out the slave to purchase a supper for ourselves and the horses. Our host returned while the supper was getting ready, and having welcomed us in a noisy way, took, without scruple, a share of our provisions. About midnight we spread our saddle-cloths on the earthen-floor, took our saddles for pillows, and attempted to sleep, in which, with all the rudeness of our accommodations, we might have succeeded, had not the rats, which here are large, as well as numerous, fixed upon the saddle-cloths as their lawful prey; and had we not continually annoyed each other by our endeavours to drive off the assailants. In the morning the master of the house was not to be found, and we were much disposed to suspect something unfriendly on his part; but the suspicion was, I believe, unfounded, except in the circumstance of his absence; the Brazilians being seldom deficient in the duties of hospitality, though they may have nothing to communicate but shelter. A few Peaches, gathered fresh from the tree, proved a welcome addition to a breakfast made up of some scanty savings from the evening's meal.

A few miles from Povo Novo the country greatly improved, exhibiting not only some fine pastures and stately trees, but also a few well built farm-houses. I saw with especial interest droves of horses grazing at large, and my own steed having become stiff or stubborn, consulted with the guide whether we might not venture to exchange him for a better. He entered at once into the plan, loosed his balls, and advancing towards a drove, as it slowly passed before him, singled out his object, and riding round a cluster, so as to place the individual in its rear, he dashed at him, and threw the balls with unerring aim; but one of them, instead of wrapping round the horse's fore leg, struck him violently below the knee, and made him halt. At this moment a man, who proved to be the owner of the horses, galloped up to us full of anger, and vehement in his threats. Had we seen him sooner we certainly should have asked his consent to the exchange; though, if our guide had been a soldier, no such civility would have been thought necessary; on the contrary, the angry gentleman might, probably, have been made to dismount, and surrender the horse on which he rode to my

use. Having no Firman from the Grande Senhor, we were constrained to use supplications instead of violence; but the offence which we had given rendered the man deaf to our entreaties. Though resolute in his determination not to accommodate us himself, he so far relented as to point out where we might probably fare better. In conformity to his directions we made several attempts which proved fruitless; and we were fortunate, at length, in lighting upon a young man at a Coral who, seeing the urgency of the case, advised us to make application at a hut which stood at a small distance.

It was situated on a pleasant knoll, and though constructed of mud, and unadorned with whitewash, had an air of rustic neatness. Near it were a few hides of wheat, over which was thrown a temporary roof of thatch. Having announced our approach as usual, by three quick beats on the palm of the hand, saying, at the same time, "with permission," there appeared at the door a most venerable and interesting old man, whose countenance seemed a pledge of the success of our application. With appearances, not of civility alone, but of accomplished manners, he invited us into his house; and having learned our wants, sent a child to call another person, who proved to be the young man whom we had seen before, and who received the orders of, probably, his father in a respectful and graceful way. When he was withdrawn, the old Gentleman called for, and presented to us, milk in a large beaker; observing with an air of gaiety, that it was all which his hut could furnish. His tone and manner seemed to intimate, that he recollected another house and superior accommodations; yet the recollection did not interrupt his flow of spirits, nor his attention to his guests. In a short time the arrival of the horses was announced; when he arose, took my hand, and led me to a very noble animal, the best of the three which the young man had brought. The eye of the animal indicated more fire than I had been used to, and he seemed almost unbroken; so that some symptoms of a want of confidence, which I had probably displayed in mounting, induced him to assure me that the creature was perfectly gentle. I found him, though only four years old, well deserving of his master's praises.

As we journeyed onward, the conversation naturally turned on our new friend. All that our guide knew of him was, that he had not lived long in this spot, and that report, which commonly tells a similar tale of all strangers of a superior cast, and often no doubt too truly, said of him, that he was a Spaniard of high birth, and having had the misfortune, when young, to kill a noble antagonist, was still pursued for the purposes of vengeance.

The Plain of St. Gonzales, which we traversed shortly after, is a level and rich tract of meadow land, upwards of twenty miles long and seven broad; generally incommoded with a hot, hazy, oppressive atmosphere. The river, which gives name to these plains, forms the communication between the Lakes Mirim and Patos, and discharges itself into the harbour of Rio Grandé. It is nearly as broad as the Thames at London; and at the Pass of the Negroes, has an appearance, which supports the common opinion, that it is not less than twenty-four fathoms deep. The low part of this country is a sandy soil, with little vegetation besides a rank, sedgy grass; in some places swampy, with pools of water and extensive coppices; and near the river are some fine trees, singularly loaded with parasitic plants.

