that says, 'have pity on me, for I am in pain and sorrow.'

“It mostly happens that the Indians and negroes are the people that catch the sloth, and bring it to the white man; hence it may be conjectured that the erroneous accounts we have hitherto had of the sloth, have not been penned down with the slightest intention to mislead the reader, or give him an exaggerated history, but that these errors have naturally arisen by examining the sloth in those places where nature never intended that he should be exhibited.

“Man but little frequents these thick and noble forests, which extend far and wide on every side of us. This, then, is the proper place to go in quest of the sloth. We will first take a near view of him. By obtaining a knowledge of his anatomy, we shall be enabled to account for his movements hereafter, when we see him in his proper haunts. His fore legs, or, more correctly speaking, his arms, are apparently much too long, while his hind legs are very short, and look as if they could be bent almost to the shape of a corkscrew. Both the fore and hind legs, by their form, and by the manner in which they are joined to the body, are quite incapacitated from acting in a perpendicular direction, or in supporting it on the earth, as the bodies of other quadrupeds are supported, by their legs. Hence, when you place him on the floor, his belly touches the ground. Now, granted, that he supported himself on his legs like other animals, nevertheless he would be in pain, for he has no soles to his feet, and his claws are very

sharp and long, and curved; so short, were his body supported by his feet, it would be by their extremities, just as your body would be were you to throw yourself on all fours, and try to support it on the ends of your toes and fingers—a trying position. Were the floor of glass, or of a polished surface, the sloth would actually be quite stationary; but as the ground is generally rough, with little protuberances upon it, such as stones, or roots of grass, &c., this just suits the sloth, and he moves his fore legs in all directions, in order to find something to lay hold of; and when he has succeeded, he pulls himself forward, and is thus enabled to travel onwards, but at the same time in so tardy and awkward a manner, as to acquire him the name of sloth.

“Indeed his looks and his gestures evidently betray his uncomfortable situation; and as a sigh every now then escapes him, we may be entitled to conclude that he is actually in pain.

“Some years ago I kept a sloth in my room for several months. I often took him out of the house, and placed him upon the ground, in order to have an opportunity of observing his motions. If the ground were rough, he would pull himself forwards, by means of his fore legs, at a pretty good pace; and he invariably shaped his course towards the nearest tree. But if I put him upon a smooth and well trodden part of the road, he appeared to be in trouble and distress: his favourite abode was the back of a chair; and after getting all

his legs in a line upon the topmost part of it, he would hang there for hours together, and often, with a low and inward cry, would seem to invite me to take notice of him.

“ The sloth, in its wild state, spends its whole life in the trees, and never leaves them but through force, or by accident. An all-ruling Providence has ordered man to tread on the surface of the earth, the eagle to soar in the expanse of the skies, and the monkey and squirrel to inhabit the trees : still these may change their relative situations without feeling much inconvenience : but the sloth is doomed to spend his whole life in the trees ; and, what is more extraordinary, not *upon* the branches, like the squirrel and the monkey, but *under* them. He moves suspended from the branch, he rests suspended from it. To enable him to do this, he must have a very different formation from that of any other known quadruped.

“ Hence his seemingly bungled conformation is at once accounted for ; and in lieu of the sloth leading a painful life, and entailing a melancholy and miserable existence on its progeny, it is but fair to surmise that it just enjoys life as much as any other animal, and that its extraordinary formation and singular habits, are but further proofs to engage us to admire the wonderful works of Omnipotence.

“ It must be observed, that the sloth does not hang head downwards like the vampire. When asleep, he

supports himself from a branch parallel to the earth. He first seizes the branch with one arm, and then with the other; and after that, brings up both his legs, one by one, to the same branch; so that all four are in a line; he seems perfectly at rest in this position. Now, had he a tail, he would be at a loss to know what to do with it in this position: were he to draw it up within his legs, it would interfere with them; and were he to let it hang down, it would become the sport of the winds. Thus his deficiency of tail is a benefit to him; it is merely an apology for a tail, scarcely exceeding an inch and a half in length.

"I observed, when he was climbing, he never used his arms both together, but first one and then the other, and so on alternately. There is a singularity in his hair, different from that of all other animals, and, I believe, hitherto unnoticed by naturalists; his hair is thick and coarse at the extremity, and gradually tapers to the root, where it becomes fine as the finest spider's web. The fur has so much the hue of the moss which grows on the branches of the trees, that it is very difficult to make him out when he is at rest.

"The male of the three-toed sloth has a longitudinal bar of very fine black hair on his back, rather lower than the shoulder blades; on each side of this black bar there is a space of yellow hair, equally fine; it has the appearance of being pressed into the body, and looks exactly as if it had been singed. If we examine

the anatomy of his fore legs, we shall immediately perceive by their form and muscular texture, how very capable they are of supporting the pendant weight of his body, both in climbing and at rest ; and instead of pronouncing them a bungled composition, as a celebrated naturalist has done, we shall consider them as remarkably well calculated to perform their extraordinary functions.

“ As the sloth is an inhabitant of forests within the tropics, where the trees touch each other in the greatest profusion, there seems to be no reason why he should confine himself to one tree alone for food, and entirely strip it of its leaves. During the many years I have ranged the forests, I have never seen a tree in such a state of nudity ; indeed, I would hazard a conjecture, that by the time the animal had finished the last of the old leaves, there would be a new crop on the part of the tree he had stripped first, ready for him to begin again, so quick is the process of vegetation in these countries.

“ There is a saying amongst the Indians, that when the wind blows, the sloth begins to travel. In calm weather he remains tranquil, probably not liking to cling to the brittle extremity of the branches, lest they should break with him in passing from one tree to another ; but as soon as the wind rises, the branches of the neighbouring trees become interwoven, and then the sloth seizes hold of them, and pursues his journey in safety. There is seldom an entire day of calm in these forests. The

trade-wind generally sets in about ten o'clock in the morning, and thus the sloth may set off after breakfast, and get a considerable way before dinner. He travels at a good round pace; and were you to see him pass from tree to tree, as I have done, you would never think of calling him a sloth.

"Thus it would appear that the different histories we have of this quadruped are erroneous on two accounts: first, that the writers of them, deterred by difficulties and local annoyances, have not paid sufficient attention to him in his native haunts; and secondly, they have described him in a situation in which he was never intended by nature to cut a figure; I mean on the ground. The sloth is as much at a loss to proceed on his journey upon a smooth and level floor, as a man would be who had to walk a mile in stilts upon a line of feather beds."

The ants in the woods of Guiana are equally remarkable for their numbers, and the skill with which they adapt their habitations to the place. During the rainy season, the earth would not of course do for their nests, because the water would fill them, and so they make their nests on the branches of trees. Some of them have a covered way from the ground to the nest, and others have not; of the latter, Mr. Waterton says that he has seen a string a mile long, each carrying a green leaf the size of sixpence.

These ants have their destroyers in three species of

ant bear, one the size of a rat, another that of a fox, and the third a very powerful animal, about six feet long. He is inoffensive, however, and attacks nothing but his insect prey; but he can resist the most powerful of his neighbours in the forest. He is without teeth, but his fore paws are of very great strength, and armed with three very terrible claws; with these he grapples any animal that ventures to attack him, and hugs him till it be dead. As he makes excellent food, and is slow in his motions, the Indians eagerly and easily shoot him with their poisoned arrows, but they, knowing the danger of his embrace, are careful not to approach him until he be quite dead.

The open texture of the roof of Mr. Waterton's hut, gave him an excellent opportunity of watching the conduct of the great vampire. Besides the blood in which he is so adroit in sucking, he feeds upon several kinds of fruit, the banana, a green fruit like a wild quince, and either the young fruit of the sawarri, or the insects upon the flowers. The large vampire draws the blood of men and quadrupeds, and the small one that of birds; and far up the river Demerara, fowls cannot be profitably kept, on account of the leech-craft of the latter.

One night Mr. Waterton and a Scotch gentleman suspended their hammocks in a thatched shed on the banks of the Panmaron, and just as our traveller expected that his companion was to say his morning

prayers, he began to swear. The vampire had been sucking his toe, and the hammock was drenched with blood. The same fellow traveller seems to have been the victim of disasters. The counshie ant, or ranger, is an insect of a red colour; immense masses of them perambulate the country, and eat up all the insects that they can find. Their line of march lay by the plantation at Paumaron; and the Scotchman, placing his rude seat of 'honour upon their column in the dark, was tremendously bitten, and roared out in agony. Mr. Waterton was fortunate enough to escape the arms of the rangers, as he did not annoy them, and as they are never the first to attack; and he also escaped the phlebotomy of the vampire, though he had it nightly in his apartment, and gave it every encouragement, by sleeping with his foot out of bed.

Mr. Waterton found no difficult matter in procuring as many armadilloes and land tortoises as ever he had a mind; but the cayman, or alligator, of these parts, being in another element, and much more formidable, was not every where to be come at. In the Mibiri creek, he had observed one about five feet long, and it had been near the same place for several months; but it seemed to be acquainted with fire arms, and dived the moment the trigger was drawn. Mr. Waterton was not to be foiled however, and so he got an Indian with his bow and arrow, armed with the fatal wourali. Drifting



past the cayman in their canoe, the Indian let fly, hit him in the eye, and sealed it for ever. This was a joyous event for Daddy Quashi, an old negro, who fed upon the fresh cayman as long as possible, and then salted the remainder.

In traversing the forest, Mr. Waterton found a considerable deal of annoyance from the wasps. Their nests are suspended from the branches and leaves of the trees; and if the traveller happens to touch the castle, out sally the garrison and sting him very severely. The Indians deal with them after a different fashion: they kindle a fire below the nest; and, cooking the inhabitants in their home, make a meal of their young.

Mr. Waterton acquired great skill in walking amid ravenous beasts and poisonous snakes; and from his account, one would be led to suppose that he had formed a treaty of amity with these tyrants of the forest. If the jaguar be approached so rapidly that he has reason to believe the visit is hostile, he springs, and knocks the intruder down with his paw; but if you approach him calmly and gently, the probability is, that he walks away. Just so the labarri snake. His poison is deadly, and if you come upon him with that haste which indicates hostility, he uses it; but not so if you go gently. Mr. Waterton often approached within two yards of him, and though he kept an eye upon the motions of the traveller, he did not attack. He might even be touched with impunity: Mr. Waterton sometimes took

a stick about ten feet long, and placed it on his back, and he glided away without seeming to feel the insult. When, however, the stick was put on his head, he resented by biting, not the traveller, but the stick.

Finding that he could thus approach this formidable reptile with impunity, Mr. Waterton waxed bold, and resolved to take one alive, for the purpose of more completely examining his poisoning apparatus. He found one about eight feet long, and caught him by the neck, so near to the jaw, that he could not open his mouth to bite. Pressing a bit of stick against the fang, there exuded from an aperture on the convex side near the point, a thick yellow liquor, which is the poison. It did not appear that this poison, so fatal to other animals, had the same effect upon the reptile himself. Mr. Waterton caught a fine one, and caused it to bite itself; after a few minutes it became dull and heavy, but at the end of half an hour it was as brisk as ever.

These powerful animals are not the only sources of annoyance to the traveller in Guiana. The *bete-rouge*, a very minute insect, which can hardly be discovered, notwithstanding its being bright scarlet, and on the green leaves, occasions a most intolerable itching, and if the skin of the place be broken, it changes to an ill-conditioned sore, which does not heal for months. The Chegue, too, notwithstanding its minuteness, is exceedingly annoying. It buries itself under the skin, gene-

rally below the nails of the toes, and there depositing hundreds of eggs, soon produces an ulcer. It must be carefully extracted by a needle, or sharp pointed knife, and the place washed with spirits of turpentine. Ticks sometimes completely cover the traveller, but of these he can easily get rid by kindling a fire and smoking them off.

Of Indians there are five principal tribes, the Warow, Arowack, Acoway, Carib, and Macoushi. They are not solitary savages, but live in huts, which are usually on the edge of the forest, near some creek or river. Their huts are simple, being generally open on all sides. The usual furniture in them is the hammock, which serves for both chair and bed, and there is seldom a table, and that never the manufacture of the Indians. They clear a piece of land, on which they cultivate various kinds of vegetables, the most valuable of which is the cassava, which serves them for bread. They grate the cassava, making their graters of a piece of wood studded with sharp stones, in those parts which are very remote. They have some rude notions of pottery however, and make their own pots and jars. The cassava supplies their liquor as well as their bread; and though that which they brew is not very pleasing to the taste of the Europeans, the Indians contrive to intoxicate themselves with it. Except bandages round the middle, they go naked; and except pulmonary complaints, they are not subject to many diseases.

