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COLOMBIA:

ITS PRESENT STATE,

IN RESPECT OF

CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, POPULATION,
GOVERNMENT, COMMERCE, REVENUE, MANUFACTURES,
ARTS, LITERATURE, MANNERS, EDUCATION,

AND

INDUCEMENTS TO EMIGRATION.

WITH

ITINERARIES,

PARTLY FROM SPANISH SURVEYS, PARTLY FROM
ACTUAL OBSERVATION.

BY

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and the United States."

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CONTENTS.



19

PART I.

*Geographical outline of Colombia—Climate—
Soil and Productions — Population — Govern-
ment—Commerce and Revenue — Manufacto-
ries, Arts, Literature and Education.*

PART II.

*Preliminary remarks — Natural advantages of
Emigration to Colombia—Disposition of the
Government towards Foreign Settlers—Charac-
ter of the Inhabitants, as it affects Foreign Set-
tlers—Modes of Emigration, and description
of Persons most proper for this purpose—Pre-
parations necessary — Choice of Place— Dif-
ficulties arising from difference of Language,
Customs and Religion—Diseases of the Cli-
mate.*



DEDICATION.

To Jeremy Bentham, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR, *Maracaybo, Feb. 5, 1824.*

I TAKE the liberty of dedicating the following pages to *you*, because I am convinced there is no one more aware of the evils of a crowded population, and defective social institutions, or who would more gladly anticipate in the New World such improved forms of political existence as we must almost despair of witnessing in the Old.

It is superfluous to insist on the paramount interest of Great Britain to plant in South America a nation of *customers* whose trade will one day, from the fertility of their soil and superior value of its productions, become of infinitely more importance than even that of the United States. There is yet another interesting consideration—the political wheel has very nearly “come full circle” in the Antilles. Spain is not the only nation whose crimes will meet with retribution in the downfall of colonial establishments founded on anti-social principles. It is in vain the Creole proprietor proudly exclaims against all interference with *his property*. The time is fast

approaching when *Man* will cease to be the property of *Man*. Fortunately the natural bent of circumstances offers a species of *euthanasia* to the West-India colonies, if not too long and obstinately rejected. The capital employed on them has long since made very inadequate returns, and these returns will be much smaller when the sugars, rum, and coffee of South America obtain that preference in the European markets to which their superior cheapness will, of course, entitle them. South America must *under-sell* the West-India islands: let the capital employed on the latter be transferred to the former, and let the capitalist rather seek to share the prosperity of a new, than the ruin of an old country. I speak not of a more violent catastrophe, but they who dwell on the edge of a volcano should at least understand the signs of an approaching eruption.

I trust it is superfluous to speculate on the plans of the allied despots; meek-hearted sovereigns—who enslave, plunder, and partition, and then modestly desire the world will esteem them “all honourable men;”—aye, and righteous too, for they would cover both hemispheres with scaffolds and dungeons, and devoutly preach to their victims from the text of social order, religion, and philanthropy. The firm and prompt measures of the British Cabinet give us every reason to hope the New World may at least escape their ravages. The well-beloved Ferdinand has already despatched a proclamation to his colonies,

containing the usual quantity of official cant and insolence, but his "paternal yearnings" and "energetic measures" will serve here only to excite ridicule and contempt.

You will be pleased to know that your ideas on legislation are gaining ground in Colombia; a law of Congress of the 11th of June, 1823, orders, "That all laws shall be accompanied by an exordium, containing the fundamental reasons for their enactment." I have no doubt that this idea was suggested by the present of your *Codification proposal* to this government. For *its* sake, rather than for *yours*, I could have wished the obligation had been acknowledged.

With respect to the pages now offered to your perusal, I have but one observation to make of a personal nature, and this is, to disclaim every thing like undue bias in the representation I have made of the advantages of emigration to this country. It not unfrequently happens that they who recommend a plan have some interest in its adoption; and their statements, in such cases, as commonly take a tinge from their interests. I have no connexion, directly or indirectly, with any scheme of emigration, nor can the adoption or rejection of my ideas on the subject, influence, in any manner that I am at present aware of, my future welfare. Neither am I misled by any advantages which have occurred to myself from a change of country; my success as a military man has been too partial and too dearly purchased to

dazzle my imagination. Whenever I quit Colombia I shall scarcely leave behind me any other trophies than the sepulchres of my friends: I write that my countrymen may profit, if they think fit, by what I have seen and felt, and that England and Colombia may hereafter add the ties of blood and relationship to those of political friendship.

That you may long retain life and health for the benefit of humanity in ages yet unborn, is the sincere wish of,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful Friend and Servant,

F. HALL.

A SKETCH
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

PART I.

*Geographical Outline of Colombia ; Climate ;
Soil, and Productions ; Population ; Govern-
ment ; Commerce and Revenue ; Manufac-
tures ; Arts ; Literature and Education.*

§ 1. GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE, CLIMATE, SOIL,
AND PRODUCTIONS.

THE Republic of Colombia occupies an extent of 22° or 1,320 miles of longitude, reckoning from the mouth of the Orinoco, to the western extremity of the Isthmus of Panama ; and 18° or 1,080 miles of latitude, 11½ to the north, and 6½ to the south of the Equator, reckoning from Cape la Vela to the southern extremity of Quito. It is bounded to the north and east by the Atlantic Ocean, and by Dutch and French Guyana ; to the west by the

Guatamalan province of Veragua and the Pacific; and to the south by deserts which separate it from Peru, and by Indian nations who inhabit the unexplored banks of the Orellana, or American river, which forms its natural boundary on the side of the Brazils.

The Cordillera of the Andes may be called the mountain spine which traverses this immense territory, dividing it irregularly both from east to west, and from north to south; and imprinting on its soil and climate all those peculiarities and advantages which so remarkably distinguish it. This stupendous chain first enters the province of Loxa in Quito, in $4^{\circ} 30'$ south latitude, where its height is moderate, and the ridge forms one body. At $2^{\circ} 23'$ south, it forms a group of mountains, called El Asuay, some of which are near 15,000 feet in height. Here it divides into two parallel ridges, forming the narrow and lofty valley, in which are built the towns of Rio Bamba, Hambato, Latacunga, and the city of Quito; the plain of which is elevated 9000 feet above the level of the ocean. To the right of this valley, rise the summits of the Copacureu (16,380 feet), Tunguragua (16,720), Cotopaxi (17,950), and Guyambu (18,180); to the left, Chimboraza (20,100), Tlenisa (16,302), and Petchincha (15,380); all covered with perpetual snows, from amidst which torrents of flame and lava have frequently burst, and desolated the surrounding country. Near Tulcan, the Cordillera,

after having been irregularly united by lofty groups of mountains, again divides itself into two chains; which form the elevated valley of Pastos, bordered by the Azufsal, Gambal, and Pasto, burning volcanoes, and by Chiles, extinguished. Beyond Pastos, it diverges into three ridges, the most western of which follows the coast of the Pacific Ocean, and terminates in the isthmus of Panama; the central divides the valley of the Cauca from that of the Magdalena, traverses the province of Atioquia, and terminates near Mompox in the latter river. The eastern chain is the most considerable and loftiest of the three; it is here the numberless streams which unite to form the Meta, and Apure, and to swell the majestic Orinoco, have their rise; it forms the table land, on which stands Bogota,* the capital of the Republic, at an elevation of 8,100 feet; and after rising into the line of Paramos, or bleak mountains, known by the names of Suma Paz, Chingota, Zoraca, and Chita, covered with snow, divides into two ridges at the Paramo of Almoizadero, about $6^{\circ} 50'$ north latitude. One of these ridges continues in a northerly direction through the province of Ocana, divides the waters of the Magdalena from those of the lake of Maracaybo, and majestically terminates in the Sierra Nevada, or snowy mountains of Santa Marta. The second branch, after forming the Paramo of Cacota de Velasco and elevated valley of

* Formerly known by the name of Santa Fé de Bogota.

Pamplona, takes a north-easterly direction at Cucuta, forming the Paramo called Mesa de Laura, and the lofty valley of La Guta, the valleys of Bayladores, and Paramo of Las Porquenas, the valleys of Estanques and Merida, where it rises to the limit of perpetual snows; the cold valley and Paramo of Mucachies, the Paramos of Niguitao, Bocono, and Las Rosas: the sides of which form the vales of Mendoza, Truxillo, Cavache, and various others, whose waters descend into the lake of Maracaybo, to which this chain of mountains forms the southern and eastern frontier. The Cordillera here again separates into two ridges, the first follows a northerly direction, forms the mountains of Carora, and ramifies itself into several small chains betwixt Coro and Maracaybo; the other continues to the north east, forming the mountain of El Altar, the valley of Tocuyo, the heights of Barquesimeto, and those of Nirgua, whence branch the smaller chains of hills which surround the lake of Tacarigua, or Valencia; after passing Nirgua and San Felipe, it approaches the sea coast near Puerto Cabello, and continues to skirt the ocean to La Guayra, where it forms the elevated ridge known by the name of the Silla of Caracas, the beautiful valley of this city, that of the river Tuy, and various others; whence it continues sometimes approaching to, and sometimes receding from, the coast, till it forms the coast of the Bergantine, near Cumana, and finally terminates in the Gulf of Paria.

The configuration thus given to the country, naturally divides it into three zones, characterized by their respective soils, climates, and productions. The first of these is the tract of country included betwixt the Cordillera and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The climate here is invariably hot, almost always unhealthy; the soil luxuriantly abundant, wherever it is sufficiently irrigated by rivers or periodical rains, but parched and barren where these are deficient, as is sometimes the case from the peculiar situation of the mountains, which render the falls of rain locally precarious; while the rivers, for want of supplies, dry up or loose themselves in sandy deserts. Thus the province of Coro has been sometimes four years without rain, and other parts of the coast are exposed to similar droughts, though in a less degree. The rivers which descend from the mountains, at a short distance from the coast, are either inconsiderable in the volume of their waters, or too rapid and rocky to be navigable far from their mouths. The river Magdalena, however, which descends longitudinally above 700 miles through the valleys of the Andes, is navigable to the Port of Honda, 550 miles from its entrance into the Atlantic. The Cauca, which descends through the province of Antioquia and the Atrato through that of Choco, are considerable rivers whose banks, as well as those of the Magdalena, are covered by the luxuriant forests which distinguish the rivers of the plains, and indi-

cate a soil of unlimited fertility ; but the climate is burning, and the life of man is not only rendered precarious by disease, but his daily comfort is destroyed by swarms of insects and venomous reptiles.

The second, or mountainous zone, presents a very different scene. At the height of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, the climate becomes mild, vegetation continues uninterrupted through the year, leguminous plants, wheat, and other productions of temperate regions, are abundant, and of the best quality : venomous insects and serpents are rarely met with ; and the human frame acknowledges the grateful salubrity of a temperature fitted alike for enjoyment and labour. The climate continues mild and agreeable to the height of 9,000 feet, when it becomes cold ; the sky is usually cloudy, and vegetation slow in growth and stunted in appearance. At the height of 15,700 feet it ceases altogether : no living creature passes this dreary limit, where steril sands, naked rocks, fogs, and eternal snows, mark the reign of uninterrupted solitude. From the level of the sea to the height of 4,800 feet, the Thermometer of Fahrenheit varies from 77° to 115° , from thence to 8,000, it varies from 50° to 77° .

The third zone comprehends the immense tract of level country which spreads itself southward and eastward, from the base of the Andes to the neighbourhood of the river Amazon, and the mountains which border on the Orinoco. These prodigious

savannahs are watered by the numerous streams which form the Meta, the Apure, and finally the Orinoco ; the periodical overflowings of which convert the whole country, during four months of the year, into an immense lake or inland sea, on which the villages and hatos, or cattle farms, raised upon small banks and elevations, appear as so many islets. When the floods retire, the whole plain is covered with luxuriant pasture ; on which herds of cattle were raised, previous to the war, in numbers almost defying calculation. Nor are these plains less rich in agricultural advantages. The banks of the rivers are covered with primeval forests of the most precious kinds of woods for dyes, furniture, and buildings ; and exhibit, when cleared, a soil capable of rendering abundantly Sugar, Cotton, Coffee, Cocoa, Indigo, Tobacco, and generally every species of tropical produce. All the energy of nature, in the production both of animal and vegetable life, is here brought into action ; and wild beasts, venomous reptiles, and tormenting insects, enter equally into a system which man vainly imagines constructed for *his* peculiar use and convenience. The climate, though hot, is neither so unhealthy nor debilitating as that of the sea coast, the air being refreshed and purified by the strong breezes blowing constantly over this grassy ocean, which extends not less than 300 miles in every direction betwixt the Andes and the Orinoco.

§ 2. POPULATION.

IT can scarcely be expected, that a country, which for above twelve years has been the theatre of a war of unexampled desolation, should possess any exact census of its population : the calculation I am about to offer was made previous to the year 1810 ; since which period, above half the inhabitants of Venezuela are supposed to have perished : those of New Grenada may be reckoned to have remained stationary, the natural increase of twelve years being balanced by the drains made to supply the waste of the Spanish and Republican armies.

Provinces of Venezuela.

Guyana	40,000
Cumana	100,000
Island of Margarita	15,000
Caracas	460,000
Maracaybo	120,000
Varinas	90,000
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	325,000
	<hr/>

Provinces of New Grenada.

Rio Hacha	20,000
Santa Marta	70,000
Cartagena	210,000

POPULATION.

17

Panama	50,000
Coro	40,000
Antioquia	110,000
Pamplona	90,000
Sacorro	130,000
Tunja	200,000
Cundinamarca	190,000
Mariquita	110,000
Popayan	320,000
Casanare	20,000
Quito	500,000
Cuenca	200,000
Guyaquil	50,000
Loxa and Jaen	80,000
Quisos and Marnes	40,000
	<hr/>
	2,430,000
	<hr/>

This population may be divided physically into Indians or aborigines of the country, European Spaniards, Creoles, or descendants of Spaniards, Negroes, and Mixed or coloured races, known by the appellations of Mulatoes, Mestizos, Quarterons, &c. With respect to the Indians it is to be observed, that this estimate does not include the nations of independent Indians, which still exist within the territory of the republic, such as the Gaahiras, who inhabit the country betwixt Rio Hacha and Maraçaybo, several

tribes on the coast of Darièn, the entire population of the Meta, and the numerous tribes of the Orinoco. The reduced, or civilized Indians, form the most numerous class throughout the country ; the Negroes and their descendants are few in number throughout the mountain provinces of New Grenada, they are more thickly scattered on the sea coast, and in the plains, and were calculated to form a third of the entire population of Venezuela, previous to the revolution, a proportion which must rather have increased since that time, in consequence of the mortality during the war having, for various reasons, fallen heaviest on the whites.

Under the Spanish government, the political distinctions which separated these various classes of inhabitants were almost as numerous as, and infinitely more odious than, their physical varieties of features and complexion. By the laws of the Indies, the Indians were not only cut off from every civil employment or distinction, but were even denied the dignity of rational beings, being held in a state of perpetual pupillage, under the authority, principally, of their curates, who would hardly permit them to hold any intercourse with the rest of the inhabitants ; the people of colour were little better treated : besides being rigidly excluded from every employment of honour or consideration in the state, they were subjected to personal distinctions, the more painful, because they could have no other object than that of gratifying the

vanity of the privileged class at the expense of their unfortunate brethren. Such was the law prohibiting the women of colour from wearing the *manto*, or black-dress used at church, or from wearing any ornament of gold or silver; custom, besides, prohibited them the use of the *alfombra*, or carpet at their devotions, and that of an umbrella to skreen them from the sun in the streets; all these distinctions are now happily abolished; the law of the republic sees none but citizens in every class of inhabitants, whatever may be their origin or the tinge of their complexions; the justice of this policy has been rewarded by the exertions of the people of colour, in aid of the independence of the country, of which they have been the firmest supporters, and Colombia reckons among her best and bravest officers, men, whom Spanish pride and tyranny, deemed unworthy to sit at a white man's table. If any lingering prejudices still remain they are happily confined to female coteries, or an occasional explosion in a ball-room: even these last embers of irritated and childish pride, it is the interest of the republic to see extinguished.

Slavery is an acknowledged evil, which the government of the republic has taken the most efficacious measures to abolish, by a law passed at Cucuta, the 21st of July, 1821. The offspring of all slaves born since this date are free; their services, until the age of eighteen, being due to their owners in lieu of their maintenance; the exportation and

importation of slaves are absolutely forbidden, and a fund is established in the form of a Legacy-tax, for manumission without injury to the present owners. Circumstances have powerfully aided the operation of these measures; the number of slaves never was very great: in the province of Caracas, where they were most numerous, it was estimated at 80,000, but this number was probably reduced to one-third during the war, when each party received them into its ranks, and the disturbed state of the times every where facilitated their desertion.

