Sertoens or depths of the forests to find new land." The poor fellow was highly delighted with the representations I gave, and frequently bid his neighbours remark them, adding, every now and then, with emphasis, it is true, it is true. I wish the dialogue may have restored his credit, for he spoke with great feeling of his reception at Plymouth; and both I and my servant, a native of Interior Africa, fared the better to-night, for the kindness which this man had experienced several years before in my own country. So wide, in its influence and effects, is the interchange of good offices in society.

Our company here consisted of seventeen persons, the greater part of whom made their beds on the bare ground, yet all sought a place which was sheltered, for the night was very cold. My bed was prepared in a small interior room, where my guide, as a guardian, took his station also.

As our baggage did not arrive until very late, two bags had been filled with the dry husks of Indian corn, and were brought for us from a large Farm-house at a little distance. Each of them was placed in a small crib, made of sticks as they had been cut from the woods, and bound together with Sipo; the sheets were of good, though coarse, cotton cloth, and beautifully white. At dinner, or rather supper, for it was served at nine in the evening, we fared somewhat more sumptuously; it was set out with silver forks and spoons, and slaves afterwards appeared with warm and cold water, that we might perform our ablutions comfortably.

In the morning I thought it right to show my sense of these civilities, by waiting upon the family. The males belonging to it were all gone into the woods, yet there were nearly thirty persons at home, of all shades, from a jet black to the white complexion of the mistress, who, at sixty years of age, had not lost all claim to be numbered among the fair. She was surrounded by a group of chubby and healthy children of various ages, rolling upon the floor, naked as nature had formed them. The full grown females wore, as usual, the chemise and short petticoat. The abode of this numerous family consisted of one very large room,

just like an English barn. It had mud walls, a thatched roof, and an earth floor, without any division, or ceiling, or plaster, or white-washing whatever. In the middle was the mark of recent fire, surrounded with stones to support the cooking utensils. Around the sides were some matts, on which the people slept, laid upon boards. These, with two or three chests, in which the small moveables were kept, an old table, and a few stones, and blocks of wood, which served as seats, constituted all the furniture. On a superficial view, this family seemed to be one of the happiest which I had ever met with; yet, with all its wants amply supplied, with high health, and a fine flow of spirits, on a nearer inspection, the countenances of the adults indicated the rule of violent passions, and their manners displayed almost an utter absence of civilized enjoyment and moral sentiment; the unrivalled happiness of calm and cultivated minds.

It had been reported early in the morning, that a creature called a Man-of-the-Woods, was seen the evening before, in a distant plantation belonging to the estate, breaking off the heads of Milho; and carrying them away on his shoulder, in considerable quantities at once. He was represented as having a black face, being about five feet high, covered with hair, without a tail, and walking erect; and as belonging to a class of beings which are numerous in the neighbouring forests. I am not aware that any species of Baboon exists in Brazil, and therefore expressed my persuasion that it was either some wretched vagabond of the European stock, driven to stealing, or a native Indian, or else what is called a Caambolo, one of the lowest class of Africans who, escaping as soon as possible from slavery, resume their native habits, run into the woods, and seek there a hard, and probably a precarious subsistence. My explications however, with all their variety, availed nothing; all agreed that it was a mere brute beast, and as that day would be employed in taking him, upon his return to the growing corn, they invited me to be of the party, and convince myself that he was merely a Macaco, or Monkey: or if I chose to wait where I was, until evening, they hoped to show him to me in captivity or dead.