They believe in evil spirits, and keep a *pee-ay-man*, or priest, to drive them away in cases of sickness. If this priest fails in the performing of this, and the sick person dies, they abandon their settlement to the fiend, and look out for another. They have no monuments or records, and our traveller found among them few or no traditions by which any guess could be made of their origin, or the length of time they may have been in these woods. Their recollection seldom, indeed, reaches beyond the days of their father; but they talk with a good deal of pleasure of his boldness and success in the chase. They are fond of liberty, much attached to their modes of life, and not so much disposed to quarrel either with the whites or with each other, as the Indians on some other parts of the continent. They are active in their habits, much attached to their families, and hospitable to travellers to the utmost of their means. Mr. Waterton found none of them that could write or read; but he found some whites, and a good many people of colour, that could speak their language, but none who could write it, or knew any thing of its grammatical structure.

With all his appointments, simple and produced by the labour of his own hands, the Indian is exempted from those works of supererogation, which custom and fashion, and the cumbrous and costly machine of society impose upon civilized man, and make his life one continued scene of labour and pain. When he has

been successful in fishing, or the chase, he rests till his provisions be nearly exhausted, and then he sallies forth anew, with keen eye and vigorous step, confident of success.

Mr. Waterton made his journey to the interior with one negro and six Indians. One morning they found tracks of wild boars in the forest, and followed by the eye till three in the afternoon; then they halted by the side of a creek, and the Indians, with their arrows, soon found them a plentiful dinner of fish. Next day they followed on the track; and, at nine o'clock, coming up with the herd, about two hundred, they made prize of six, chiefly through the active dexterity of the Indians. These Indians are, however, few in number, compared with the extent of territory over which they are scattered.

When Mr. Waterton was on the banks of the Mibiri, he intimated to a gang of twenty or thirty negroes, who were there making shingles, that he would give a reward to any one who should find a large snake in the woods, and give him notice of it.

On a Sunday, about noon, one of these negroes, who had gone into the woods with a little dog to hunt an armadillo, came to a large tree, which had been over-turned by the wind, and was in a state of decay; the dog barked on coming to the tree, and the negro observed a snake.

The day was intensely hot; there was not a living

thing to be seen, or a sound to be heard; and our traveller sat in the shade, upon the steps of the ruined dwelling, with a little Horace in his hand, and the faithful cayman-eating negro, Daddy Quashi, beside him, when the negro came down the hill to intimate that he had made the discovery, and that the snake was a coulacanara, or bush-master, but not of very formidable size. "Well, Daddy, we shall have a look at the snake," said our traveller, starting up, and grasping an eight-foot lance, which he had made by fixing a bayonet to the end of a long pole. Thus armed, and habited in a pair of trowsers, a check shirt, and an old hat, and accompanied by two negroes armed with cutlasses, Mr. Waterton marched to capture the enemy. About half a mile within the forest, the negro pointed to the fallen tree; and our traveller, having enjoined silence in his corps of reserve, advanced to reconnoitre. The snake was a coulacanara, not poisonous, but powerful enough to have crushed any of them to death. He was fourteen feet long, and, as the coulacanara is by far the most able-bodied of snakes, he was as thick and strong as a boa of four-and-twenty feet. Having made his reconnoissance, the traveller returned to the negroes, and promised four dollars to the finder of the snake, and one to the assistant. The day being on the decline, and the night not being favourable for the dissection of this great reptile, Mr. Waterton resolved to take him alive. This was not much relished by the negroes, who

pleaded hard to be allowed to go for a gun and additional force; but this was not allowed by the daring traveller, who, seizing a cutlass from one of the negroes, led the forlorn hope, the two sable auxiliaries following in the rear, but ill-disposed for the perilous adventure.

The camp of the enemy was fortified by a thick rampart of woodbine; and though Mr. Waterton could see the folds, he was unable to ascertain the position of the head. However, he began to make a breach, by cutting away the woodbine with a knife. While he was engaged in this perilous operation, the two negroes stood behind him, one with the lance and the other with a cutlass, and the remaining cutlass on the ground close by.

After cutting away in silence for a quarter of an hour, the breach was practicable, the head of the snake appearing from between the first and second of his folds, and lying flat on the ground. The little dog was, all the while, a meek observer of the daring work.

When the position of the enemy had been seen, Mr. Waterton retired with heroic slowness, and beckoned to his negroes to do the same—a signal which pleased them better than that for advancing. They again pleaded hard for the gun and the reinforcement, but the traveller awed them into obedience and valour, by threatening to mow them down with the cutlass. Next he disarmed them, lest they should have struck the snake in the hour of peril, and spoiled the skin. This

was a sad damper upon their valour ; but their commander was resolute, and they had no alternative but obedience.

Even Mr. Waterton was not wholly at his ease ; but it would be unjust not to allow him tell his own story.

" We," says he, " went slowly on in silence, without moving our arms or heads, in order to prevent all alarm as much as possible, lest the snake should glide off, or attack us in self-defence. I carried the lance perpendicularly before me, with the point about an inch from the ground. The snake had not moved ; and on getting up to him, I struck him with the lance on the near side just behind the neck, and pinned him to the ground. That moment the negro next me seized the lance, and held it firm in its place, while I dashed head foremost into the den, in order to grapple with the snake, and get hold of his tail before he could do any mischief.

" On pinning him to the ground with the lance, he gave a tremendous hiss, and the little dog ran away, howling as he went. We had a sharp fray in the den, the rotten sticks flying on all sides, and each party struggling for the superiority. I called to the second negro to throw himself on him, as I was not heavy enough. He did so ; and the additional weight was of great service. I now got firm hold of his tail ; and, after a violent struggle or two, he gave in, finding himself overpowered. This was the moment to secure him.

So, while the first negro continued to hold the lance firm to the ground, and the other was helping me, I contrived to undo my braces, and with them tied up the snake's mouth.

“The snake now finding himself in an unpleasant situation, tried to better himself, and set resolutely to work, but we overpowered him. We contrived to make him twist himself round the shaft of the lance, and then prepared to carry him out of the forest. I stood at his head, and held it firm under my arm; one negro supported the belly, and the other the tail. In this order we began to move slowly towards home, and reached it after resting ten times; for the snake was too heavy for us to support him, without resting to recruit our strength. As we proceeded onwards with him, he fought hard for freedom, but it was all in vain. The day was too far spent to think of dissecting him, and had I killed him, a partial putrefaction would have taken place before morning. I had brought with me up into the forest a strong bag, large enough to contain any animal I should want to dissect. I considered this the best mode of keeping alive wild animals, when I was pressed for day-light; for the bag yielding in every way to their efforts, they would have nothing solid or fixed to work on, and thus be prevented from making a hole through it. I say fixed, for after the mouth of the bag was closed, the bag itself was not fastened or tied to any thing, but moved about wherever the ani-

mal inside caused it to roll. After securing afresh the mouth of the coulacanara, so that he could not open it, he was forced into this bag, and left to his fate till morning.

"I cannot say he allowed me to have a quiet night. My hammock was in the loft just above him, and the floor betwixt us, half gone to decay, so that in parts of it no boards intervened between his lodging room and mine. He was restless and fretful; and had Medusa been my wife, there could not have been more continued and disagreeable hissing in the bed chamber that night. At day break I sent to borrow ten of the negroes who were cutting wood at a distance; I could have done with half that number, but judged it most prudent to have a good force, in case he should try to escape when we opened the bag. However, nothing serious occurred. We untied the mouth of the bag, kept him down by main force, and then I cut his throat. He bled like an ox."

Considering the bulk and power of this snake, his teeth were not of very great magnitude, though his mouth opened as wide as would hold Mr. Waterton's head. Our author observes that, in museums, the teeth of the different species of boa, are made out of all proportion large, through the ignorance of the preparers, few or none of whom ever see a living snake, or even a dead one with the head on, as the Indians from whom the specimens are mostly bought, take of the heads as the safest way of killing the reptiles.

A week after the triumph over this great couatana, Mr. Waterton took a smaller one prisoner. He was about ten feet long, and moving slowly. "I laid hold of his tail with my left hand," says our traveller, "one knee being on the ground; with the right I took off my hat, and held it as you would hold a shield for defence. The snake instantly turned, and came on at me, with his head about a yard from the ground, as if to ask me what business I had to take liberties with his tail. I let him come hissing and open-mouthed within two feet of my face, and then, with all the force I was master of, I drove my fist, shielded by my hat, full in his jaws. He was stunned and confounded by the blow and ere he could recover himself, I had seized his throat with both hands, in such a position that he could not bite me; I then allowed him to coil himself round my body, and marched off with him as my lawful prize. He pressed me hard, but not alarmingly so."

Being anxious to capture a cayman of the largest size, Mr. Waterton proceeded to the river Essequibo, which contains much more formidable ones than the Demerara, furnished with the requisite provisions, a coil of strong line, and two of the most formidable shark hooks, with chains. The heat which Mr. Waterton had borne without inconvenience when moving, blistered his naked limbs severely, as he sat in the canoe; and when they landed, lighted a fire, slung

their hammocks, and prepared for passing the night, the pain was so great that he could not sleep. About midnight he heard the Indian say, "Massa, massa, you no hear tiger?" and listening, his ear caught the foot-fall of the brute. The light of the fire showed him to be the jaguar, and he approached and retreated as the fire burned low or brisk. Mr. Waterton was in too great pain for firing himself, and as he wished to see as much of the jaguar as possible, he restrained the Indian. At last, however, the Indian, not liking their visitor, set up a tremendous yell, and the jaguar "bounded off like a race-horse."

Two days journeying, after the visit of the jaguar, brought them to the first falls of the Essequibo, which are occasioned by a reef of rocks that crosses the river. In the rainy season these are covered with water; but when Mr. Waterton visited them, the river was low. At the falls Mr. Waterton hired a negro and a man of colour, who possessed some knowledge of the object of his inquiry, and with the aid of them he passed the falls and rapids in the course of a day. The pacou, a fish of delicate flavour, abounds very much in that part of the river; and the man of colour proved a very expert fisherman, shooting the fish with his arrows, and then dashing into the stream, grappling them, rising with them to the surface, and ultimately lodging them in the canoe. The scenery too was delightful; and the view was diversified by the irregular and semi-articulate

cries of the goat suckers. These last were not much relished by old Daddy Quashi and the Indian, who considered the "talk" as brought from Yabahou, the evil spirit. The stillness of the sultry noon was broken by the tolling of the campanero; they saw one and fired at it; but did not bring it down. It was the first and the last that Mr. Waterton had the pleasure of seeing.

About sunset they reached the place where the cayman was to be found; and cleared a spot for their bivouac, in which they prepared their supper of land tortoise and the fish that had been taken at the falls; and their vesper song was the yelling of the jaguars, sometimes close at hand, and sometimes growling like distant thunder among the mountains.

They prepared their tackle for catching the cayman, by baiting the shark hook, putting it on a board, mooring that in the river, securing one end of the rope to the chain of the hook, and fastening the other to a tree on the shore.

As night closed in, the noise of the inhabitants of the wood and the water, mingled in a manner rather terrific. "The caymen," says Mr. Waterton, "were now upon the stir, and at intervals, their noise could be distinguished amid that of the jaguar, the owls, the goat-suckers, and the frogs. It was a singular and awful sound. It was like a suppressed sigh, bursting forth all of a sudden, and so loud that you might hear it above a mile off. First one emitted this horrible

noise, and then another answered him ; and on looking at the countenances of the people round me, I could plainly see that they expected to have a cayman that night.

“ We were at supper, when the Indian who seemed to have had one eye on the turtle-pot, and the other on the bait in the river, said he saw the cayman coming.

“ Upon looking towards the place, there appeared on the water something like a black log of wood. It was so unlike any thing alive, that I doubted whether it were a cayman ; but the Indian smiled, and said he was sure that it was one, for he remembered seeing one some years ago.”

The cayman at last approached the board ; and by the light of the moon they could see him open his huge jaws and seize the bait. Upon this they pulled the rope ; but the cayman quitted his hold ; and in this way he tantalized them till they were exhausted, and retired to their hammocks. At day break they found that the cayman had taken the bait off the hook, and disappeared without any chance of return till next evening. So they proceeded to spend the day ; the Indian in the woods to kill game, and the rest in the canoe to shoot fish. There were large Sting-rays in the shallows near the falls, and turtle on the bank. The man of colour killed plenty of the former, but the latter escaped into the water before he could hit them. Of the eggs, however, they found plenty by digging in

the sand to the depth of about nine inches. At night, two of the party returned to the bank, and succeeded in catching about a dozen of turtle, while the others again baited the hook for the cayman, but with no better success than before. A third attempt was equally unsuccessful; and they resolved to alter the plan of their operations. They raised a stage on the bank, from which they purposed to shoot an arrow, with a string fastened to it into the cayman, and have the canoe ready to follow him in the river. Their preparations were disturbed by the roaring of a wild beast, which the Indian pronounced to be the cougar, which is not so formidable as the jaguar. On gaining the spot, however, they found that it was a very great jaguar, that had taken his post on the trunk of an aged moratree. He was fired at, but marched off to the forest.

