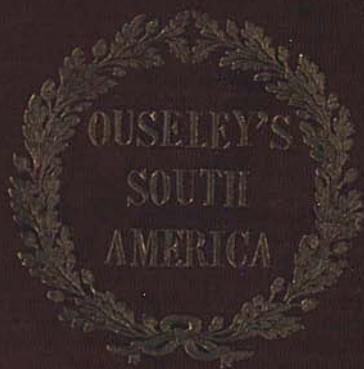




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VIEWS OF THE TOWN

FROM THE TOWN

BRITAIN THE RIVER

WITH NOTES

BY WM GORE OUSELEY ESQ

WITH A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOL
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIODS TO THE PRESENT
AND A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOL
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIODS TO THE PRESENT

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON

LONDON

THOMAS NEWNES & SONS

1862

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DESCRIPTION OF
VIEWS IN SOUTH AMERICA,

From Original Drawings,

MADE IN

BRAZIL, THE RIVER PLATE, THE PARANA,

&c. &c.,

WITH NOTES.

By WM GORE OUSELEY, Esq.,

LATE HER MAJESTY'S MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE STATES OF LA
PLATA, AND FORMERLY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE COURT OF BRAZIL.

LITHOGRAPHED BY J. NEEDHAM.

LONDON:

THOMAS M^cLEAN, 26 HAYMARKET.

1852.

3060

THE HISTORY OF THE

THE HISTORY OF THE

The publication of this work has been a long and laborious task, and it is with much satisfaction that we are enabled to present it to the public. The work is the result of many years of research and study, and it is hoped that it will be found to contain much valuable information. The work is divided into two volumes, and it is hoped that it will be found to contain much valuable information. The work is divided into two volumes, and it is hoped that it will be found to contain much valuable information.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY REYNELL AND WEIGHT, LITTLE PULTENEY STREET.

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W. GORE OUSELY

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publication of these Views was intended to take place last year. The absorbing interest, however, so deservedly inspired by the Great Exhibition, and the constant employment that it directly or indirectly afforded to artists, publishers, and others, rendered it desirable, indeed,—I was assured by competent advisers,—necessary, to defer the appearance of the work until the present time.

The illustrious Patron of the useful as well as of the fine arts, who conceived the grand idea of the Exhibition, had, before its opening, deigned to accept the dedication of this selection of Views. But the most sanguine supporters of his bold conception were not prepared for such complete success as attended its realization from the day that the ground it occupied was marked out until its close, still less for its *quasi* monopoly of the leisure and attention of the *millions* who found within its precincts instruction and amusement.

I trust that in thus reminding the subscribers, to whom this publication was announced for an earlier period, of the necessity of retarding it until the wonderful creation of 1851 had ceased exclusively to occupy the public,—I might almost say the world,—I have sufficiently explained and excused the delay that has occurred.

W. GORE OUSELEY.

44 Hertford street, Mayfair, London,
February, 1852.

PREFATORY REMARKS.

Most of the Views now published were made some years since, when the writer of these lines resided in Brazil as her Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires*.

With the exception of the sketch in the Island of Madeira and one at Teneriffe, all the drawings are of places in South America.

The opportunities for taking these Views were rather forced upon, than sought by, the writer. After a dangerous illness he was ordered a change of climate. Diplomatic duties not allowing him at that time to quit his post, he proceeded to the mountains, where, within easy reach of Rio de Janeiro, the temperature is like that of parts of Europe.

Constant exercise is usually prescribed by physicians at Rio, as well as a cooler climate, for convalescent Europeans. It was in obedience to such orders that the writer, combining a search for health with that of the picturesque, found an additional inducement to explore the recesses of the mountains in the indulgence of long-neglected amateur pursuits, by taking sketches in the Serras, and on the route to or from Rio de Janeiro, from whence his duties forbade a long absence.

On his return to Europe for the first time for many years, without active employment in his profession, the Author was fortunate enough to renew or make the acquaintance of more

than one artist of celebrity, whose indulgent estimate of amateur efforts he has found proportionate to their own great merit and talent, and was advised by them to publish his drawings. Although in an artistic point of view they cannot command attention, or bear comparison with many late admirable works, yet, as representing places for the most part out of the beaten track of travellers, and of some interest, he has ventured to publish them after having submitted them to the critical taste and acknowledged judgment in the fine arts of the August Personage to whom they are with deep respect inscribed, and encouraged by His not having deemed them unworthy of the honour of being dedicated to Himself.

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A SELECTION OF VIEWS,

&c. &c.

PLATE, No. I.

ISLAND OF MADEIRA:

FORT LOUREIRO.

THE first place at which the Brazil packets used to touch, on their way from England to Rio de Janeiro, and which almost every man-of-war visits in the outward voyage to South America, is Funchal, the capital of Madeira. The commanders of packets make as short a stay as possible, but those of other vessels are often induced to remain much longer than they anticipated.

