kitchen, of an inferior order to the rest of the building, here adjoined the house; sometimes it is placed at a small distance.

In houses of this description, the chief furniture of the principal apartment is the never-failing, long, clumsy table and forms, made of wood so hard, as to serve for generations. There are also chests and boxes of wood or hide, and occasionally of flag. Above them hang the rude trappings of horses and oxen, made from slips of undressed hide; and in a corner stand some of the implements of husbandry. On the chest of drawers in the house of our host, was a cupboard with folding doors, containing a crucifix, decorated with silver and artificial flowers, and beheld through a pane of glass. When we entered the room, the Penates were exposed to view; but soon afterward, the master of the house, probably observing that the exhibition attracted little notice, made a respectful bow to the image, and closed its doors. The women, with their knees crowded up to their chin, sate in, rather than upon, stools of a singular form, about eighteen inches long, twelve broad, and six high at the sides, sunk in the middle so as to come within an inch of the ground, and forming some resemblance of a trough. In the other parts of the house, there was a greater scarcity of the humblest accommodations. The apparatus for cookery was a wood fire, surrounded with three stones, to support the earthen utensils. In the lodging rooms, the bedsteads were nothing more than four stakes set upright in the ground, to which rods were attached, with a hide stretched over the top.

The Farm contained four or five hundred acres of rich meadow land, part of it well inclosed with fences formed of the mimosa. The Cattle were numerous and thriving, and some Horses made their appearance. Its contiguity to the town secured a ready sale for its excellent Butter and Cheese. The Pigs appeared to live luxuriously; their sty was a stoccado, raised under the shelter of a large tree; their food, at the time of our visit, chiefly peaches of good flavour, was thrown over the inclosure, and they literally rolled in abundance. Upon the Farm are no outbuildings, for the climate renders them unnecessary; but our horses

fared well, though unsheltered, being tied to the trees, and the ground about them liberally strewed with grass. The Carros or Waggons, resembled those originally derived from Portugal, with equally little iron in their structure or harness; here they were drawn by six or eight oxen, instead of four.

In such a place there could be no want of provisions for the table; we had a plentiful repast of beef, bacon, and good poultry, together with different vegetables, European as well as native, in high perfection. The guests had previously sent wine, and Rosca, a kind of bread, had been provided from the town. This, I am told, is kneaded with milk, and, being baked very hard, continues good for a long time.

Although such abodes, their supplies and accommodations, may be thought in England greatly deficient, the Brazilians certainly enjoy in them a considerable share of comfort, which depends less on circumstances than on habits. He, whose attachment to the things and modes of a long established country is inflexible, can never be pleased with a new one; yet the latter may, abstractedly considered, be the happier region of the two. In Brazil, the warmth of the climate converts much clothing by day, or covering by night, into a redundancy; and a fire, except for culinary purposes, would, in general, be a burden. The common appetite, too, demands nothing beyond the simplest productions of skill in cookery. The ground is dry, the floor may easily be kept clean, and, though used as a couch, is never dangerous. For my own part, after being a little habituated to it, I have found a hard bed pleasanter than a soft one, and a stretched raw hide sweeter than some of the mattresses of London.

It is probable that the class which I am next to bring forward was well content in a situation still more bare of superfluities,—the persons who occasionally appeared in Rio Grandé, as the purchasers of goods, from a considerable distance in the interior. They were, in general, short and robust; with some mixture of Indian blood, manifested by a thin beard, lank hair, and an unsettled eye. The men of genuine Spanish and Portuguese origin have thick and strong beards, the hair

wavy, the countenance and limbs longer than those of the preceding class. The complexion of all is a deep brown, and the hair and irides black.

These Strangers were clothed chiefly in coarse and strong cotton, of domestic manufacture, fashioned into a shirt with open sleeves, and trowsers which reached a little below the knee, and were fastened round the loins with a girdle. This girdle, like the rest, a fabric of their own country, was also made of cotton dyed blue or red, sometimes of both colours, and alternated with white, and fringed at the ends; it was long and narrow, wrapped three or four times round the body, and within its folds were deposited their money, and whatever else they accounted most valuable. Over their shoulders was slung a small pouch of skin, containing a flint, a steel, and a spongeous substance, answering the purpose of tinder, and sometimes a small quantity of tobacco. It hence appeared that their customs were derived from the Spaniards, and their abode was beyond the Portuguese frontiers. They all wore a high conical crowned hat, of felt, straw, or palm-leaf; a sharp knife, stuck in the girdle; and, though without shoe or stocking, a spur fixed to the heel by a strip of raw hide. A few among them, who, it may be, dwelt near some place of consequence, appeared in jackets or long blue coats, waistcoats of slink skin, and boots buckled round the knees. A still smaller number wore neck-handkerchiefs and hangers, and had their attendants following them. Though the number of these people, particularly of the inferior class, was considerable, they seemed always unable to put off their jealousy of the Brazilians, and withdrew, at sunset, to their quarters in the plain, four or five miles from the town.