The fourth night was not more successful than the others; and Mr. Waterton paid off the man of colour, and resolved to seek the aid of the Indians. For this purpose he went up a very intricate creek, upon which the nearest Indian settlement was situated, and met the Indians going upon a fishing excursion for some days; but upon promising to pay them well, they agreed to join the party, and asked our traveller to pay a preliminary visit to their settlement, where they gave him and his retinue a dinner of ant bear and red monkey; but as the former was rather "high" for Mr. Waterton's taste, he confined himself to the latter.

After dinner the three Indians proceeded with them to the river, and pointed out a place where the cayman was most likely to be found, and they prepared their encampment.

When one of the Indians was shown the shark-hook, he pronounced it unfit for the purpose, and promised to make something better next day : the hook was set in the meantime, but it did not avail.

Next day the Indians went to hunt, and the other party to fish ; and the latter killed some caymen of about a foot long, which showed a good deal both of activity and spirit, biting the arrows with which they were wounded, and snapping at the archers.

By the time that they returned to the encampment, the Indian had completed the tackle, which consisted of four hard and tough sticks, about a foot long, as thick as the little finger, and barbed at both ends. These were firmly lashed to the end of the rope, in such a manner, that one end met in a point with the barb outside, and the others spread a little, like the fletches of two arrows across each other. The hook, thus formed, was baited with an acouri ; but Mr. Waterton had better tell the rest of the story in his own words :—

“ Nearly a mile from where we had our hammocks, the sand bank was steep and abrupt, and the river very still and deep ; there the Indian pricked a stick into the sand. It was two feet long, and on its extremity was

fixed the machine; it hung suspended about a foot from the water, and the end of the rope was made fast to a stake driven well into the sand. The Indian then took the empty shell of a land tortoise, and gave it some heavy blows with an axe. I asked him why he did that. He said it was to let the cayman hear that something was going on. In fact, the Indian meant it as the cayman's dinner bell.

"Having done this, we went back to the hammocks, not intending to visit it again until the morning. During the night the jaguars roared in the forest, as though the world was going wrong with them, and at intervals we could hear the distant cayman. The roaring of the jaguars was awful, but it was music to the dismal noise of these hideous and malicious reptiles.

"About half-past five in the morning, the Indian stole off silently to take a look at the bait. On arriving at the place he set up a tremendous shout; we all jumped out of our hammocks, and ran to him; the Indians got there before me, for they had no clothes to put on, and I lost two minutes in looking for my trousers and slipping into them.

"We found a cayman, ten feet and a half long, fast to the end of the rope. Nothing now remained to do but to get him out of the water without injuring his scales, '*hoc opus, hic labor.*' We mustered strong: there were three Indians from the creek, my own Indian Yan, Daddy Quashi, a negro from Mrs. Peterson's,

James, Mr. R. Edmonston's man, whom I was instructing to preserve birds, and lastly, myself.

"I informed the Indians that it was my intention to draw him quietly out of the water, and then secure him. They looked and stared at each other, and said I might do it myself; but they would have no hand in it; the cayman would worry some of us. On saying this, ('consedere duces'), they squatted on their hams with the most perfect indifference.

- "The Indians of these wilds have never been subject to the least restraint; and I knew enough of them to be aware, that if I tried to force them against their will they would take off, and leave me and my presents unheeded, and never return.

"Daddy Quashi was for applying to our guns, as usual, considering them our best and safest friends. I immediately offered to knock him down for his cowardice, and he shrunk back, begging that I would be cautious and not get myself worried; and apologising for his own want of resolution. My Indian was now in conversation with the others, and they asked if I would allow them to shoot a dozen of arrows into him. This would have ruined all. I had come above three hundred miles on purpose to get a cayman uninjured, and not to carry back a mutilated specimen. I rejected their proposition with firmness, and darted a disdainful eye upon the Indians.

"Daddy Quashi was again beginning to remonstrata,

and I chased him on the sand bank for a quarter of a mile. He told me afterwards that he thought he should have dropped down dead with fright, for he was firmly persuaded, that if I had caught him, I should have bundled him into the cayman's jaws. Here, then, we stood, in silence, like a calm before a thunder storm. 'Hoc res summa loco. Scinditur in contraria vulgus.' They wanted to kill him, and I wanted to take him alive.

"I now walked up and down the sand, revolving a dozen projects in my head. The canoe was at a considerable distance, and I ordered the people to bring it round to the place where we were. The mast was eight feet long, and not much thicker than my wrist. I took it out of the canoe, and wrapped the sail round the end of it. Now it appeared clear to me that if I went down on one knee, and held the mast in the same position as the soldier holds the bayonet when rushing to the charge, I could force it down the cayman's throat, should he come open-mouthed at me. When this was told to the Indians they brightened up, and said they would help me to pull him out of the river.

"'Brave squad,' said I to myself, 'Audax omnia peti,' now that you have got me betwixt yourselves and danger.' I then mustered all hands for the last time, before the battle. We were, four South American savages, two negroes from Africa, a Creole from Trinidad, and myself a white man from Yorkshire. In

fact, a little tower of Babel group, in dress, no dress, address, and language.

“Daddy Quashi hung in the rear; I showed him a large Spanish knife, which I always carried in the waistband of my trowsers; it spake volumes to him, and he shrugged up his shoulders in absolute despair. The sun was just peeping over the high forests on the eastern hills, as if coming to look on, and bid us act with becoming fortitude. I placed all the people at the end of the rope, and ordered them to pull till the cayman appeared on the surface of the water; and then, should he plunge, to slacken the rope and let him go again into the deep.

“I now took the mast of the canoe in my hand, (the sail being tied round the end of the mast), and sunk down upon one knee, about four yards from the water's edge, determining to thrust it down his throat, in case he gave me an opportunity. I certainly felt somewhat uncomfortable in this situation, and I thought of Cerberus on the other side of the Styx ferry. The people pulled the cayman to the surface; he plunged furiously as soon as he arrived in these upper regions, and immediately went below again on their slackening the rope. I saw enough not to fall in love at first sight, I told them we would run all risks, and have him on land immediately. They pulled again, and out he came,—‘monstrum horrendum, informe.’ This was an

interesting moment. I kept my position firmly, with my eye fixed stedfast on him.

“By the time the cayman was within two yards of me, I saw he was in a state of fear and perturbation; I instantly dropped the mast, sprung up, and jumped upon his back, turning half round as I vaulted, so that I gained my seat with my face in a right position. I immediately seized his fore legs, and, by main force twisted them on his back; thus they served me for a bridle.

“He now seemed to have recovered from his surprise, and probably fancying himself in hostile company, he began to plunge furiously, and lashed the sand with his long and powerful tail. I was out of reach of the strokes of it, by being near his head. He continued to plunge and strike, and made my seat very uncomfortable. It must have been a fine sight for an unoccupied spectator.

“The people roared out in triumph, and were so vociferous, that it was some time before they heard me tell them to pull me, and my beast of burden, farther in land. I was apprehensive that the rope might break, and then there would have been every chance of going down to the regions under water with the cayman. That would have been more perilous than Arion's marine morning ride—

‘Delphini insidens vada cœrula sulcat Arion.’

The people now dragged us above forty yards on the sand; it was the first and last time I was ever on a cay-

man's back. Should it be asked, how I managed to keep my seat, I would answer,—I hunted some years with Lord Darlington's fox hounds."

The cayman, thus mastered, had his formidable jaws tied up, and was conducted first to the canoe, and then to the hammocks, where the sentence of death was put in execution, and the body given for dissection forthwith.

The back of the cayman is musket proof, but his neck can be pierced with an arrow; his teeth, of which there are thirty-two in each jaw, are formidable, but he has no grinders, and thus swallows his food without mastication. Mr. Waterton represents him as being very dangerous in all the great rivers, and relates an account of a man carried off by one in the Orinoca, which was told him by the governor of Angustura. The man was taken from the Alameda, or public walk; and the cayman had him at the bottom of the Orinoca, before any assistance could be given.

A day and a half were spent in dissecting the cayman, and when that was done, our traveller made preparations for reaching George-town in Demerara. The passage of the falls was very perilous, and the canoe was in peril of swamping, but the good fortune of Mr. Waterton did not forsake him, for both he and the dissected cayman landed in safety; though the mud flats, and the heat of the sun, fatigued the traveller sadly, and blistered him not a little.

After spending a day in George-town, Mr. Waterton returned to his favourite retreat on the Mibirí creek, collecting birds, and studying their manners and haunts, till the rainy season set in. He had been for eleven months in the forests, and the reward of his labour was some rare insects, two hundred and thirty birds, two land tortoises, five armadillas, two large serpents, a sloth, an ant bear, and the cayman.

A good ship and favourable weather soon brought Mr. Waterton and his treasures of natural history into the entrance of the Mersey. There, however, the zeal "without knowledge," of one of the custom-house officers deprived him, for a time at least, of nearly the whole of his collection, and ruined a very curious part of it—eggs which he had preserved in such a way as had a chance of making them retain their fecundity—for ever. On a representation to the treasury, and the payment of an additional duty, the relics were restored. Mr. Waterton complains, and not without reason, that a man who subjects himself to expence and labour, and privations in the cause of science, should be made to pay a fine to the king on account of, and in proportion to, his success. This is really a hard case: expeditions are fitted out at the public expence, to explore regions which it is known never can contribute much to utility or even to curiosity; and yet when an individual spends his time and his own money in really extending the boundaries of knowledge, we make him pay for doing it!

After Mr. Waterton had wrestled with the great coulacanara under the old tree, been hugged in the embrace of the young one as he marched home, and had rode in triumph upon the back of the cayman, it really was not generous, nor even just, to deprive him of the *spoila opima* of the skins of the vanquished. Mr. Waterton says, that this treatment cast a damp upon his enthusiasm, and really it is not to be wondered at; as little is it to be wondered at, that he should have refused to give up specimens, thus perilously won, to some "public institution," because in some of these, the choicest specimens of natural history have been allowed to rot!

FOURTH JOURNEY.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE EAST INDIA ISLANDS,
AND GUIANA.

THOUGH Mr. Waterton's desire to promote the knowledge of nature, by studying her in her own habitation, was damped by the treatment which he had met with at Liverpool, it was not extinguished; and it was called into vigour by the delivering of a lecture at Leeds, and the perusal of Wilson's "Ornithology of the United States."

It was but to resolve and do, with Mr. Waterton; and therefore he was soon across the Atlantic, and journeying from New York to Albany. The great assemblage in the large steam-boat that plied on the Hudson, pleased our traveller not a little; and he was equally pleased with the manners of the Americans, and the scenery of their country.

While he sate under an oak, in the high grounds behind Utica, and looked down upon that city, the traveller had a pleasant reverie about the celebrated Roman; and he was much pleased with the whole line of the country to Lake Erie. The charms of the American, particularly of the Albany belles, gave him great delight. Near Buffalo he had sprained his foot, so that though he could admire both the falls of Niagara and their fair visitors, he could not join with them in the dance. Even this, however, did not wholly dispirit him, for he gave vent to his mishap in prose and verse, which he penned in one of the Albums common to the inns.

“ C. Waterton, of Walton-hall, in the county of York, England, arrived at the falls of Niagara in July, 1824, and begs leave to pen down the following dreadful accident :—

“ He sprained his foot and hurt his toe,
On the rough road near Buffalo.
It quite distresses him to stagger a-
Long the sharp rocks of famed Niagara.
So thus he's doomed to drink the measure
Of pain, in lieu of that of pleasure.

On hope's delusive pinions borne,
He came for wool, and goes back shorn.
N. B.—Here he alludes to nothing but
Th' adventure of his toe and foot ;
Save this,—he sees all that which can
Delight and charm the soul of man,
But feels it not,—because his toe
And foot together plague him so."

Having visited the fall, Mr. Waterton held his sprained foot under that mighty cascade, to bathe it into sanity, and while he did so, he thought of Cleopatra drinking the pearl vinegar, and Marius sitting upon the ruins of Carthage.

Joining a party from New York, he proceeded down the St. Lawrence to Montreal and Quebec, at the former of which places, he met a party of Irish emigrants in the utmost misery and destitution, who, even upon the margin of the desert, were weeping at the thought of "Old Ireland farewell, and for ever." From Quebec, Mr. Waterton returned by Lake Champlain to New York, and thence to Philadelphia, where he was much pleased with the museum, and christened the city, "The Athens of the United States."