It is difficult to resist the temptations to linger at this island offered by the beauty of the scenery, the charm of the climate, and that, at least equally

potent, of the kind attentions received by travellers at the hands of the resident merchants of the island.*

This island has so often been described both by pen and pencil,† and visited by so many English travellers, that in the present work (confined almost exclusively to views in South America) this sketch alone is given. It represents a small fort, or outwork (called "Loureiro," or the Laurel Tree), on the coast to the east of Funchal.

The rocks are volcanic. The violent disruptions that have taken place either at the first appearance of the island above the waves—for a very general opinion is that the groups of islands in this part of the world rose out of the ocean, or during subsequent convulsions at a remote period—have rent the island into vast fissures, deep ravines, and valleys hemmed in by lofty precipices.

An excursion into the interior shows that almost the whole island of Madeira consists of abrupt rocky mountains of considerable height, thrown into the

* Particularly if, as was the case with our party, they are fortunate enough to be the guests of the hospitable English Consul, Mr Stoddart, who occupies a very handsome residence, or rather "palacete," [belonging to a noble and wealthy family in Portugal,] the spacious and lofty apartments of which are admirably adapted for the climate.—W. G. O.

† Lady Susan Vernon Harcourt's sketches are excellent; and, moreover, the lithographs as well as the drawings are executed by that lady herself. Those of Picken are deservedly well known; and there are many others.

most fantastic and capricious forms, from the summits of which, and down the gullies, mountain-streams rush towards the ocean, occasional glimpses of which diversify the view as you wind along the sides of the hills, so as to produce very beautiful and varied effects. An untravelled citizen of London (if any such are now to be found) or Paris, on his way for the first time to Brazil, might well pronounce the scenery of Madeira to be the most picturesque possible; he would, however, find reason to modify this opinion on entering the harbour of Rio Janeiro, the view of which is far more striking and beautiful.

The "Corral" (so called from a supposed resemblance, on a vast scale, to a sort of enclosure surrounded by high pallisades, used for confining cattle) is a very remarkable object, not of the easiest access, to which most strangers are induced to devote a day or two. The Corral is an instance of the extraordinary results of the violence to which this whole region has evidently been subjected.

Yet even in the most rugged and apparently—except to goats and Madeira ponies—inaccessible positions, patches are cultivated, and numerous little nooks and corners are visible in secluded valleys of great beauty and fertility, or, high up on the hills, nestle small farms, picturesque chapels, and cottages. Grapes of course abound on the pretty trellis-work and fences, and, with other fruits and plants in great variety, surround the sequestered hamlets with luxu-

riant vegetation. The vines are often gracefully trained, as in parts of Italy, along supporting columns or posts.

The cap generally worn by both sexes in Madeira may be noticed as an indigenous production, probably unknown elsewhere. It is one of the most singular specimens of head-gear that can well be imagined, and a more ingeniously ill-contrived article of clothing than even the English Blue-coat boys' 'muffin cap;' and like it, seemingly unfitted for any useful or—though this is a matter of taste—ornamental purpose.

It may be likened to a wine-glass, with the foot, or part supporting the stem, broken off, or an inverted funnel.

The people of the neighbouring group of the Açores, also, have exclusive possession of a strange head-covering, for it can neither be called hat nor cap, remarkable for its deformity. But the latter is a very useful article, affording covering to the head, shade for the eyes, and protection to the back of the neck from the sun, all very hideous but serviceable. The chances are, therefore, in favour of the Madeira funnel outliving the Açore nondescript "tile," as the former has no recommendation of utility—national vestimentary predilections generally clinging with the greatest tenacity to the most unmeaning and unaccountable objects and usages.

Madeira is not within the tropics, nor is the climate like that of the torrid zone; but most tropical plants

will thrive there. Naturalists have found that in order to fit the more delicate plants of Brazil for the climate of England, a system of gradual hardening by transplantation in the first instance to this island, has succeeded remarkably in "acclimatizing" (as Dr Lippold, a German botanist at Rio, found by experience) tropical fruits and flowers; and after two or three years the seeds and cuttings produced on the island thrive much better in England than those imported thither directly from South America.

PLATE, No. II.

TENERIFFE.

HOTEL.

THE Island of Teneriffe may be considered as the second stage or halting-place on the voyage from England to South America.

The Fonda, or Hotel, of which the interior forms the subject of this plate, is at Santa Cruz, the capital of the island. It had formerly been a convent; and although it must be admitted that it is neither as well adapted for the comfort and convenience of travellers as the Clarendon, Mivart's, or Meurice's, it is infinitely more picturesque than those far famed hotels, much quieter, and perhaps not dearer.

If there are no bells ringing for waiters or chambermaids, it is not merely because bells do not exist, but in fact bells are not needed. Where all doors and windows remain open, a call or clapping of hands (as in the East and in Brazil) could be heard along the corridors or cloisters in the stillness of the spacious building. This quiet fonda is guiltless of a bar and its concomitant bibulous clatter, as in America, and utterly ignorant of the impatient demands of hasty travellers going by "next train" or rushing in from

the last arrival, with the obligato accompaniments, as in England, of calls for "kebs" or "busses," and the rattle of carriages. Moreover, in this, as in most houses in southern countries at which travellers are "taken in," it is extremely doubtful whether waiters or chambermaids would come "when you do call for them." The genus classified as "*fondas*," "*posadas*," "*vendas*," "*mesones*," &c., would often sadly disappoint the traveller who hoped to carry into effect the principle of "taking mine ease in mine inn."

