reached the bottom of the stairs, he claps his hands as a signal to attract attention, and utters a sort of sibilant sound, between his teeth and the end of his tongue, as though he pronounced the syllables, chee eu. The servant, who attends the call, roughly inquires in a nasal tone, who is it? and being told, retires to inform the master of the house, what are the wishes of the visitor. If he be a friend, or one so well known as to be received without ceremony, the master quickly comes to him, and ushers him into the Sala, making loud protestations of the pleasure given him by the visit, mixing his complimentary speeches with a great number of bows. Before business is entered upon, if that be the object, repeated apologies are offered for the free mode, in which the visitor is received. And, indeed, there is often no little occasion for such apologies, for the gentleman very generally makes his appearance with a beard of many days growth, with his black hair in the roughest state, though besmeared with grease, and with no clothing over his cotton shirt. This garment is, indeed, well made, and ornamented with needle-work, especially about the bosom. But then it is commonly worn in the house so as to expose the breast, and the sleeves are tucked up to the elbows. Or if, by chance, it be secured at the neck and wrists by its globular gold buttons, the flaps appear on the outside, hanging half way down the thighs, over a waistband, which secures round the loins a short pair of trowsers; while the legs are quite bare, and the feet covered with tamancas. All this is not very delicate; more especially as the skins of the Brazilians abound with hair, and are much sun-burnt about the breast and legs.

Should the call be a ceremonious one, a servant is sent to conduct the visitor to the Sala, from which, as he enters, he often sees the persons who were in the room, escaping at the other door. Here he waits alone, it may be, half an hour, when the gentleman appears in a sort of half dress. They both bow profoundly, at a distance; after a sufficiency of skill in this science has been displayed, and thus time gained to ascertain each other's rank and pretensions, they approach; if unequal, with corresponding dignity and respect; if supposed to be nearly equals, with

familiarity. The business is then entered upon, and dispatched at once. These bows between strangers, and this slow approach, I almost love; as they give men some opportunity to measure and appreciate one another, and prevent a thousand awkward blunders, and equally awkward apologies. With my countrymen, in general, I participate in an abhorrence of the Brazilian embrace.

On our first arrival, there was considerable intercourse between the British and the people of the country. The strangers did all they could to honour the taste and manners of the residents; yet, by degrees, visits being frequently paid and returned, our modes and conveniences crept into use. The hour of dinner was about mid-day; two or more tables, joined together, formed a long and narrow one, so high as to reach to a man's breast, when sitting at it; the seats were clumsy forms or stools. The table was covered with a clean, but coarse, cotton cloth, having in it some open work, and fringed at the ends. I have never dined in a Brazilian house, where part of the furniture of the table was not English, particularly the earthenware and glass. Before such luxuries were introduced, they had pewter plates, or a rough sort of Dutch pottery, with some small Portuguese tumblers, narrow at the bottoms and the mouths wide; calabashes and cocoas, instead of tureens and cups, were common, even at their entertainments. The spoons and forks were of silver, both small, and often of antique fashion. Every guest produced his own knife, usually broad, sharp-pointed, and mounted in silver. Occasionally, individuals made a profuse display of plate and jewels; many had wealth, who were thoroughly unacquainted with the modes of using it gracefully and with comfort.

Before Dinner is brought in, every one of the party, if it consisted of gentlemen alone, followed his own inclination in lounging about, or reclining on stools, tables, beds, or mats on the floor. In another point, too, each appeared equally free and easy; throwing off his coat, his shoes, and other garments, which the heat rendered oppressive to him, and, in some cases, retaining only those parts of his dress, which decency required. If there were ladies present, there was a little more

attention to decorum. In this case, the arrangement of the party at table seemed strange to us; either the ladies were on one side, and the men on the other; or the wife seated herself next to her husband, having on the other side of her a lady, and then the husband of the latter; so that two wives sit between their own husbands; a mode marking a jealous precaution, but not unwise amongst such a hot-headed race. It is a great proof of confidence, and of high respect for the party, if unmarried ladies be introduced; but this is a favour seldom conferred. The master of the house takes the head of the table, and serves out the provisions, which, on days unmarked in the calendar, are of various sorts; on sacred days, fish only is provided, dressed in different modes, generally with a sufficient quantity of oil, yet not unpalatable. The dishes are brought in one by one, and a portion of each is handed to every person in succession, none refusing, or beginning to eat before the last is served; then all begin together, and voraciously devour the contents of their plates.