After some observations which are very complimentary to the country, Mr. Waterton sailed for Antigua, and after being caught in a storm, landed at St. Johns, the capital. The town was dull, and the environs burnt up by the ardour of the summer, so that our traveller, after one weary week, sailed for Gauda-

loupe. The cloud-capped mountains of Guadalupe, the neatness of the town of Bassetterre, the handsome tamarind trees that shade the public walk, and the smoking summit of La Souffriere, all tended to make our traveller arouse those spirits and that good humour which he had nearly lost at Antigua.

His account of Dominica, with its high and rugged mountains, and its coffee plantations, almost inaccessible on the heights, is short but graphic; and Roseau, the capital, was fascinating even in its day. It had been subjected to a series of calamities; been bombarded by a French fleet; the finest buildings had been destroyed by fire; and an inundation, which had come roaring through the gullies of the mountains after a tremendous rain, had swept away both houses and their inhabitants. During his short stay Mr. Waterton saw the large edible frog, the rhinoceros beetle, about six inches long, and a very beautiful species of the humming bird.

From Demérara our traveller proceeded to Martinico. St. Pierre, the capital, is a fine town, with streams of clear water running down the streets and cooling the air. Here, as well as in Barbadoes, he met with the metallic cuckoo of Wilson. It is a migratory bird, and Mr. Waterton supposes that it passes between the Antilles and the United States.

St. Lucie is majestic in its aspect at a distance, but the capital, Castries, had been destroyed by a hurricane, and the appearance of the whole island was

desolate. Barbadoes, too, had lost much of its wonted cheerfulness. Not finding a ship there for Trinidad, Mr. Waterton sailed for the scene of his former adventures, Demerara.

Having arrived, and it being the dry season, Mr. Waterton began his labours. He found that the jacamar, often confounded with the woodpecker and the king's-fisher, has no affinity with them. He found the scarlet grossbeak, for which he had often before sought in vain, and a great black owl, which feeds upon red crabs by the water side.

In one of his rambles he came to an ant's nest, which appeared to have changed its inhabitants; and upon storming it, out flew about a dozen of vampires. Mr. Waterton had fresh opportunities of seeing the effects of the nocturnal leech-craft of these animals, but he neither was able to get them to perform on himself, nor was certain of the mode in which they puncture the patient, and draw so much blood without occasioning any pain.

The howlings of the red monkey sometimes annoyed our traveller, as he has the power of mingling together the most disagreeable cries of the other beasts. These are a wrinkled, and by no means a common race; but Mr. Waterton met with one nondescript, that had long hair on its head, and features of the 'Grecian cast!'

Mr. Waterton remarks that a great deal of India rubber, elastic gum, or *caotchouc*, might be obtained in

the back country of Demerara; but from a trick that was played to himself, caution would be needed in purchasing it from the Indians. He hired an Indian to find him a ball. The Indian came very speedily with it, and demanded his reward. Mr. Waterton tried the elasticity of the ball, and found it had none. The Indian wished to persuade him that it was like the moon, small and useless when new, but would grow better and bigger as it got old. Mr. Waterton cut the ball in two, and it was a bunch of leaves coated over with gum caetchouc.

Finding the rainy season coming on, Mr. Waterton, toward the close of December, 1824, left Demerara, and again sailed for England.

STORY

or

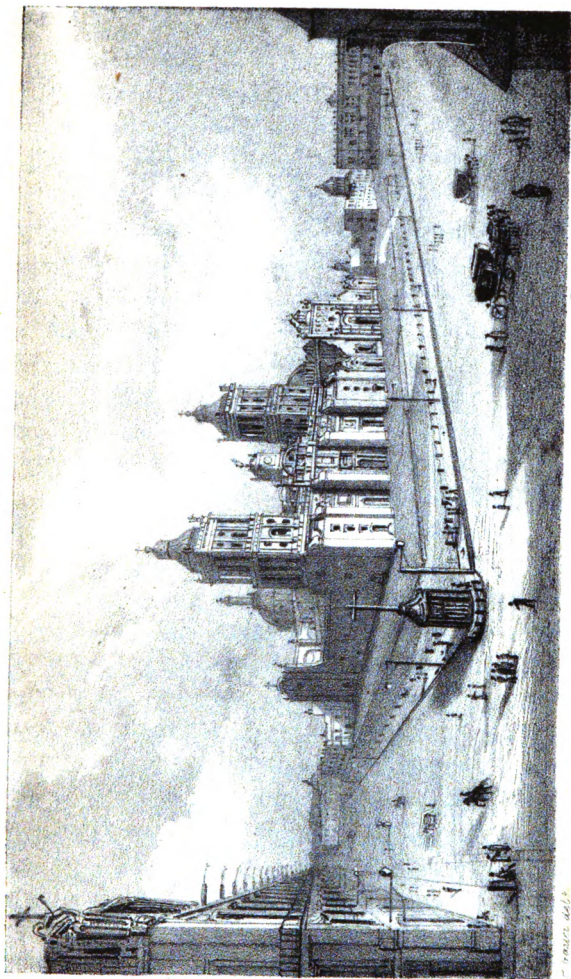
MR. WARD'S

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

IN MEXICO.

MR. WARD embarked at Plymouth, on the 18th of October, 1823, and proceeded to Mexico, as one of the commissioners from the government of England to the newly-acknowledged government of that country ; and, on the 11th of December, he anchored off the island of Sacrificios, not being able to enter the harbour of Vera Cruz, in consequence of the hostilities which were carrying on between the town and the castle of San Juan de Uloa, the latter of which still held out for the Spaniards.

Upon landing, he found the gates of the town locked ; but he was admitted by a wicket, and conducted to the governor, who received him with expressions of the most



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GREAT SQUARE AND CATHEDRAL. MEXICO.



hearty joy, as the first accredited English officer who had come to give the right hand of fellowship to the infant state. The appearance of Vera Cruz was gloomy beyond comparison: the principal inhabitants had left the place; the army that besieged and watched the castle, was neither numerous nor active; the garrison of the latter being small; and the pestilent climate and scarcity of provisions performing much of the destructive part of warfare.

Having landed their baggage, Mr. Ward and his associates prepared for their journey into the interior; but though there was every wish to accommodate them, there was not the power, in consequence of the difficulty of finding mules in the deserted city. Their mules, of which they had fifty for baggage, and twenty-one for their three carriages, were bad; and the only attendants and drivers that they could find were descendants of negroes and Indians, quite uncivilised and unaccustomed to restraint. They were from six in the morning till four in the afternoon in preparing for their journey. At last they took their way, and as the day was far spent, they resolved to halt for the night at the village of Santa Fe, only three leagues from Vera Cruz. Mr. Ward got there at seven; but there being no appearance of the carriages, he returned, and found them only one league advanced, imbedded in the sand, and the drivers stretched out beside them, and fast asleep.

Mr. Ward left a party to rouse the slumbering Phætons, and rode on to Santa Fe.

The specimen which he there had of the accommodations of the *Tierra Caliente*, or warm land of Mexico, were far from prepossessing. The village consisted of five or six Indian huts, constructed of bamboos, and thatched with palm leaves, the bamboos being placed so far apart as to preclude the necessity of windows. In most instances the whole family, rational and irrational, men, women, children, pigs, and poultry, nestle together, though in some cases, a *sanctum sanctorum* is partitioned off by a mat or two. The domestic utensils are few and simple,—a stone for grinding the maize, or Indian corn, of which they make their *tortillas*, or thin cakes of bread; a few gourd shells, for containing water; some articles of the coarsest earthenware; and a large glass or two, in which they mix *orangeade*, form the whole culinary and table apparatus. Provisions were in plenty, however; abundance of fowls, maize-cakes, and pine apples, with orangeade in profusion. Having supped on these, far from contemptible, viands, Mr. Ward, and the rest of the corps diplomatique, erected their beds, and prepared to pass the night in the open air, surrounded by their servants and cattle, with a fire lighted, and a watch set, in case of nocturnal depredations.

Having sent the carriages on before, he started at nine on the following morning, purposing to pass the

next night at Puente del Rey, twelve leagues further in advance. The road was bad in the extreme and, short as was the distance, there were two mutinies of the muleteers, who wished to halt for the night at two ranchos, or habitations, by the way side. They were constrained to push on, however, and the riders reached Puente about dark, while the baggage came lagging at two in the morning.

The appearance of Puente, and the country around, repaid them, in some measure, for the labour of getting at it. The place gets its name from a handsome bridge thrown across the Antigua, a rapid stream, which here forces its way among the rocks, before it enters the dull and sandy tract which lies between it and the Atlantic. The situation is highly picturesque, and vegetation very luxuriant. The huts of which the village of Puente is composed, are separated by groves of mimosa, whose stems and boughs are festooned with creeping plants, the flowers of which are of the most glowing and varied colours, and waft the freshest perfume; while the fruits, of varied shape and colour, bearing no relation whatever to the trees that raise them above the surface, give further richness to the scene. Nor are the feathered tribes less striking; parrots and maccaws fly about in flocks in all directions, with thousands of other gaily-coloured tribes.

The exuberance of vegetable beauty is, however, confined to the places near the river: distant from that

the soil is sandy, and the plants are, aloes, prickly pears, and the other succulent sorts that thrive during the absence of moisture. Of quadrupeds, there are not many ; a few deer are seen, and occasionally a jaguar, or American tiger, an animal common to all the warmer parts of that continent.

The *Tierra Caliente* is by no means thickly inhabited, but the Indians, who formed its chief population, appeared to Mr. Ward to be affluent and independent in their way. They have plenty of rice, maize, bananas, oranges, and pine apples ; their fowls supply them with abundance of eggs ; these are all reared in the vicinity of the hut, at comparatively little expense ; and they get from the interior a few beans and a little Chili pepper. Their clothing is as scanty and simple as the most primitive notions of decency require ; and the saddle and long sword with which their mules and themselves are equipped, when they "go out," are heritage, handed down from father to son.

Having bivouacked at Puente, in the same manner as at Santa Fe, they set out for Plan del Rio, still on the low, or warm land. The distance was about six leagues ; but on account of the sluggish motion of the carriages, they were constrained to halt for the night, the next part of the road being rather a steep ascent to Encerro. At Plan they met with an inn, built of bricks, and divided into rooms, though without windows. There is a fine bridge at this place ; and here, as at other places

on the way, Mr. Ward saw the remains of the great causeway, which had once extended across the Tierra Caliente, but which had fallen into ruin and decay, during the war that ushered in the independence of the country. Plan is not much elevated above the sea ; and the whole country thus far inland is, in the summer months, subject to the *vomito*, or fatal fever of Vera Cruz. In the colder months, from November to April, it is not unhealthy ; but the sand flies, which are minute, but bite severely, are, during the day, a continual annoyance.

From Plan to Encerro (on the ridge), the distance is only six leagues, but the ascent is so great, that the traveller finds himself in a new country, and an altered climate. The flowers and fruits of the warm land are seen no more ; the mimosa gives place to the Mexican oak ; and the cold air of the evening was such that Mr. Ward felt the shelter of a roof desirable. The accommodation at Encerro was found not to be good, but there was some compensation in contemplating the giant mountains of Orizava and Perote, the latter rising to a height of more than thirteen thousand feet, and the former more than seventeen thousand.

From Encerro they proceeded to Jalapa, the first corporate town on the road ; and there the Ayuntamiento or local government, had prepared to meet them with becoming state ; and, which was more gratifying, with the most hearty and enthusiastic joy, that their

country was to be the ally—the friend of Old England. The gardens and fields, as they approached the town, were in fine order, hedged round with aloes and bananas; and the houses were clustered over with flowers; the streets were crowded with multitudes, who, aware of the mission of the party, shouted “vivas!” as they passed; and while they sat down to a public dinner that had been prepared for them, a band of music played at the door. The principal people eagerly sought their acquaintance, and no party could have been received with greater pleasure. The old Spaniards, however, shunned and dreaded them, as might have been expected of persons who had been changed from rulers to aliens. In Jalapa they remained three days, during which they had many opportunities of examining the beauty of the country, as well as of regretting how much the irritation of the disappointed Spaniards tended to prolong the general amnesty.

Jalapa stands at an elevation of 4335 feet above the level of the sea, an elevation somewhat exceeding that of the loftiest mountains in the British Isles. A ridge of mountains protects it from the north-west—the destructive wind of the Table Land of Mexico. The environs are healthy, and they are fertile. The streams that descend from the cordillera of the mountains, water the vale, and diffuse plenty over the land. There are ruins in the neighbourhood which indicate the presence of a larger population, before the conquest of Mexico by

the Spaniards ; but every thing respecting the history of the Indians, is involved in the greatest obscurity.