But in the metempsychosian process of passing from the status of convent to that of tavern, this building still retains much of its former claustral simplicity and paucity of "means and appliances," having thus the advantage of still tacitly enforcing no small degree of self-denial, by the absence of modern luxuries and of the superfluities now generally voted absolute necessities. For this, compensation may at least be found in the calm enjoyment of the pure air and genial climate. The heat is refreshingly tempered by the sea breeze blowing through the constantly open windows and doors, and finding its way along the deserted cloisters and corridors, waving the banana leaves and vines in the little garden of the Patio or quadrangle with a "*dolce susurro*,"—while the splashing of the water from the fountain in the centre, as it overflows into the marble basin beneath, is slightly audible, producing an indescribably soothing and cooling effect, especially while resting after the perambulations which English travellers are remarked

for commencing, in spite of dust or heat, the moment they arrive in a foreign country. Sitting thus, and listlessly contemplating the long silent stone passages, with rows of doors opening into them, one almost forgets the altered condition of the old building, and expects to see monks or nuns issuing from their cells. In fact the sleeping apartments still present much of the simplicity of arrangement and fitting up, supposed to characterise the "cellular system" of a convent.

Orotava is also considered as a sort of chief city of the island, and was mentioned as having been at times the seat of Government.

The Canary Islands, of which Teneriffe is the principal, are far from devoid of interest. It is not the province of these merely explanatory remarks on the plates now published, to speak of aught but the picturesque features of this or other places. But geologists, botanists, and those also who are interested in the study of ethnography, would find in Teneriffe and the adjacent islands much to attract their attention. With reference to the latter subject, some mention of the aborigines of this and neighbouring groups may not be deemed misplaced.

One or two men were pointed out among the market people as being descendants, or at least as having a perceptible admixture of the blood of the ancient race of "*Guanches*," as the aboriginal inhabitants of this group were called. It was stated that these individuals bore traces of the extinct nation or tribe, and could be distinguished from the Spanish race by their

greater stature, strength, and fairer complexion, and red or light hair.

It is even asserted that a few families of the race of Guanches, almost unmixed with that of Spain, still exist in some of the neighbouring islands. This is very doubtful; but in the last generation there certainly existed individuals indisputably of Guanche descent. Of course there is something of the marvellous added in the accounts given to foreigners of these former lords of the soil of the Canaries. That they were of gigantic stature, and possessed a race of dogs of immense size, strength, and courage, proportionate to these qualities in their masters, the natives of the islands; that they often lived in caves,* and were very redoubtable adversaries when aroused in self-defence, &c. &c.†

* There are now some caves in the rocks near the sea, inhabited by poor families. But it is not probable that they are descendants of the Guancho Troglodytes, although they have inherited their primitive habitations.

† All that I could find during my short stay at Teneriffe in the shape of authentic remains of the "Guanches," was a small collection of the "mummies," as they are called, and other relics, found at different times in caves and fissures in the mountains.

It is certain that the aborigines practised a mode of preserving, if not of embalming, the bodies of their dead, and they sought out natural catacombs in which to deposit them in places most remote and difficult of access. High up in the Peak these simple sepulchres are occasionally discovered, perhaps by travellers, or by the peasants employed in bringing ice and snow from the heights. The general idea is that they carefully strove to conceal the burial places of their "mummies."

In a sort of museum, in which the remains of this extinct race are still, however carelessly, preserved, are specimens of the skulls, one or more bodies, skins (of goats probably), asserted to have been part of their clothing, some ornaments, wooden bowls, &c.

I also saw some beads of stone or earthenware, a few rude vessels and cups of clay and wood, some shells (ground and perforated, supposed to have been used as money), and other trifling articles, said to have belonged to the Guanches; but I had doubts as to the accuracy of our Cicerone on some points.

Some coarse canvas-like cloth was shown me, of a reddish-brown colour, which was said by our guide to be also of Guanche manufacture, and found on a mummy. The mummy that I saw appeared to be covered only with skins of wild beasts or other animals, reduced almost to the consistency of parchment.

I did not observe anything very peculiar in the formation of the skulls, except that the foreheads were remarkably low. The hands were small, with long and well-formed nails.

Some of the race of Guanches (mixed, of course), I was assured existed in the south part of the island, and also at Lancerota. The last *undoubted* Guanche was asserted to have died about 1837. Those said to be their descendants are very strong powerful men, capable of lifting and carrying with ease a load of 300 or 400 lbs. weight on their heads.

Beams of a species of pine wood, peculiar to the island, are found in the least accessible parts of the Peak caverns, said to have been placed there by the Guanches. No conjecture was offered as to what purpose these beams were intended to serve in those remote situations.