It cannot escape notice, that the foregoing population is extremely disproportioned to the territory of the republic: in the time of its greatest prosperity the country was comparatively a desert, but this desolation has been fearfully augmented during the revolutionary war. The fertile provinces of Guyana, Cumana, and Barcelona, are almost abandoned, and the flourishing towns, and villages of the plains reduced to a grass-grown wretchedness, which scarcely leave room to conjecture their former prosperity. Could twenty millions of inhabitants be transferred from Europe, they could find land to cultivate, and abundance to recompence their labour.

§ 3. GOVERNMENT.

THE form of Government established by a nation which, like the Colombian, emerges from a state of

political degradation to enter upon the untried career of national existence, cannot be regarded but as an experiment which time must justify or correct. The vanity of legislators seeks to ascribe to their first efforts in constitution-making, a durability and perfection they are not very likely to enjoy. It is not easy to calculate on the political spirit of a people, as yet ignorant of self-government: should its tendencies be fortunately liberal and enlightened, its institutions will rapidly overpass the ideas of its first law-givers: should the reverse unfortunately prove the case, the form of its government will speedily accommodate itself to its defects, although Republican names and shews should be still left to mock its slavery.

The present Constitution of Colombia was fixed by Congress of Cucuta in 1821. It declares the perpetual Independence of the Nation, the Sovereignty of the People, Responsibility of Magistrates, and Equality of Rights: the legislative power is lodged in a Senate and a House of Representatives: the Senate is composed of four senators for each of the departments of the Republic (eight in number), who are elected in the same manner as the House of Representatives: the term of election is for eight years: the peculiar functions of the Senate are those of a high court of justice in cases of impeachment by the House of Representatives; its ordinary functions are the same with those of the latter, except that it cannot originate money bills, an exception evidently

grounded on the practice of the English Government, without consideration of the little analogy there exists betwixt an elective Senate of simple citizens, and an hereditary House of Nobles. The House of Representatives consists of members named by each province, in the proportion of one for each 30,000 inhabitants : they are elected for four years ; the mode of election is *indirect*. In every parish is held what is called a Parochial Assembly, composed of proprietors to the value of 100 dollars, or persons exercising some independent trade ; these Parochial Assemblies elect the electors at the rate of 10 for each representative, so that averaging the population of the Republic at 2,500,000, and supposing the whole representation graduated according to the law, the total number of electors will be about 700 ; the majority of whom, 360, must be allowed to be a very *convenient* number for executive management. The executive power is lodged in the hands of a President, elected for four years. He is entrusted with the general administration of the government, the execution of the laws, the command of the army and navy, and with the power of nominating to all civil and military employments : he is bound to hear, but not to follow the opinion, in cases of importance, of the Council of Government, composed of the Vice President, a Member of the High Court of Justice, whom he chooses, and the Secretaries of State, of whom there are at present four, for the Home

and Foreign Departments, for Finances and for War.

The General Dispositions of the Constitution, satisfactorily prove the liberal spirit which actuated its framers : the freedom of the Press is recognised, and has been established by a law, which leaves nothing to desire but that it may be religiously adhered to.

All illegal arrests and imprisonments, all extraordinary tribunals or commissions, are prohibited : the houses, papers, and correspondence of individuals, are declared inviolable : the mode of trial by jury is recommended ; monopolies are abolished, and every species of hereditary rank or emolument forbidden. But, whatever may be its theoretical merits or defects, more interesting questions arise as to the *practical* advantages of this system, the manner in which it is administered, the hold it has obtained on the affections of the people, and its adaptation to their peculiar political situation. It is not easy to answer these queries completely or satisfactorily ; in the first place it is an *experiment*, and political experiments are of all others the most fallacious, especially when they are not strictly in harmony with the natural interests of society : the idea of a country so extensive, so thinly inhabited, and so defective in its communications, united into a single republic, the capital of which is at a greater distance from the exterior provinces, taking the embarrass-

ments of travelling into consideration, than these are from Madrid, is evidently replete with difficulties, the first and most obvious of which is, the want of responsibility on the part of the various provincial magistrates, who will always laugh to scorn either complaints or impeachments, which the parties interested must be ruined in attempting to prosecute, even were justice less tardily administered than is the Spanish fashion. Amid a people whose spirit has been crushed by the despotism of ages, it will be long ere individuals can be found, who, with no other support than the laws, and the sympathy of their fellow citizens, will dare to brave the indignation of the government, and insist upon justice as a right too obvious to be denied ; such an effort would, I fear, under existing circumstances, be rather deemed an act of madness than of political duty, and yet until such a spirit not only exists, but becomes prevalent, is not only tolerated, but cherished and applauded, there can be no such thing as practical liberty. The evils of the central system are considerably augmented by the present form of provincial administration. The intendants of departments, governors of provinces, with all inferior magistrates and corporations, are all directly or indirectly appointed by the executive, whereas, were their election popular, the power of election or rejection, with that of opinion, on the part of the people, would create a local responsibility on the part of the ma-

gistrates, generally sufficient to ensure the discharge of their duty without having recourse to the seat of government, a remedy which we may reasonably prognosticate, will be always found ineffectual. In spite, however, of these and other defects, inherent in the present form of the constitution, such parts of it as were readily intelligible had begun to take a forcible hold on the minds of the people ; the form of election was too much complicated, and too indirect, to excite a powerful interest in minds which required political ideas of the simplest, and if we may use the expression, most tangible form, but the abolition of arbitrary imprisonments, the liberty of the press, the equalization of rights, were easily understood, and universally appreciated ; at the moment, however, that these good fruits were making their appearance, the growth of the tree was checked, and its vital spirit, for a season at least, destroyed. The invasion by Morales, of the province of Maracaybo caused the suspension of the constitution in the provinces adjacent to, or *which might become* the seat of war. Insurrections in Quito produced similar measures in the south, and military, which is always synonymous with arbitrary, government, has been since almost every where established ; this evil would have been trifling, in a country already accustomed to the enjoyment of its freedom under a tried constitution, but here it has unsettled men's minds as to the value and efficacy of a system, which either

fails to produce the expected advantages, or disappears when its influence should be most triumphantly exerted.*

Hunc tantum terris ostendunt. Fata neque ultra
Esse sinunt—

It is impossible to speak favourably of the administration of justice in Colombia ; the civil and criminal codes are little more than a collection of superstitions and abuses, under the names of Laws of Castile, Royal Ordinances, Laws of the Indies, and various other compilations of Spanish decrees, and colonial regulations, from which, to the vexation of the suitor, and benefit of the lawyer, contradictory decisions may be extracted on every possible point of litigation. This evil is felt and acknowledged by the government : it has been proposed to introduce the new Spanish criminal code. Trial by jury is happily established in cases of libel, and the legislature has declared in favour of introducing it generally, in all cases to which it is applicable : the great evil, however, which is likely to cling long round the government of the country in all its branches, finds its origin in those habits of dissimulation, indolence, and corruption, which mark the character of all enslaved nations. Momentary bursts of feeling, or even correct ideas, and general good intentions, are insufficient to unlink the dark chains of vices,

See Note A in the Appendix.

with which ages of ignorance, superstition and oppression have entwined every social institution, and contracted or distorted every moral feeling.

§ 4. COMERCE AND REVENUE.

IT will not be supposed, that a statement of the Commerce of Colombia as it existed previous to the Revolution, can do more than afford an approximate calculation of its present condition. Still less will it enable us to judge of what it is capable of becoming in future. The provinces of Venezuela and New Grenada were always considered by the Spanish Government as the least important of its South American possessions. Their agriculture and commerce were consequently abandoned to neglect, or, which is still worse, surrendered to a vexatious system of monopolies and revenue laws, which seemed framed for no other purpose than to destroy industry, and render unavailing the bounties which nature had lavished on the soil.

The culture of the vine and olive were rigidly forbidden : tobacco could only be raised in such quantities as the Government chose to purchase at a price fixed by itself. The distillation of spirits was another monopoly ; and such articles as were permitted to be cultivated, could only be exported through Spanish merchants, and exchanged for such commodities, and at such a rate, as suited *their* profit

and convenience. Under these circumstances, the smuggling trade was the only one that flourished with advantage to the inhabitants.

The principal articles of Colombian commerce are cocoa, coffee, cotton, indigo, sugar, tobacco, hides, cattle, and Brazil-wood. Cocoa is cultivated on the low rich soil of the sea-coast of Caracas, on the banks of the river Tuy and its tributary streams, near Barquesimeto, in the province of Maracaybo, in the environs of Merida, Truxillo, and the valleys of Cucuta, in the province of Varinas, on the banks of the Bocono and Masporro rivers, near Pedraza, where it grows wild, and in several parts of the provinces of Cumana and Barcelona. In the province of Caracas, the annual growth amounted in 1810 to 140,500 fanegas of 110 pounds each : about 100,000 were exported to Spain, 15,000 to Mexico, and the remainder consumed in the country. The great destruction and abandonment of the plantations, caused by the war, must have diminished this produce, although the constant and ready sale, and increasing demand of the European market, cannot fail to give a powerful impulse to its cultivation. Its price in the last two years in the Caracas market, has varied from 20 dollars to 25 the quintal or hundred pounds.

Coffee is cultivated generally through the valleys of Caracas, and within these few years has been introduced in almost all the temperate valleys of Venezuela, where it yields abundantly. Before 1810 the

annual exportation amounted to 80,000 quintals ; but the soil of Colombia is capable of supplying the whole world, in the strict and literal meaning of the word. Coffee fetches in Caracas from 18 dollars to 22 the quintal.*

Cotton is grown in all parts of the country, but principally, for exportation, in the valleys of Aragua, and the province of Cartagena. Its annual amount was in 1810 about 40,000 quintals : not the ten thousandth part of the quantity the country is capable of producing.

Indigo is cultivated principally in the valleys of Aragua, and in the province of Varinas. The exportation amounted formerly in some years to 800,000 pounds weight.

Sugar-cane is every where cultivated ; but the want of art or industry to refine the sugar, as well as the great consumption of the country, prevent it from forming a considerable article of exportation.

Tobacco is cultivated at Cumanagota, in the province of Cumana ; in the valleys of Aragua ; at Bayladores and La Guta, in the province of Maracaybo ; at Savaneta in Barinas : and San Antonio in Guyana. The monopoly of this article has been retained by the present Government as a war-tax, but the ill effects of this measure are evident from the fact, that native tobacco cannot bear the competition of foreign,

* The price at Caracas in June, 1824, was of Coffee from 10 to 10½ dollars the quintal. Cocoa, 27½ ditto, ditto.

even though encumbered with a duty of 50 per cent ; so that the importation of the latter is now prohibited altogether.

Hides and cattle constituted the principal trade of the plains by way of the Orinoco, and of the province of Barcelona. The West-India Islands have always depended on this country for their mules and horses, but the means of supply have been much diminished by the destruction of the cattle during the war.

The trade of Brazil-wood belongs exclusively to the province of Rio Hacha, in which alone it is found. It fetches from 8 to 16 dollars the mule load of 250 lbs., according to the quality of the wood, and the demand for it, which of late years has been rapidly increasing.

There was formerly a considerable pearl fishery on the coast of the island of Margaritta, but of late years it has been abandoned : there is another on the Goagira coast, betwixt Rio Hacha and Maracaybo ; it is in the hands of the independent Indians who inhabit that territory, with whom it may be supposed their more civilized neighbours trade to a considerable advantage. The pearls of this coast are remarkable for their beautiful orient, as it is termed, or play of light, in which they are much superior to the pearls of the east.*

* By a decree of Congress, dated in August last, a monopoly of all the pearl fisheries of Colombia is granted to Messrs. Rundell, Bridge, and Rundell, on certain conditions.

The precious metals, gold and silver, and platina, are principally extracted from the provinces of Atioquia and Choco. No small part of the gold was formerly smuggled to the West Indies, the remainder, as well as the silver, was coined in the mints of Popayan and Santa Fé. The annual sums coined in both averaged, during the years 1801-2-3 and 4, 2,299,249 dollars. The want of capital and machinery, as well as of scientific research, has hitherto locked the mineral wealth of Colombia within the womb of its parent earth. There can be little doubt when these deficiencies are supplied, both that the present mines will be more productive, and that many new ones will be discovered. Gold is known to be very generally dispersed: in Rio Hacha it was found in the sands washed down within the town. The little river Sucia, which enters the Chama, near Laguillas in the province of Merida, is said to contain it. There are unworked mines of silver near Mariquita in New Grenada. Platina is found abundantly in the province of Choco. Emeralds are found in many places, especially in the bed of a little river about 20 leagues from Bogota, on the road to the plains, where almost every stone contains an emerald.

Among minor articles of commerce, bark is of some importance. The provinces of Loxa and Jaen have been long celebrated for the production of this valuable medicine: but the barks of Santa Fé owe

their reputation to the discoveries of Dr. Mutes, who published a work on the subject in 1793, entitled "*El Arcano de la Quina.*" Betwixt 1802 and 1807, 33,418 quintals of these barks had been exported from the port of Cartagena. It grows chiefly in the province of Mariquita.

The stately forests which cover the banks of the Magdalena and Orinoco, with their tributary streams, will hereafter supply Europe with cedar and mahogany, and an infinite variety of woods of exquisite beauty and durability, both for building and cabinet work. Drugs, precious balsams, particularly the balsam of Tolu—a great variety of dying plants—bees'-wax—the coarser metals, as copper and iron—cochineal, which is found abundantly about Quito, near Barquisemeto, and Timotes in the valley of Truxillo—articles, now wholly, or in great part, neglected, will one day or other enrich the commerce of this favoured country.

The following statement of the revenue of Venezuela and New Granada, is extracted from a pamphlet published at Santa Fé in 1810, "*Sobre la Constitucion de los Estados Unidos,*" by Don Miguel Pombo :

1. *New Granada.*

	Dollars.
Value of European goods annually imported	2,500,000
Value of exports, principally from Guyaquil, Panama, and the river Magdalena - - - }	1,150,000
Cast and ingots of gold exported on account of the Spanish government and of individuals }	2,650,000
Tythes - - - - - }	800,000
Which sum supposes an annual agricultural produce of - - - - - }	10,000,000

REVENUE arising from

1. The 1st and 5th part of gold extracted from rivers (abolished) - - - - - }	
2. Produce of salt works about 100,000 dollars	
3. Capitation tax paid by the Indians (abolished) - - - - - }	
4. Produce of monopolies of tobacco and spirits (partly retained and partly abolished)	
5. Bulls of Crusade Ditto (abolished) - - - }	3,200,000
6. Custom-house duties - - - - - }	
7. Alcabala, or duty paid on the sale of every article of consumption (abolished) - - - }	
8. Duty on stamp paper - - - - - }	
9. Pecuniary penalties - - - - - }	
10. Produce of lands belonging to the King -	
11. Sale of public employment (abolished) - }	

2. *Venezuela.*

Annual produce of agriculture and cattle - - -	6,000,000
<hr/>	
REVENUE arising from the same sources as that of New Granada - - - - - }	1,400,000
Monopoly of Tobacco - - - - -	700,900
Sale of Bulls (abolished) - - - - -	26,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL REVENUE - - - - -	*2,126,000
<hr/>	

Which left an annual surplus of 600,000 dollars.

Of the present state of the revenue it is impossible to give any satisfactory account. The official report of the minister of Finance to the Congress, for the last year, is most unpromising. Besides dealing too much in generalities to throw light on a

* See note B in the Appendix.

subject doubly perplexed by the complete disorganization of the Financial system, it contained no accounts of debts and credits, no statement of outgoings and incomings, by which to judge of the real condition of the Revenue.* It has even been disputed whether the Executive is bound to render such account to the Congress—as if an evil could be prevented or diminished by refusing to see it.—Such are the mischievous effects of inveterate Spanish habits, which can scarcely be accommodated to a popular form of government. The project adopted last year of a direct contribution in the shape of an income-tax, has completely failed ; and the minister of Finance avows, as a principal cause of the failure, the general corruption of all the subordinate magistrates and agents of the Government, which excludes the possibility of obtaining a fair assessment. The Custom-house duties, which constitute the most certain branch of the present revenue, are very far from sufficing for the expense of the Government. It is probable, the ingresses of Cumana and Barcelona, though small, may suffice for that department. The duties in La Guayra sometimes amount to 60,000 dollars a month;† but the expenses of the army

* A Circular has been recently published from the minister of Finance to the Intendants of the several departments, charging them to deliver their accounts for the inspection of the ensuing Congress.

† See Note B in the Appendix.

hitherto maintained in the department, with the squadron, more than require this sum, were it constant. The departments of Maracaybo and the Magdalena have always required aid from the interior, at least while there was a war on the coast. The tobacco monopoly is unproductive, from the want of capital to advance to the growers in payment for their crops, who are consequently obliged to smuggle for a subsistence. The salt-works may be reckoned at their ancient product.* The amount of gold and silver coined on account of the government is not known, but it does not probably exceed 2,000,000 of dollars; from which sum must be deducted the expenses of extraction, coinage, &c., probably two-thirds. Of the National Debt, due principally to foreigners, we have no statement.† The debt is probably not so great as might be expected, considering the character and duration of the struggle in which the republic has been engaged; nor greater than a liberal system of government, by calling into life and action the natural resources of the country, may easily meet and overcome.