At twelve, on the 24th of December, they set out from Jalapa, under a clear sky ; but on the road they were caught in a *norte*, or north-west storm, which involved them in dark clouds and a drenching mist. The beauty and fertility of Jalapa extended only about a league beyond the town. The Mexican oak came in place of the more delicate trees of the warm land ; and that too was replaced by pines. The cottages were no longer of light canes and palm leaves, but of materials more solid, and capable of resisting the storms of the mountains, and shielding the inmates from their violence. The whole district, and the construction of the houses of rough trunks of pine, put Mr. Ward in mind of the mining districts of Sweden. The effects of volcanic power were grand and striking, one district being covered with lava, which, when ejected, had bubbled into vesicles ; another was strewed over with huge masses of calcined rock ; and in a third, the rocks looked as if they had been pounded by the force of a mighty steam engine.

The old causeway, on this stage, was in tolerable preservation ; and they reached Las Vigas about dark, where they found hospitality and plenty of fruits, while their own stores supplied them with bread. The cold at Las Vigas was great ; the difference of temperature from that at Jalapa was 30° ; and as they had in a few

days passed from the heat of Vera Cruz to the cold of the mountains, the feeling of it was not only very acute to them, but very much felt by the horses that they had brought from the warm plain.

From Las Vigas to Perote, the road runs bad. Perote is fortified, and used to be accounted one of the few strong places in the vice-royalty of Mexico. They found the castle of but little magnitude or strength, and chiefly valuable as a place of arms. The town, about half a mile from the castle, consisted of one long street of white-washed houses. They were received, with great hospitality by the garrison of Perote; but they did not halt there for the night. Perote is nearly 8000 feet above the level of the sea; and it stands upon the confines of a country different from any that they had hitherto crossed. The pine forests are confined to the mountains, and the plains exhibit a succession of basins, as if lakes had, in the succession of ages, been discharged from them, by the rivers cutting their way through the adjoining heights. The receding of the water has left these plains covered with a coating of carbonate of soda, called *tequesquite*, by the natives. This substance, when in considerable quantity, is ruinous to vegetation; the place is already a semi-desert, affording food only for a few scattered sheep; the water is brackish; and there are only a few aloes and prickly pears, growing upon the masses of lava that are scattered over this inhospitable place. Mr. Ward found on this plain,

the mirage—sand putting on the illusive appearance of water; billows of sand, and all the other phenomena of the African wilderness, save, perhaps, the peculiarly pestilent air.

They stopped on this plain, about seven leagues beyond Perote, and found the accommodation in accordance with the district; the only provisions to be had being maize cakes and Chili pepper. Fortunately they had a store with them.

Next morning they proceeded over the same sort of country, most appropriately denominated the *Mal Pais*; but about nine o'clock they were much pleased at finding themselves upon its western, or interior boundary. Crossing a little ridge, they came to *El Ojo de Agua*, (the eye of the water), which stands solitary, by a fine spring; and there the signs of fertility and abundance begin to increase. At that place too, which is on the confines of the old states of Vera Cruz and La Puebla, their escort was replaced by a detachment of lancers.

Halting an hour at the inn, they proceeded onward; the appearance of the country improving as they advanced. The people seemed to be active and industrious, and the country appeared amply to repay them for their labours. Their employment is chiefly agricultural; and many of the *haciendas*, or farm steadings, are large, and the proprietors wealthy.

At Nopaluca, where they rested for the night, they met a courier from the capital, who informed them,

that as there was some disturbance, though by no means of a serious nature, at Puebla, it was the wish of the supreme government that they should avoid that place, by taking the northern road. With this request they of course complied; and, in consequence, took the north road by Huamantla and Otumba, which enters the valley of Mexico at the north west.

On the way to that town, they passed through luxuriant and thriving fields of wheat, barley, maize, and aloe, (the *Agave Americana*, or great American aloe), of which latter, the natives make their wine, or *pulque*, as they term it. The manufacture of pulque is one of the chief sources of wealth to the people of this part of the country, as they find an abundant demand for it in the great towns of Mexico and Puebla.

Though the notice of their coming to Huamantla had been short, they found the people ready to receive them; to treat first themselves, and then their servants, with a public introduction, and to constrain them to stop for the night; though with the last invitation our travellers did not comply, but moved on to a solitary hacienda, about five leagues further on. This part of the journey was delightful; they were always in sight of the mountain of Malinche, a perfect cone, which connects the western and central ridges of the Mexican mountains, and the country produces the best wheat in Mexico.

As usual, they were hospitably treated; and they

found the landlord's pulque by no means a contemptible beverage. Next day their road, which wound round the foot of the Malinche, was somewhat rough; but they took a short stage.

On the following day they halted to breakfast at San Nicolas, the splendid seat of the Conde de Santiago, and the first dwelling of a Mexican nobleman that they had seen. The conde treated them with much splendour, and they went on their way, the country still appearing to improve as they went; and on the 30th of December they reached the town of Otumba.

Otumba is situated on the eastern side of the central mountains which lie immediately to the east of the valley, lake, and city of Mexico. In the vicinity, a great deal of pepper, chiefly capsicums of different sorts, is cultivated. They found that the lower land had suffered a good deal from the frequency with which it had changed hands during the conflicts between the Mexicans and the Spaniards.

They slept for the night at Teotihuacan, but arrived too late for examining those celebrated remains of antiquity, the Mexican pyramids of the sun and moon. Rising early in the morning, they descended from the high ground, proceeded along the stone causeway, by which the lakes of Tezcuco and San Christoval are separated; and, arriving at the Guadalupe gate of the city about twelve o'clock, they were there received by the minister for foreign affairs. A state coach con-

ducted them to a house on the Alameda, or great public walk; where, telling them that every thing would be provided for them, and begging them to consider themselves perfectly at home, the minister left them to recover from the fatigues of their journey, and make their preparations. They had been remarkably free from sickness, and the novelty of the journey, especially the latter half of it, which had been in a direction seldom taken by Europeans, had amused them by the way; but still they were a good deal fatigued when they reached the capital.

The environs of Mexico, when approached by the road of Otumba, are barren and forbidding; for the receding waters of the lake have left upon it a part of that baneful crust of carbonate of soda, which our travellers had found in the Mal Pais. At that side of the city stands the temple of Mary of Guadalupe, the patroness of the state. It is large and rich, but of singular architecture, and so stuck over with chapels, that the form of the main structure can hardly be seen. The part of the city towards the convent, very much disappointed our travellers. It was poor, damp, apparently unhealthy, and most of the inhabitants Indians.

But when they came to the grand square, the cathedral, the palace, and the principal streets of the city, they found it well deserving of the warmest encomiums that had been bestowed upon it. The streets are spacious, but the softness of the foundation, and the

danger of earthquakes, make it necessary that the houses should be rather low. The transparency of the atmosphere rendered it very difficult to judge accurately of distances; the mountains by which the valley is surrounded, are every where about fifteen miles distant; and yet, when Mr. Ward looked down the principal streets, the rocks were so well defined, that they seemed to touch the end of the street.

They found the general aspect of the city rather dull, but there was a good deal of bustle and activity in the business streets. The cottons, woollens, and hats, from Puebla and Queretaro, with mangas—the cloaks of all, and the clothing of the poor, the worked leather of Guadalajara, with lassos, and all the singular and cumbrous equipments of a Mexican horseman, were found in great abundance at one place; at another, the whole people were silversmiths; and at a third, furniture, of laborious workmanship, but clumsy pattern, was exposed for sale. These articles were the produce of Mexico; most others in the shops were European—the supply scanty, and the price high.

The fruits were most abundant and choice, and of kinds known only as rarities, if known at all, in Europe. Every fruit of the tropical countries, together with those of Europe, was found upon the stalls; the more hardy being the produce of the immediate neighbourhood; those requiring a warmer climate, of the descent of the Table Land, westward, in the direction of Acapulco.

Flowers are found in abundance at all seasons, and the deciduous trees are divested of their leaves for only two months in the middle of the winter. A great part of the market-goods are brought to the capital by the canal of Chalco, a large town situated on a lake of the same name, about twenty miles south of Mexico. Women chiefly work the punts, or barges; they do it with great activity, and Mr. Ward mentions that, like the market women of other countries, they often return elevated by their favourite beverage.

The peasants, nearer the capital, come and go in droves on foot, the men carrying the baskets of produce, and the women their little ones. They move at a trot, and the whole drove halt or move along, with the leader. The Mexican ladies do not walk much in public; but on the evenings of festivals they attend the Alameda, in gaudy and clumsy coaches, smoking cigars in the intervals of their civilities with their male friends. The riding dresses of the latter are equally singular and splendid. The hind quarters of the horse are covered with an *anquera*, of stamped and gilt leather; and sometimes of fur, embroidered, and costing about 100*l*. The saddle, the jacket, the manga, every thing, in short, is embroidered; and thus the dress of a Mexican cavalier would cost as much as that of a score of our first-rate dandies.

In the gardens of Chapultepec, not far from the Alameda, there is a most magnificent cypress, which

tradition reports to have been full grown in the year 1520, when Montezuma was on the throne. It is of the deciduous kind, (*cupressus disticha*), common in the moist parts of America, forty-one feet in circumference, and of great height. The cathedral, in the walls of which are fixed the zodiac, or calendar stone, and that on which the victims were immolated before the disgusting war idol of the Mexicans, is a costly, but not an elegant building. The other churches are numerous, but some of them are in ruins from neglect, and others on account of the insufficiency of the original foundations.

In 1823, the streets were thronged with Lazzaroni, of Indian extraction, whose appearance was wretched in the extreme. They displayed some talent, however, in the making of wax figures, as well as in the copying of drawings; but they wanted steadiness and perseverance.

Business was there almost at a stand; the streets were not lighted; there were no foreigners in the city; and the mass of the people seemed to be in poverty and distress.

Having completed the business upon which he was delegated, Mr. Ward left Mexico about the middle of January, passed to Vera Cruz, by the Puebla road, took shipping on the 5th of February, and landed at Plymouth on the 17th of March.

Remaining in England during the summer and autumn,

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he sailed again for Vera Cruz in January, 1825, taking Mrs. Ward with him, and having a numerous party in the ship. After rather an unpleasant voyage, the Mexican part of the company landed at Vera Cruz, on the 11th of March. The castle still held out, but the independent flag was flying in the harbour, and the condition and spirits of the people were wonderfully improved.

Preparing a litter for Mrs. Ward, that could be borne on poles between two mules, they proceeded toward the interior; and having halted a day at Jalapa, they found a greater improvement in the state of things there, than there had been at the coast. The people had heard of the commercial treaty with England, and there was not one of them of any note, that did not seek to express their gratitude to her officers. The governors, who had been permanently appointed, now claimed the commission as their guests; and he of Puebla, whom Mr. Ward had not before seen, insisted on taking the whole party to his own house.

La Puebla is a place of some importance. In 1825 it contained a population of 50,000; and the manufactures of cotton, of wool, and of earthenware, are considerable. The streets are spacious, and though the houses be low, they are convenient. The floors are laid with porcelain, and the walls painted in fresco. The road from Nopaluca to within five leagues of Puebla, is bad, and in unsettled times, dangerous. It lies through a *pinal*, or pine forest. The strength of

Mr. Ward's escort was, however, such as to leave him not apprehensive of anything that could have occurred in the pinal. The cathedral is a fine building, and a report that the angels came down from heaven, and finished it much sooner than it could have been finished by human hands, has procured for it the addition of *los Angeles*.

The silver mines in the province of Puebla having been, in former times, exceedingly rich, much of that metal is used in the decorations of the cathedral; and the roof is supported by lofty and beautiful columns of native marble.

The travellers left Puebla on the 22nd of March, and took the road through Cholula, in order to examine the *Teocalli*, or great Mexican pyramid, at that place. Its base occupies a square of nearly 1800 feet, and the elevation is nearly 180. It is composed of alternate layers of unburnt bricks and clay, and the top of it forms a spacious platform. Its use is supposed to have been connected with the ancient religion, but of the particular ceremonies that were performed at it, there is not a trace. It is supposed to have been erected by the Toltecs, who were a race anterior to the Aztecs that Cortes found in Mexico, but the supposition is without proof.

Some parts of the road between Puebla and Mexico are very much elevated; one part having an elevation of more than 10,000 feet; and the Venta de Cordova,

where the valley of Mexico first opens upon the traveller, has an elevation of nearly 8000.

Mr. Ward revisited the capital on the morning of the 25th of March; and was equally surprised and gratified at the change that had taken place during the fourteen months that he had been absent. The military were in subordination; the people were busy; long trains of loaded mules were seen passing along the roads; and such was the demand for houses in the capital, that premiums of 20,000 dollars were paid for the bare walls of those that would cost probably half as much more to render them habitable.

In the early part of its history, the city of Mexico was apt to be inundated in the rainy season. Once it was resolved to abandon it, and build in a more elevated part of the valley; but our Lady of Guadalupe sent an earthquake, which improved it in the meantime; and it has since been further improved by a drainage towards the river Tula, which, flowing north-eastward, discharges itself into the Mexican gulf, between 200 and 300 miles northward of Vera Cruz.