They eat much, as well as greedily; and though intent upon their business, find time to be very noisy. The height of the table brings the plate near to the chin; every one spreads out his elbows, and bringing his wrist close to the edge of the plate, tosses the food into his mouth by a dexterous motion of the hand. On other accounts as well as this, there is not much delicacy or cleanliness in the meal; plates are never changed, and are delivered to the servants with the knife and fork held in the same hand; the fingers, too, are as often used as the fork. It is accounted a mark of strong attachment for a man to eat off his neighbour's plate; so that the hands of both are not unfrequently dipped into it at the same time. A weak sort of red wine is used, but, being drunk from tumblers, it sometimes operates powerfully; before the conclusion of the repast, the company become boisterous, their common gesticulation in talking is increased, and they throw their arms about, with their knives and forks, in such a way that a stranger feels no little surprize, how eyes, noses, and cheeks, escape from injury. When the knives and forks are at rest, one is grasped in either hand, and held

upright on the table, resting on the end of its haft; and when they are no longer wanted the knife is deliberately wiped upon the cloth, and returned to its sheath, which is placed in the girdle behind the loins. There it rests until some similar occasion calls it forth, or it is produced to cut a switch in the woods, or, possibly, to obey the dictates of revenge.

The business of the table lasts about two hours. Brazilians do not sit at their wine; a sufficient quantity is taken with the food, and the compliments of the bottle are carried to a great extent. When a gentleman takes wine with another, the degree of their regard is expressed by the fulness of their tumblers, and both endeavour to carry them to their lips without spilling a drop; the wine is drunk off at a single draught, and as exactly as possible in the same time. If the master of a house propose a toast, it is generally the health of his own wife; and to honour the lady I have seen a whole bottle swallowed without a pause. But such compliments are, in a great measure, new among the people of Rio, and they have not yet taken a firm hold, or spread widely. They are, indeed, adopted chiefly out of regard to the British, of whom it has unfortunately been reported, that they are much devoted to the bottle. The Brazilians, unused to such modes of complimenting, often exhibit scenes of beastliness, for which friendly intention is no adequate excuse.

After dinner Coffee is brought in, and each person takes one cup only, as a sedative. A slave then appears with a basin and ewer, both in general of massy metal; she has a long towel thrown over her shoulder, and goes round to every guest, who holds his hands over the basin while she pours water upon them from the ewer. In this way he washes as much as he pleases, not his hands only, but his mouth, perhaps his face, and even his arms. Though these ablutions are not very decorously conducted, they exhibit one of the cleanliest and best customs of the country. Afterward every one retires to his Siesta, stretching his limbs wherever he can find some shade, and that degree of the sombre which may favour his repose. Some spread a mat in the open air, under the thick foliage of a tree, and there indulge in all the luxury of laziness; others resort to what they emphatically call their diversions.