The term Caambolo or Calambolo is derived from the manner in which negroes pronounce the Tupi word Caamboeiro. It signifies a person who is accustomed to wander in the woods, and denotes one of those beings who exhibit human nature in its lowest state of degradation. He sometimes avoids all intercourse even with his own species, lives upon fruit, roots, or any animal, which casually falls into his hands, and eats them all in their crude state, he makes no use of fire, habitation, or clothing; in these respects he does not differ from the brutes, and is timid in the extreme. I once purchased a new slave who proved to be of this class; he left the house, or rather farm, where he was stationed, and returned to the woods. I took great pains to reclaim him; by gentle means gave him confidence in me, and at last succeeded so far as to render him a very attentive, though not very active, nor intelligent slave; he served me afterwards for several years, and I never had occasion to chastise him. The other class of Caambolos form societies, clothe themselves, and cook their food, but build no habitations, and never plant; they sometimes descend to the plains to steal, are in all respects a lawless rabble, and on this account their haunts are perpetually sought after, and frequently broken up, by persons called Capitaons do Mato, who are appointed by Government to scour the forests.

Here also, as in many other woody parts of Brazil, the people believe in the existence of a pigmy race of men, which are said to be often seen, toward evening, gambolling, or basking themselves, in open spaces and near the edges of the woods. They are described as about three feet high, well formed, of the colour of Europeans, and without hair on their bodies; as generally going on all fours, though frequently standing erect. Upon this subject I have spoken to a great many people, and find that their accounts generally agree; yet none ever pretended that he had secured one of them, none would guide me to their haunts; all excused themselves by saying, that it was an extremely difficult task to take them, on account of their activity and shyness; and that we might possibly wait four or five days, and even then be disappointed in our hope of seeing one. As there is little reason to doubt that there must

be some ground for such reports, so confidently and generally propagated and believed, I am inclined to think, these creatures are the children of Indians, who in their playfulness expose themselves at the skirts of the woods, while their parents lie concealed because they know that they are in the neighbourhood of " bearded men."

An Hydraulic Machine, which is very common in the thinly inhabited parts of Brazil, pleasantly beguiled the time while we waited for the recovery of some lost mules. It is used for the beating of Mandioca Roots to a pulp, for taking the husk off Milho and Coffee, and for several other purposes of a similar kind. It consists of a long beam unequally balanced upon a fulcrum, its longer and heavier end is furnished with a strong pestle-like foot, which descends into an Indoá, or Indian mortar. At the other end is a cavity, capable of holding from one to ten gallons of water; when this bowl is full it descends and raises the pestle; at the lowest point the water runs out, and the other arm descends with force. The most ingenious part of the contrivance consists in placing the lever at right angles to the stream, and bringing the water to the cavity through a narrow spout, by which means the stream, forming a parabolic curve, shoots over the bowl and does not impede it in rising; the bowl likewise is so formed as to spill no water until it reach the lowest point, and then discharges it at once. This is effected by the most simple means possible; the end of the bowl farthest from the fulcrum makes an exterior angle with the bottom produced equal to that which the beam forms with the horizon when the pestle is raised. The Machine is of Indian construction, and does great credit to the genius of some unknown rude Mechanic. Europeans have called it the Sloth, because the Indian name Ahý, which signifies the thing of water, sounds, when pronounced without the h, something like Aig, the Tupi name of that animal.

From this Engine the water flows to a small mill with a horizontal wheel, which is employed in giving motion to a lathe used in turning cooking vessels from pieces of solid stone. This material consists of a sort of saponaceous gneiss, soft to the chissel and smooth to the touch,

which is found not only in this neighbourhood, but in some other parts of the Province, where whole ridges of it are said to exist. It appears to be composed of the Mica, or unchangeable part of Granite, cemented by the basis of Spar, in an uncrystalized state. In some of its veins the Mica is friable and porous, from a deficiency of the cementing matter; in others the stone is soft from an excess of moisture in its component parts. The vessels formed from this substance bear the fire exceedingly well, and are said to communicate to whatever is cooked in them an agreeable flavour; on this account they are sometimes found in the kitchens of large towns. The country over which we have ridden to-day, through twenty-six miles, in a W. N. W. direction, exhibits an unusual quantity of Spar, and it seems to increase as we proceed. The land is still rising, and we are now probably nine hundred and fifty feet above our station of yesterday.