At the village of San Agustin, the favourite place of rustication for the Mexican fashionables, Mr. Ward observed a good deal of gambling and betting, both at the cock-fights, which take place pretty regularly at ten in the morning, and at the *montes*, or gaming tables. The Mexican belles change their dress five or six times in the course of the day: first, they walk; next, they

go to the cock-fights; then dine; then, for the *calvario*, to dance; and, lastly, to the public ball, which finishes at midnight.

On the 26th of February, Mr. Ward left San Agustín, and proceeded directly across the ridge, to the Tierra Caliente, or warm land, south-west of Mexico. The climate on that side appears to be warmer than on the eastern coast. Cuernavaca, with an elevation of more than 1000 feet, has the same character in the very commencement of the eastern ascent, at Plan del Río and Puente del Rey. The people have the same dark colour; and, though fortunately the Vera Cruz fever is unknown, the agues, during the warm season, are very afflicting.

In that part of the country a good deal of sugar is produced; and one state, that of San Gabriel, produced about a million pounds in the year. The soil is exceedingly fertile, and there is no want of water for the purposes of irrigation. After spending some time in this singularly fertile part of the country, Mr. Ward returned to the capital, resolved upon making other excursions to the most celebrated of the mining districts.

Having learned, from experience, the best mode of furnishing himself with necessaries, and of loading and managing his mules, Mr. Ward proceeded, in succession, to most of the celebrated mines.

The first district that he visited was that of Tlalpu-

jahua, on the confines of Valladolid, about 100 miles westward of the capital. Part of the road is high, and the elevated country is, for the same distance, barren; and when the mines are nearly arrived at, the road passes into a pine forest, in the middle of which the town, or rather the village of San Pedro, or Tlalpujahua, is situated in a little valley, surrounded by pine-covered mountains. The mines are mostly confined to a circle two miles in diameter; and being on the steep sides of the mountains, they have a natural drainage.

There are three principal veins of silver at this place, —La Borda, Coronas, and Las Virgenes; the first and second varying in thickness from 8 to 16 feet, and the third, from 27 to 33. They are not in every place equally rich; but their breadth does not diminish as they descend. There are various ores, besides gold and silver, in a native state. These mines have, at times, been very productive; but when the English company took possession in 1825, the village was ruined, and almost deserted, in consequence of the disturbances of the war. The change at the time of Mr. Ward's visit, in May, 1826, was very considerable. The population had increased from 1000 to 5000; the houses had been re-built; shops, for the sale of English commodities, established; provisions were abundant; several hundred men were constantly employed about the mines; and twenty-seven of the principal shafts had been cleared and drained. The mines have not been worked to a

very great depth; none of them more than to the depth of 450 feet; all of them are capable of being drained much deeper by a single adit; wages are lower than in many other parts of Mexico; and there is a command of water power for reducing the ores. To the skill of M. Rivafinoli, the manager, as well as to his tact in managing the native workmen, Mr. Ward pays the highest compliments: the mining department he found also under the care of a Mr. Burkart, a gentleman well qualified for his profession; and if the quality of the ore should be found to correspond with the facilities of obtaining it, Mr. Ward has no doubt whatever of the value and success of these mines. He staid at them for a week, and then returned to the capital.

Mr. Ward's next excursion was to the mines that lie on the right bank of the river Tula, on the Sierra Madre, Zimapan, Real del Monte, &c. For this purpose he left the city on the 12th of July; and after a journey of about fourteen leagues, in the direction of the river, passed to the east, crossed the Pedregal, or stoney district, which lies immediately beyond the mountains that surround the capital; then the fertile plain of San Pedro; and lastly another Pedregal of greater extent and barrenness than the first. At the single house on the Pedregal, there was nothing to be had; and thus Mr. Ward was obliged to push forward to Itzmiquilpan; through stones, sand, and brushwood, till he came to a descent within about a league of the

town, where the country became at once fertile and beautiful. Itzmiquilpan is beautifully situated on the bank of the Tula, formed by the shelter of the surrounding mountains, into a Tierra Caliente, without its disease. Vast cypresses rise by the side of the river; the hedges are formed of Peruvian pepper and roses; the trees are covered with vines, and hung with grapes. The town contained about 3000 householders, and a total population of from 10 to 12,000. From the fertility of the environs, many of them are employed in agriculture; but when the neighbouring mines are in activity, they carry on a considerable manufacture of *pita*, or ropes, made of the fibre of the *agave-Americana*.

Mr. Ward halted a day at this beautiful place, and then proceeded to Zimapan, which is 42 leagues, or nearly 100 miles, from the capital. It was once the capital of the mining district; but the mines have been much injured, during and since the revolution, by the common miners taking out the pillars.

The silver mines at Zimapan, which formerly produced immense fortunes, are now partly in the hands of a German company; but the Real del Monte company also keep an establishment there for the purpose of working a lead mine in one of the mountains; the lead being used as a flux in smelting the silver. Besides the mines of lead, there are very extensive ones of iron, the ore of which is said to be very rich. The mountains abound in water, and there is also a plentiful supply of

timber. There are also in this district mines of copper. Mr. Ward did not cross the Tula to visit the mines at El Doctor, on the left bank, lest the river should have become swollen by the rain, and he prevented from accomplishing his intended visit to Real del Monte. The mouth of the mine at El Doctor, is about 5000 feet above the bed of the Tula, which is nearly other 5000 above the level of the sea; and the total height of the mountain falls not much short of 11,000 feet.

On the 20th of July, Mr. Ward reached Actopan, ten leagues from Itzmiquilpan, the country along the valley being rich, and the mountain streams affording the means of irrigation. The last part of the road is wild and bad; but Mr. Ward got over it, and came to Chico, opposite to which is the great German mine of Arevalo. The ores in the vicinity of Chico, are by Mr. Ward represented as being poor. He left that place on the 23d, and proceeded to Real del Monte.

The veins in these mines have yielded an immense quantity of silver; and between the years 1762 and 1774, the proprietor had derived from them the vast sum of £1,200,000. From that period the profits began to decrease, not from any diminution of the quantity of ore, or any deterioration of its quality; but on account of the increased expense of raising it, and draining the mines. The workings had, in some places, been carried more than 250 feet below the adit; and 1120 horses had to be kept for keeping the mines dry.

The weekly expense of extraction alone, exceeded 9000 dollars: and, in consequence, the mines were abandoned in 1783. In 1794 they were opened again, and continued working till 1801. During that time they had yielded 6,000,000 dollars; but the expenses had been so great that there had been little or no profit.

Mr. Ward found the works of the company there in a state of great forwardness, under the direction of Captain Vetch, who, though at a very great expense at the outset, had surmounted every difficulty; brought the machinery to the spot, erected it, and was rapidly clearing and repairing the mines, and taking measures for a most effectual drainage.

On the 27th of July, Mr. Ward quitted Real del Monte, on his way back to the capital. On reaching Itzmiquilpan, he found the town and people gay with the celebration of the festival of their patron saint. Paper lanterns, with figures of saints and angels, were suspended in the streets, and the people were enjoying themselves in the most quiet and orderly manner. From this place Mr. Ward returned to Mexico by the shortest route.

On the 22nd of August, Mr. Ward proceeded to visit the mines in the district south-west of Mexico. The mining district there lies upon the slope of the Cordillera, toward the Pacific ocean, and the mines were at one time in great repute, on account of the richness of their ores; but these mines had not justified the ex-

pectations of any of the companies, whether English or Americans, by which they had been undertaken, and Mr. Ward did not find them very interesting

Accordingly he left them on the 26th, and proceeded to Angange, a mining district in the province of Valladolid, a little to the south of Tlalpujahua; the road was rather a singular one. It was on the edge of the mountains, between the Tierra Caliente toward the sea, and the Tierra Fria toward the interior; so that while there were sugar plantations and tropical fruits on the one hand, there were majestic forest trees on the other. But though the country seemed fine, there were few people, and little cultivation, there being no market for the produce. Wheat to any extent might be raised, but there is no market nearer than the capital, which is 46 leagues distant, and the road hilly and bad.

The ascent towards the mines is steep; the ravine is full of water-wheels for raising the machinery; and the ore is smelted in wretched sheds. The mines were in operation; one German company, and several natives, small capitalists, being living on them. After examining these mines, of which he speaks favourably, Mr. Ward again returned to the capital, by the mines of El Oro, which are situated in the confines of the province of Mexico. These are mines of gold, which have been formerly worked to some advantage; but the general opinion of the gold mines in Mexico is, that their productiveness diminishes as the depth is increased.

When Mr. Ward returned to Mexico, he found Mrs. Ward able and disposed to accompany him on his next excursion to the mines.

After the resolution of travelling *en famille* was taken, the party of Mr. Ward made a very respectable muster. A great coach, drawn by eight mules, in which were Mrs. Ward, her children, and two maids, a footman, who was all on the *qui vive* as muleteer. They were altogether a formidable party; the coach-burthen and attendants as aforesaid, Mr. Ward, Mr. Martin, the French Consul, Dr. Wilson, Mr. Carrington, with Don Rafael Beraza, the messenger of the mission, and attendants, that brought their effective numbers to sixteen men, well armed and mounted, with eight baggage mules, carrying provisions, beds, and other equipments as might be necessary, and eight load horses, for a relay in case of need. The wheels of the carriage were strengthened with hides, in the same manner as those which Captain Head had found so durable in crossing over the Pampas. Mr. Ward had better be allowed to describe the appearance of the group in his own language.

“ We often amused ourselves with fancying the sensation which the appearance of our caravan would have created in Hyde Park, or Long-champs, with the wild horses and mules, and the servants driving them at a gallop, with the lassos whirling round their heads; the guns and pistols, canteens and camp beds, carga-mules

and coach, in size like Noah's ark, perambulating, by some accident, the land instead of the waters, with festoons of *tasajo* (dried stripes of beef, sold by the yard), and handkerchiefs full of onions and tortillas, attached to different parts of it by the servants, would have formed a curious contrast to the neat chariot and four, with patent lamps and liveried attendants, in which the preparations for a journey in Europe usually consist. Nor would the night scenes have appeared less singular, with the pack saddles and horse accoutrements arranged in rows under the corridor; the arms of the servants suspended near them; the horses picketted around, and the muleteers stretched on the ground by the side of a large fire, cooking their mess for the night in a large kettle, or preparing their beds under the coach which served as a general place of rendezvous. *Chapita*, the Indian nurse, used to superintend the culinary operations of this group; and often have I seen her, before day-light, bending over the fire, and concocting a kettle of *atolli*, or *champorada* (maize and chocolate boiled in water) with the child slung to her back, in the Indian fashion, and exposed to the bracing cold of the morning air, which is not dispelled until the sun gets well above the horizon, at nine or ten o'clock."

The party, which usually started early, halted to breakfast at nine or ten, at an inn, if they could find one, or if not, on some convenient spot; and after a

little time the servants showed so much adroitness in pitching and striking the encampment, that little time was lost in that way.

They took the north direction, in order to examine a tract of country in which Mr. Ward had not been on any of his former excursions. Their road, after leaving the valley of the capital, lay over rather a barren tract to Tula, on the banks of the river of the same name. The church at Tula had the appearance of a fortified castle, and had, at the time of the conquest, been used for that purpose. Next night they halted at a country house in a rich agricultural district, though the produce had been diminished by the destruction of the reservoirs of irrigation during the revolution. Next day they proceeded to San Juan del Rio, the Mexican coachman dashing down hill at a gallop; but they paid for their boldness, as one of the wheels took fire, and the nave was almost wholly consumed ere they observed it. They were therefore obliged to leave it in the plain, and rode on to San Juan for a fresh wheel, which they sent back on a mule.

They got an excellent inn at San Juan, but the coach with Mr. Ward's family did not appear, and mine host tried to quiet the anxiety of his friends by sundry tales of robbery on the road. At three in the morning, Mr. Ward and one servant, well armed, galloped off, and found the coach, and all connected with it, quite safe where they had been left. The wheel did not fit, and

they had to go a long way in order to repair the old one. Mr. Ward slung his youngest child (five months old) in a sash, mounted his horse, and cantered back to San Juan, at which place the carriage landed at two next afternoon, the mules having had neither food nor water thirty hours.

A short distance beyond San Juan, they found the country improve wonderfully, abundance of provisions being to be had at almost the smallest house; while hares were more plentiful than in the best preserve in England. With the exception of one pedregal, or stony district, they found the whole country not only abundant, but increasing in abundance, till they came to Queretaro, the principal town of the district. The situation of the town is beautiful, and an aqueduct, by which it is supplied with water from the hills, has a majestic appearance.

Queretaro is a town of importance, and carries on very considerable manufactures of woollen. The wool comes principally from the northern states; and all the operations of spinning, weaving, drying, and preparing for market, are performed in Queretaro.