This sort of pine is still in use in the island. It is highly inflammable, and very durable, so much so as to be considered, like the wood enclosing the mummies in Egypt, almost indestructible, except by combustion, or violence. As in Egypt, climate has probably no small share in the preservation of this wood.—W. G. O.

PLATE, No. III.

B A H I A.

FORT (AND CAPE) ST ANTONIO.

THE first remarkable object in approaching the harbour of Bahia, is the Fort of St Antonio, situated on the point of rock, forming the extremity of the Cape called after the same saint.

It is not large, but is a fair specimen of the numerous solidly-constructed stone forts that have been scattered by the Portuguese (and Spaniards) throughout their colonial possessions wherever deemed necessary for purposes of defence or aggression, and which bear witness, in their well-built walls and often handsome details, to the ample means, military skill, and power that backed the zeal of the first settlers in South America and founded the Brazilian empire.

Fort St Antonio has on its highest part a lighthouse, of great service to mariners in making the port at night, as there are shoals off the point. Opposite to Cape St Antonio is a long low island called Itaparica, between which and the fort is the channel for large vessels.

The scenery near Bahia does not present the striking features that distinguish Rio de Janeiro ; it has

neither the well-wooded hills nor lofty precipitous rocks that environ the capital of Brazil. It is, however, very pretty, varied by small hills and acclivities, and ornamented by the tall graceful cocoa-nut and the usual luxuriant vegetation of Brazil.

The Cape, like the coast generally of the province of Bahia, is surrounded by coral rocks ; and a reef of coral extends to a considerable distance from and along the shore. The beach is sandy, with large rocks strewed on it by the action of the waves.

"Bahia," or the Bay, as this town and province are now universally called, is only the abbreviation of its proper title "Bahia de todos os Santos," or "All Saints' Bay." The original and formal name or title of the capital is, "San Salvador da Bahia."

PLATE, No. IV.

BAHIA.

VICTORIA HILL AND CEMETERY.

AFTER passing the Cape and Fort of St Antonio, which are on the right in entering the harbour of Bahia, the next prominent objects are the church and villas on the high land, called Victoria, overlooking the harbour. It is a favourite and picturesque suburb of Bahia, and is the chosen site of several "chacras," or *quasi* country residences. The elevation is sufficient to avoid the extreme heat of the lower town, and to get the benefit of the sea-breeze. It is considered a healthy situation, and a tolerable carriage road leads to the English Cemetery, marked by a cross in the foreground, and to the point of St Antonio, as well as along the coast. On the beach are several "Armaços," or places where whale-boats are kept and whales cut up. They are provided with capstans and tackle, for hauling up the carcase and blubber to be reduced to oil.

The flesh of the whale looks like coarse beef, and is used by the poor for food. The whale on this coast is pursued in large sailing boats, and harpooned while the boat is under sail. The fishermen here assert that

the noise of oars, or any other sound, disturbs the fish, which can, consequently, only be successfully approached by a sailing-boat. The steady sea-breezes, blowing with tolerable certainty for a number of hours during the day, doubtless enable the fishermen to adopt this mode of capturing the whale, which could scarcely be employed with advantage in other latitudes. The boatmen are often apprised by the look-out man, or seaman aloft, on board vessels entering the harbour, of the whereabouts of a whale, for which information they are very grateful, as the lowness of their own craft renders it very difficult for them to see a whale unless very close to them.

PLATE, No V.

BAHIA.

INNER HARBOUR.

AT the foot of the steep height, covered with foliage and crowned by the "Paseo Publico," or public promenade, is a small landing-place for boats, conveniently situated for those who prefer a steep, but not long, clambering ascent to the upper town, to being first taken round the point into the interior basin and landed in the lower town of San Salvador, or Bahia, to be from thence carried up by negroes in a sort of palanquin.

An angle of the buttressed wall, supporting the Paseo Publico, appears above the trees in the plate, and in the neighbourhood are several pleasant "charcras," or suburban habitations, with garden grounds and ornamental approaches.

The venda, or public-house, is one of a class very general in this country, combining the purposes of what we should call a grog-shop with those of a huckster's stall, and is often a source of delay and temptation to the seamen in charge of the ship's boats left in this little cove for the sake of the shelter it affords from certain winds, while the officers transact business or pay visits in the upper town.

The palanquins in use here, consist merely of a chair on a platform of boards suspended from the centre of an arched pole or beam, the projecting swan-necked ends of which are borne on the shoulders

of two men, who relieve the shoulder by the occasional use of a stick as a lever applied under the pole as it rests on the opposite shoulder. The motion, as far as a trial of a few yards can authorise an opinion, is neither pleasant, nor the position seemingly secure. Yet not only ladies, but men, and of no light weight, invariably use them for transport to the upper town, and in visiting. The chairs are sheltered by curtains from the sun, and the woodwork as well as curtains are often gilt and showily and expensively ornamented. The steepness of the streets prevents the use of wheel carriages, except in a few directions, and causes the substitution of these palanquins.