The difficulties which stifle and fetter the commerce of Colombia may be reduced under the follow-

* They have been lately farmed to an English Company, at the annual rent of 100,000 Dollars.

† Since this was written a "Board of Liquidation" has been established at Bogota, to investigate all claims on the government—the progress of its labours is regularly reported in the Official Gazette.

ing heads :—want of population—want of industry—want of capital—want of knowledge—and want of internal communications. The necessary consequence of a *Want of Population* is the dearness and scarcity of labour—a disadvantage trebly augmented by the feeble and inert disposition of the people, The Creole labourer will perform *badly* in a week a piece of work which an European would do *well* in a day. Idleness is, in fact, the predominant propensity of all classes : in the rich it is caused by the want of moral stimulus, in the poor it is cherished by the facility of subsistence. The love of labour is not natural to man : he must have a motive, and a powerful one, to overcome the tendency to inaction, to which all animals are subject, when excited neither by appetite nor passion. In countries where the social system has made considerable progress, stimuli are never wanting : artificial necessities, as well as artificial enjoyments, are so multiplied, as to include every individual in a vortex of restless activity. In Colombia, the little which exists of social luxury is confined to Caracas, and two or three seaport towns. Throughout the whole of the interior, the comforts and even the decencies of life are unvalued because unknown. The man who can eat beef and plantains, and smoke segars as he swings in his hammock, is possessed of almost every thing his habits qualify him to enjoy, or to which his ambition

prompts him to attain—the poor have little less, the rich scarcely covet more.

Want of Capital is another considerable impediment to commercial improvements. Among the merchants, the principal capitalists were European Spaniards, who have generally emigrated ; but at no time did any commercial capital exist in this country, which could enter into competition with those of the third or fourth class in England. The business of a Creole merchant is more strictly that of a first-rate shop-keeper, than of what would be called a merchant in Europe ; neither are the landed proprietors relatively richer : few possess estates of 5,000*l.* per annum ; 5,000 dollars is a handsome income. As there are neither public funds, nor banks, nor speculations, wealth is accumulated by saving only, a method admirably in unison with the unenterprising and economical habits of the landed gentry of the country, but little calculated to promote its commercial prosperity.

The *Want of Knowledge* may be considered as having a twofold operation : First, it operates *negatively*, by leaving the country utterly destitute of all those mechanical and agricultural improvements by which labour is abridged, and the advantages of the soil are best discovered and brought into action. It operates *positively*, by producing injurious political regulations. There can be no doubt of the good intentions of the Government with respect to com-

merce, and yet the worst enemies of the country could scarcely have devised worse methods to improve it. The beacon light which of all others should direct the political career of Colombia, is that of FREEDOM, UNLIMITED FREEDOM OF COMMERCE WITH ALL NATIONS ; and yet so difficult is it to get rid of narrow views and obsolete prejudices, that almost every new commercial regulation has been in hostility with this fundamental principle. During the last year, the Vice President, urged on most probably by the Creole merchants, issued a decree prohibiting foreigners from trading in the country on their own account, and compelling them to *con-sign* themselves to the natives. This is worthy of the worst times of the Spanish Government, especially when it is remembered, that it is to *foreign* merchants and to *foreign* arms, Colombia is at this moment indebted for political existence. The defence of this absurd decree was still more absurd : the Minister for Home Affairs, after giving a vague account to the Congress of the provisional enactment, remarked that the proper mode of settling the question, would probably be to place it on the footing of *reciprocity*:—as if England, France, and the United States, had the same need of Colombian merchants that Colombia has of foreigners. I believe, on this occasion, the Congress saw the folly of the measure, and it never passed into a law ; in the interim, its bad effects were counteracted, as those of many bad

Spanish laws have been counteracted in the colonies, namely, by eluding them; leaving to the Government the disgrace consequent on an unwise measure, and the ridicule attendant on an ineffectual one. The importation of foreign tobacco was permitted on paying a duty of 50 per cent, and even with this duty, though monopolized by the government, it could more than meet native tobacco in the markets; it has in consequence been prohibited altogether, and will in future be smuggled instead of being imported. ¹⁹⁰⁰ With the same good sense all kinds of distilled foreign spirits have been prohibited, to encourage the manufacture and consumption of the vile trash called *Aguaidiente*, or brandy of the country. Now besides the unanswerable objection of taxing the whole population for the advantage of a particular class, this prohibition, could it be carried into effect, would be doubly foolish. Of all Colombian produce, sugar-cane with distilleries, is the least adapted to her present condition; it requires more labour, machinery, and capital, than either coffee, cocoa, or cotton, and is much less valuable, although sufficiently advantageous under favourable circumstances. To divert a portion of the small capital already employed from more advantageous branches of culture, and transfer it to one which can only be rendered equally profitable at the expense of the native consumer, is the acmé of political folly; or if it be said that the intention is to favour capital already embarked

the motive is equally ridiculous, since it is much more reasonable that capital ill-employed should be transferred to more lucrative speculations, than that the community should be taxed to support its disadvantageous application :—or, say it is meant to bring new capital into operation—why should not such new capital, if it exists, be employed on the most profitable branches of cultivation rather than on one which requires unjust and artificial support? The last example I shall quote of this insane species of legislation is a recent law prohibiting the introduction of every species of Spanish produce. This measure, of course, was intended to distress the Spaniards, while nobody seems to have considered that the real evil would be inflicted on the Colombian agricultural interest. Of the 140,000 fanegas of cocoa grown in Caracas, according to the estimate p. 28, Spain was a customer for 100,000. I am not prepared to say that such is the exact proportion at present, but it suffices to know that cocoa is the chief article of Venezuelan produce; and that Spain consumes more than all the rest of Europe. Let us suppose Spain to pay for this quantity 2,500,000 dollars; it is well known that this sum never was, nor will be paid in specie, it can be only paid by an exchange of produce. Spain must sell her wines, oils, fruits, &c. before she can buy cocoa: it is most probable that the whole was never paid by direct exchange of commodities, part would naturally be paid

in various European goods which Spain had purchased for this purpose from other nations: but there was still a considerable remainder, which constituted the direct trade betwixt the two countries. Let us suppose the amount of Spanish commodities remitted to Colombia in payment of the Cocoa, to be 1,000,000 dollars. Colombia now refuses to take these commodities; in what manner is Spain to make good her purchases? By exchanging native produce to the amount with other nations, and remitting the value to Colombia? But these nations have only their own produce or manufactures to give in return, and if Colombia is to receive these at second-hand from Spain, she might as well receive Spanish produce; besides, the market for Spanish wines and oils is very limited in Europe, where the preference is given usually to the French, while habit has made them articles of necessity in Colombia. It is vain to say the cocoa of Colombia will be purchased by foreign nations—so it will, indeed, but always with a view to the Spanish market; and if Spain be deprived of the means to buy, Colombia will find it equally impossible to sell.

The origin of all these errors, making allowance for political feelings in the case of Spain, appears to lie in the mistake of considering the venders of the prohibited articles in question, in the light only of sellers, without considering, that in order to be sellers, they must, directly or indirectly, be

buyers also. The Government might be desirous, that in the present situation of its finances, the commodities raised in Colombia should be all exchanged for the precious metals ; this however is clearly impossible : the precious metals can only be augmented by increase of Trade, Capital, and Population ; and these must be the results, not of a prohibiting, but of a liberal commercial system, in a word of **FREE TRADE WITH ALL THE WORLD**. In the meanwhile the present prohibitions can only be regarded, as they might well be entitled, “Laws for the better Security and Increase of Smuggling.” *Increase*, because until smuggling is so far systematised as to furnish the markets with regular supplies, the premium, in the shape of increased price, will be unlimited : *Security*, because the whole population will be interested in a trade, which the whole army of Colombia, were it employed for no other purpose, would be inadequate to prevent, because in every case of detection a bribe would ensure connivance.

The want of internal communications is a considerable drawback on the natural advantages of the country—throughout the whole of the Republic there is not a road passable for wheel-carriages, nor even one which can be travelled without risk of life or limbs : every species of commodity is conveyed on mules. The carriage is consequently expensive and tedious, and it becomes impossible to convey bulky produce from the interior, so as to enter into com-

petition with the produce raised near the coast ; even in the neighbourhood of Valencia, as long as Puerto Cabello remained in the hands of the Spaniards, cocoa, coffee, and cotton, could scarcely bear the expenses of transport to Caracas. The internal navigation is in a condition equally rude and abandoned : the only method known on the Magdalena, is to pole up against the stream, as the Indians did at the first discovery of the country : during the last session, however, of Congress, patents were granted to Colonel James Hamilton, and Mr. John Elbers for placing steam-boats on the rivers Orinoco and Magdalena. Should these projects succeed, a very considerable and beneficial change will take place, especially with regard to the Orinoco, which opens, by means of the Meta and Apure, a communication with the whole level country to within about 50 leagues of Bogota.

§ 5. MANUFACTURES, ARTS, LITERATURE, AND
EDUCATION.

IT is neither probable nor desirable that *Manufactures* should have made, or be likely to make any considerable progress in Colombia. The natural and direct relations betwixt America and Europe are those of Agriculturist and Manufacturer : Europe must for centuries be the workshop of the New World, as long at least as the latter has lands, the

cultivation of which will be a more grateful as well as more profitable occupation, than the unwholesome toils of the manufacturer, "in close pent-up cities." The example of the United States suffices to shew how difficult it is to struggle against the natural bent of circumstances in the direction of labour. All that political zeal can effect in such cases, is to substitute a dear article of inferior quality for a cheap one of superior, to the profit of a few and the consequent loss of the many. The only parts of Colombia in which manufactures have attained, or can maintain, a limited prosperity are Quito, and some provinces of New Grenada, which from their internal situation and mountainous roads, can scarcely be supplied with bulky manufactured goods from Europe at a cheaper rate than they could be made at home. There is little doubt, however, that in the general increase of internal prosperity, which should result from the independence of the country, its internal communications will be so far improved, that the ports of Esmeraldas and Guyaquil, and the river Magdalena, will suffice to furnish even these provinces with almost every article of convenience and luxury. The articles chiefly manufactured at present are coarse cloths, baizes, blankets, hats, and other articles of clothing used by the common people. In 1810, the computed annual value of manufactured produce in the provinces of Quito, Cuenca,

Casanare, Guyaquil, Tunja, Socorro, and Pamplona, was 5,000,000 of dollars.

To form an adequate idea of the small progress the most necessary *Arts of Life* have made in Colombia, we must transport ourselves, I was about to say, to the Saxon period of European civilization, but though this comparison might be apt in some points, it would be doing our ancestors injustice in others, since the public edifices of that remote period, in many instances, possess a grandeur, and solidity, which it would be vain to look for in the buildings of this country. Houses of all classes are built of mud, sometimes mixed with stones, sometimes plastered on wattles, but always equally unsubstantial; in fact, when the means are compared with the end, it is wonderful any one has the courage to set about building a large house. The application of labour is neither aided by machinery, wheel-carriages, or even by a wheel-barrow: the earth dug from the foundation, or collected to make the walls, is carried in trays on men's heads, or on an hide dragged along the ground, while a string of asses may be seen with small panniers full of bits of stones, or dragging each two small sticks of timber—together presenting such a picture of lazy imbecility as would disgrace any thing but a community of sloths. The finishing is equally defective: it would be vain to look for a right angle, or a straight line in the walls, or for a beam or rafter squared or planed; the doors and

windows would be inadmissible in an English stable. The consequence of all this is, that whoever desires to build according to European ideas of decency, must send to the colonies for workmen of every description, or import his house ready made. The same observations apply to every branch of handicraft: furniture, clothes, shoes and boots, saddlery, in short, every thing used or worn, must be sought from abroad. When the most necessary arts of life have made so little progress, *the fine arts* must be in a state of proportionable infancy. *Architecture*, which in most Roman Catholic countries receives an extraordinary impulse from ecclesiastical wealth and influence, has here raised no monument worthy of the traveller's attention. The façades of several of the churches of Caracas were tasteful, but their crumbling materials yielded to the earthquake. Through the whole of the interior there is no edifice worth mentioning, except in Bogota. The Cathedral here is of yellow stone, and though somewhat fantastical and irregular in its style, is, on the whole, an imposing structure. The other churches and convents, 29 in number, differ only in the greater or less quantity of gilding and barbarous decorations with which they are overloaded. Other public works there are none, architecturally speaking, except the fortifications of Cartagena and Puerto Cabello. There are some few bridges little worthy of notice, except that of Capitanejo over the rapid Sogamozo, a useful

though inelegant structure; and that of Valencia, neatly built by Morillo, who employed for this purpose the patriot prisoners, several of whom were English officers. *Painting* is said to be cultivated with some success in Quito, and Bogota boasts the native genius of Vazques, whose portraits certainly have merit, but the difficulties, with which this, like every other liberal art, had to struggle beneath the Spanish yoke, may be estimated by the following anecdote: 'A painter in Bogota, of the name of Antonio Garcia, had two paintings from which he used to study—a Hercules spinning by the side of Omphale, and Endymion sleeping on the breast of Diana: the Commissary of the Inquisition was informed of the circumstance, and on the ground that the pictures were indecent, searched his cabinet, and had them cut in pieces, which the owner *was allowed to keep.*' Few nations are more generally gifted with musical talent than the inhabitants of Venezuela: before the revolution *Music* was studied as a science with great success in Caracas, and it is no trifling instance of the spirit which has characterised the war, that Boves, the Robespierre of Colombia, should have felt pleasure in sacrificing the professors and amateurs of this amiable art, which tyranny itself has frequently respected. The *talent* still survives, though from the difficulty of procuring masters, as well as from other circumstances growing out of political changes and domestic distress, it may rather be said to scatter its

sweetness wildly on its native air, than to be a subject of scientific study or professional cultivation.

When we consider the state of *Literature and Education* previous to the revolution, we may regard Caracas and Santa Fé as two luminous points radiating through an atmosphere of almost entire mental darkness. If partial lights were scattered, here and there, through the interior provinces, they were almost exclusively derived from these two national beacons, which in Venezuela and New Grenada, respectively, first pointed at the road to independence. There was a difference, however, in the character of the knowledge acquired and disseminated in the two capitals, in unison perhaps with the national character of the inhabitants. The lively genius and ardent temper of the Caracacians devoted themselves to the study of philosophy, eloquence, and political science. In Santa Fé the several branches of natural history, botany, and mathematics, were beginning to be cultivated with success, under the auspices of Dr. Mutes, Calders, Zea, and other members of the University. It may be supposed that both church and state looked most unlovingly on these dangerous and heretical novelties. The course of studies, *by law established* in the several schools and universities, had hitherto formed a complete gag on the intellect, while the Inquisition was charged to prohibit the entrance of any book which could directly or indirectly tend to remove it. The com-

missaries of the Holy Office were, however, sometimes negligent, and always corrupt. Prohibited works, endeared by the difficulty of procuring them, were eagerly perused; and students devoted to Rousseau, Voltaire, and Volney, the hours formerly wasted over the *Philosophia Lugdunensis*, *Institutiones Canonicae*, or the writings of Amet, Cornelius, Lapide, and Calmet. As these studies were always clandestine, the jealousy of the government, fluctuating betwixt habitual indolence and newly awakened suspicions, was inadequate to repress them, although the disposition was sufficiently evident. In Santa Fé, General Nariño, afterwards one of the principal leaders of the revolution in New Grenada, was immured and fettered in the dungeons of Cartagena, for having translated Rousseau's *Social Contract*, although he had previously obtained permission of the Viceroy for this purpose. Even a dancing academy was suppressed, as affording a pretext to the youth of the city for *meeting*, and inferentially for thinking and speaking. Scientific pursuits, as bearing little direct reference to politics, met with less obstruction, and the *Flora of Bogota*, begun by Dr. Mutes, was slowly continuing after his death under the direction of Dr. Sensorso Mutes, his nephew, Don Francisco Jose Caldas, and Don Jose Lorano, aided by the pencil of Don Salvados Rezo, when the revolution suspended their labours. But minds illuminated by science could scarcely be enemies to free-

dom ; with other distinguished individuals they embraced the cause of Independence, and were sacrificed by Morillo when he took possession of Santa Fé in 1815.