While resting a day at Queretaro, Mr. Ward went to see the canada, a ravine which sinks rapidly down, and brings the climate and productions of the Tierra Caliente within a few hundred yards of the temperate air, and corn-fields of the Table Land. It is occupied by gardens and majestic trees, and the same race of

Indians have been its principal inhabitants since the conquest.

A little beyond Queretaro, the Baxio, or grand agricultural storehouse of Mexico commences. Mr. Ward saw it under disadvantages; for it had been ravaged during the war, only a small part was under cultivation, and the drought of the season had covered it with dust. The soil was uncommonly rich, as they found to their partial inconvenience; for a shower having fallen, the road was converted into mortar. The towns in this part of Mexico are populous; Irapuato, though at no great distance from some others of considerable magnitude, contains from 16,000 to 20,000 inhabitants.

Leaving Irapuato on the 12th of November, they proceeded over a country barren from the drought; but they found in it the village of Burras, watered by a stream, and having the freshness and beauty of an Oasis in the wilderness.

The next town beyond Burras is Guanajuato, near which are mines belonging to the Anglo-Mexican Association. The houses of the town follow the direction of a ravine, the sides of which are covered by works for the reducing of ores. Our travellers were met, and hospitably provided for, by the resident managers for the Company.

The mines here have been exceedingly rich, and the quantity of silver produced enormous—the great mother vein having, since 1776, produced nearly 226

millions of dollars. The situation is not very convenient for a town, and the population has been drawn thither only by the attraction of the mines. There are accordingly many ups and downs in the streets; but the style of some of the houses is such as to evince that the place has been one of great wealth. The productiveness of these mines in 1826 was not great, the total weekly sales not exceeding 1500 or 2000 dollars; but they were only in their infancy since the suspension during the troubles of the revolution.

On the 14th Mr. Ward visited a mine at Sirena, about a league from Guanajuato, which is upon the great vein of ore, and has not been so much worked as any of the others. From the accounts which Mr. Ward obtained here, it did not appear that much profit is likely to be made from the employment of English miners in the Mexican mines. They were insubordinate, debauched, and, as compared with the natives, ignorant of their business. The directors were therefore obliged to get rid of them, employ native Mexicans in all the operative departments, and have only the management English.

On the 15th they reached the Valenciana mine, which, having been opened in 1760, at a venture, upon one of the parts thought destitute of ore, was carried on till 1768, and to the depth of about 250 feet, when the produce became at once very great, being, from 1788 to 1810, 1,383,195 dollars in gross on the average,

and 527,701 in profit to the proprietors. Mr. Ward descended this mine, in which the English company were proceeding rapidly with their repairs: the workings he found to be very extensive; and it took him five hours to examine the whole. In general the mine was well ventilated, but in some of the "labores," or rooms, which had no communication with the shafts, the thermometer rose to above 90°. This mine was one remarkable for its dryness; but, by some injudicious management connected with another mine, it was not only inundated at the time, but rendered expensive in drainage afterwards: that drainage the company are attempting by means of animal power.

The vein of Santa Ana, is, in its history, one of the most successful in that part of the country, many as are the mines, and varied as have been the fortunes of those engaged in them. Out of the shaft of San Miguel, upon this vein, a profit of eleven millions of dollars were obtained previous to the year 1760; and though the *Bonanza* then ceased, the mine continued to be worked at a considerable profit for twenty years longer. In 1780, a torrent, formed suddenly in the mountains by an excessive fall of rain, rushed in great volume and with much impetuosity down the ravine in which the mine was situated; and no protection having been made against such a visitation, the lower levels were filled in a moment, and almost all the miners drowned: The quantity of water was so great,

that with the ordinary means of drainage it took nineteen years of constant labour to clear the workings, so that no more ore was raised till 1799. In the four years following that, the mines afforded a profit of 400,000 dollars annually; but it then became necessary to construct a new Tiro General, or grand shaft, for drawing up the water; and as that is a work of vast expense, it has since consumed the greater part of the profits. This shaft is of vast dimensions,—an octagon, having a diameter of about forty feet, and a depth of 450 varas, or about 1300 feet. Of this vast depth the Marquis of Rayas completed 318 varas; but the consequences of the revolution prevented him from carrying it further, and so he let the mine to the United Mexican Company. At the time of Mr. Ward's visit, the company had sunk 49 varas more; they had 80 further to sink, and were proceeding at the rate of a vara and a half every week. When this is accomplished, it is expected to lay dry a vast extent of the vein that has not hitherto been explored. The expense is very great, however, both in the erection of the malacates, or horse gins, and in the working of them,—one of the largest requiring eight horses to move it, and these have to be changed three times every twenty-four hours. The blasting of the rock in these vast perpendicular shafts, is a very interesting operation: when the miners have made the necessary preparations, they are drawn up to the surface, the engine ropes are coiled up, and

the whole pit cleared. Then the Pegador, or matchman, descends to his work. The lightest of the gins is prepared for his use, and two horses of uncommon swiftness, kept for the purpose, and styled Caballos del Pegador, are yoked. The man is let down slowly with a light in his hand, which he applies to the slow matches that communicate with the shots. While this is performing, all is in breathless expectation at the top of the shaft. A man stands at the head of each horse, ready to urge him on at full speed the moment that the matchman gives the signal by pulling a rope. He does so, and off they go as hard as they can gallop, till the rope coiled on the drum of the gin shows them that the man has reached a height of 180 or 200 feet; or till an explosion has shewn them that further speed would be unavailable. Should all or any of the matches not ignite, the Pegador is again lowered. In so hazardous an office as that of the Pegador, there are sometimes accidents, and sometimes mistakes; and there are also wonderful escapes.

A few weeks before Mr. Ward's visit, the Pegador found, upon lighting all his matches, that the gin rope was withdrawn, the people above having mistaken a casual vibration for the signal. There was no chance of escape: the people above could not hear a cry, and though they had, the shots might have exploded before the horses could have been stopped and the rope let down. The Pegador, therefore, took out the matches,

and extinguished them all before one had time to explode.

The mines at this place contain a considerable quantity of gold; and the king's fifth, since the mine was opened in 1556, is stated at more than seventeen millions of dollars. Many of the proprietors in this district are wealthy; and the greater part of their wealth has been derived from the mines.

On the 20th of November, Mr. Ward and his party left the mining district of Guanajuato, much pleased both with the efforts making to restore the works to their former productiveness, and with the courtesy that they had received.

They took the route for the mines of San Luis Potosi, situated about 180 miles north of the capital, and those of Catorce, rather more than another hundred further to the north. At the commencement of the route, the country was rich, and the climate warm, being more than 1300 feet lower than the city of Mexico. The second day, however, they had a different specimen of travelling: they proceeded up the mountains in the hollow of a ravine; and having gained the summit about mid-day, the guide told them that he had lost, or did not know his way. The place they wished to arrive at was Tlachiquera; and having fixed upon what they thought was the direction, they proceeded "as the crow flies." At times the road was so rough that the whole force of their men and cattle could not urge

the carriage faster than one mile in the hour; at others they had to open a path by "Macadamising" the cactuses and thorny bushes with their swords; and at one place the slope along which they had to pass was so steep, that they had to fix three lassos, and hold on with all the weight and strength of horses and riders, to prevent the carriage from rolling down into the valley. The mules were much exhausted; and thus they had to pull up every very steep place they came to with the aid of the lassos. When they were nearly exhausted, their scout discovered the resting-place at the distance of only two leagues, but though they were encouraged by this intelligence, they did not reach the place till dusk. They had been twelve hours on the road, without passing a habitation, or seeing a human being. One cause of the slowness of their motion was their not being able to change the mules. There was no corral, or inclosure into which to drive them; and they would not allow themselves to be caught. Their accommodations were far from good,—Mrs. Ward having to sleep in the barn, and having been visited by a mule at her morning toilette.

Four leagues from the resting-place brought them out of the mountains, into the plain of San Felipe, which was much crowded with hares, and on the 22d they reached the town of San Felipe, once a place of some importance, but then in ruins. Leaving San Felipe in the morning, they proceeded on to El Jaral. In

the morning they had to cross a branch of the Sierra Madre, and the road was precipitous and difficult; but after they had crossed the ridge, they came into a level and well cultivated country.

The whole of the plain of the Jaral, with a country extending northward and westward, enough to form a small kingdom, is the property of the Marquis del Jaral, —the most extensive landholder in Mexico, and probably in the world. Nor is he by any means a lord of barren acres: the common return of wheat in the plain is five-and-twenty for one; and in favourable years it is much greater. The Marquis has also three millions of live stock, and sends annually to the market of Mexico thirty thousand sheep. The goats from his estates supply leather for the manufactories of Guadalajara and San Luis Potosi. A vast quantity of Chile pepper is also grown in the valley; and, indeed, in point of adaptation, both for abundance and variety of agricultural produce, few places seem to rival, and none to excel, the valley of the Jaral.

The master of all this wealth was not at home; but our travellers were splendidly entertained by his administrator; and when they would not consent to tarry longer than a night, there were sent after them a sheep, a dozen fowls, a supply of bread and fruit, and four bottles of vino mescal, a spirit which resembled whiskey in taste, extracted from manguely, at a distillery erected by the Marquis. The village attached to the mansion

at the Jaral, contained about 3000 inhabitants, more than 500 of whom were yearly servants of the Marquis. The house of this prince of landlords was plain; and the village consisted of mud huts in a state of decay; so that, in Mexico as in other countries, overgrown estates do not prove the most advantageous for the people.

The distance from El Jaral to San Luis is sixteen leagues, partly across the plain, and partly on the higher grounds on which the town is built. The town of San Luis is populous,—there being fifty or sixty thousand in it and the neighbouring villages, and as many more within the distance of six leagues.

San Luis is a manufacturing town, its work-shops supply many places in the neighbourhood, and at the time of Mr. Ward's visit, it had some foreign trade, chiefly with Old Spain and the United States. Farm produce might be raised in almost any quantity; but there is no market; and therefore in many parts the land is employed for rearing sheep, and breeding horses and mules.

They halted one day at San Luis, and found that they had been caught in the rainy season,—the inhabitants having assured them that they had not seen the sun for forty days, and the earth being very wet and rainy.

In rainy weather the inns of Mexico are far from comfortable; they are almost everywhere pervious to

the rain; and the horses and mules have to stand in an open court, exposed to all the pelting of the storm. Mr. Ward and his party felt this on the night of their arrival at San Luis; but next day was fine, and all was dry. Some of their cattle had suffered severely, however, and were for days unfit for service. They found San Luis remarkably well governed, having a college in which poor students are instructed gratis.

On the 26th of November they left San Luis, and proceeded northward for Catorce, which has been much celebrated for the number and productiveness of its mines. Without anything very peculiar by the way, they arrived in sight of the metalliferous mountains on the 29th. These mountains are a part of Sierra Madre; and the mines of Catorce are upon the Great Mother vein, which appears to follow the windings of the mountains throughout their whole length. These mountains are exceedingly bleak and dreary; and the only things that break the sombre monotony of their appearance, are here and there a mule-track, or a foaming torrent, or its dry channel, according as they are visited in the rainy season or the dry. The mountains had once abounded in forests, but they have been successively cut down and destroyed, so that timber for the mines has now to be fetched from a distance of at least fifty miles.

The first approach to Catorce is by the Canada, a ravine, the sides of which are steep. There are a few

houses at the top of this ravine, and beyond them no wheel carriage can go. They, therefore, by the advice and with the assistance of Mr. Macartney, the manager of the Catorce company, unloaded the carriages, got Mrs. Ward in a litter borne by four Indians, and began to ascend the winding path on the mountain. With a good horse, it took Mr. Ward an hour and ten minutes to gain the top; which when he had gained, the town of Catorce was before him in a sort of hollow, the mountain on the other side rising upwards of a thousand feet more. The town is built over a series of little ravines, in consequence of which there are often one or two stories more on the one end of a house than on the other. At first sight the town seems inaccessible; but it is well supplied with provisions from the Tierra Caliente to the east. The height of the town above the level of the sea was stated to Mr. Ward at 7,760 feet, or 292 higher than Mexico. The great mine of La Purisima is 390 feet higher than the town, and the top of the mountain 1,110. It is much exposed to the weather; the descent from the table-land being near to it on the east, and there being a long space without any ridge of mountains between it and the mining districts westward.

The Great Mother vein traverses the mountains in the direction of N. E., and S. W., and varies in thickness from about nine to upwards of thirty feet. From La Purisima, there are eight other mines on the same vein, descending below it in due succession, and lying

between it and the town. All those mines were famed for their riches ; but they were unskilfully worked, and the water expelled the miners from the lower levels, in some instances when they are at the maximum of productiveness.