The Dutch have left traces of former possession in the brick paving of some of the streets. Bahia exports a great deal of sugar, and is a place of considerable commercial importance. It was once the seat of Government, and contains many handsome buildings, chiefly of an ecclesiastical character. It was stated some years ago to contain above 120,000 inhabitants, among whom are many very wealthy proprietors and merchants.

The inner basin of the harbour lies opposite the round castellated tower or fort that appears in the distance. The foreign men-of-war generally lie near this fort. A French admiral's flag was flying on a large frigate when this sketch was made. The wharves, quays, and warehouses are mostly situated along the beach or projecting into the water in the inner harbour.

PLATE, No. VI.

BAHIA.

RUINED CHAPEL OF SAN GONÇALO.

A FEW miles from Bahia, on the Atlantic coast, near Rio Vermelho, is a small ruined chapel that may easily escape the attention of a traveller, unless more addicted to exploring the recesses of a picturesque country than the inhabitants or resident foreigners, who are naturally absorbed in more profitable pursuits.

On approaching it, which was not very easy, as the paths were overgrown with the dense underwood and rich vegetation common in this country, the solitary and deserted aspect of the little chapel, and its picturesque position and interior, rendered it an object of interest.

In reply to inquiry of the people casually met on the road at Rio Vermelho (probably not very competent authorities,) it was stated to be the Chapel of St Gonçalo; among the first edifices, some said the first building, devoted to Christian worship, constructed in Brazil, or as others added, in America. As its very existence seemed unknown at Bahia, this history was accepted, especially as its correctness by no means

detracted from the effect of the little ruin in an artistic point of view.

On examination, by cutting away some of the plants by which the interior is thickly overgrown, vestiges of various ornamental details in well-cut stone or marble, attested the care with which this secluded place of worship was formerly ornamented, and the cost at which it must have been constructed.

One is sometimes unaccountably interested by the discovery (as it may be termed) of relics proving former religious zeal or architectural skill, in the midst of what is now a deserted solitude. Some such interest is all that can be pleaded for offering sketches of a place so little known, and of so little importance as the ruined chapel of San Gonçalo.

PLATE, No. VII.

BAHIA.

CHAPEL OF SAN GONÇALO.

THE interior of the same chapel mentioned in the preceding description.

In forcing one's way into the interior of ruined buildings like this, one is cautioned by the natives against snakes, scorpions, and such like "squatters" on abandoned edifices. But these reptiles are, in general at least, as anxious to avoid intruders as the latter are to escape coming in contact with them or their means of offence or defence. Thus, even those naturalists who seek to collect specimens of these reptiles have some difficulty in procuring them.

Many of the snakes are harmless, although the negroes and country people will always tell you that every snake you may find is the most venomous possible—on the laudable principle, doubtless, of being on the safe side in such matters.

PLATE, No. VIII.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

ENTRANCE OF HARBOUR.

THIS view is taken from a height called the "Morro de Flamengo," at the extremity of what is called the Praya or Beach de Flamengo, from whence the entrance of the harbour of Rio is seen to advantage. It is somewhat of a bird's-eye view, and an artist will at once perceive that there is no picture-making in this sketch; it is a mere portraiture of the singular features that strike one on entering the outer harbour of Rio de Janeiro, and looking back towards the ocean.

The Sugar Loaf is of course a prominent object, then the wooded peninsular hill on which is the Fort St Joao, united to the base of the Sugar Loaf by the Isthmus of the Praya Vermelho. Opposite this hill lies the Fort of Santa Cruz, commanding the narrow entrance of the magnificent harbour. Its formidable batteries of heavy guns are near the level of the sea; perhaps nearer than the necessary caution inspired by the proximity of the vast Atlantic would dictate. For, sometimes even placed as they are, at the height of twenty or thirty feet above the water, the effects of the heavy gales from the south-west or

south have caused the sea to break over these batteries, with sufficient force to dismount the guns.

On one occasion, after a tremendous gale of this sort, the battery offered a spectacle that must have been witnessed to make the terrific force of these storms credible. The guns, long heavy 46-pounders, were nearly all upset and swept together like a heap of rubbish, and piled up at the inner extremity of the platform. Guns, carriages, and broken masonry, indiscriminately thrown together with the ruins of the furnaces and apparatus for heating shot.

But these fearful tempests are rare; this was probably the only instance on record of a gale acting with such extreme violence in the harbour of Rio de Janeiro. During three days, no communication could take place, even between the men-of-war and the shore, opposite the anchorage where foreign squadrons usually lie, although that position is some four or five miles from Fort Santa Cruz and the mouth of the harbour.

The harbour of Rio is among the finest in the world. To prove this even to unprofessional persons, ignorant of nautical matters, it may suffice to mention that no pilots are required by night or by day for entering or leaving the harbour. There are no dangers that are not visible or avoidable with prudence. Of course a sailing vessel venturing to pass in or out in very light winds, or if it falls suddenly calm, may, by the great force of the enormous Atlantic swell or

wave, be heaved up and cast on the rocks, when little or no steerage way is imparted by the wind.