When they were about to make their purchases, they usually came in small parties, alighted at a store without speaking or taking notice of any one, turned the reins from their horses' necks, and suffered them to trail on the ground, in which state the horses would stand and sleep, without stirring from the spot. Entering the store, they looked round, until some one, seeing an article which he wanted, pointed to it, uttered a few words respecting the price, generally purchased, and immediately

paid for it. Resuming his upright position he again looked round, pointed, purchased, and paid. There seemed to be no sense of difference of qualities or varieties of price, no idea of abatement. Thus the party proceeded, until they had spent their dollars, if they saw in the place all that they wanted. If they did not, some one would occasionally ask for an unseen article; and if it was not to be had, their trading was finished, they asked for nothing more, and could not be induced to look any farther, but gathered up their purchases and retired. If a seller ventured to recommend his goods, their common suspicions of craft seemed to be immediately confirmed; and I have seen them, in such a case, leave a store without speaking another word.

The articles which these people purchased were numerous, the quantities small. I have been astonished at the accuracy with which they recollected the price of every thing which they had bought. Apparently to aid such recollection, all the articles were laid in a row, in the exact order of purchase; all were repeatedly touched with a finger, perhaps compared with some catalogue of wants previously committed to memory, and the separate price of each recounted. It was, probably, when disappointment interrupted the settled order of recollection, that they could not be brought to continue their purchases. They appeared to me to have no notion of writing, and small skill in combination, more especially when there occurred fractional parts of a current coin. If two parties arrived at a store together, they seldom appeared to have any communication with each other, and the prevailing feeling among them seemed to be an anxiety lest both should want the same things, and there should not be a sufficient supply.

For the smaller articles they had cotton bags, which, when replenished with goods, were tied to their saddles; printed calicoes were generally wrapped round their bodies; woollen-cloth, folded into a square form, was placed on the horses' backs, under the saddles. Thus, in many instances, all the pains and expense employed by the manufacturer, to give a gloss or other showy appearance to his goods, were rendered vain by the steaming carcase of a horse, or of a less cleanly animal.

The equipments of the horses, belonging to these men, were little different from those in common use on this part of the American Continent. Their bridle-bits are crooked iron curbs, with cheek-plates; the mouth-piece also is crooked, and through the upper part of the curve an iron ring is passed, about five inches in diameter, into which, when the bridle is put on, the horse's chin, or lower jaw, is thrust; so that the whole forms a most powerful curb. There is only a single rein to the bridle, the two ends of which proceed from the points of the curb, and meet upon the horse's withers, in a ring about an inch in diameter, from which proceeds a lash four feet long; the whip being thus attached to the bridle, the horseman's right hand is left at liberty. The leather is formed from a hide neatly cut into long shreds, which are soaked in oil or melted tallow, until they are completely pliable; they are then plaited with equal neatness, and form a round thong as thick as the little finger. The headstall is formed of the same materials; and the bridle, altogether, is not only recommended by its appearance, but by its power to restrain the most headstrong animal. There is still more singularity in the stirrups; which are, in common, made from the transverse section of an ox's horn, brought nearly to a triangular shape; or of brass, bearing some resemblance to the vertical section of a bell. In both cases they are so small as to admit only the tip of the boot, if the rider have any, or a few of the naked toes. They are attached to the saddle by straps, which cannot be lengthened or shortened.

Though a Saddle has been repeatedly mentioned as part of the horse-furniture of the strangers, it would have been more correct to speak of the Lumbillio, which is universally used among them, and, indeed, all ranks of horsemen in Rio Grandé. Perhaps a more fit place than this will not be found for some description of it. The Lumbillio, borrowed from the Spanish colonists, and by them from their mother-country, is a sort of thin pannel, about two feet long, of exactly the same form in its front and back, and covered with embossed leather. It is fastened to the horse by a bandage made of ten or a dozen thongs, all the ends of which terminate in two iron rings. When this is thrown

over it, and passed round the horse's body, the two rings are drawn together by a thong rove through them so forcibly that the Lumbillio cannot possibly move. A dried sheep's skin is usually the upper covering, and, if the rider be a person of consequence, a skin is selected with long and orderly disposed wool, and dyed with indigo. In this case, too, the covering is kept in its place by a circingle of white cotton, six inches broad, with figures of animals and birds interwoven in colours, most commonly in various shades of blue and red.