Owing to the length of our last day's journey, the troop did not arrive at the halting place before it was late in the evening. One of the mules belonging to the strangers, either from the heat of the day, or fatigue, had died on the road, and his load was laid upon another, which had previously become so lame as to be unable to touch the ground with one of its fore feet. In this miserable condition the creature was compelled to carry his burden, and we had a distance of nearly seventy miles to proceed before he would be finally relieved from it. This case, connected with innumerable others, which I have noticed, tended to convince me that the Portuguese, and their descendants in Brazil, are extremely deficient in sympathy towards the inferior animals. Such an instance, I am willing to think, could not have occurred on any public road in Britain, without a warm interference on the part of the public.

The next day also, those of us, who had no care of the loaded mules, left our troop and proceeded through a country which I deemed unhealthy, not because the forest flourished with extraordinary luxuriance, but by the side of the road were many symptoms of stagnant water. In Rio I had heard so much of the district named the Campo, which I learned we should this day enter upon, that I became almost impatient

with the thick forests, narrow and swampy roads, which we travelled for about two leagues, when our guide, the only one of the party to whom the place was familiar, made a short turn to the right, and suddenly the Downs lay before us. We were at the foot of a short and steep hill, the morning was advanced and sultry, and among the woods not a breath of air was stirring. At once we were saluted by a fine bracing breeze in our faces, and hailed it with a burst of joy; we dismounted, and in the shade, at the very verge of the forest, refreshed ourselves and the horses. This was indeed a luxurious hour, I breathed ambrosial gales, and felt my nerves new strung. I had often heard of invalids who left the city in the last stages of debility, and on arriving at these salubrious regions, were so much recovered, that, according to their own phrase, "they could buffet with, and subdue a sturdy mule;" and though healthy, experienced myself a wonderful renovation, both of power and spirits. From the summit of the hill we looked backward over the tops of the trees, and before us upon an open country quite destitute of wood, to an almost unbounded horizon.

After riding about six miles over these open and level Downs, we arrived at a small neat-looking Church, surrounded by a low wall and joined to a parsonage house. Its appearance at a distance was extremely interesting, for the day was a holy one, and though not a single habitation had been seen, at least three hundred people had assembled to hear Mass. Service was already closed, and the females dressed in white and showy colours, were seated in parties on the grass, with green and blue, red and purple umbrellas held over them, as a shelter from the sun. Their thin features and sallow complexions distinctly marked them for country Brazilians, while the black woollen hats and baetas, which they wore, gave them some resemblance to a congregation of Welsh Women in Summer. The older men were engaged at a little distance among the horses, and gave to their group the appearance of a fair; the young ones were occupied in sprightly sports, and enlivened the scene by their clamour and vivacity; the slaves were mingled with their Senhoras, or guarding the cattle which they rode.

This was the Church of Curral Novo, the disallowed name of the farm where we slept the last night. At a little distance from the sacred edifice, a narrow rill, whose very excellent waters ripple over a bed of quartz in small pieces, supplies the house with a cool and wholesome beverage; while, at a greater distance, the surrounding downs are varied by slight and easy undulations, in whose bottoms are fine pools, or moist and verdant meadows, where game was seen in abundance. On leaving this spot we were joined by a plain looking farmer, whose countenance did not please me: I therefore rode on before my companions, and, understanding that we were to dine at his house, went to it, and was just putting my horse under a shed, when the owner arrived, and angrily told me, "you cannot stop here, your companions are half a league behind." When on the point of replying, my servant, who had been dispatched after me, arrived, and probably prevented an unpleasant altercation. This, I think, was the only positive incivility which I met with in Minas Geraes.