The progress of the revolution exhibited all those phenomena naturally deducible from the state of knowledge in the country : of knowledge not flowing from a general system of education, in harmony with existing institutions, but knowledge, infinitely various in its sources, at war with established opinions, and directed by no experience : hence the new political fabric was discordantly and weakly constructed ; the most liberal minds encountered, both in themselves and others, difficulties in practice for which their theoretical studies had left them unprepared ; and they were frequently forced into the routine of arbitrary, or even tyrannical measures, because habit, in matters of government, had made them acquainted with no other ; it is sufficient to cast an eye over the present constitution, or still more to the present practice of the government, to exemplify these remarks : we still find it to “humbly crave its sovereign may be its slave ;” or using Jack Cade’s expression, “ You shall all be free, and I’ll be a king over you.” Public opinion, in the meanwhile, has obtained little strength or steadiness ; the Press, if free, has scarcely felt its freedom ; several public journals are established in different parts of the country, but they are, in general, little more than recepta-

cles of official news, government gazettes, taught, like their brethren in all countries, to applaud to the "very echo," all government proceedings: the Venezolano of Caracas, has alone assumed a tone of freedom and independence, but its success has been indifferent, nor is its example likely to be immediately followed.* Something has been done in favour of education; schools on the Lancasterian plan have been established in Bogota, and in several other principal towns. The Colleges and Universities are to have their course of studies reformed, and accommodated to the general progress of science and philosophy, and professorships of Mineralogy and Natural History have been recently established, and are filled by several French gentlemen, engaged for the purpose by Mr. Zea—In fine, the elements of all things, good and evil, of freedom and slavery, of wealth and poverty, of intellectual light and darkness, are mingled in the political chaos of this country, and will be respectively destroyed or developed, as the system adopted by its government, shall be more or less liberal and enlightened.

* An account of the first establishment of this paper would forcibly illustrate many of the remarks scattered through the foregoing pages, but it is not now the time.

Since the foregoing was written, the "Colombiano," a paper printed in Spanish and English, has been established in Caracas—and the "Constitutional," a paper printed in the same manner, at Bogota.



PART II.

Preliminary Remarks ;—Natural Advantages of Emigration to Colombia ;—Disposition of the Government towards Foreign Settlers ;—Character of the Inhabitants, as it affects Foreign Settlers ;—Modes of Emigration, and descriptions of persons most proper for this purpose ;—Preparations necessary ;—Choice of place ;—Difficulties arising from difference of Language, Customs, and Religion ;—Diseases of the Climate.

§ 1. PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

THERE is probably no subject which imposes on the writer a heavier responsibility, than that of emigration : the happiness or misery of thousands may depend on the fidelity of his narrative, and bitter would be his reflections, should he have reason to think he had ruined a single family, or even a solitary individual, for the idle pleasure of depicting a Transatlantic Paradise. In no corner of the world, whatever may be its natural advantages, “ is a table spread in the wilderness :” in no corner of the world is social man

exempt from the primal law, of earning his bread by the sweat of his brow, of struggling against the elements which seem to conspire against his life and happiness, and, of at last, too frequently seeing his best grounded expectations give way before the pressure of inevitable accident, or unmerited calamity ; but these reflections, however they might chill the rash and visionary adventurer, can have no detrimental effect on Emigration, judiciously prepared and directed. They may, and ought to excite inquiry and precaution, but they cannot weaken that imperious necessity, which from every country of Europe is daily compelling thousands “ to court their fortune where she may prove kinder,” at the risk of whatever is saddening in thought and perilous in action. The love of our country, twined as it is with our dearest recollections, with all we enjoy in the present, or hope in the future, is a feeling too deeply rooted in the human heart, to be wrenched out by one less powerful than itself : men abandon the soil which gave them birth, as sailors abandon a wreck which no longer offers the remotest prospect of safety : the necessity may in some instances be more striking and immediate, but it is in all equally felt to be irresistible : the labourer, whose daily toil will no longer afford his family their daily bread, is not more sensible of the necessity of remedying his situation, than is the gentleman by birth and education, who finds the property inherited from his ancestors be-

coming every year less adequate to maintain and transmit to his children, that decency and rank of life, from which to descend is to do more than die : in both these cases, as well as in a thousand others, through which excess of population and defective social institutions ramify distress, the necessity is the same, the remedy equally sure and applicable ; it is the mode of applying it, which can alone render it deleterious. The United States affords us the most unexceptionable example, both of what is to be desired and deprecated in Emigration, and in stating the advantages offered by Colombia, it is to her sister Republic I shall have recourse for analogies and illustrations.

The ADVANTAGES of Emigration to any particular country, may be divided into two classes, NATURAL and POLITICAL : the former comprehends *land*, considered with respect to quantity, quality, and situation ; *Labour*, with respect to the quantity necessary to be employed on it ; and *Subsistence*, as more or less abundant, and readily procured : the political advantages are such as arise from the disposition of the government, already established in the new country, the character of its inhabitants, and its state of civilization, being such as to render the influx of foreigners desirable : the description of persons best adapted for Emigration, with the most eligible mode of carrying it into effect, are next to be considered, together with the particular portions of the country

in question, most favourable to new settlements. The difficulties which present themselves in the shape of antipathies or prejudices, on the part of the inhabitants, or in their customs, language and religion, together with the diseases to which new settlers are principally liable, shall be last stated, and to the best of my abilities be impartially discussed.

§ 2. NATURAL ADVANTAGES OF EMIGRATION TO
COLOMBIA.

THE simple consideration of the territorial extent of Colombia, compared with her present population, suffices to answer every question as to the *quantity* of unappropriated land, she can place at the disposition of foreign settlers ; nor have we in this case, as in that of many parts of Asia and Africa, to make large deductions for uninhabitable and unprofitable deserts. In the distance of above 1000 miles, betwixt Caracas and Bogota, which comprehends the great mountain region, and consequently that portion of the country which may naturally be supposed least favourable to tillage, there cannot be reckoned 100 unsusceptible of culture. It is not, however, the mere possibility of cultivation, or even the positive fertility of the soil alone, which deserves consideration, it is rather the *quality* of its productions, which in a commercial point of view, are the most valuable in the world. In fact when we add to the Cocoa, Coffee, Tobacco,

Cotton, Sugar, and Indigo, already cultivated, the Wines, Oils, Silks, precious Woods, Dyes and Minerals, which the slightest application of science and industry, would suffice to call into existence, we cannot but confess that Colombia, if equal in the *quantity* of her lands to the United States, in point of their *quality*, possesses a decided superiority : a simple list of the articles produced, or exported at present, in the two countries, will render further proof superfluous.

UNITED STATES.	COLOMBIA.
Cotton } Rice } In the Southern Sugar } States only.	Cocoa } Coffee } Cotton } Indigo } Sugar } Generally. Rice } Maize }
Tobacco } Maize } Southern and Midland States.	Wheat and Euro- } pean Grains } In the highlands. Brazil wood } Province of Rio Hacha.
Wheat and Euro- } pean Grains } Generally.	Pearl Fisheries.
Lumber } Cod Fisheries } Eastern States.	Gold.
Salted Provisions.	Silver.
Iron.	Iron.
Copper.	Copper.
Lead.	Platina.
	Emeralds.
	Cattle } Hides } In the Plains.

Situation is a circumstance of considerable importance to foreign settlers. The coast line of the United States (if we except some parts of the Carolinas and Georgia, too unhealthy to be inhabited) is so

thickly peopled, that from the eastern states there is annually a very considerable emigration towards the interior; the consequence is, that foreign settlers, especially of the poorer classes, encounter such embarrassments at the onset, as they are unprepared to meet, and unable to master. From their several points of disembarkation, they are obliged to penetrate through the centre of the country, until they arrive at the banks of the Ohio, the Mississippi, the Missouri, or the borders of the Canadian lakes; such a journey, however cheaply performed, besides the pecuniary loss to families, whose means are commonly very limited, involves the inconvenience, that whatever bulky articles, either of furniture, stock, or agricultural implements, the settlers may bring with them, must be either abandoned, or transported at an expense beyond their value, and most commonly to their great detriment. None of these disadvantages exist at present in Colombia: thousands of situations may be selected on the coast, and on the borders of the river Orinoco and Magdalena, where settlers may disembark on the very spot they intend to cultivate, and commence their labours on the day after their arrival: some of these shall be particularized in treating of the choice of place.

The *quantity of labour* necessary to be employed upon new lands is much less in tropical than in cold or even temperate climates. Wherever water can be applied, the powerful agency of heat ensures an

abundant harvest : clearing is also a much lighter task in Colombia than in the United States. In every part of the country there is an alternation of wood and pasture land, and abundance of land covered with copse wood or light timber, which requires little more than burning to prepare it for cultivation. The labour of building is not less abridged by the climate ; where cold is unknown, shade for his cattle, and a water-tight roof for the cultivator and his family, are all that is absolutely necessary, nay, almost as much as comfort requires. In many parts of the country it is the custom to build without walls of any kind : a mud flooring is raised about two feet above the soil ; the roof is thatch with palm leaves, the sloping sides of which form a cock-loft, or dormitory above, while the inmates inhabit the ground-floor, in the full enjoyment of fresh air—no inconsiderable luxury. Three or four active labourers will raise a commodious building of this description, in less than a week : they are called in the country *Rancherías*. The *Subsistence* of mankind in tropical climates is not less simplified in all its branches than their lodging and labour ; none but the lightest clothing can be worn without inconvenience ; when cloth is used, it is not from necessity, but vanity ; the labourer, through the whole of Colombia, except in the elevated regions of the Andes, requires nothing but a shirt and trowsers, of the strength and quality best suited to his occupa-

tions ; a blanket, with an aperture in the centre to admit the head, answers the purpose of a travelling cloak, and of a coverlid by night, when the weather happens to require it ; his hat is made of palm-leaves ; his shoes, if he wears any, remind the traveller of the Roman sandal, being of the same shape and material ; his bed is a cotton hammock, which swings from the roof of his cabin, or a hide stretched on a wooden frame : the former may be deemed a luxury, and is used by persons of all classes in preference to any kind of bed. *Food* cannot fail to be abundant in a climate which yields two and often three crops yearly. In the elevated and temperate regions, wheaten bread is generally used,* with potatoes, cabbages, peas, beans, and generally all the vegetables and fruits peculiar to Europe. In the warmer districts, the bread principally used is made of maize or Indian corn, first beaten with a kind of wooden pestle, then ground and washed betwixt two stones, and finally converted into cakes. This process, which usually occupies the females of the poorer classes half the day, is a striking instance of the miserable waste of labour occasioned by the want of machinery. In the United States maize is ground like wheat, and makes excellent flour : a second kind of bread is made of the root, called *Yucca*, and the juice, which

* The best flour in Bogota market fetches about four dollars the quintal.

is poisonous, expressed ; it is then spread into broad thin cakes, and dried for use. In this shape it is called *cassava*, and though much esteemed by the natives, to an European palate (except perhaps a Scotch one) seems harsh, insipid, and little nutritious. *Plantains* are a third species of bread : this fruit is the potatoe of the tropics, as far as respects its abundant produce, and the almost exclusive use of it by the lower classes. In their ripe state, plantains have a very agreeable flavour, either eaten raw or roasted, but the natives prefer them nearly green, when they are hard, indigestible, and yield little either of saccharine or farinaceous substance : their cheapness and abundance principally recommend them to the indolent consumer. In Maracaybo, (where I am writing) 36 are in ordinary times sold for three-pence farthing (a *media*, or half-real), and three or four suffice for a meal. The vegetables peculiar to the warmer districts are, sweet yuccas, yams, sweet potatoes, apios, arracachas, pepers, beringhenas or egg-plants, tomatas, and various species of gourds or pumpkins. The fruits are, pine-apples, melons, oranges, lemons, limes, cocos, aguacates, (called in the colonies vegetable marrow), guanavanas or sour-sops, chirimoyas, granadillas, mameyas, sapotes, papagayas, and nisperos, besides many peculiar to the country, and little known by name or description in Europe. It is, however, less the variety than the never-failing abundance of ve-

getable productions, which is important to new settlers; an acre well planted and watered, places a family beyond the reach of want. Animal food is equally abundant: in the plains, previous to the revolution, an ox was worth nothing but his hide, and frequently no part of the flesh was consumed but the tongue; in other parts of the country where cattle are not raised, meat is always so cheap as to be within the means of the poorest labourer: the ordinary value of an *arroba*, or 25 pounds on the coast, is one dollar. Mutton is plentiful in the mountain country; a sheep is worth about a dollar. When sheep are scarce, their place is supplied by goats, at about five or six reals each (about three shillings.) The value and quantity of the poultry depend entirely on the disposition of the inhabitants, since it is raised without cost or trouble; yet, from the want of industry, it is both scarcer and dearer than in France: in fact, the use of it is, in most parts of the interior, confined to the sick, idleness being the only luxury for which the lower and middling classes have any taste. Although the chase should never be reckoned among the permanent resources of the agriculturalist, yet the wild fowl and animals which people the glades and forests, in every part of the country, and the fish and turtle which abound on the coasts and in the rivers, tend, not inconsiderably, to diminish the difficulties, and augment the comforts of the new settler. As for the drinks of the coun-

try : In New Grenada a fermented liquor is used, called *chicha*, made of Indian corn and molasses, sufficiently palatable and intoxicating. In Venezuela and the warm country, the common beverage is a liquor called *guarapo*, made from sugar, extremely pleasant before the fermentation is carried far, when it becomes acid and intoxicating, in which state it is generally preferred by the common people : rum is manufactured in every part of the country of a very bad quality ; it is called *aguardiente* : the consumption of it is very great ; beer might be made in all the mountain country, and wine almost every where ; but the Spanish laws prohibited the cultivation both of the vine and the olive, as interfering with the sale of the wines and oils of the mother country.

The expenses of living are naturally greater in the sea-port towns than in the interior, where they are extremely small. In the former, house-rent is a principal article of expense : good houses let for 50 dollars a month, and diminish in value according to their size and accommodation, to 3 and 4. The expense of food may be graduated by considering that the value of a soldier's ration is a real, or six-pence half-penny, on which he is able to live ; and that the charges of the best hotel at Caracas are one dollar and a half per day. Country labourers' wages are two reals, or thirteen pence per day ; but there are few artizans who cannot earn from one to two

dollars, every species of handicraft labour being scarce and expensive.

In fine, we may sum up the natural *advantages* of Colombia, as compared with the United States, by observing, that she has at least an equal if not a greater quantity of disposable lands; that these lands are superior in the quality of their productions, and more accessible; that the quantity of labour necessary to be expended on them is less, and that subsistence, including raiment, food, and lodgings, is more readily obtainable.

§ 3. DISPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS FOREIGN SETTLERS.

THE disposition of the Government can scarcely be better manifested than in the words of its own laws, of which we translate the following relative to
EMIGRATION :

The Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Colombia united in Congress,

CONSIDERING,

1. That a population numerous and proportionate to the territory of a state, is the basis of its prosperity and true greatness;

2. That the population of the Republic of Colombia, which, in consequence of the barbarous system adopted by the oppressive government, first, of ex-

terminating the natives, and secondly, of preventing the entry of all the nations of the world, never extended to the vast extent of her territory, has moreover subsequently been in great part destroyed by the war of death and desolation which she has endured for thirteen years ;

3. That the fertility of the soil, the salubrity of the climate, the extensive unappropriated lands, and the free institutions of the Republic, permit and require a numerous emigration of useful and laborious strangers, who, by making their own fortunes, may augment that of the nation, have resolved to decree, and do decree as follows :—

ARTICLE 1. The Executive Power, in virtue of the faculty granted by the laws and constitution, and of the means assigned by the present decree, shall efficaciously promote the emigration of European and North American foreigners.

ART. 2. For this purpose it may dispose of from two to three millions of fanegas of the lands belonging to the State, employing them under such conditions and in such manner as it may deem most convenient, but without being allowed to grant more than two hundred fanegas to each family.

ART. 3. In the distribution of the said lands the Executive is not subject to the dispositions of the law of the 11th October, 11th year of the Republic, which fix the value and forms respecting the alienation of unoccupied lands.

ART 4. The Executive power shall order the necessary arrangements relative to the situation, social establishment, and other definitive regulations necessary to promote the emigration of foreigners, as well as the exemptions which they are to enjoy.

ART. 5. All the individuals of the said families, as soon as they fix their residence in the territory of Colombia, shall be esteemed naturalized in the Republic, and shall enjoy the rights of citizens, with the exception of those that the constitution reserves to born citizens, or to those who have resided a number of years in the territory of the Republic.

ART. 6. The Executive shall endeavour that this emigration consist entirely, or in greater part of labourers and artizans, and shall give an account of its measures for the fulfilment of this decree on the first meeting of Congress.

Given in Bogota, 7th June 1823—13. The Vice-President of the Senate, *Jeronimo e Torres*—The President of the Chamber of Representatives, *Domingo Caycedo*—The Secretary of the Senate, *Antonio Jose Caro*—The Secretary of the Chamber, *Pedro de Herrera*.
Palace of Bogota, 11th June, 1823—13.

Let it be executed.

FRANCISCO DE PAULA SANTANDER, Vice-President of the Republic in charge of the Executive Power.—The Secretary of State for the Interior, *Jose Manuel Restrepo*.

DECREE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

FRANCISCO DE PAULA SANTANDER, General of Division of the Armies of Colombia, Vice-President of the Republic, charged with the Executive Power, &c.

The Executive Power being authorised by the law of the 7th instant to promote the emigration of foreigners, and to distribute among them two or three millions of fanegas of land on the conditions therein prescribed, I have thought fit to decree as follows :—

ART. 1. Every foreigner who makes demand of land in Colombia, in virtue of the said law, shall present himself to the Governor or Intendant of the province in which he solicits the grant, stating to what nation he belongs, the number of his family, profession or trade, and that which he intends exercising in future.