This description applies almost exclusively to the country. In the city persons retire, after dinner, to their own houses, to take their repose, and spend the evening as they please. Out of the city, particularly if the moon be nearly full, evening finds the remaining guests in full gaiety of spirits; sleep has dissipated the fumes of wine, if too much had been taken, the company is enlarged by an assemblage of the neighbourhood, the guitar strikes up, for every one can touch it; the song succeeds, generally in soft and plaintive notes, and the dance is not forgotten. In this way the hours of evening pass, or in the ever varying deals of manilla, in free remarks and smart replies, in feats of agility and harmless frolics. The reserved character, which seldom fails to make itself conspicuous in the earlier part of the day, wears off, and not unfrequently people run to the opposite extreme. The loose attire of the ladies is peculiarly favourable to the exertion of their limbs, and they engage with great hilarity in the rough, but innocent exercises of the other sex. Here and there a jealous old husband looks after his young and sprightly wife, and she deems it prudent to restrain her gaiety; but it makes little difference, and occasions no interruption of the general glee.

It was to escape from one of these parties in the country, where he thought that boisterous frolic was overstepping the boundaries of propriety, that one of the guests, in order to avoid his friendly pursuers, sprang into a boat, where were two British sailor-lads, and playfully pushed off from the beach, challenging them to follow him. They, of course, declined, and he stretched over to the Ilha dos Fradres, intending to visit an ecclesiastic, with whom he had formed an acquaintance in the city, and who had received permission to go, for fourteen days, to this place of recreation. The fugitive landed upon the island without difficulty, and proceeded to the Convent, where, to his utter astonishment, he found, in one end of the Varanda, fourteen or fifteen fine young women. Never before had he been used to combine, even in thought, the inhabitants of a Monastery with a Coterie of females. Yet he possessed prudence enough to go forward, and inquire for his friend; in

reply, he was told that there was not a Friar in the house, and that all of the fraternity, who had been there, had that morning returned to the city, by order of their Superior. The intruder, not a very young man, thought that he perceived in this company a cast of character which he had not, until that day, noticed in Brazil. He partook of the refreshment usually offered in such places, fruit and water. They were handed to him by a person who, though he appeared in the common habit of a labourer, had the peculiar air which is acquired only in a Convent, and an eye which seemed to speak to the ladies, who, in consequence, became more reserved. That he might not betray his suspicions, the visitor spent half an hour in this company, and then took his leave, evidently to the disembarrassment of all. The adventure utterly destroyed his confidence in the Friar, and, combined with circumstances of a more general nature, convinced him that this class of men, though it may be, not absolutely vicious, have a strong disposition for social enjoyments.

The different branches of refinement, it has often been observed, usually advance together. In Brazil, education and mental improvement have even come short, defective as they are, of domestic accommodation. It has been incidently mentioned that, formerly, there were no schools in the colony; this, strange as it may appear, is literally true; there were none of the ordinary establishments for the early education of children. By far the greater part grew up and entered life without the least acquaintance with the first rudiments of learning; what they knew was chiefly picked up from the father's clerks, in general young men from Portugal, who had emigrated to make the most of their talents.

A great number of persons of this description were thrown into Brazil when their country was occupied by the French. Some of these turned their adroitness to account by gambling, others employed themselves more honourably as schoolmasters. Their means of accommodation were small, and their modes of teaching imperfect; yet valuable effects were produced. The children were crowded into close and stifling rooms, where they all read aloud, at the same time, to the great annoy-

ance of each other. In writing the process was better; when a number of boys, about the same standing, had finished their copies, they were turned into the street, and appealed to the judgment of any chance passenger, whom, by his appearance, they thought capable of deciding upon the merit of their respective productions. I have often admired the vivacity with which each sought for a favourable verdict, and the high gratification with which it was attained. It seemed as if there was yet a spring in the Brazilian mind, notwithstanding its common degradation, which, if rightly touched, might produce great effects. But though schools became more numerous, they remained almost entirely in the hands of the Portuguese; though scholars were comparatively multiplied, a great part of their time was wasted in chaunting Matinas and Ave Marias.