Though we found the uplands in general dry and unpromising, we noticed a few specimens of decent farming; but on a small scale and in unconnected patches. The Melancia or Water Melon, appeared in one place growing with Milho, the only instance of double cropping which came in our way. On reaching a field of the former, should the sun be oppressively hot, or the horses tired, the umbrella, with which travellers are generally furnished, is expanded, and the stick and a point or two of the circumference resting on the ground, a shady halting place is obtained. If two or three sticks can be found, a still more complete and useful shelter is sometimes formed by fixing them in the ground, and spreading over them a Capota or Poncho. The fields of Water Melons are then pillaged, and a most refreshing repast procured for horses as well as men. The hollow sound which the ripe fruit emits, when struck with the handle of a knife, is an evidence of its fitness for food.

The first Coppice which we passed sent out such a swarm of Mosquitos that our black coats appeared like a dappled brown. None of them lighted on our guide, hereby giving some colour to his assertion, that he is never annoyed by them. Our horses were tormented by another insect, the Meruabuna, a species of Gad-fly. It is indeed, improperly that this Indian compound is applied to the gad-fly, for it denotes such winged insects only as collect in swarms, such as the bee, the wasp, or hornet. By a similar combination, a convent of Jesuits is called Oca-abuna, the house of the black swarm or family; and an individual of the community, Payé-abuna, a priest of the black family.

At no great distance, an Emu started up, to which we gave chase, putting our horses to their utmost speed; the bird quickly left us far behind, then closed its wings and stalked on in careless security. Though the neighbouring sands are the natural haunt of these birds, they were now numerous on the plains, having been driven hither, I suppose, by dry weather; we had, in consequence, several chases of the same kind, all of them equally fruitless. On turning the corner of a wood, we suddenly came within thirty yards of an Emu, followed by about sixty young ones, which were probably several collected broods. She marched off with a stately step, carrying her head in a sort of semicircle, and looking at us first with one eye, then with the other. We again followed at full gallop; but as the pursuit continued the distance sensibly increased. The young birds clustered together, fluttered much, and advanced with evident haste; the pace of the old one was dignified and steady. She showed no marks of weakness, fear, or stupidity; on the contrary, while concerned for the safety of her charge, she seemed desirous to save them from unnecessary fatigue. Our guide entertained the common opinion of the country, that it is the male bird, which in this way guides and protects the young; but, as more agreeable to the order of nature, I have not hesitated to speak of the leader as a female.

I kept one of these birds for some time, within a spacious Stockado, until it became familiar, and occasionally impertinent. He allowed me to stride over his back, and could just support my weight;

mounted by a boy of twelve years of age, he could run, and was easily guided by turning his head to the direction in which the rider wished him to proceed.

Soon after this chace of the Emus, we were in pursuit of game of a different description. Our guide, whose perceptions were perhaps quickened by the hope of profit, discovered the haunt of a herd of wild hogs, and having stationed us so as to cut off their retreat into the wood, he roused the prey, rode into the midst of them with his Lasso, and secured five females. He then cut three gashes in the right ear of each, and set them at liberty, saying that they were now his, that, so marked, no one would meddle with them, and that he would return at the time when each might be expected to be followed by a litter of pigs, and take them away, or set his mark on the young ones.

The great docility which the horses manifest in these sports, is doubtless owing to the power of the curb; but this operates disadvantageously another way, preventing them from leaping over a bush or a bog. It is true they wheel round the one, and flounder through the other, with spirit and perseverance; but this occasions delay, and the game is thereby frequently lost. In galloping too, they seem afraid of feeling the bit, and dare not stretch themselves out; but advance by bounds like a stag, which occasions them soon to tire, and to fall into a kind of pacing. Yet is their docility remarkable, and that not only when they are in action, but when they are at rest. Their riders having dismounted, and contrived some shade, in which they may repose, sometimes for two or three hours, the horses never stray, but stand sleeping themselves. Indeed, in Brazil, these animals are seldom allowed to lie down, even in stables; nor do they change their modes in this respect when left at their own pleasure. It may be also, in some instinctive sense of superior safety that they choose to sleep standing; for they are thus better prepared for the attacks of the Ounce, or of Snakes; and when alarmed can immediately fly from danger. If in opposition to this feeling a horse stretch himself upon the ground, it is that, from experience of a particular situation, he is become free from apprehension,

or that he is lame, or so extremely fatigued, as to be careless about his safety.