ART. 2. The Governor or Intendant shall point out to him the places where there are vacant lands, that he may choose where he wishes for the grant; after signifying which, the lands shall be measured by a competent person, named by the Governor or Intendant, until the provincial land-surveying officers shall be established, and, as far as possible, a topographical plan shall be made of them.

ART. 3. After these preliminary steps, and according to the quality of the lands, the foreigner shall

make his offers, showing the number of fanegas he requires, and within what time he will begin to cultivate them. The Governor or Intendant shall remit all these documents to the Executive, with what information he may deem necessary respecting them, according to which the Supreme Government will refuse or concede the lands in question on the conditions it may deem expedient; and in this case, it will order the Governor or Intendant to put in possession, and grant the suitable title-deeds to the person or persons benefited.

ART. 4. The expenses of valuing, measurement, and other arrangements, shall be paid from the value of the lands in case of sale; when given by the Government, the expenses shall be borne by the party benefited: but in no case shall the governors, judges, or persons through whom these arrangements are made, receive payment, and the whole procedure shall be officially transmitted to the Government.

ART. 5. The Government in consideration of the advantage which results to the Republic from the settlement of a foreigner, according to his trade, art, or profession, will grant him such exemptions as it may deem convenient, and as are conformable with the laws of the Republic.

ART. 6. The Governors and Intendants will endeavour to settle the foreigners who arrive in Colombia on the most advantageous lands, near to

sea-ports and navigable rivers, placing the settlements in healthy and elevated situations. They will also frame plans on which to establish these settlements.

ART. 7. They are particularly charged with the protection of the new settlers, administering to them prompt justice in all their affairs, and affording them every possible aid within the reach of their authority, until they can complete their establishments.

ART. 8. The Secretary of State and Interior is charged with the execution of this decree.

Given at the Palace of the Government of Colombia in Bogota, the 18th June 1823—13.—FRANCISCO DE PAULA SANTANDER, by his Excellency the Vice-President of the Republic. The Secretary of State for the Interior, *Jose Manuel Restrepo*.

The fanega of land is a square of 100 yards, and consequently contains 2,000 square yards of superficies.

The law of the 11th October, 1821, referred to in Art. 3 of the preceding law, regulates the mode of sale of unoccupied lands, fixing the value of those in the maritime provinces at two dollars, and of those in the interior at one dollar the fanega. The same law provided for the establishment of land offices and surveyors, arrangements which would have facilitated the establishment of new settlements had they

been carried into effect. The project of *selling* lands never met with success, and this was the origin of the present law, which would have been more satisfactory, did not the 4th Article of the Vice-President's decree leave it still doubtful how far it is intended to *sell* and how far to *give* the lands in question.* With experience, and necessity at its side, it is indeed strange that the Government should for a moment hesitate betwixt a slow and paltry profit, and a rapid increase of real national strength. The law of *naturalization* is another instance of wavering and short-sighted policy. The first law was passed in September 1821, and a second in July of the present year, because, as the preamble expresses, the first had unfortunately not produced the effects expected from it, on account of the heavy conditions it imposes on those who require letters of naturalization. It might be imagined, that after such a preamble, the conditions would at least be softened; but no such thing; they remain precisely as before. The possessor of property to the value of 1,000 dollars requires two years' residence, of 2,000 dollars one years' residence, before he can obtain naturalization; three years are necessary when there is no qualification of property: all this, in the actual situation of Colombia, may be pronounced pure unmixed nonsense. It seems, too, as if the Congress, while

* See Appendix Note C.

framing the law of naturalization in July, had quite forgotten the law of emigration of June, by the 5th Article of which every occupier of 200 fanegas of land becomes a naturalized citizen as soon as he fixes his residence.

§ 4. CHARACTER OF THE INHABITANTS AS IT AFFECTS FOREIGN SETTLERS.

IT is as natural to desire a knowledge of the character of the inhabitants as of the soil on which we propose to fix our residence, and although delineations of national character are often little more than erroneous generalizations of particular facts, it may be desirable to throw some light on such points in that of the present inhabitants of Colombia, as are most likely to come in contact with the feelings and interests of foreign settlers.

One of the facts which most agreeably presents itself to the mind of the European traveller in almost every part of Colombia, is the opinion which seems universally felt, and is universally avowed, of the necessity of a large influx of foreign settlers. Every where he hears an outcry for foreigners; every where lamentations over the ignorance and indolence of the present inhabitants. All this is pretty much as it seems: the necessity of a foreign population, that is of an increase of population, which can

only be obtained from foreign countries, is obvious to the dullest capacity ; nor is the fact of the inability of the present inhabitants to profit by the immense advantages of their own soil, less irresistibly clear. Foreigners have won its independence, foreigners have created its commerce, its marine has been furnished, armed, manned, and commanded by foreigners, its soldiers have been disciplined, and are still armed, clothed, and, in great measure fed by foreign capital ; yet all this mass of opinion and circumstance by no means proves that foreign settlers would meet with that active and benevolent assistance from the inhabitants which gratitude as well as interest would dictate, and which their own opinions seem to promise. It is uncertain how far they might view with philosophic good-will, a foreigner taking advantage of circumstances which, though their indolence had neglected, their cupidity might prompt them to lament. Let us suppose a foreigner to discover a mine, or a lucrative branch of commerce, or by some invention or improvement to create a new, and consequently to dry up an old, channel of profit, would the real and imaginary sufferers in this case, those who had missed the discovery or were sharers in the loss, be likely to regard the intruder with particular favour or satisfaction ? besides, the monopolizing or exclusive system is too favourable to indolence not to find many supporters, as soon as the dangers of competition are placed in open day : witness the law of con-

signments. These observations, are not, however, urged as a serious discouragement, but merely to check extravagant expectation as to the degree of assistance which may be calculated on. In fact, were the good-will in this respect far greater than it is likely to be, how can it be hoped that they who altogether lack industry in the pursuit of their own advantage, should exert themselves to procure that of others?

If the line of Pope,

“Most women have no character at all,”

have any general application, it can only be true with reference to the want of firmness and fixed principles of conduct in which education usually leaves females deficient, and in this sense it may with equal justice be applied to Colombians. Long habits of slavery and oppression, partially counteracted by a feverish interval of liberty, ill understood and imperfectly enjoyed; the almost total want of education, and absence of that moral stimulus, which, under the name of *honour* or *character*, forces every respectable individual of European society to a line of conduct conformable with his situation; all these circumstances have produced a negativeness or debility both in thought and action, which renders them troublesome to deal with, and unfit to be relied on. It is, in fact, impossible to calculate their behaviour except you could be certain of the last idea which has occupied their imagination, for the feeling of interest most immediately present is pretty generally

decisive of their conduct. Does a merchant contract with a planter for a quantity of coffee or cocoa at a certain rate?—in vain would he suppose the bargain concluded, should another purchaser appear and offer the slightest advance of price. The readiness with which they break a promise or an agreement, can only be equalled by the sophistical ingenuity with which they defend themselves for having done so. In this respect they seem a nation of lawyers, who, “with ease, twist words and meanings as they please.” As the reproach of being a *liar* is the last insult which can be offered or endured among freemen, so is the term *lie* the last to be used in decent conversation ; here, on the contrary, not only is the expression *a good one*, and adapted to the meridian of the genteelest society, but the reproach of being a liar may be safely cast on friend or foe with as little offence given or taken as the term “Rake” or “Prodigal” would cause in a fashionable London circle. It is indeed a truth worth a “thousand homilies” in defence of liberty, that without it there can be no virtue.

The most pleasing trait in the character of the Colombian Creoles is good nature. It is easy to live with them if you require little of them : they have little or no active benevolence, because such must result from strong powers of imagination and reflection. But they are not vindictive, for revenge is both a strong and a permanent feeling ; nor are

they cruel, although this assertion may seem paradoxical to those acquainted with the history of the Revolution, but we must distinguish between cruelties which are the fruit of a savage nature, and such as weakness itself may give birth to, when

“Rous’d up to too much wrath which follows o’ergrown fears.”

Neither are they in general proud or assuming, except when they have obtained place or power, on which occasions they are apt to verify the musty proverb, “Set a beggar on horseback.” As far as their general character is diversified by local circumstances, we may observe that the inhabitants of the coast line, and especially of the principal sea-port towns, are the most refined and intelligent: that the inhabitants of the interior and mountain country, particularly of New Grenada, are the most simple in their habits, the least crafty in their dispositions, but ignorant, timid, selfish, and inhospitable. The inhabitants of the plains form a totally distinct class, whose characteristics, as their mode of life, are peculiarly their own. Nothing is, according to an European view of the subject, more pacific than the life of a herdsman, nothing less likely to engender ferocity or military habits; it is sufficient, however, to have once witnessed the mode of tending cattle in South America, to form a different opinion. The immense herds raised in boundless and unenclosed plains, are gathered, penned, or conducted, as change of pasture may require, by half-naked horsemen,

each armed with a lance, whose rapid movements, shouts, and wild demeanour, suggest the idea of a body of Tartar cavalry. The untamed nature of the cattle themselves, the attacks of wild beasts to which they are exposed, the deep and rapid rivers over which they are frequently to be led, with a variety of circumstances essential to the mode of life of the *Llaneros*, or Plainsmen, all require and produce those habits by which they are distinguished; besides being the breeders and keepers of the cattle, they are also their butchers, both from necessity and amusement. Their chief, we may say their only, pastime, is drawn from this source: to throw a Lazo, or coiled rope, round a bull's horns while at his speed, to pierce him in the spine, or hamstring him till they have occasion to kill him, to flay, quarter, and divide his quivering carcase with all the technicality of our old European huntsman, is the pride and almost the sole enjoyment of their lives. The Revolution thus found them a ready-made body of irregular cavalry; a popular chief sprang up to give impetus and direction to their native spirit, and a very short time beheld them excellent *Guerillas*, and not less expert thieves and cut-throats—in their favour we must revoke our negation as to the natural cruelty of the Colombians. There is not, perhaps, in the world, a race of people who shed human blood with more indifference or with slighter temptation; it is difficult to say by what good quali

ties, if we except courage, and a strong love of independence, their defects are redeemed or qualified; pacific virtues they have none; it is fortunate, however, that the natural abundance of the plains tends constantly to diminish their disposition towards a life of savage marauding; were it otherwise, the *Llarenos* would be to Colombia, what the Moors of the Nubian desert are to Egypt, and the interior of Africa.

Should experience hereafter decide, that any of the foregoing observations are severe or unmerited, it will be necessary to keep in mind the rapid changes to which the whole social system of this country will be subjected. *Truth* to day, may to-morrow seem *libel*, or *flattery*, according as the new moral impulse is favourable or unfavourable to humanity; above all, as far as respects foreign settlers, it is desirable they should come prepared in all things *for the worst*; should rather be invigorated by unlooked-for advantages, than chilled by unexpected difficulties: neither is calumny equally fatal to a nation as an individual. The means of vindication are, in the former case, too numerous and striking to leave the question long doubtful. How many attempts have been made to asperse and degrade the government and population of the United States! but has the career of her prosperity been less rapid? Is her example less consoling to outraged freedom?

§ 5. MODES OF EMIGRATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS MOST PROPER FOR THIS PURPOSE.

ALL classes of persons who look to emigration as the means of bettering their condition, may be comprehended under the heads of *manufacturers*, *artisans*, and *agriculturists*, the latter comprehending as well agricultural labourers, as capitalists intending to employ their funds in lands; the learned professions are clearly out of the question, if we except a few medical men, who would, however, scarcely find their talents recompensed; and as for the fine arts, they would in vain seek honour and profit in a new country.

With respect to *manufacturers*; the observations already made on the state of the country, with the many more which must readily present themselves to every one in the least acquainted with the principles of political economy, will be decisive against their seeking to establish themselves in Colombia. It is not that in one or two solitary instances, manufactures might not be established with something like success—a manufacture for coarse pottery, for example, in some parts of the interior, but the condition of the country is essentially unfavourable to manufacturers, and favourable to agriculturists; and as for the few speculations which have any good foundation, together with many more that have no

foundation at all, there are already more than enough projectors employed on them.

The case is not the same with regard to *Artisans*. In those trades which require neither large capitals, expensive machinery, nor a complication of labour, many circumstances will contribute to give the home-made article an advantage over the article imported, of equal quality: it is evidently indifferent to the purchaser, whether a yard of cloth or linen be home-made or imported, provided he can obtain it when he wants it, of the suitable price and quality; but, in the case of a pair of boots or shoes, or of a suit of clothes, both taste and convenience would induce him to give the preference to the tailor or shoemaker nearest at hand, always supposing the work and materials equal. There are, also, branches of trade which can scarcely be furnished by importation, such as carpenters' work, joiners', masons', blacksmiths', painters', sawyers', &c.; tanning is also a trade which might prove advantageous, the hides and bark being extremely cheap, and the native leather, at present, perfectly unserviceable, which is the great difficulty with which European shoemakers and sadlers would have to contend. Furniture is imported in all the sea-port towns from Jamaica and Curaçoa, but this is both expensive and troublesome, even on the coast, and almost impossible in the interior: neat cabinet makers would consequently, find great encouragement. But, though

the state of the country offers advantages to foreign artisans of the above descriptions, it is obvious that the demand for them must be limited: it is probable, that there is scarcely a town or village in Colombia, in which one or two European shoemakers might not earn a comfortable subsistence, but it is also evident, that if ten arrived in the same place, seven or eight of them would be compelled to starve, or change their occupation. The mode of *emigration*, therefore, with respect to artisans, is, in great measure, the reverse of that to be observed by agriculturists. It should be always by individuals, or *very small* bodies. Each workman, as he arrives with his tools, has only to look out for a lodging, and begin his labours. If the peculiar circumstances of the place at which he disembarks are unfavourable, a short journey will always convey him to a more advantageous spot. Individually, the industrious artisan will rarely fail to realize the fable of the Cat and the Fox; his single *shift* will suffice for his preservation. It is to *agricultural* emigrants our observations are principally directed, because it is they who will constitute the great mass of emigration, and produce the most important changes in the moral and physical aspect of the country. As to the *description of persons* most proper for this purpose, there can be little difficulty: the labourer should be hardy, sober, and industrious, and few think of emigrating who do not, more or less, possess these

qualifications. With respect to *capitalists*, their aptitude will clearly depend on their intelligence, and previous habits; to point out all their necessary qualifications would be imitating the writers on military tactics, who always lay down as an axiom, that a general should possess every virtue and talent under the sun, though in practice much of this may and must be abated.

With respect to the most effectual *mode* of executing any plan of emigration, which has for its object an agricultural establishment, the most important point is, to combine in the same plan the advantages of capital and labour. The capitalist who should attempt to employ native labour, and the foreign labourers, who should look to native employers, are likely to meet with equal discouragement. The more numerous the body of emigrants, the greater the prospect of success, supposing the previous arrangements to be judiciously planned; inasmuch as the labourers have no capital but their labour, the expenses of their transport and the necessary advances for their subsistence must be borne by the capitalists, who have a right to an adequate portion of their labour in return, on their arrival at the new settlement. Engagements must be entered into to secure these mutual advantages, but the question naturally arises, whether the Colombian courts of justice will acknowledge and enforce contracts made in a foreign country? According to the

inquiries I have made on the subject, it appears that such contracts will be acknowledged and enforced by the laws of Colombia, as has been already decided in the case of workmen, hired in the colonies to build houses in Colombia, and who refused on their arrival to fulfil their contract. It would, however, be desirable, that, in the case of emigrants, such contracts should be made in the presence of the envoy, or political agent of the Republic, resident in the country from which the emigration is to be made.

§ 6. PREPARATIONS NECESSARY.

A BODY of agricultural emigrants, having united, according to the foregoing idea of a combination of capital and labour (for in every other manner, emigration could scarcely be carried into effect without much suffering and difficulty), the first step to be taken, after deciding generally on the part of the country in which the settlement is to be made, should be, to send an agent to the seat of the departmental government, to provide for carrying into effect the dispositions of the general government, as specified in its laws on this subject already quoted. It would be desirable that the person appointed for this purpose, besides the indispensable knowledge of the quality of lands, should possess such a fluency in the Spanish language as may enable him to transact his business *personally* with the government,

and its agents, as well as to make the necessary enquiries relative to the objects of his mission. For, though in all sea-port towns interpreters may easily be met with, it is obvious that a knowledge of the language of a country is both a key to much important information, as well as an instrument to vanquish a variety of difficulties, the want of which can be supplied in no other manner. It will be necessary, that, with respect to the quality and situation of the lands proposed to be allotted, the agent should rely on no species of report or description that is not confirmed by the testimony of his own eyesight. It is also necessary, that the terms of possession, rights or immunities, to be granted to the settlers, together with every other point which may be made a question betwixt them and the government, should be *clearly explained*, and *committed to writing*.