More than one vessel has thus been lost, in the finest weather and in midday. But this results from injudiciously attempting to pass the narrow entrance of the harbour without the aid of a steady breeze. The use of steam tugs would completely obviate this danger, and the sea and land breezes, excepting at some seasons of the year, afford a regular means of entrance or exit to those who await their commencement. There are boats with cables and anchors in readiness at both Fort Santa Cruz and Fort St Joao on the opposite shore, to be sent to the assistance of vessels in danger.*

* But on one occasion, of which I was an eye-witness, the cable was found to be a few fathoms too short, and the vessel was lost before the deficiency could be remedied, a catastrophe contradicting the sense of the adage respecting "giving rope enough."

W. G. O.

PLATE, No. IX.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

CHAPEL OF BOA VIAGEM.

ON a picturesque little promontory, almost opposite the mouth of the harbour and about midway between it and the inner harbour, is the prettily-situated Chapel of Boa Viagem.

To this shrine mariners resort to invoke a blessing when about to embark on a voyage ; or during dangers at sea they devote to it certain parts of their vessels—sails, rigging, &c. ; or vow to make offerings of various descriptions on their return to port, should safety be granted.

This chapel, like others in Brazil and in the south of Europe, thus contains many *ex voto* offerings. Sometimes the sails are brought to the altar borne on the sturdy shoulders of the seamen ; sometimes the yards or masts of a small vessel ; and they receive a blessing if a voyage be in preparation, or they are deposited at the shrine as an offering of thanksgiving for protection from shipwreck or escape from the violence of a storm.

Doubtless, in these utilitarian and unpoetic times, Marine Insurance Companies might not regard such

proceedings as a safe guarantee, authorising them to take a lower rate for vessels thus protected, than for others.

These and similar adoptions or modifications of pagan customs were among the most efficacious means by which the gradual absorption into Roman Catholicism of some of the practices of Greek mythology, rather than their total abandonment, was effected. By an easy transition the heathen altar was supplanted by that of Rome. If such a system of conversion be repugnant to the feelings of rigid Protestant reformers, its results are not the less picturesque and interesting to those who cherish classical recollections. It is curious to trace in some of these observances at the distance of time and space that separates South America from the Olympus of our schoolboy studies, these dim reflections of Greek and Roman usages.

At the foot of the eminence is a small battery commanding the approach to the town by the principal channel on the one side ; and that to the Bay* of Jurujuba, often called Jurujube, on the other.

* The Bay of Jurujube, more correctly, Jurujuba, is called by English seamen "Five Fathom Bay." As I had in my boating excursions often ascertained that its depth was by no means so great as five fathoms, I asked a sailor why they called it so. He admitted that there were only two fathoms in some places and but three in others, but said that *therefore* it was called "Five Fathom Bay." Perceiving that even with this explanation the name did not appear to be very appropriate, he added, "because two and three make five." This was not to be disputed.

The name "Jurujuba" means, I believe, in the Guarani lan-

The little peninsular hill is connected with the main land by a wooden causeway or bridge, and thus can hardly be said to be insulated even at high water.

The beauty of the foliage and commanding view from the chapel itself, affording almost a panorama of the bay, city, and surrounding mountains, renders it well worthy of a visit. During the great heats an hour may be passed agreeably under the shade of the trees, in the enjoyment of the sea breeze, the full force of which is felt at this point. The Sugar Loaf rock and the Fort of St Juan at its foot, and that of Santa Cruz on the opposite side of the entrance of the harbour, are here conspicuous objects.

guage, a narrow gorge or passage of water. Almost all the Indian names in Brazil have, as in North America, a signification, and are frequently compounded of several words, generally descriptive of some peculiarity of the places to which they are assigned. This bay probably took its name from the narrow strait passing into it between Boa Viagem, formerly doubtless an island, and the mainland.—W. G. O.

PLATE, No. X.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

NATURAL GROTTO IN THE BAY OF JURUJUBA.

THOSE who take pleasure in wandering and making—as they flatter themselves—discoveries of picturesque nooks and corners, would be delighted with a ramble along the remoter shores of the harbour of Rio de Janeiro.

In the course of an excursion of this nature in the Bay of Jurujuba, opposite the town of Rio, the grotto, of which this plate gives a faint idea, was unexpectedly found. Of course it was soon used, and served admirably as a bathing-room, affording complete shade and a safe deposit for clothes. The higher shelves of rock being out of reach of the tide, all articles of dress, &c., could be left without being, as sometimes happens elsewhere, floated off at high water, much more to the amusement of spectators than to the satisfaction of the bathers.

A little floor of hard yellow sand and natural seats of stone all around, a delicious coolness, at least by contrast with the temperature outside, causes one to regret the necessity of resuming the *habits* of civilised life, and again taking to the boat to return to the

opposite shore of the bay, exposed to the scorching sun; for to make such researches in this neighbourhood effectually and agreeably, a boat is always requisite.