Education in the Colleges is almost entirely confined to the Priesthood and to lay-offices in the Church; and, even for these exclusive purposes, is at the lowest ebb. The teachers are not only altogether unversed themselves in general science and literature, but hold such things in contempt; this is the case even with respect to the learning which is usually accounted essential to the Clerical Profession, and the Church is, accordingly, most wretchedly and disgracefully supplied. A few of the young people educated in the Colleges are intended for secular employments; and of those whose early destination has been to the Church, but who have not taken the vows, a few turn to the world and its occupations. The College of St. Joaquim, as has been stated, together with its schools, which have been advantageously transferred to the intended Church of the Jesuits, departs the most from the common rule of such establishments, and professes to direct the attention of its students to such branches of knowledge as may qualify them for offices under the government, by which the College is said to be favoured and patronized.

From the scanty means of acquiring knowledge which the people of Brazil possess, and their prevailing indifference, to say the least, with respect to the acquisition of better, and even to the wise use of those

which they have, it naturally follows that the Colony must be deeply sunk in ignorance. The detail of the different classes of its society has proved an almost invariable display of this fact, and it has already been strongly illustrated by examples taken from the higher ranks. Let one other instance of this sort suffice.

Walking with a friend in front of the Chapel of the Franciscan Convent, we were joined by two Military Officers, who appeared to be men of rank in their profession. They asked many questions about England, and some which were probably suggested by the scene immediately before us. They even inquired what was the Religion of our country, and were greatly surprised to hear that we knew any thing of Jesus Christ, and embraced his doctrines. "Have you any churches?" We mentioned the number in London alone. "Are they splendid edifices?" We gave them some description of St. Paul's, and compared its size and magnificence with those of the Franciscan Chapel. "Have you Sacraments?" "Two only," was the reply, "Baptism and the Lord's Supper." "What, then, are you baptized?" "Surely, we are." "What! baptized with water as we are; and have you priests authorised to administer this Sacrament?" Our answers to these inquiries seemed to stagger them; we supposed that they accounted our information utterly unworthy of credit, for they addressed a few words to each other, in a low tone of voice, and abruptly bade us adieu.

This anecdote, and the others of a similar nature, which have been before given, have not been descriptions of the low state of knowledge among a few individuals of the different classes. There may be, in all of them, a small number too prudent to expose themselves so egregiously; but the generality are not better informed, nor are they more shy of exhibiting their ignorance. If it be thus with the superior ranks of Brazilian society what must be the case with the common people? Every one may easily decide the point; and scarcely can it be decided in a way too unfavourably. It is hardly conceivable that any country, long partaking of civilization, should fall beneath the real state of the Colony in this respect.

It is a common observation, that uncleanly habits are the usual attendants of ignorance; much has already been said to show that Brazil is far from offering an exception to this rule. Few words, indeed, have been used more frequently than dirt, filth, and other synonimous expressions, but so it must be if the real and universal state of the country and its inhabitants is to be exhibited. What remains to be said on the subject shall be touched lightly, if not passed with such haste as might be acceptable to an overstrained delicacy.

A few of the Brazilians learn to swim, some because their employments call them to be much on the water, some because their health requires the bath; but frequent ablutions are by no means in general request among the men. The feet are the most cleanly parts of their persons, for it is necessary to wash them occasionally, in order to keep them from the injury which the neglected bite of different insects frequently produces. The faces, hands, arms, bosoms, and legs, all of which are, in both sexes, much exposed, are rarely blessed with any cleansing; and hence, more than from a burning sun, acquire a considerable degree of brownness. The skin of young children is commonly fair, but being permitted to roll about continually in the dirt, and being seldom or carelessly washed, their hue soon becomes as dingy as that of their parents. No such instrument as a small tooth-comb, nor any substitute for it but the fingers, is known in this part of the American continent. Men and women, children, and servants, indulge publicly in one of the most disgusting of Portuguese customs; one reclines with his or her head in the lap of another, for a purpose unnameable; even monkeys are taught to fill the same office, and do it with dexterity and pleasure. All grease their hair, and pride themselves in its consequent glossiness; yet never seeking to preserve its lustre or smoothness by a night cap. The men seldom shave, unless business calls them to appear in public. Among people thus careless about decent personal appearances, it were unreasonable to look for much nicety in dress. A tawdry taste may be seen in the contrivance and wear of their clothes, but they continually show how thoroughly consistent this is with dirt.