There had been an attempt made to drain those levels by a gin-pit, that was sunk to the depth of more than 800 feet ; but it was found, that the three gins could not draw the water from so great a depth. The next object was to drive a level that should effect the whole drainage ; and that was begun in 1817, and drained more than 2,000 feet in four years ; but the removal of the capitalists in 1821, put a stop to the work ; and it was not re-commenced till the establishment of the Catorce company, who made but little progress before their affairs became involved.

From Mr. Ward's account, it does not appear that the mines at Catorce, even when the greatest fortunes were made at them, have been worked in a scientific manner. They have thus been a sort of lottery—though a lottery in which many rich shares have been drawn. The produce is still considerable, from fifty to seventy bars of silver being obtained monthly.

Catorce is not only well supplied with provisions, but abundance of European and American goods, not excepting the articles which are contraband.

Mr. Ward spent five days at Catorce, and was

kindly received by the natives, who all expressed much anxiety that the mineral value of their district should be known in England. When he took his leave, a number of the more respectable inhabitants accompanied him down the steep and winding path to the Canada, where the carriage was waiting to conduct its former occupants to Sombrerete, about 140 miles west of Catorce.

From Catorce, westward to the mountains, that stretch in the direction of Zacatecas and Sombrerete there extends an immense plain, covered with thorny mimosa, mezquites, and dwarf palms, which bear fruit similar to the date. This vast extent of flat country is destitute of springs and rivers; and the proprietors who pasture immense flocks of sheep and goats, are in consequence obliged to construct tanks at great expense. The places at which they halted on this plain, had very few accommodations; and as there was no provender to give their horses and mules in an inclosure, they had to turn them loose, and often had much labour in again getting hold of them. They found the Indians of the plain, the few that were of them, not by any means destitute of a taste for religion and finery—the walls of the hut in which they and their poultry dwelt, being stuck over with crosses, and rude portraitures of saints, together with some figures of animals.

After passing over this desert, every mule being dis-

appointed of shelter, and suffering various other privations which might be expected in such a place, our travellers came within sight of the mountains of Sombrerete on the 12th of December; and on the evening of the same day, they landed at that place. Don Narciso Anitua, the proprietor of the mines worked by the United Mexican company, met them as they were near the town, and invited them to his house, in which they remained the whole of their stay.

At Sombrerete there are two principal veins of silver, —La Veta Negra, and El Pavellon. They are on a parallel, in the direction of S. E., and N. W., and about 550 feet distant from each other on the surface. As they sink into the earth they converge; and from their inclination, it is estimated that they unite at a depth of something more than 2000 feet. There are a number of shafts upon each vein, all of which were once separate mines; but those upon the Veta Negra have been united by a gallery in the lower level, which conveys the whole of the water to one gin-pit, where it is drawn up in the usual way by horses. The whole of these mines had been cleared and re-timbered in the twelve-months previous to Mr. Ward's visit.

Those mines have, at times, been very productive. In 1675, they yielded 20,000 dollars a day; and again, in the year 1786, the new working, which had been begun in 1780, produced 1,620,000 dollars. The one

varies very much in quantity ; and generally speaking, it is much more rich than abundant.

It was Mr. Ward's first intention to proceed as far as the mines of Durango, with the whole of his company ; but more time had been spent in the examination of the other mines than he had anticipated ; and having learned at Sombrerete, that it would take nine days to go with the carriage to Durango and return, he resolved to set out on horseback, alone ; as he could ride there in one day, return in another, and examine the mines in two days,—thus saving five days out of the travelling alone.

Having thus resolved, he set out on the morning of the 16th of December. He found the descent from the Hills of Sombrerete to the plain not the most commodious for a horseman ; and one which would have required a good deal of time with the carriage. A little onward he found extensive woods, from which Sombrerete is supplied with fuel. The plain is fertile, but the system of culture, and of grazing, is slovenly ; and, as is the case on the plain of Jaral, the hovels of the peasantry form a sad contrast to the magnificent haciendas of the rich.

In the plain were many masses of vesicular lava, overgrown with aloes ; and in other places there were a good many trees, but of inferior size to those found farther south. A river, in which there is water even in

the driest season, gives to this place a more interesting character than that which they had to traverse after leaving Catorce. In many places, however, they are obliged to construct dams for navigation ; and some of these cost as much as 100,000 dollars. Those parts of the valley to which water cannot be conveyed, are abandoned to the crust of carbonate of soda. Even that is of use, however, in the melting of the ores.

Durango, the city of Victoria, is situated near the northern extremity of the plain, with a line of little hills in the back ground, and the mountain of ironstone almost close by the gates. Mr. Ward was fortunate in having letters to the governor of the state, and the military commandant, who met him in a coach ; and the former being a native, was able to communicate many particulars respecting the country.

The population of Durango is about 22,000 ; and that of the whole state, in which there are some other considerable towns, about 175,000. Lying on the confines of Mexico, and bordering upon the track between Mexico and the United States, which is still inhabited by the independent Indians (Los Indios Bravos), and used to be exposed to their depredations, there are no manufactures in the state, the wealth consisting in the produce of the fields and mines. The former are not so productive as they might be, in consequence of the size of the farms, which are too large for being profitably managed by one party. They raise a great deal of

stock—bullocks, mules, and sheep—150,000 of the latter being annually sent to the capital. Some of the farmers have as many as 200,000 sheep, and 40,000 horses and mules; and one mentioned to Mr. Ward, had 40,000 oxen and cows. Upon the banks of the river, there are nine more farms in an immediate juxtaposition, which yield the finest wheat in Mexico. Other products, not attended to when Mr. Ward visited the district, might be turned to good account. Indigo and coffee were found wild among the mountains, and might therefore be cultivated; and sago might be reared in the low and warm valleys, in which there is often an abundant supply of water.

The iron mountain, near the city, is wholly composed of ores of that metal, containing about sixty to seventy per cent. of pure metal; but they are of a description which the founders of England, the United States, and Silesia, and also some adventurers from Biscay, do not properly understand how to melt. Mr. Ward remarks that Swedish forgersmen would manage the operation with ease.

The district is rich in the precious metals, but they have been worked only to a limited extent. Instead of steam engines for raising water, there is not so much as a horse-gin, the people having abandoned the mines the minute that the water could not be cleared away by two or three carriers with leathern buckets. The consequence is, that not a mine in the state has

been worked to the depth of 300 feet. Many of the mines are therefore in a virgin state. There is a good deal of gold in some; the quantity increases as one proceeds westward; and in the western slope of the mountains gold is found pure.

Westward of the mountains lies the low and warm country of Cinaloa, extending to the gulf of California.

The mines in this district are distributed over a considerable extent of country; though they are mostly all upon the eastern slope of the mountains.

Among the mines in this district, which have hitherto been the most distinguished, are those of Batopilas on the west side of the mountains. Of the many openings that have been made here, that of Carmen has been the most celebrated. From it the Marquis of Bustamante drew his enormous fortune; and in it he found one piece of pure silver, 425 pounds in weight.

In this part of the district, the silver is, indeed, generally found pure. When not in masses, so that it can be cut out with chisels, it is sprinkled through the lode. This purity of the silver saves much expense, as neither amalgamation nor smelting is required.

Some of the richest mines have been discovered by the Indians. One of the tribe swam the river after a great flood; and upon reaching the opposite bank, found that the action of the water had laid bare a lode of great promise. The whole people of Batopilas went to see his

good fortune; but when he had only got to the depth of nine feet, after extracting a great quantity of metal, the water broke in; he abandoned it, and it has not been attempted since.

The mine of Morelos was also discovered by Indians, brothers, of the names of Arauco, in the spring of 1826. Two months' labour put them in possession of silver to the value of 270,000 dollars, or more than 40,000*l*; but in the same year, they were contented to sit bare-headed, and bare-legged beside their wealth, in a wretched hovel, close by the place where it was found. The only actual pleasure that they seem to derive from it, is by throwing a piece of the rich ore among their former assistants, and letting them scramble for it. Mr. Ward obtained some specimens of this ore, which was almost pure silver.

Instances of good fortune, similar to those now mentioned, are by no means uncommon in that part of the Sierra Madre. Of these, one of the richest is Refugio. The precise production of it is not known; but in the year 1814 alone, it returned to Durango 337,000 dollars. The mine of Jesus Maria, in the eastern slope of the mountain, first opened in 1822, is also exceedingly rich; and the population was thronging to it at the time of Mr. Ward's visit. Indeed, from the whole of the evidence which he collected, this western part of the Sierra Madre seems to be the most promising field for future adventurers.

The account which Mr. Ward gives of the success of the pearl fishery, in the gulf of California, is by no means so promising. The first cruise of six weeks, notwithstanding the diving bells, and all the apparatus, produced only one bad pearl, and the second was not so successful,—of course no third was attempted.

The only mines of celebrity which he did not visit, were those of Bolanos, which are in a detached ridge, considerably to the south of those that he last visited.

Mr. Ward left Durango on the 19th of December, with a favourable impression of the manners and morals of the inhabitants, more especially of the fair sex. He galloped, a la Captain Head, to Sombrerete, in one day, and to Fresnillo in another, the entire distance being about 150 miles. At the latter place he was agreeably surprised to find Mrs. Ward, and Mr. Martin, though they had been detained by an accident which happened to the coach, and the accommodation was none of the best. They were all veteran travellers now, however, and the common contingencies and privations of the road gave them but little annoyance.

From Fresnillo they proceeded for Zacatecas. The road was good for about six leagues; but after that, they got into the mountainous country, where it was up one steep, and down another, the whole way. The town of Zacatecas is filthy, but provisions abound; fish, vegetables, and waggon loads of Chile pepper came thronging to the market. There are many churches

and convents, which give the town an imposing appearance at a distance; and in the great Plaza, there are some fine houses.

The mines are upon three lodes, or veins, of nearly equal value; and almost 3000 pits have been opened. They have been worked from nearly the time of the conquest, and large fortunes have been made. The mint of Zacatecas has been better conducted than some other of the Mexican mints; and there have been instances where 60,000 dollars have been struck in twenty-four hours. The ores of Zacatecas contain little or no gold; and in silver they are abundant rather than rich.

Our travellers left Zacatecas on the 26th of December, and pursued the western road, that proceeds by Guadalajara, and the lake of Chapala.

On the 27th they reached Aguas Calientes, through a district remarkable for its productiveness, the roads being covered with waggons of provisions. The town is handsome, and contains extensive manufactures of woollen. There, too, the cold north wind had forsaken them, and they found the climate very agreeable. On the 30th they reached San Juan de los Lagos, celebrated for its annual fair, and fine church, dedicated to the Virgin; but the town is in a hollow, and most of the houses are of wood.

On the 3d of January, after passing through some considerable towns, they got to Guadalajara, the capital

of the province. It is a large and populous city, the second in Mexico, and contains a population of nearly fifty thousand. Many of the people are employed in manufactures; and in some branches they are tolerably expert. The mines in this state, with the exception of those of Bolanos, are not of great celebrity or value. Mr. Ward and his friends found four days' entertainment in Guadalajara, and left it on the 7th of January, and proceeded to the lake of Chapala. This lake is of considerable magnitude, and contains abundance of fish, while the marshes in the neighbourhood are thronged with water fowl. Crossing the river Lerma, at La Barca, a little above its junction with the lake, they proceeded southward, in the direction of Valladolid. The road lay through hills of picturesque shapes; but they found no little difficulty in getting the carriage to pass. On their way they discovered a mode of killing wild ducks, by discharging at once two tiers of gun-barrels, that cover the water with the slain.

On the 14th they reached Valladolid, which had suffered greatly during the revolution. Parts of this state are very unhealthy, the people being afflicted with agues.

They left Valladolid on the 16th, to proceed toward Mexico. The Otomic Indians are still found in the mountains in their huts. They differ from the Aztecs, or Mexicans, in their alphabet. The Mexicans make very frequent use of the letter *L*, and have no *R*:

there is frequent use of *R* in the Otomic language ; but there is neither *L* nor *F*. A small mine working here by the Real del Monte Company, promised to be productive ; and they had a good deal of rich ore in their magazines.

Returning from the border of the Tierra Caliente, they found the cold intense as they came to the high grounds in the vicinity of the capital. They arrived in the capital on the afternoon of the 23d ; and though their horses were reduced to skin and bone by the fatigues of the excursion, not one of them was left by the way. With the newly-purchased mules it fared not so well, some of them were lost ; but of those that Mr. Ward had taken with him from Mexico, there was not one that gave way.

Thus Mr. Ward completed a series of excursions, in the course of which he saw probably more of the country of Mexico, and inquired more into the condition and value of the mines, than any other European traveller. From the capital to Vera Cruz, he had given, formerly, an account of the journey ; and, therefore, in his personal narrative he is silent respecting his passage that way, and his final return to England.



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