Across the Plains there is no perceptible track; not so in the Woods, where travellers, following each other, form a path, and generally render it bad; nor is it mended in the few places where it is roughly paved. Close to the river Gonzales the road, such as it is, terminates in a strong pen, where the cattle about to be taken over are secured, and from which a rude double fence, forming a sort of lane, conducts so far into the river as to take them off their legs. They are then guided by canoas to the opposite bank, received into a similar inclosure, and the toll is paid for them. Wherever there are wide and deep rivers, the Government has established Ferries, at which persons attend at all hours, to conduct passengers over; this is properly a military regulation, but not the less valuable for civil purposes. With like wisdom, bridges are built on all public roads, where they are necessary, and where the architects of the country are equal to the construction of them.

Having crossed the Gonzales, we find towards the North, between the Passo dos Negros and the Lagoa dos Patos, a broad patch of swampy land, the accumulated sediment of ages. In these fens are many houses, and some considerable establishments; amongst which the Farm of Pellotas is said to occupy ten square leagues. The owner passes for a wealthy and powerful man; his house is large, standing on elevated ground behind the swamps, facing the East, and commanding an extensive view of the country and of the Rio Grandé. It is whitened, and being backed by rich woods, forms a noble object from the water. The river Pellotas runs below it, and is navigable for yatchs about twenty miles; but they seldom, I believe, proceed higher than the house just mentioned, which is not seven miles from the river's mouth.

Our course was more Westerly, through a country essentially different from that on the Eastern side of the Gonzales. Instead of sands, partly consolidated, and in the course of time, forming broad alluvial meadows, we found a country of a gently varied surface and a

rich loamy soil, producing in abundance the broad-leaved species of grass, called in Brazil Gramma. A great extent of land is here comprehended under the name of Charqueados, and is famous for a luxuriant produce, and for its numerous and fine cattle. Houses are scattered over it, many of them spacious, and some not without pretensions to splendour; chapels are attached to several of them, and round a few is seen such a collection of smaller dwellings as may deserve to be called a village.

The name of Charqueados is derived from the Charqued Beef, which the district prepares and exports. When the cattle are killed and skinned, the flesh is taken off from the sides in one broad piece, something like a flitch of bacon; it is then slightly sprinkled with salt, and dried in the sun. In that state it is the common food of the peasantry in the hotter parts of Brazil, is in itself by no means to be despised; and as it will keep long forms an excellent sea stock, and would bear carriage to distant parts of the world. Some idea of the immense quantity of beef thus prepared may be formed from the fact that, in one year, an individual, Jozé Antonio dos Anjos, slaughtered fifty-four thousand head of cattle, and charqued the flesh. The piles of bones which lay in his premises, far surpassed my utmost conceptions, and there were thousands of Urubus, the Vulture of South America, flying round, and feeding on the offal.

During the slaughtering season, it is not uncommon for large packs of dogs to make their appearance, and assist the vultures in picking the bones; and it is said that the ounce will do the same. The bones thus picked, are generally reduced to lime. It is certain that, not in this part of the country only, but in almost every part of Brazil, there are considerable numbers of wild dogs; and that the different species of these animals have acquired distinguishing Indian names. Yet I cannot think that they were aboriginal natives of South America, but believe them to have been introduced, in a domesticated state, by the first European settlers, and to have quickly gone wild.

The Piratinim, the little fish river, runs about a hundred miles, chiefly

in an Easterly direction, and is said to fall into the Gonzales, near the lake Mirim. The country, through which it passes, is in general an exceedingly fine one, and well variegated with hills. An evidence of the depth of its soil is afforded by the streams which unite to form the river; many of them having cut their way through channels from twelve to twenty-four feet deep. Notwithstanding this advantage, the country looks bare for want of trees, and the people inhabiting it are driven to miserable shifts for fuel.

Riding through a small hamlet on the border of this river, we found the inhabitants sitting at their doors, and gaily enjoying the evening sports. Having civilly replied to a few trifling questions which we asked, they advised us to cross the river to a house, which they pointed out, the owner of which, they said, would not only receive us gladly, but be disappointed if we did not visit him. On the first intimation of our purpose to comply with this advice, two of them set off to announce our approach. The river had a deep and stony bed, with banks almost precipitous, and is evidently at some seasons, a large impetuous torrent. The water was then low, showing the holes, which are common in the beds of such streams, and convincing us, that in some places, the passage must be really dangerous. As we were descending the steep bank, a young man sprang upon the back of a horse, which happened to be at hand, rode before us, and went both above and below the course, which he wished us to take; while the old men, women, and children, advanced to the bank vociferating many additional directions. The clamour, though not necessary, was a demonstration of every one's good-will.