So considerable a part of the population of the South American colonies consisting of slaves, every new district seems to call for some notice of their numbers, occupations, and treatment. It is pleasant to be able to record any favourable modifications, however small, of a condition intrinsically lamentable. It was usual to transport to St. Pedro, from other parts of Brazil, slaves that were incorrigible; and certainly I met here with bad slaves as well as bad masters. But I saw nothing which seemed to show any peculiar depravity in the black people of this place; on the contrary, as they were less numerous than in other parts of the colony, so they appeared to me better and happier. The price paid for slaves was high, and there was great difficulty in procuring them; this may account, in part, for their lenient treatment; but I apprehend that a more efficient cause is the moderate temperature of the climate, which enables their white masters to take a share in their labours. In the town I really thought their situations quite as comfortable as their minds and habits would allow.

Where many belong to one master, it is usual here, as in Rio de Janeiro, to have one of them instructed in the part of a carpenter, another taught to make and mend shoes, and the rest qualified for some distinct useful occupation; and by hiring them out to those who may need their services, to make them advantageously repay the cost bestowed upon them. As there is a great scarcity of free artizans, not more, I believe, than one smith, one shoemaker, and a carpenter or two, with not a single farrier, or turner, or professed worker in tin or brass;—and

as, in consequence, a stranger often finds it difficult to supply his humblest wants, they are not only much called for, but so valued for their acquirements as to be guarded from excessive toil or ill usage.

Many of them are statedly occupied, on a certain day or days at least, with an essential though not very laborious employment, that of washing clothes. For this purpose every considerable family has a place on the plain Southward of the town. There a tub, with holes, is sunk into the ground, into which the water from the Bay distils through the sand, and is thus deprived of its salt. To this simple apparatus the slave resorts, with a board having two legs at one end, while the other, resting on the ground, forms an inclined plane; on this board the clothes, after having been saturated with soap, of domestic manufacture, and water, are struck with all the strength of the operator, or beaten with a wooden instrument. The heedless rambler, by the way, is in imminent danger, when it is dark, of being entrapped by these tubs, and serious injuries have been received from them.

The blacks may, possibly, and doubtless do, think a little labour excessive. Yet such persons can earn, in an hour, two vintems, about four-pence, which is sufficient to provide them food for a day. When one of them is seen lounging about, and asked to undertake any job, the common reply is,—"I have already earned." It may be said, indeed, that there is hardly a poor person in the town, nature having placed the necessaries of life within the easy reach of all; and wanting but little, they enjoy that little in a degree which might excite the envy of the ambitious and restless.

Yet does it, almost every where, seem sufficient that a man have the hue of a negro, to mark him out as an object on which tyranny may exercise itself. Having occasion to pass, with two friends, at a late hour, over the sloughy ground bordering on the bay of Mangueira, we had recourse to an expedient, common here, but which necessity only can justify. At the ferry we met with a couple of black men, whom we compelled, by showing our arms, and convincing them that resistance would be unavailing, to be our guides, and to carry us over the boggy

places. Fortunately the men proved tractable, and gave us no occasion or pretence for rougher measures. When on safe ground, and near the town, we dismissed them with a liberal payment and an exhortation to be always civil to our countrymen. Had they been encountered and employed in the same way by a party of Brazilians, they would have been sent back unpaid. Such is the lot of slavery; and, wanting his services, a despot will not take the trouble to inquire whether a black man be bond or free.

CHAPTER VII.

RIO GRANDE.

JOURNEYS INTO THE INTERIOR.—GENERAL REMARKS ON THE SOUTH OF BRAZIL.—SOME ACCOUNT OF ST. CATHERINE'S.

A. D. 1809—1813.

PREPARATIONS FOR TRAVELLING.—JOURNEY WESTWARD.—SPANISH REFUGEE.—BAITING.—SPORTS.—DOCILITY OF HORSES.—CHARQUED BEEF.—WILD DOGS.—CIVILITY OF THE PEOPLE.—FARMS.—HOSPITALITY.—JOURNEY TO THE SOUTH.—OLD ST. PEDRO.—LAKE MIRIM.—VOYAGE TO CANGAZU'.—THE ISLAND.—AN OX CHASE.—LAGOA DOS PATOS.—PORTO ALEGRO.—INDIANS.—JOURNEY NORTHWARD.—INDIAN REMAINS.—FACE OF THE COUNTRY.—GENERAL REMARKS ON THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES.—MANNERS OF HORSES AND MULES.—LAGUNA.—ST. CATHERINE'S.—SULPHUREOUS SPRINGS.—EXTRAORDINARY CRYSTAL.—MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.—SINGULAR FUNEREAL CUSTOM.