These preliminary arrangements having been concluded, it remains only for the emigrating body to make provision of the articles most necessary for its establishment; and here we notice, it would be desirable, every body of agriculturists should have united to it a small number of carpenters, smiths, sawyers, mill-wrights and other artizans, most necessary in a new settlement. The articles most important to be brought out are agricultural implements, such as ploughs and harness, axes, spades and shovels, saws, pickaxes, machinery for water-mills, carpenters' tools, distilling apparatus, machinery for cleaning

cotton and coffee, a medicine chest, salted provisions for the first four or five months residence, clothes and furniture; with regard to the latter articles, it is impossible to specify quantity or quality, since these must depend on the taste and means of the settlers; I have already noticed how little is absolutely necessary, but beyond this, it may be observed, that every manufactured article, especially as it approaches towards an article of taste or luxury, is much dearer, and worse in quality in Colombia than in Europe, whence it must be exported, and, consequently, that every thing of this kind which emigrants may require or deem necessary, they should bring with them in the greatest abundance possible, since the overplus may be always disposed of to considerable advantage; arms too, both for the chase and for defence, should not be neglected; live stock, except as a matter of tasteful speculation, is unnecessary.

§ 7. CHOICE OF PLACE.

THE manner in which South America was originally peopled by the Spaniards is extremely favourable to the formation of new settlements: when the colonization of a new country is peaceably carried on, population spreads gradually, from the sea-coast and navigable rivers towards the interior and mountainous districts, which are the last to be occupied. But the Spanish system of conquest and plunder,

demanded a contrary method ; small bands of adventurers penetrated through pathless wilds, and across the most inaccessible mountains ; their establishments were rather military posts than colonies, the extent of the country peopled, bearing no proportion to that occupied. There are in consequence, large intermediate tracts of vacant territory, admirably adapted for new settlements, to which the towns and villages already existing form so many *Points d'appui*, for the purposes of supplies and communication both external and internal ; for though new settlements require space, both to exist and spread upon, it is by no means desirable that they should be planted in an actual desert, where the greater part of the settlers may perish from want, disease, and hardships, before the establishment acquires strength and maturity ; as was fatally experienced by the early North American colonists.

Of the ten departments into which the Republic is divided, the four maritime departments of the Orinoco, Caracas, Zulia, and the Magdalena, which occupy the whole extent of coast, from the mouths of the Orinoco to the Isthmus of Panama, are, in every respect, the most eligible for the purposes of colonization.

1. The department of the Orinoco, comprehends the provinces of Guyana, Cumana, Barcelona, and Margaritta.

The residence of the departmental government is in the city of Cumana : the cities of Angostura in Guyana, Barcelona in Barcelona, and Assuncion in the island of Margaritta, are the residence of the several provincial governors.

The province of Guyana is bounded by the Orinoco, the rich alluvial lands of which are of astonishing fertility ; the chief settlements consisted, formerly, of *reduced* or *christianized* Indians, but the war has left this province nearly desolate. Its productions are cocoa, cotton, tobacco, cattle, and generally every species of vegetation peculiar to hot and moist climates. Angostura is the great *dépôt* of the trade of the plains, hides and cattle. The climate is unhealthy, and liable to contagious fevers.*

The province of Cumana, lies betwixt the Orinoco and the part of the coast opposite to Trinidad and Margaritta. The banks of the Orinoco offer many advantageous situations for new settlements, particularly the neighbourhood of Barrancas, betwixt the mouth of the river and Angostura, which will probably one day surpass Angostura, from its superior local advantages, and greater proximity to the sea. The lands bordering on the gulf of Paria, and the rivers which empty themselves into it, are all of great fertility, and famous for the cultivation of cocoa. The immediate vicinity of the island of Trinidad, is here a considera-

* Some account of Guyana was given to the public by the late Mr. Princep, in one of the London Reviews or Magazines.

ble advantage ; the neighbourhood of the gulf of Cariaco, adjacent to Cumana itself, is also eminently fertile, and there is little doubt that the mountains, called the Bergantine, which terminate the Andes to the east in this province, would be found adapted to the culture of coffee, with the advantage of a more mitigated temperature, than can be found on the level lands near the coast.

The province of Barcelona is almost uninhabited, but very fertile, and equally adapted to breeding cattle and to agriculture.

The Island of Margaritta is of too small an extent to be eligible for purposes of Colonization.

2. The department of Caracas comprehends the provinces of Caracas and Barinas.

The residence of the departmental government or Intendency is the city of Caracas : the city of Barinas is the residence of the governor of that province.

The province of Caracas, whether we consider its temperature, natural beauty, or fertility, is almost unrivalled upon earth, but in some respects, it is less advantageous for colonization than other less attractive provinces. The quantity of its unoccupied lands are much less : those already in cultivation have in many places become in some degree exhausted, besides that, there is scarcely an estate upon which there are not such a variety of chains and shackles, as would involve a purchaser, especially a foreigner, in an endless series of litigations ; perhaps

the best advice to give to emigrants is to abstain from visiting this province, since they could not, without difficulty and regret, renounce the celestial climate of Caracas, and the lovely valleys of Aragua, for the superior advantages to be reaped in any other part of Colombia. The line of country least inhabited, and consequently most proper for new settlements, is that betwixt Valencia and San Carlos, and a beautiful tract it is, especially in the neighbourhood of Carabolo.

The province of Barinas is eminently favourable to colonization. It consists entirely of plains intersected by numerous rivers, most of them navigable, which descend into the Apure, and thus communicate with the Orinoco. The banks of these rivers are covered with superb forests, and when cleared, produce abundantly cocoa, indigo, cotton, sugar-cane, tobacco, maize, rice, and all kinds of fruits, and vegetables. The savannahs breed innumerable herds of cattle; the Cordilleras of Pamplona, Merido, and Truxillo, border it on the west and north, and supply it with wheat and every production of temperate climates, even to the luxury of snow: by these mountains it communicates with the lake of Maracaybo, and through the lesser ridges of La Palomera, and Las Hermanas, with Valencia and Puerto Cabello. The cities of Barinas, Guanore, Arauze, San Carlos, and San Fernando de Apure, were rapidly advancing previous to the war, which visited this province with the full measure of its destructive fury.

3. The department of Zulia comprehends the provinces of Coro, Merida, Truxillo, and Maracaybo.

The residence of the departmental government is Maracaybo : the cities of Coro, Merida, and Truxillo, those of the respective provincial governors. The province of Coro is in many parts arid and sterile. In the mountains of the interior, the cultivation of coffee has been introduced with success. Cattle, goats, mules, and asses, were bred in the plains, but the province is, from the effects of the war, almost a desert.

The province of Merida possesses the advantages of a delightful climate, and a fertile, though mountainous, territory ; wheat, tobacco, and all fruits and grains of temperate climates, are raised abundantly in the high lands, while the low warm valleys produce sugar-cane and cocoa, and all tropical fruits. Coffee could be cultivated to great advantage on the mountains. The superb valley of San Chrystoval, near Cucuta, deserves the foreign settler's consideration.

The province of Truxillo differs little from that of Merida, except that its mountains are steeper, and the valleys more confined.

The province of Maracaybo possesses great agricultural and commercial advantages. Its capital, besides being a sea-port town, is situated on a lake which spreads into the interior, with a length of

about 150 miles from north to south, and a breadth of 70 or 80 from east to west. Nearly a hundred rivers and streams discharge themselves into its basin, the banks of which are of an astonishing fertility, but many of the settlements have been partially abandoned from the unhealthiness of the climate. A great part of the trade of New Grenada passes through Maracaybo by way of the valleys of Cucuta.

4. The department of the Magdalena comprehends the provinces of Rio Hacha, Santa Marta, and Cartagena.

The provinces of Rio Hacha and Santa Marta, being separated by no mutual boundary or characteristic, we shall consider as one tract of country. It occupies about two degrees of longitude, and one and a half of latitude; is bounded to the west and east by the rivers Magdalena and Rio Hacha, and to the north and south by the Ocean, and that part of the chain of the Andes which traverses the province of Ocana. It is besides intersected by the beautiful and lofty ridge called the *Sierra Nevada*, or Snow Mountains of Santa Marta, whence descend the numerous streams which water it in every direction. It is on these streams, several of which are navigable for some distance, and betwixt this ridge of mountains and the sea, a foreign settlement might, in my opinion, be most advantageously estab-

lished; the lands are unoccupied, with the exception of two small villages of peaceful and inoffensive Indians: they are eminently fertile, and capable of producing abundantly cocoa, coffee, cotton, sugarcane, indigo, rice, tobacco, maize, and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. There are large tracts of pasture lands of excellent quality for raising cattle. The climate is healthy, and the settler has the advantage, by ascending into the mountains, of choosing a temperament congenial to his constitution, and affording him every production of the temperate zone. The sea abounds in fish, and the woods with game and wild fowl. The city and port of Santa Marta are on the left, the village of Camerones and port of Rio Hacha on the right, the latter within four or five hours ride or sail, and affording a market as well for produce raised, as for every article of consumption required in the colony; add to which advantage, that the settler may be brought from Europe and landed on the very spot he intends to cultivate. The trade of Brazil-wood might also be rendered a very profitable speculation in the province of Rio Hacha, with a capital of about a Thousand Pounds, to be laid out in the purchase of mules to convey it from the interior to the Rio Hacha market. Another tract of country scarcely less advantageous, lies betwixt the Ocana and Santa Marta mountains to its north and south, and the towns of El Valle and Chiriguana to the east and west. It communicates with

the Magdalena by a series of small lakes ; with the interior by the Ocana mountains ; and with the sea-coast by Santa Marta and Rio Hacha. It contains a length of about 30 leagues, with an indefinite breadth, towards the mountains, of alternate woods and savanahs, watered by abundant streams. The climate, though warm, is healthy, and untroubled by the insects which swarm near the great rivers. Betwixt Chiriguana and the Indian village of the Cienaga, on the sea-coast near Santa Marta, is a third tract of almost uninhabited country, extending about 70 leagues from north to south, nearly covered with superb forests, and abounding with lands of excellent quality, especially on the rivers, which descend from the snow-mountains into the lake or Cienaga. The river Magdalena forms its western boundary ; the few villages and farms scattered over it, though not numerous enough to impede fresh settlements, are sufficient to afford them such aid as their infant state necessarily requires.

The province of Cartagena contains excellent lands, especially on the banks of the Magdalena, the advantages and disadvantages of which, have been already stated : there is, however, one spot, which peculiarly claims attention : this is the port of Savanilla, at the mouth of the Magdalena ; the lands here are finely timbered, and the temperature refreshed by strong breezes, but the principal advantage consists in its being the natural port of Magdalena, in

which capacity, there is little doubt, it will one day become the emporium of the whole trade of the interior, though it is closed at present by order of the government for the purpose of favouring Santa Marta, which would be abandoned should commerce be left to its natural channel; the communication betwixt the latter and the river being troublesome and circuitous, through the canals which unite with the Cienaga; whereas Savanilla is the mouth of the river itself; its chief defect as a port is, the shallowness of the river immediately above it, which is caused by the number of mouths through which the Magdalena discharges itself into the ocean; even flat boats when loaded have, in the dry season, some difficulty in ascending from Savanilla to Barranquilla. It is probable this defect might be remedied, by closing up the mouth called *Boca Viega*, but the country is not, at present, ripe for such an undertaking.

§ 8. DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM DIFFERENCE OF LANGUAGE, CUSTOMS, AND RELIGION.

IT is superfluous to point out the disadvantages of not speaking the *language* of the country in which we dwell, or to insist on the importance of acquiring it by some, at least, of the individuals who propose to form a new settlement: experience, however, shows us, that it is by no means an evil of such magnitude as greatly to impede a scheme of colonization. In Pennsylvania and New York,

there are whole districts inhabited by Germans, most of whom speak no English; the inhabitants of New Orleans are chiefly French; Lower Canada is peopled by French and English, and the island of Curaçoa, by every nation of Europe. Every body of emigrants should be provided with two or three interpreters, and these, with due care to acquire the Spanish language, on the part of such colonists whose education, and circumstances will permit it, will prove sufficient for all practical purposes.

There is nothing in the *habits and customs* of the Colombians to intimidate foreign settlers; the inhabitants are much less pertinaciously attached to their own usages, than they are desirous of imitating those of other nations. Nor is there any thing in their way of life to which a foreigner may not readily accommodate himself, although such complaisance will be neither exacted nor required.

The matter of *Religion* requires more consideration. A law was published, dated August 22nd, 1821, to abolish the Inquisition, and restore to the ecclesiastical courts, jurisdiction in matters of religion, according to the canons and customs of the Roman Catholic Church: the 3rd article of this law says: "Juridical proceedings in such cases (in matters of faith) shall take place only with respect to Roman Catholics born in Colombia, their children, and those who, having come from other countries, shall have enrolled themselves in the parish registers

of the Catholics ; *but not with respect to strangers who may come to establish themselves temporarily or permanently nor with their descendants ; who can in no manner be molested on account of their belief though they ought to respect the Roman Catholic worship and religion.*

That *Toleration* is here established, as to the creed of foreigners. there can be no doubt, but it is not equally clear, that this toleration includes the liberty openly to profess and celebrate the rites of their respective forms of worship ; in such a case the law would require *interpretation*, and in what spirit would the interpretation be made ? As far as respects the opinions of the individuals who compose the government, and, generally, of all the enlightened men throughout the country, there is little doubt it would be favourable, but the interference of the clergy must in such a case be reckoned on ; nor can it be denied that the government, perhaps from an exaggerated calculation of clerical influence, has manifested a disposition to humour the prejudice of this body, which may render it a problematical question, how far the liberality of its private opinions might control its public conduct. The clergy, on the other hand, are no strangers to the contempt in which their doctrines are held by the enlightened part of the community ; but, as long as this inward feeling is accompanied by no overt act of secession, they console themselves with the influence they possess over the ignorant ma-

majority, and the knowledge that this influence must ensure them the consideration of the government. The toleration of a *rival church*, would, however, prove a very different affair: here is not only division of opinion, but threatened division of self and power, and the resistance to such innovation would, doubtless, be proportioned to the interests jeopardized. Travellers have noticed the apparent liberality of the South American clergy towards strangers of a different creed, but their bigotry in such cases is only sleeping because unprovoked; a solitary Protestant traveller may be an object of curiosity, but not of dread or suspicion. Not so, when individuals of the same persuasion appear in hundreds or thousands. The abuse of heretics has long been the favourite theme in the pulpits of Caracas, and this city has been repeatedly threatened with a second earthquake, in judgment of such abominations. Without pretending to foretel what course would be followed by the government, or sanctioned by public opinion, when a case of toleration, in the full sense of the word, practically occurs, we may observe, that if Colombia pretends to tread in the steps of the United States, and to grow powerful by the admission of foreigners into her bosom, some change in her religious system, either legally sanctioned or conventionally allowed, must eventually take place. The ecclesiastical regulations, which at present interdict marriages betwixt Roman Catholics and he-

retics, are, of themselves, a barrier against the amalgamation of foreigners with the existing population, and exemplify the impossibility of combining religious intolerance with a liberal form of civil government.

§ 9. DISEASES OF THE CLIMATE.

IT is not to be expected that an individual who pretends to no medical science, should write on the subject of diseases with professional accuracy. Observation and experience may, however, do something to supply the place of science, when the latter is not to be obtained, and this is the more necessary, since the condition of an incipient colony will scarcely tempt respectable medical men to employ their talents on its members, who must, in most cases of disease depend on their domestic medicine-chest, with such information as they have been able to procure, as to the mode of applying its contents to the maladies of the country.

The diseases of the mountainous and temperate districts are few and simple, nor require a treatment different from that which is commonly known and pursued in the north of Europe. There is, however, one exception to this rule ; this is the malady known by the name of *papos* in this country, and that of *goitre* in Switzerland : it appears in the shape of a swelling on the throat, which rapidly increases, so

as often to become larger than the head itself. Besides the peculiar deformity of this malady it is observed to be so radical a sign of constitutional weakness, that the children of goitred parents are commonly deaf or dumb, and in the succeeding generation become entirely idiots. This disease exists to an alarming extent through the whole of the mountainous region of the interior ; villages are to be met with, in which there is scarcely an individual but bears this unseemly excrescence. The *cause* of it has been much disputed on, and with little success ; the prevailing opinion attributes it to the waters, although the great distance in which it is to be met with, through tracts of country watered by streams of all descriptions, renders this improbable. The plant *barachero* has also had the reputation of causing it, by infecting the waters near which it grows : a more probable cause seems to be constitutional debility, whatever may be its origin ; in proof of which we may observe, that goitres prevail in those parts of the country, the inhabitants of which are noted for feebleness both moral and physical ; that, among these, women and men of sedentary and inactive habits are chiefly attacked by it ; and, finally, that such as are engaged in constant exercise, the boatmen of the Magdalena, for example, escape altogether. With respect to the cure, no panacea has yet been discovered : in its earliest stages, however, the tumour may be cut away without danger,

and a change of climate seldom fails to disperse it; burnt sponge has also been used with success; but, when the complaint has made great progress, it would be unsafe to operate surgically, and the case may be considered as remediless. The government has recently invited the attention of medical men to this subject.