Occasionally some of the apartments are swept with a sort of besom, made of flags; but water is seldom put upon the floors, in the houses of merchants and shopkeepers, lest it should run through, and injure the goods below. To obviate this inconvenience, and, at the same time, secure the comfort of a well washed room, some of our countrymen had their floors caulked, like the decks of a ship. They thus remedied, in some measure, one of the evils here attendant upon the common neglect of cleanliness; for the accumulated dust favours the multiplication of Fleas and Chigas, the former of which are very large and active, the latter burrow under the skin, and produce painful, and, if neglected, dangerous sores. Both appear to be perfectly at home, and are permitted to dwell in peace, though there grows, in the very skirts of the town, a species of Conyza which is fatal to them, but the people are too lazy to gather and apply it. Another insect, too common in some European bed-rooms, was said not to exist here, and it was even held that it could not endure the heat of the country; but this notion fact has shown to be erroneous, for some of them have unfortunately been naturalized, and seem to bear the climate well. The dampness of the lower floors, some of which are the uncovered soil, others of boards laid immediately upon it, is favourable to the breeding of Mosquitoes, which gaily spend their ephemeral life, buzzing through every apartment, and tormenting every inhabitant. The same circumstance is, probably, no less favourable to Baratas, which are as ugly as they are numerous; to Earwigs, of which there are but few; to Lizards, with their unpleasant forms and peculiar chilliness to the touch; to the white Ant, which is, beyond calculation, voracious and destructive; to the black ones, which exist by millions, and bite most unmercifully; to Scorpions and Centipedes, which, not content with the ground-floor, occasionally mount the stairs, and annoy the bed-rooms; and to the common Fly, which fills every place, multiplies like the Ant, and teases beyond all patient endurance.

If one kind of care and pains, to counteract these plagues, be utterly neglected, it is the same with others. The inner walls of the houses,

originally plastered and whitewashed, seldom receive a second coat, and, for want of it, become yellow and green with mosses. The cabins, which contain the beds, are seldom thrown open to the purifying influence of the air; nor are the beds, though moist with perspiration, generally exposed to the sun. To render the rooms tolerably sweet, and to drive away the pests with which they are filled, odoriferous drugs are often burnt, just before the hour of retirement; lulled by their agreeable perfume, the lodger becomes, for a little time, insensible to pain, but frequently awakes disfigured, having been attacked, during his short repose, by thousands of invisible foes. Their bites produce inflammation and swelling, with a slight degree of fever, during the continuance of which the blood is said to undergo some change, which renders it unpalatable to the tormentors. The best remedy, therefore, is quiet submission; patience saves the sufferer, at least from the additional inflammation arising from rubbing the wounds; or he may defend himself by the application of lime juice to the parts exposed to the ravages of insects.

If we proceed from the bed-rooms to the kitchens, other nuisances are not wanting. Among the worst is a tub, destined to receive all the filth and refuse of the house; which is sometimes carried out and emptied every day, sometimes only once a week, according to the number of the slaves, or their comparative cleanliness and punctuality; but, whenever brought out, it is offensive beyond expression. If a hasty shower chances to fall these tubs are generally produced, their nauseous contents poured into the middle of the street, and left to flow down the common water-course. In houses where they are not in use all sorts of filth are thrown into the area, and form a more offensive mass than a cleanly imagination can picture. There it lies, assisting the breed of insects, and generating disease, for the heavy rains of a tropical climate to carry it off. The water which falls into the area, thus impregnated, is usually conveyed into the street, through channels under the floor of the house, or into a well dug so deep as to communicate with the bed of sand below high water-mark, in which it is swallowed up, or through which a part of it finds its way into the sea.