In almost every case the Brazilian friends of a stranger are so anxious for his safety, that they are apt to imagine danger where there is none, and to magnify where it exists. A traveller ought to be aware of this fact, or he will often be harrassed with groundless apprehensions. At the same time let him never be off his guard; for there are villains who would not only hasten to take advantage of an accident, but would lead him into danger for the sake of pillage. Such wretches almost universally pursue their vocation singly; the plunderer and assassin, in Brazil,

seems to have a more than common dread of an accomplice, keeps his secret in his own bosom, and trusts to his own arm alone.

The gentleman, to whom the advice of our casual friends introduced us, proved not unworthy of their praise and of our confidence. We found him intelligent and inquisitive, furnished with authority in his district, and using it so as to attract respect and affection. Though his house little surpassed what we had before seen, in point of furniture and accommodations, he set before us some luxuries, particularly some good red wine. We left him gratified by his kindness, and regretting that our plans allowed us only a short enjoyment of his society.

South of the Piratinim the country continues much the same as on the other side, only that the eminences are somewhat more lofty. Through it runs the river Ygaroon, in Rio Grandé generally pronounced and written Jigaroon. Its sources are near to those of the Rio Negro, and between them is one of the most important passes of this part of the Continent. The territory was held, at this time, by the Spaniards, but claimed by the Portuguese, to whom the facilities which it enjoys for the wide distribution of imported goods render the settled possession of it a matter of great moment. Whenever the question of yielding it up was started afresh, there was never any want of difficulties to impede the determination. Both parties had the wisdom, in the mean time, to carry on a considerable commercial intercourse with the Rio Grandé; and though occasionally a Portuguese vessel was seized, it was as lightly restored as detained. From the last mentioned river yatchs, of from fifty to seventy tons burthen, pass by the Gonzales to Lake Mirim; from thence up the Ygaroon, the entrance of which is the great rendezvous of vessels from every part of the Lake, and hence goods are distributed through the fertile territory on the West of it, up the Saboyatý, the water of rats, to Maldonado, and across the mountains even to the Uruguay. The upward cargoes consist of bale-goods, tobacco, spirits, salt, groceries, and gunpowder. The returns are chiefly carne-secca, or charqued beef, hides and tallow, which are exported from Rio Grandé.

The reader has regarded with wonder, perhaps with incredulity, the account before given of the size of the farm of Pellotas; and, indeed, the reported extent of farms in this part of the American Continent can scarcely be mentioned with boldness, by one who has himself little doubt of the truth of the accounts. The smallest are stated at four square leagues, or more than twenty thousand acres; the largest are said to reach to a hundred square leagues, or near six hundred thousand acres. To each three square leagues are allotted four or five thousand head of cattle, six men, and a hundred horses; though, according to circumstances, such as the distance from navigable waters, or from church, there must be a variety in the number of oxen kept for the business of a farm. The proportion of horses will appear a very large one; but it is to be remembered that they cost nothing in keeping, as they are turned out on the plains; that no one about the farm, not even a slave, ever goes the shortest distance on foot; and that each manager will change his horse two or three times in a day. About a hundred cows are allowed for the supply of milk, butter, cheese, and veal, to a farm of the average size. Hogs are usually found near the houses, but little care is taken of them; they wander about, root up the earth, devour reptiles, and make a good part of their subsistence on the waste parts of the cattle slaughtered. There are few Sheep, and they are remarkably light and ill made, with a short ordinary wool; which, however, might easily be improved. This wool is, at present, used partly unstripped from the skins, as saddle-covers and the like, partly for the stuffing of beds and mattresses. The country is so thinly peopled, its inhabitants have so little liking to mutton, and the wild dogs and other beasts and birds of prey are so numerous, that there can be little inducement to increase the flocks.

In every Farm there is at least one enclosed place, called the Rodeio, generally on the highest spot; here the cattle are occasionally collected, examined, marked, and treated as circumstances may require. So accustomed are they, particularly the horses, to this practice, that when the servants of the farm ride along, swinging their Lassos or their Hats, and loudly pronouncing the word Rodeio, they all walk slowly to the