FINDING in St. Pedro and its neighbourhood no sufficient vent for that portion of our goods which we had resolved, if possible, immediately to dispose of, we took several journeys into the interior of the province. Of each of them it would be tedious to give a distinct account; the notes, therefore, which were taken on the same, or nearly the same track, are thrown together.

The first concern in each journey was to procure horses and a guide; for the latter a soldier is usually employed, but we preferred a person not belonging to the army, making it a point to have a white man. A bag of Farinha was commonly provided, and a Calabash for a

drinking-vessel. Each of the principals of the party took his pistols, sometimes a fowling-piece or a hanger; the guide failed not to equip himself with his knife, lasso, and balls.

Though the form and use of the Lasso are very generally known, it may not be amiss briefly to describe it. It is made of narrow thongs, plaited in the same way as the bridles mentioned on another occasion, and is about seven or eight yards long. One end of it is firmly fixed to the hinder part of the saddle, generally on the right side; at the other end is an iron ring, about two inches in diameter. The horseman, about to use the Lasso, forms a sort of running noose, by passing a portion of it through the ring; this is taken in the right hand, so as that the ring may be at the opposite part of the circle; the noose is then swung with care over the head, until the extreme part of it, including the ring, acquires a considerable momentum. The instrument thus prepared, as the man advances towards his selected victim, is in due time discharged, carries off the remainder of the string, which before hung loosely in coils on the fingers of the left hand, and seldom fails to entangle the beast. A well trained horse, though at full speed when the Lasso is thrown, instantly stops, and, turning round, pulls against the animal, which is now attached to him.

The balls are three in number, round, and nearly three inches in diameter. The external part of each is a sort of purse, made of hide, rendered pliable by soaking; the purse is filled with sand, and the aperture drawn close; in drying the leather contracts, and the whole becomes as hard as a stone. To each ball a string is attached, three or four feet long, made of plaited thongs, like the lasso; and the three strings united by a knot, at two feet distance from the balls. This may be called the handle of the instrument, for the person using it takes the knot in his right hand, and having given it the necessary velocity, by swinging it over his head with all his might, throws it at the legs of the horse or ox which he wishes to secure. In their progress the balls spread to the utmost distance which the strings will allow, and, reaching the leg, generally pass round it; and though, perhaps, only slightly entangling the animal, sufficiently impede its flight.

In travelling Westward, we generally kept along the edge of the bay, thereby avoiding the loose sand, and finding a hard track for the horses. Here we met with a multitude of birds, continually seeking their prey, by thrusting their long bills into the sand; they are of the Heron tribe, and the most common of them are about the size of a Woodcock, with brown plumage, a short tail, and red legs. The natives call them Gansos or Geese, but they are not web-footed and never swim. After proceeding about ten miles, at no time far from the water, we reached some fine level plains, cut by a few streamlets, and covered with rich grass. Advancing four or five miles over these meadows, and passing a poor village, we arrived at higher ground, a small part of which is cultivated, and produces Abobaras and Milho,—the former a species of Pumpkin, the latter what is elsewhere called Maize, or Indian Corn. The general under stratum of the soil seems to be solid, for we observed many small pools of water, especially near the town; and here, too, appeared some attempts to confine the progress of the sand by hedges of Mimosa.

Before we reached the village of Povo Novo, the setting sun, shining upon its white church and houses, sheltered by a few trees, gave it a pleasant appearance. To this spot, it is said, the people have been drawn by the erection of the church, and by some ecclesiastical establishment connected with it. Cazal adds, that they are natives of the Azores, and labourers. On what their labour is bestowed I know not; there are certainly no marks of it in the culture of the soil. Our Lady of Necessity is their patroness, and liberally has she distributed her favours among them.

On entering the village we sought the abode of a person whom we had employed as a salesman; and when found, were constrained to take possession of it without leave, for the master was absent, and there was no one in the house but a female slave. Here we were permitted, and even expected to put up our own horses, and secure the trappings and baggage; our guide turning out to be a young man, too diffident to be at ease himself, or to be active in promoting our comfort. We took the liberty to search the house, and finding little to supply our wants, sent