Then there are a thousand baits for those inclined to busy idleness—shells, rare plants in great variety, or orchidaceous roots, maritime plants on the sands and rocks, air plants and parasites on the overhanging trees; on the beach numerous zoophytes; aloft, flitting about in all directions, are birds of gay and varied plumage, and of all sizes, from the humming-bird and parrot to the vulture; while insects innumerable, often of brilliant colours, fill the air and people the lower bushes; the water beautifully clear—all induce one to linger in such places of shelter. And, if the boat has been judiciously stored, not only with sketching materials, books, guns, &c., but also with means and appliances of material comfort, in the shape of a sufficient basket of provisions, the return may be more agreeably delayed until evening brings relief from the power of the vertical sun; at that time, also, the land breeze arises that will serve to re-cross the bay on the way home. Natural grottoes such as this are the *beau ideal* of what would have been pointed out by a generation more classical than ours as the favourite abode of sea nymphs.

After all, the judgment that selects views of this sort is, artistically, questionable. A fine landscape seen through an archway, natural chasm, or a cave like this, is very pleasing, often charming, in the

reality. But it seldom happens, even when treated by the hands of a practised artist, that the effect, in painting, is at all commensurate with that produced by the scene itself, and by the contemplation, especially if unexpectedly stumbled upon, of such picturesque "accidents" as that imperfectly represented in the Plate.*

* The rationale of this is not very clear. Possibly the pleasing effect of viewing a landscape or object through a chasm or archway arises from the view being circumscribed by a natural framework, thus formed by the immediate foreground, and the mind may be unconsciously pleased by nature taking the place of mechanical art, in thus confining a picture within a frame. A well-painted landscape, on the other hand, pleases by the successful effort to give, in a restricted compass, not merely a representation of forms, but the effect of the unlimited space of nature. There is then, perhaps, a converse feeling of satisfaction afforded by looking at a scene around which nature has placed a border; the imitation of this in a drawing is, after all, but placing it within a boundary or margin, which in all pictures is not merely an easy but an inevitable condition to be fulfilled by the artist.—G. W. O.

PLATE, No. XI.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

THE CORCOVADO FROM PRAYA GRANDE.

THE Peak of the Corcovado, or "Hunchback," is one of the most conspicuous objects that attract attention on approaching the harbour of Rio de Janeiro. It is about twice the height of the Sugar Loaf, and is, of course, visible from a much greater distance.

Like most of the hills and mountains around, it is rather to be described as a rock, or gigantic monolith, than a mountain.

The general character of the serras, or mountains near Rio, is well exemplified by the Corcovado. The pointed, or serrated form, in some instances almost columnar, prevails throughout this part of Brazil. The Corcovado may be compared to the gnomon of a gigantic sun-dial ; and, in fact, its shadow in particular localities supplies the place of a parish clock.

It is surprising that enormous trees, and the richest and most varied vegetation thrive on these rocks, denuded as they apparently are of soil. The Corcovado is still in great part covered with forest and "matto," or jungle. But several fires have at

different times partially destroyed its vegetation ; and a few years ago a vast portion of it was deprived of its natural covering by a great conflagration. This destructive fire was not generally attributed to accident. Its immediate result was a deficiency in the supply of water to parts of the capital ; for the springs which rise on and around this mountain feed the conduits and aqueducts that convey potable water into Rio de Janeiro.

The destruction of trees, here, as elsewhere, causes a scarcity of water. Thus, the arid plains of La Mancha, and the rest of the country around Madrid, owe their desiccation to the mania of the peasantry for the destruction of trees.*

Large tracts in Virginia, and other parts of the United States, suffer from a similar cause. The necessity for clearing the country in America very naturally induced a habit among the early settlers of cutting down timber. The native forest was considered as the natural enemy to be destroyed by fire and axe ; what was at first a necessity, or a profitable employment of every spare hour, has been continued in places where it no longer is either ; and has become, not merely a custom, but a positive taste difficult to alter, where for years all trees not used

* The author of 'A Year in Spain' says that the trees are destroyed by the Castilian peasantry, because they harbour birds, which they think feed on their grain, and perhaps injure their vines.

either as timber or fuel have been regarded as mere encumbrances.

But not so in Brazil. In the immediate neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro, the preservation of the forest has for some time, and very properly, become an object of solicitude with the authorities.

One of the fires by which much wood was destroyed was caused, it is said, by a party of French midshipmen. After a pic-nic party at the very summit of the mountain, these youths, whether deliberately emulating the Macedonian hero's mode of terminating a feast, or merely induced by bacchanalian inspiration to imitate the Persepolitan 'flare up' is not known, but they finished by setting fire to the buildings, which, being of wood, afforded a very brilliant bonfire, that enlightened the municipality to the necessity of placing on the Corcovado some protection from the fiery propensities of visitors.

On the principle of shutting the stable door too late, some men are now employed as keepers or watchmen, and reside at the upper part of the hill.

There is a road practicable for mules or horses to the highest pinnacle of the mountain. Even ladies can ride to the site of the former look-out post. The wife of the British Chargé d'Affaires rode some years ago to the very top of the Corcovado—at that time an unusual feat for a lady. The mountain is not, however, so precipitous on all sides as it appears from some points, nor even from the spot whence this view was taken. The road also takes a zig-zag direction that

much facilitates the approach. It is only at the very highest part that the path becomes really difficult. The lower portion of the road is by no means rugged or steep, and affords a delightful ride and continually varying prospect.