All the other travellers were found reclining under a large tree, by the side of a clear stream which flowed toward the North; their object seemed to be repose rather than any other kind of refreshment, and shelter from the scorching heat. In about half an hour a basket of oranges was brought, by two children, from the house which has just been mentioned, and being all it could afford us, we made a hearty if not a substantial meal. As we were about to mount again, when the sun had somewhat declined, a messenger arrived on horseback, with a written invitation to spend the night, or at least to take our dinner, at a house which he pointed out to us nearly two miles off, on the slope of another hill. After some delay and debate, it was determined to decline the proffered hospitality, and, as we had neither pen nor ink at hand, to dispatch one of our new companions, to express our sense of the gentleman's civility, and to inform him that the troop was too much scattered at that time to admit of a change in the appointed rendezvous.

A few miles farther brought us to the highest point of the road between Rio de Janeiro and St. John D' El Rey, two thousand six

hundred feet, as we supposed, above the place which we left in the morning. A most extensive view here opened on every side, but the distant horizon did not, as is usual in such cases, melt away into air; it consisted of a strongly undulated outline, with the intermediate space filled up by bold masses of detached mountains, on one side struck by the full glow of an afternoon tropical sun, while the other was involved in deep blue shade. Toward the North the lofty Serros about Villa Rica, a hundred miles distant in a right line, were pointed out; toward the South-east appeared the cones near Padre Correio's, from which we had travelled at least a hundred and sixty miles, and had not a slight haze rested in that quarter, we should have beheld the Organ mountains, not far from the Capital; to the West were clearly seen the Serros of St. Joze and Lenheiro, a ridge of mountains above St. John D' El Rey; in the North-east the nameless bluff heads of the Mantequeira rose one beyond another in distinguishable shades; yet the longest line of all was toward the South-west, where the remotest visible mountains were thought to be near the frontiers of St. Paul's. We here stood on the Southern verge of the vast basin of the Rio Grandé, one of the principal branches of the mighty Paraná, and, looking over the brink, beheld the Northern slope of the long Parahýba, or rather stretched our view across the country which it drains.

This inclined plane, or Northern half of the vale, the strong support of the Mantequerian Serro, extends about sixty miles, in a straight line, and the angle of its ascent is nearly one degree fifteen minutes. The lower region of it is a broken country, where the naked cones stand thickly, and rise nearly to the height of our present station. On the upper part of the buttress is a covering of red clay, mingled with mica and quartz; and the core of the extended plains, toward the North, appears to be composed in the same manner of granitic rocks, in a conical shape, which seem, from their occasional appearance on the surface of the plain, to be as thickly strewed, and as sharply pointed, as those below us. The spaces between them are filled up with various substances of later formation, but by far the greater proportion consists of red clay, mingled with mica.

If asked why the same proportion of clay is not found below, I should reply, it has probably been washed away by the superior moisture and rains of the coast, and by the corrosion of streams, whose ravages are proportioned to the length and angle of their fall. I have no system of Geology to support; I do not understand any; but relate facts as they appeared, and the impressions they made upon my mind, convinced that nature operates here upon a scale scarcely reducible to the circumscribed phenomena observed in Great Britain and the Continent of Europe.

The Campo, or table land of Brazil, resting on this granitic core, is composed of great masses of mountain, which appear to be detached from each other, having between them broad basins, where the ground is cut into deep ravines, and formed into strong undulations of three to six hundred feet in height; the sides of these ravines are exceedingly steep, and their bottoms contain beds of torrents, so broken and generally so difficult as to require bridges; but the country has not yet advanced far enough for the construction of many artificial roads. Hence the course of travellers lies along the heads of ravines, the ridge of the hill between them, even though it deviate to every point of the compass; here people meet with solid ground, and an uninterrupted course, though the ridge is sometimes almost as narrow as the road which passes along it, and the descent on either hand is rapid though not precipitous.