The diseases which reign with peculiar violence on the sea-coast, on the borders of great rivers, and in all hot, low, and damp situations, are fevers, and dysenteries. The exhalations of noxious miasmata, which escape from stagnant waters, and from waste uncultivated lands, are generally considered the primary cause of the first; while unwholesome diet, bad water, intemperance, and whatever tends to derange the digestive faculty, may be regarded as the principal causes of the second, and very often, directly or indirectly, of both; it is consoling, however, to reflect, that all these causes are, more or less, subject to the control of man; experience has abundantly proved, that in proportion as the soil is cleared, and exposed to the rays of the sun, for the purposes of cultivation, noxious exhalations diminish, or are rapidly dispersed, through the atmosphere. In towns and villages the evil would scarcely exist, were it not from the want of police, and indolence of the inhabitants, who suffer the environs of their habitations to be encumbered with stagnant pools, bushes, and all kinds of filth and rubbish; a neglect, which, not

unfrequently, proves as fatal to themselves as to strangers. In forming a new settlement, too much attention cannot be paid to choosing a dry elevated situation: the immediate neighbourhood of small lakes or ponds should be carefully avoided. The lands round the village should be cleared as soon as possible, so as to admit a free circulation of air, which is scarcely to be obtained in any of the Creole villages; unless accidentally afforded by local circumstances. Such lakes or ponds as are necessary to be retained, should be left surrounded by a small belt of trees, by which the noxious vapours will be, in great measure, absorbed; it is desirable also, to avoid approaching them after sunset, or early in the morning, especially with an empty stomach; a proper attention to clearing and cleansing the immediate neighbourhood of the settlement will also powerfully contribute to destroy the swarms of sandflies and mosquitos so tormenting to Europeans.

With regard to the symptoms and classification of the several tropical fevers, I shall confine myself to such broad outlines, as can scarcely be mistaken by the most ignorant; and with regard to remedies, to such as are simplest in their application, and recommended by the best medical opinions, without too confidently assuring their success. It is superfluous, and might seem presuming, to venture upon such questions, as, whether these fevers differ in *kind*, or only in *degree*, whether they have a similar or dis-

distinct origin. One observation the resident in tropical climates will scarcely fail to make, which is, the propensity of the milder species rapidly to assume the type of the more malignant, and of all to terminate in that species called *the black vomit*.

Intermittent fevers, or agues, are the most common and least dreaded; they prevail in all damp and newly-cleared districts, even where the climate is temperate. The mode of treatment is similar to that of Europe, the bowels are first cleansed, either by salts, or a strong dose of calomel and jalap; after which bark is generally employed with success. Sometimes, however, a change of air is necessary to complete the cure, and in obstinate cases, "Fowler's Solution of Arsenic," is a valuable medicine. Simple *inflammatory* fevers, called by the natives *tabardillas*, are distinguished by strength and rapidity of pulse, head-aches, eyes starting and inflamed, high colour, heat of the skin and early delirium: the usual mode of cure is the free use of purgatives, particularly calomel and jalap, and refreshing drinks: bleeding and vomits in the first stage of the disease are sometimes used with success, though the practice seems dangerous from the rapid tendency of the system to great debility, and irritation of the stomach. Cold effusions would, most probably, be beneficial, though I have never seen them tried. The third, and most dangerous class of fevers, is that which is more strictly denominated *putrid* or *bi-*

lious, and which not unfrequently terminates in black vomit. Its symptoms in the first stage, are violent pains in the back and limbs, and over the temples; great depression and debility; pulse feeble; if the disease gains ground, violent irritation of the stomach succeeds, attended by frequent vomitings of a matter, in colour and consistency resembling coffee grounds; hence the name of *black vomit*. The patient now becomes restless and irritable, his tongue is black and furred, the pulse grows almost imperceptible, and the fatal *hiccup* too surely announces a speedy and painful dissolution. As to the method of cure, there are naturally various opinions, some maintaining the necessity of breaking down the fever by purges, bleedings, and low diet, while others uphold the method of stimulants and tonics. Both opinions may be founded in reason, as far as respects the two stages of the disease: in the first, or inflammatory stage, strong purgatives, and even bleeding are useful: I have seen the most violent symptoms yield in twenty-four hours to strong doses of calomel and jalap, and nothing left of the disease but a slight debility; but it cannot be denied, that the same treatment has, in other instances, led to the most fatal consequences. When, from the patient's peculiar habit of body, or little custom of taking mercury, this medicine can be brought to act speedily upon the system, so as to produce salivation, there is every reason to hope for

the best, at least, in such cases, I have never seen it fail: should, however, the contrary prove the case, the period of debility rapidly comes on, and requires a directly contrary treatment; blisters on the back and stomach, sinapisms, tonics, in the shape of black laudanum, vitriolic ether, wine, especially champagne, and soda-water, are chiefly to be relied on. It is said, that charcoal has, from its antiseptic qualities, been used with considerable success. The period of this malady seldom exceeds four days, and it not uncommonly passes through all its stages in two. The eyes and skin, previous to dissolution, are often strongly tinged with yellow, but this is by no means a constant symptom, nor am I aware that this disease has been completely identified with the yellow fever, though it is probable, if they differ at all, it is only in the minor symptoms. I have never discovered the black vomit to be contagious, though I have had but too frequent occasion of making the experiment. When many persons, as frequently happens, are attacked by it at the same time, it is rather to be attributed to the general operation of the peculiar causes of the disease upon persons, all equally in a state to receive it, than to any thing contagious in the disease itself, although it is very possible, that, in crowded hospitals, or in sick chambers, where ventilation is neglected, as too generally is the case among the natives, it may become so. The whole of the sea-coast is liable to this scourge, but the

points most peculiarly fatal, are Vera Cruz in Mexico; Puerto Bello on the Isthmus of Panama; Cartagena, Santa Marta, Puerto Cabello, and Barcelona, on the northern coast of Colombia, and Guyaquil in the Pacific. The inhabitants of the mountainous regions of the interior, when they descend to the sea-coast, are even more liable to its attacks than Europeans.

Dysenteric complaints, from the simple diarrhoea through all the stages of bloody flux to confirmed dysentery, constitute a class of diseases by far more destructive than fevers. In this city (Maracaybo) from the time our troops entered it in September, to the month of November, nearly 1500 soldiers died in the hospital, out of a force little exceeding 3,000; the greater part of these died of flux or dysentery; in this case, however, we must reckon with a combination of causes to aid in the propagation of the disease, and the total want of means of cure or prevention: in the first place a great deficiency of food, and food of the worst quality; hospitals wretchedly supplied and attended, and *native* doctors. In ordinary cases, there is little doubt that this malady will yield in all its stages to the free use of calomel, either alone or combined with opium. The practice recommended by Dr. Johnson, in his valuable work, "On the diseases of Tropical Climates," seems deserving of the utmost confidence and attention.

With respect to the medical practitioners of the

country, they are more to be dreaded than the diseases themselves; they divide with the old women the whole department of quackery. Their principal medicine is cream of tartar, with an endless variety of drinks and decoctions, which perhaps would do no harm if the diseases of the climate did not require prompt and efficacious remedies. If they chance to embrace a more methodical system, they seldom fail to misapply it; as I have known a patient, in a case of marked inflammatory fever, suffocated by bark and stimulants. In dysenteric cases their remedies are so feeble, that should the patient escape, it is at the cost of many months of debility and reiterated relapses. They are almost entirely ignorant of the use of calomel and opium, or rather regard them with a superstitious dread; their drugs are always of the worst description, generally stale or damaged. In surgery they have no skill whatever; in fact, whatever reproaches might justly be cast on medical practitioners in the darkest ages of the profession, may with equal propriety be applied to the living generation of Creole doctors, each of whom may fairly write over his *Botica* the wag's label,

Venditur hic catharticum, emeticum,

Et omne quod exit in *um*,

Præter remedium.

The natural remedies of the country are sufficiently numerous; besides a variety of barks, to be found in most of the mountain regions, the castor oil plant,

called *el tartaro*, is scattered abundantly from the burning sands of the coast to the elevated regions of the Andes, although the natives rarely use the oil for any other purpose than lamps. The root of the *kassia caumunis* is also a useful purge, as is the fruit of the *kaña fistula*; the roasted fruit of the guava is said to be highly beneficial in dysenteries. Tamarinds and bitter oranges afford excellent drinks in fevers; gums and balsams are abundant. The *paramos* furnish a variety of herbs of much medical reputation, but their beneficial effects in general require to be investigated with something of scientific, or at least of unprejudiced, observation. It is always easier to prevent than to cure, and foreign settlers will do well to guard against disease by a mode of life adapted to the novelty of their situation. The human frame readily suits itself to variety in temperature, but it cannot be expected to pass from a northerly European climate to one in which the thermometer commonly ranges from 80° to 95° without experiencing some effects from the change. There are two words which the foreigner should write in his pocket-book, imprint on his memory, and invariably carry into practice—these are TEMPERANCE and EXERCISE.

The necessity of temperance both in eating and drinking, is suggested by the obvious connexion there is betwixt good health and good digestion, so that the most malignant classes of tropical diseases,

fevers and dysenteries, never fail to have their origin, directly or indirectly, in the state of the stomach. It is almost superfluous to give any caution against immoderate eating in a climate which rarely prompts to any excess of gluttony. Persons, however, whose occupations compel them to a sedentary life, should be cautious of loading the stomach in the morning with heavy and greasy aliments. Chocolate, though commonly used in the country, and highly nutritious, is by no means so wholesome a beverage as tea or coffee, especially for persons of delicate stomachs, women and children. Suppers, except very slight or taken very early, are unfriendly both to rest and digestion, and often the immediate causes of disease: the cookery of the natives has two great defects—it is very greasy, and their meat is boiled or roasted to rags or cinders, so that their dishes are both unsuited to a European palate and generally indigestible. Temperance in the use of spirituous liquors is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life. Probably not less than 8,000 Englishmen have come to this country during the war as officers and soldiers; there are not now 300 survivors, and of this loss, three-fifths must be ascribed to *drinking*. In tropical climates there is no salvation for the drunkard: a few may, by strength of constitution, prolong their career for five or six years, but the period of exhaustion must arrive, though the thread of life should not be snapt by sudden malady. It is not,

however, *habitual* drunkenness that is alone to be avoided ; occasional intemperance is often more speedily fatal, because the debility consequent on an occasional debauch, is much greater than that which is felt by the seasoned toper ; and it is in this state an attack of fever is chiefly to be expected. Since, however the wisest cannot be always wise, it would be desirable on the morning succeeding a nocturnal revel to take a small dose of Epsom salts, or magnesia, to restore the stomach to its healthful tone. It will naturally be asked, if a total abstinence from wine and spirits is here recommended ? I answer, on the contrary, a moderate quantity of wine seems highly beneficial, to supply the waste of strength and stimulus occasioned by the climate. From a pint to a bottle of claret, or a proportionate quantity of stronger wine, may be taken, not only with safety but advantage. When wine is not attainable, a glass of spirits and water may answer the same purpose, but care must be taken not to multiply the dose from a false estimate of the malady. If every casual depression of spirits, to which the foreigner is liable in a strange country, were to be counteracted by the bottle, health and life would speedily be sacrificed to momentary alleviation. It is better, in such cases, to have recourse to exercise, reading, society, and I was about to add, reflection ; but remembering the remark of Zanga, “ He’s gone to *think*—that is to be damned,”—I hesitate about the prescription. The

natives are very generally accustomed to drink a dram early in the morning, which they call a *Mañana*, a practice in which they are too readily imitated by Europeans, who seldom quarrel with a bad habit. Yet there can be little doubt that raw spirits must be, in the highest degree, injurious to the empty stomach; at the same time it is by no means advisable to encounter the morning air, especially on lands newly cleared, entirely fasting. A cup of coffee is generally taken by those who refrain from spirits; for the traveller, sportsman, or labourer a cup of chocolate is perhaps still better.

The advantage of exercise may seem somewhat paradoxical to those who have been accustomed to regard a tropical climate as both promoting and excusing indolence. That it does, to a certain degree, enfeeble both mind and body can scarcely be denied, but this enfeeblement is almost always in proportion to the greater or less resistance we oppose to it. The human frame will acquire strength, hardihood, and endurance, under a tropical sun, as amid Norwegian ice-bergs; witness the unparalleled energies and exertions of the Spaniards themselves, in the conquest of this immense continent. It is true that a hot climate does not *invite* to exercise, but the habit once established, it becomes no less agreeable than salutary. Europeans are accustomed to consider the heat of the sun as pernicious: mid-day is certainly not the time one would *choose* for travel-

ling, yet I have, repeatedly, myself, journeyed in a heat of 118° without inconvenience. Nor did I ever know an instance of illness arising from mere exposure to the sun. When I first arrived in Colombia, I was quartered at Barranquilla, on the banks of the Magdalena, a situation usually esteemed unhealthy: yet I hit upon a mode of life which effectually counteracted the climate. At day-break I took my fowling-piece and amused myself with shooting on the marshy banks of the river, frequently above my knees in water, until about 10 o'clock, when the heat of the sun became extreme; I then returned, and the fatigue of the morning's ramble was speedily dissipated by a bathe and hearty breakfast. Proceeding on this experience, I always took as much exercise as possible, without respect to sun or weather, and constantly found I enjoyed my health in proportion to my bodily exertions.

It would be rash to assert, that a man can labour as hard in a tropical, as in a European climate, but nature is also more liberal in the former, and the soil produces with less toil of cultivation; a European can labour in the hottest climate from day-break until 10 in the morning, and from 4 until sunset. This quantity of labour will be adequate for every agricultural purpose, and is treble what is bestowed by the Creole cultivator.

A life of temperance and activity will be found the surest preventive of disease, but with the best

precautions the new settler must look to be exposed to its visitations. In such cases, the sovereign rule to be observed is, to apply the proper remedy without waiting till the malady has formally declared itself. In Europe we may almost always delay, and sometimes altogether neglect, medicine, in reliance either on strength of constitution or the *Vis Medicatrix Naturæ*, but in tropical climates delay is death. The slightest symptom should be the alarm bell, to prepare our defence against an enemy who can never be despised. Europeans almost always err in this respect, they frequently consider it childish to take physic until physic can no longer avail them; a dose of calomel and jalap, or even of magnesia, taken as soon as the stomach indicates the least degree of acidity, will often cut short a violent fever. The plan of taking medicine as a preventive when *no* cause exists, is an opposite extreme equally to be avoided, because medicine by repetition loses much of its effect, and can be less depended on when really necessary. The state of the bowels is, above all, to be strictly attended to, and costiveness should be immediately removed by a small dose of salts; cold bathing is also a preservative of the health, which should never be neglected. Venomous reptiles and insects may be reckoned among the diseases of the climate: for the bites of mosquitos no remedy has been discovered, but care must be taken not to convert them into sores by scratch-

ing ; a little Cologne water or spirits is the best application in such cases. In general all kinds of scratches have a tendency to become *llagas* or permanent ulcers, which often terminate fatally or at least cause the loss of a limb. Labouring men cannot be too careful in the case of any trifling hurt or wound to keep it constantly clean, and wash it at the beginning with spirits. The Indians and inhabitants are the fittest persons to apply to in case of bites of snakes ; a labourer should be cautious of working with bare legs. There is a little insect called *Nigua*, common in many parts of the country, which penetrates the skin of the feet and deposits its eggs in a small nest or bag beneath it ; its presence is quickly discovered by the itching it occasions, and by a small black speck ; the skin is opened with a needle and the bag easily extracted. If neglected, these insects spread through the foot and occasion lameness. It must be remembered, that almost the whole of the foregoing remarks apply strictly to the coast line of Colombia ; the mountain zone, though geographically a tropical climate, is temperate according to its elevation : the heat of the internal plains is also mitigated, as before observed, by constant breezes. Commercial interests naturally force many Europeans to a residence in the sea-port towns, which are the most unhealthy spots on the continent ; but in agricultural establishments we should seek as much as possible to combine health with profit, and

even sacrifice something of the latter to ensure the former. The tract of country I have pointed out betwixt Rio Hacha and Santa Marta unites in a singular degree the advantages of contiguity to the coast with a mountain temperature.

NOTES.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROVINCES OF SANTA MARTA AND RIO HACHA.

The tracts of country we notice as most eligible for foreign settlements are : 1. The line of coast extending about 30 miles from the river Enea to the river San Diego. 2. The country betwixt the river Frio and the river Ariguani; and 3, the tract betwixt Chiriguana and El Valle, a distance of nearly 90 miles.

The roads through the level country are good in dry weather; but miry in the extreme during the rainy season, especially when they pass through the thick forests which border the rivers. The rivers, too, during this period, are frequently swollen, and not to be passed without difficulty and danger. The mountain roads are stony and precipitous, but not dangerous to those accustomed to them. The art of making or mending them is entirely unknown.