As to the general soil of the country it is little different from that which has been already said to fill up the intervals between the granitic cones, but in many places it has upon its surface a stratum of yellowish brown clay, mixed with sand; this covering lies in patches of various dimensions, from nine to fifteen inches thick, and its edges are so worn as plainly to indicate, that it was once much more extensive, perhaps formed a superstratum to the whole present surface, that it is in a course of wasting from rains, and will shortly disappear. Hence it is that in some bottoms, and at the sides of gentle declivities, are sometimes found spots of yellow sand almost as barren as the sea-beach, collected there by the waters, while the other component part of the superstratum, being

more intimately miscible, has been separated and carried by the stream to a lower station. These sandy spots sometimes contained rounded pebbles, but were more commonly seen without them, and, in one instance, where the stream had cut deeply into the earth, confused strata of vegetable soil, clay, sand of different kinds and colours, and even of peat, were exposed to view.

In our progress to-day we passed and examined, in a cursory way, one of the largest of those chasms which, in Brazil, are known by the name of Corgo. Something like them occasionally occurs, on a small scale, in some of the chalky and peaty districts of our own country. They are excavations in the side of a hill, a sort of pit, open at one end, with very rough unformed sides, destitute of verdure, and having their longest line nearly at right angles to the ridge of the hill on whose side they appear. They are formed at first by the junction of very little streamlets, which acquire momentum enough to tear away the soil. In subsequent rains the water shoots, with accumulated force, over the brink, falls upon the ruin already produced, and enlarges it; a similar process goes on until the chasm becomes frequently many hundred feet in length, sometimes two or three in breadth, and often more than one hundred deep. In this state the sides are continually crumbling in; rain washes them down, and the wreck is borne away by the solvent power and the force of the accumulated waters, until, in process of time, the sides acquire a regular slope, the bottom is covered with the feldspar and other heavy materials which existed in the clay, and thus a steep dell and at length a valley is formed, and lastly grass grows upon its sides.

I have observed many instances where these Corgos have owed their origin to what may be called, perhaps, a less natural process. During the dry season Ants and Armadillos, both of which may be numbered among the pests of the country, burrow into the sides of the hills. In the rainy season water descends into these holes, and, uniting with the clay, becomes a puddle; if the pressure of the mass be sufficient to burst its way through the soil, a Corgo is begun, the growth of which will be determined by the form of the upper ground, the solidity of the materials,

and the depth of the neighbouring valley, which, perhaps, has been antecedently produced in the same way. It should be noticed, however, that the word Corgo, in some parts of Brazil, denotes the dry and steep ridge between two ravines, and not the dells themselves.

The first part of the Downs which we passed exhibited no signs of culture whatever, but, after leaving the Church of Curral Novo, we saw many farm-houses, with small enclosures around them, and noticed there, besides the common articles of culture, some barley, and wheat, and turnips. When compared with the general neglected condition of the country, these appeared something like islands in the ocean, or oases in a desert. Ditches, about six feet wide and as many deep, dug in straight lines with the earth thrown up on the interior bank, divided one estate from another, and formed a boundary between them from one to three leagues in length, and being traced by the eye over successive hills, formed curious intersections of the country. It was painful to contemplate the waste of labour which they exhibited, and to think how much less would have produced hedge-rows of far greater utility. In the more open downs cows and oxen were feeding, almost hidden in a tall wiry kind of grass or rush; and seemed to thrive, though, from the want of rain, the herbage had lost almost all its succulence. The plants do not grow like our grass, but stand nearly two inches asunder; the water, in wet seasons, trickling round the roots, and washing away the soil, leaves the place covered with small pieces of brown quartz, which prevents the growth of a closer kind of herbage. This coating of quartz is common over the whole country, except in the yellow clays and lands improved by turning up the soil. It is thickest on the Western sides of the hills, showing, as does also the more frequent appearance of the rock in the same quarter, that the rain falls most abundantly, and heavily, from that part of the heavens.

This long grass conceals a multitude of reptiles, some of them destructive to man and beast. By the Rattle-snake my guide had, in this neighbourhood, lost his eldest son, who, being bitten in the thumb, and sensible of his danger, ran towards the house, from which he was a