The river Magdalena is always navigable; the rivers Frio, Sevilla, Aniataca, San Carlos, Ariguani, and Asar, are navigable during the greater part of the year by canoes and flat boats. The navigation of the Asar is particularly capable of improvement. The rivers on the coast betwixt the Penovic and

San Diego, are most of them navigable by small craft, though not to a great distance from their mouths.

The soil on the coast is sandy, and covered with prickly shrubs, it has, however, been found capable of producing cotton of a superior quality. The banks of the rivers are always rich in proportion to the breadth of their alluvion, so that the magnitude of a river may be accurately conjectured from the extent and luxuriance of the forest which clothes its banks. The cultivation of coffee was successfully introduced some years ago, near San Carlos, by a Frenchman of the name of Cotinet; but his plantations have been abandoned during the war. Not only the rich low lands, but almost all the lower mountain ridges, are admirably adapted to its cultivation. The rich alluvial lands which border the rivers, will produce cocoa, indigo, and all tropical productions; while the elevated valleys and mountain ridges are equally favourable to the growth of the fruits and productions of European climates. The Indians of San Sebastian, for example, which is the most elevated settlement on this chain of mountains, raise maize, tobacco, wheat, potatoes, peas and beans, celery, onions; plantains and oranges, in sheltered situations, with a variety of other fruits, and abundance of sheep and horses. It is impossible, indeed, to approach the majestic chain of the Nevada, without the strongest feelings of pleasure and admiration. The traveller ascends beneath the

shade of stately forests, the graver colouring of which is enlivened by the numerous wreaths of brilliant flowers with which the *bejucos*, or climbing plants, fantastically entwine almost every forest tree. Gradually he emerges on the crest of some bold promontory, and looks down on a sea of verdure "whose shores are mountains," stretched in picturesque masses on the horizon, and glowing with the deep effulgence of a tropic sun. As he ascends still higher, he finds the vast ridges of the Cordillera broken by numberless ravines and valleys, each watered by some wild torrent brawling and whitening over its granite bed, beneath arches of various and graceful verdure—such as, in more poetical regions, would be the haunts of nymphs, and bowers of the Muses, here unnoticed and unknown—but here the traveller feels a renovated existence; he breathes an air, pure, balmy, and invigorating; he treads with a firmer step; his blood has a brisker movement, and he gazes on the green hills and shining waters as on the face of a friend, for they "bring back the memory of the past," and speak to his heart as with the tongue of his native land. Such, at least, were the feelings with which I ascended the Nevada of Santa Marta, at a time when whatever I felt of animation or cheerfulness was solely due to the reviving influence of Nature.

ITINERARY.

1. *Rio Hacha to Santa Marta by El Valle.*

	Leagues.
Village of Moreno - - - - -	7
Level road, country wooded.	5
Fonseca - - - - -	8
Similar road.	
<p>From Fonseca there are two mountain roads to the village of Treinta, each about 9 leagues. This tract of mountain is wooded, and the land of fine quality. From Trienta to Rio Hacha are 10 leagues of level road. That part of it called the <i>Pantano</i>, or Marsh, is almost impassable in wet weather.</p>	
San Juan - - - - -	3½
Level road—country covered with Meniosas, but favourable to the breeding of cattle.	
Badillo - - - - -	6
Similar road and country.	
El Valle - - - - -	4½
Valencia de Jesus - - - - -	3

From Valencia de Jesus there is a mountain road to the Indian village of San Sebastian; the distance about 14 leagues. From this village to the foot of the snow ridge,

Leagues.

is about 7 leagues, by an Indian path. The path continues over the ridge to the small Indian villages of San Miguel and San Antonio : thence it is two days' journey to Rio Hacha.

Hato* de Comperuche	- - - - -	9
Open level country, with good pastures.		
Guycaras—Indian village	- - - - -	10
Road crosses the Alto de Minas.		
Hato de Chimeles	- - - - -	8
Road level, mostly through a thick forest, with occasional pastures or Savanahs.		
San Carlos or Fundacioro	- - - - -	9
This village was originally peopled by Catholic Emigrants from North America, a few of whom still survive. The land here is fertile in the extreme, producing Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton, Sugar-cane, Maize, Tobacco, and fruits in the greatest abundance ; the timber is of a remarkable size.		
River Aricutaca	- - - - -	8
Mostly thick palm forest.		
River Tucarinca	- - - - -	3
Deep forest with some pastures.		
River Riguenca	- - - - -	5

* *Hato* signifies a cattle farm, and *Hacienda* an Agricultural establishment : *Silio* means a small hamlet : *Ainaga* is a lake or marsh : *Inebra* a ravine : *Sachia* is a streamlet : *Cano* a canal.

	Leagues.
River Frio - - - - -	5
Village of Serillano - - - - -	3
Indian town of the Ainaga - - - - -	1
Santa Marta - - - - -	7
Road partly along the coast, bad and broken.	_____
	100

From Santa Marta there is a coast road to Rio Hacha, but it is difficult in some places from neglect, and the passage of the numerous rivers is dangerous without ferry boats. The distance is probably 150 miles.

From the Ainaga to the river Magdalena, the communication is through the various canals to the villages of Barranquilla or Solidad.

Leagues.

From Barranquilla to the port of Saconilla - 7

2. Barranquilla to Mompox.

Solidad - - - - -	2
Level road, country abundant in cotton.	
Melambo - - - - -	1
The road here separates to Cartagena 34 leagues.	
Savana Grande - - - - -	2
San Tomas - - - - -	0½
Ponedera - - - - -	3

Leagues.

Road level, inundated in winter, country
thickly wooded.

Candelaria	- - - - -	9
Campo la Cruz	- - - - -	2
Barranca	- - - - -	6

Good road, mostly through deep palm
forests.

At Barranca it is necessary to embark, as
there is no tolerable road by land.

Barranca vieja	- - - - -	1½
Yucal	- - - - -	1
Tenerife	- - - - -	10
Plato	- - - - -	4
Sambrano	- - - - -	1
Tacamuche	- - - - -	9
Pinto	- - - - -	2
Sn. Ana	- - - - -	9
Sn. Fernando	- - - - -	2
Sn. Zenon	- - - - -	2
Mompox	- - - - -	5

 65

The distance from Mompox to the port of Honda is 115 leagues, whence there are twenty leagues of mountain road to Bogota, the capital of the Republic.

From Mompox there is a road, in summer, to Chiriguana by Chimichagua, but it is more usual to

embark, and ascend the small lakes of Zapatosa and Pamaychi. The distance from Mompo to El Banco is about 13 leagues, and from thence to Chiriguana, the distance is about 20.

From Chiriguana to Ocana the distance is about 45 leagues, the last 22 of which are through mountains, the remainder a level road; the country a beautiful alternation of woods and pastures.

From Ocana to Cucuta are 42 leagues of bad mountain road.

From Cucuta to Bogota are 103 leagues.

3. *Chiriguana to El Valle.*

	Leagues.
Las Jaquas - - - - -	7
Level road: Savannah, dotted with clumps of palm trees.	
Beceril - - - - -	3½
Espiritu Santo - - - - -	7
Tueres - - - - -	1½
Jolo - - - - -	2½
Silio de Diego Plato - - - - -	4
Silio de la Par - - - - -	1½
Little variation in the road or country.	
Elle Valle - - - - -	2
Country covered with Brazil wood.	

There are several roads from Rio Hacha to Maracaybo through the territory of the Goagira Indians; the distance is about 39 leagues; the whole country is a level savannah; the road is good in summer, but almost impassable in the rainy season; it is scarcely safe to travel it without a military escort. The mountain road, from the village of Molino, is sometimes preferred for greater security, but it is extremely bad, and destitute of resources.

II.—DESCRIPTION OF THE ROAD FROM VARINAS TO VALENCIA.

Almost the whole of this extensive tract, about 210 miles in length, consists of excellent pasture lands: the borders of the rivers are finely wooded, and adapted, when cleared, to the growth of every species of tropical produce, especially of cocoa, coffee, indigo, cotton and tobacco. The tobacco of Varinas has long been known in the European market. The neighbouring mountains furnish the productions of temperate climates, but the staple of the plains has always been cattle, which may be raised almost without limitation of number.

The principal rivers are navigable during the rainy season. The San Domingo, and Masporro, descend directly into the Apure, the Bruno, and

Guanan, with almost all the smaller rivers, unite with the Portuguesa, which falls into the Apure near San Fernando, whence the navigation is direct and easy to the port of Angostura, on the Orinoco.

The communications with the sea coast are more difficult; there is a communication from Baurias to the lake of Maracaybo through Merida, but the distance is considerable, and the roads almost impracticable. The communication with Coro through Barquesimeto is easier, but the distance is great for commercial purposes. The great channel of trade has hitherto been through Valencia to Puerto Cabello, but there is little doubt that, in an improved state of the country, the water-carriage by the Apure and Orinoco, will be preferred, from the great difficulty and expense of transporting bulky articles of produce, on mules, to any of the northern ports.

The lower mountain ridges, do not yield in fertility to the plains, and excel them in climate. The country round Carabobo, La Palma, and the whole tract betwixt San Carlos and Barquesimeto, offer a variety of eligible situations to foreign settlers. In point of population, the whole province of Barinas, comparing the present number of its inhabitants with those it is capable of maintaining, may be called a desert.

ITINERARY.

1. *Verinas to Valencia.*

	Leagues.
Yucca	2½
Bananas	1½
Bocono	4
Tucupis	4
Guanare	3
San Rafael	5
Ospinos	4½
Aparicion	3
Acarigua	4½
Araure	1½
Aguas Hamas	2
San Rafael	2
La Lyba	4
San Jose	3½
San Carlos	0½
Tinaco	4½
La Palma	3
Tinaquilla	3½
Carabobo	7
Tornito	2
Valencia	3

The road is level as far as Tinaco, whence it crosses short hills, and two minor mountain ridges as far as Carabobo.

2. *San Carlos to Barquesimeto.*

	Leagues.
Quebra de Camouraka	5
Camaroucama	4
El Altar	2
Gamalstol	4
La Morita	4
Rastrajos	2
Caudares	1
Barquesimeto	1
	<hr/>
	23
	<hr/>
Valencia to Puerto Cabello	8
	<hr/>
Valencia to Caracas	30½

APPENDIX.

NOTE A.

By the constitution there is vested in the Executive Power the right of suspending the Constitutional functions in any part of the Republic which may become the seat of war. This was accordingly done in the Departments upon the coast, while Maracaybo and Puerto Cabello remained in possession of the Royalists. On the 9th of December, 1823, since the foregoing sheets were written, the Government announced, by the following Proclamation, the complete cessation of hostilities throughout the Republic, and the consequent removal of the suspension of the Constitution.

*“ The Vice President of the Republic of Colombia,
in charge of the Executive Power.*

“ TO THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC.

“ Colombians ! I announce to you your country entirely free from the enemies, who have so obstinately presumed to oppose the immutable decrees of Providence. The Spanish flag which lately floated

on the walls of Puerto Cabello has been rent in pieces by the valiant troops of the Republic, and the tri-coloured flag planted thereon in its stead.

“ No longer does an enemy exist for us to contend with. The Colombian territory is entire, and the code of happiness and equality protects all who inhabit the country of Bolivar.

“ People of Colombia : receive the congratulations of the Government on the occupation of this important fortress ; thus terminating a war undertaken to rescue Colombia from the power of Spain.

“ The object of your sacrifices was, the liberty and independence of your Country ; and you now behold your country free and independent. The army and its illustrious chiefs, have realized your hopes, and fulfilled the desire of their own hearts—their swords are ever ready to enforce respect to the dignity of the Republic, to your rights, and to the inviolability of the constitution. This they have sworn to do, and a Colombian soldier will not depart from his word. But it is incumbent on you also to maintain, undiminished, the ardour of your patriotism, your submission to the laws, and, above all, your adherence to the constitution, under whose auspices, Colombia has perfected her independence, and raised herself to the pinnacle of glory, acquiring with it the respect and applause of other nations.

“ Colombians : may you enjoy the reward of your constancy, and of your undivided triumphs : they se-

cure the reign of liberty in America, and enable you to offer a sacred asylum to freemen throughout the world. To be a citizen of Colombia, is to belong to a nation possessing liberty, constancy, and valour.

“Fellow Citizens : nothing remains for me to desire, after having had the good fortune to witness during my administration the ancient oppressors of Colombia driven into the sea, and your felicity established ; but to behold you possessed of uninterrupted peace, blessed with abundance, protected by true wisdom, unalterably devoted to the constitution, divested of fanaticism, and governed by laws and magistrates of your own choosing.

“To behold you in possession of these advantages, and to return to the state of a private citizen like yourselves, is the height of my desires.—Palace of Government, Bogota, December the 9th, 1823—13.

“*Francisco de Paula Santander.*”

NOTE B.

The following official documents on Exports and Revenue relate, it will be observed, only to the port of La Guayra. Of other principal ports of the Republic (viz. Puerto Cabello, Maracaibo, Santa Marta, and Cartagena in the Atlantic ; and Guyaquil and Panama in the Pacific), I have not been able to obtain similar official details.

RETURN of the EXPORTS of LA GUAYRA, during the year last past, together with their Value, agreeably to the Registers of the Custom-House; also the Duties arising thereon.

	MAHOGANY.	COCA.		COFFEE.		INDIGO.	HIDES.	COTTON.	VANILLA.	SARSAPARILLA.	CALAGUALA.	HELBORRE.	MOLASSES.	SWEETMEATS.	GARLIC.	HORNS.	VALUE OF THE CARGOES.	DUTIES.
	Planks	Fana. lbs.	Quin. lbs.	lbs.	No.	Quin.	lbs.	Qu. lbs.	Qu. lbs.	Qu. lbs.	Qu. lbs.	in boxes.	in strings	No.	dollars.			
January	—	1747 56	2139 25	20300	2452	18	289	11 64	—	18 96	—	—	—	—	636	—	100299 7	9916 7
February	—	2739 9	6289 96	15963	1515	93	—	3 80	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	199214 4½	19837 3
March	—	3853 17	4152 1	10300	797	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	158536 5	15808 3
April	—	3930 91	6250 22	2700	998	397	—	15 82	—	—	—	—	—	375	—	—	191410 2½	19122 1½
May	—	5193 51	7906 84	21600	1854	27	—	7 65	—	3 01	—	—	—	—	—	—	268468 3½	26815 5
June	—	3938 44	4200 24	5100	629	599	—	3 56	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	158731 5	15869 6
July	—	2048 33	3226 74	2400	1759	500	—	6 80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	104583 2	10535 2
August	10	6719 76	1560 48	6200	2396	21	—	13 96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	159401 1	15920 5
September	—	2312 14	948 88	15350	1243	—	—	7 92	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	81178 ½	8102 6½
October	—	1095 10	1046 36	36500	2017	494	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88488 7½	8846 1
November	—	1547 63	1104 81	28000	2649	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	10	—	—	89451 4	8950 7
December	—	303 66	515 7	94695	1699	34	—	10 50	4 50	64 4	—	—	—	1	550	3050	48682 6	4815 1½
	10	35426 90	39541 56	189108	20008	2183	289	81 65	4 50	89 10	25	11	1611	3050	1648356 7½	164521 ½		

Note.—Over and above the foregoing articles, there have been exported 1146 bales of Varinas tobacco, weighing 108,660 lbs., which, having been sold at the tobacco warehouse, have not been valued, nor charged with duties.

Guayra, Jan. 15, 1824.

J. M. De Rojas.

*Revenue of the Port of La Guayra, from the 1st
Jan. to the 31st Oct., 1823, taken from*

THE OFFICIAL RETURNS.

	Dollars.
Import Duties	515,609 0½
Export ditto	153,101 3½
Tonnage ditto	5,778 3½
Salt ditto	4,083 1½
Anchorage ditto	414 0
Prizes	105,552 3
Duties appropriated to the Military Hos- pital	6,038 0½
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black;"/>
	790,576 4½
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black;"/>

NOTE C.

The Government has commenced acting upon the Law of the 7th June, as appears by the following notice in the Bogota Official Gazette of December last:—

“COLONIZATION.

“The Government of the Republic, in virtue of especial authority from Congress, by its law of the 7th of last June, has granted to Messrs. Herring, Graham, and Powles, merchants of the City of London, and long tried friends and supporters of

Colombia, two hundred thousand fanegas of land, by a contract entered into on the 29th of last November, with their agent, Mr. William C. Jones, and with a view of encouraging a beneficial introduction of Europeans into the country. This grant will consist of uncultivated lands in the provinces of Merida, Caracas and Choco.”

The privileges granted to the above-named merchants in this cession are as follows:—

1st, Exemption, in favour of all the settlers they may send, from military service, except as militia, for Ten years.

2dly, Exemption from duties of all clothing imported for the use of the settlers. Agricultural implements are already exempt from duty.

3dly, Exemptions, in favour of the settlers, for Six years from direct contributions and ecclesiastical tithes.

4th, Exemption for the same period, from all export duties on the produce raised by the settlers.

5th, Settlers not to be in any way molested on account of their religious belief.

FINIS.

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