The devastation caused by the fires is soon repaired by the rapidity of tropical vegetation, and it is to be hoped will be prevented in future by the better care taken to preserve the useful natural clothing of the Corcovado.

The look-out at the summit of this rock, above two thousand feet in perpendicular height, was supposed to afford the best possible position for discovering and signalling vessels approaching the harbour, and for a military 'vigia,' or watch, as well as for a beacon. But in practice it was found that the great height was often unfavourable both for seeing ships at a distance or making intelligible signals, whether by flags during the day or lights at night. Clouds and mist often interposed so as to veil the prospect from those at the look-out post, and to prevent their signals from being seen from below.

The military post and look-out have been withdrawn for many years.

PLATE, No. XII.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

CONVENT OF NOSSA SENHORA DA PENHA.

IN many parts of Spain and Portugal are to be seen convents or chapels, built upon the summit of isolated hills or rocks, and if the traveller inquires the name of the building, he is probably told, that it is the convent of la "Peña" (Spanish), or "Penha" (Portuguese), Our Lady of the Rock. The Plate represents one of these edifices, situated on a height overlooking the inner bay of the harbour of Rio de Janeiro.

The churches of Nossa Senhora da Penha are generally placed in picturesque, always in commanding, situations. Not unfrequently these chapels and churches are a favourite resort of the surrounding population, either on festivals or holidays, or as the final object of a pilgrimage, and are shrines whereat to deposit *ex voto* offerings. The traveller who, after some hours' journey, has to ascend the steep approach of these exalted places of worship, might also be apt to find on a very hot day in the tropics, that the task of reaching them is in itself a very sufficient act of penance.

PLATE, No. XIII.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

AQUEDUCT, AND CONVENT OF SANTA
TERESA.

THIS aqueduct is a well-built and striking object, crossing several streets of Rio de Janeiro, and conveying excellent water from the heights of the Corcovado Mountain to the different fountains in the town.

The name of the street from which this view is taken is "Matacavallos" or "Kill-horses;" by no means a misnomer previous to the carriage-way being, as it now is, paved in its whole length.

There are some large handsome houses along this and the adjacent streets, with luxuriant gardens, which, however pleasing to the eye, are apt to harbour multitudes of mosquitoes and sometimes reptiles. It is for this reason that the grounds around the houses are often purposely denuded of trees or shrubs, and not from any indifference to horticultural ornament, or habitual enmity, as in North America, to trees.

The name by which Rio de Janeiro was first called was the city of San Sebastian, and doubtless it was little expected by the founder, either of this capital

or of Bahia (San Salvador) and other towns in Brazil, that the names of their patron saints would in a few years be forgotten so completely, that if a letter were now addressed to San Sebastian or San Salvador, from London or Paris, it is very doubtful whether it would reach Rio de Janeiro or Bahia.

The population of Rio de Janeiro has been estimated at less than 300,000. It is probably nearer 400,000, *i. e.*, with the suburbs and the provincial capital of Niththerohy on the opposite shore of the bay.

It must be recollected that it is the interest of the parishes to underrate the population of their respective districts in the returns that they have to make to the Government, as the burdens of taxation and the military service required (like the conscription in France) are based upon the amount of the population. The conjectural estimate, however, of 400,000 is probably nearly correct. The Convent of Santa Teresa on the height commands a magnificent view of the harbour. The commencement of the ascent to the Corcovado passes immediately below this convent.

PLATE, No. XIV.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA GLORIA,
AND AQUEDUCT.

THIS little church is built on a hill, between the suburb called Catete, and the city proper of Rio de Janeiro. The situation of the church of Nossa Senhora da Gloria, or as it is commonly called, "La Gloria," is on a promontory, picturesquely conspicuous from most parts of the outer harbour.

The Queen of Portugal was christened at this church, and received in it the name of Donna Maria "da Gloria." The Emperor and Court attend worship here in state on certain anniversaries and fêtes.

The hills in the distance are on the opposite side of the bay. There is a little sandy creek immediately below the church, to which canoes, wood-boats, and the man-of-war boats of the foreign squadrons anchored off the town, often resort as a convenient landing-place. The Gloria hill is, in fact, now enclosed on three sides by the town, and on the fourth by the bay. It is covered with villas, pretty cottages or chacras, with terraced gardens, reminding one, from the water,

of the Borromean Islands in the Lago Maggiore. The Gloria hill is not, however, an island.

The aqueduct, part of which is seen in the foreground, conveys very pure water, from the granite hills in the neighbourhood, to the town. This view is taken from an elevated position in the garden of a large house, on what is called the Lapa, formerly inhabited by the Duke de Cadaval, when the Royal Family of Portugal first came to Rio de Janeiro.

The manga trees (or as they are usually called by the English, "mango"), with the air-plants and parasites hanging from them, grow in great abundance in and about Rio. There is something of a scenic and theatrical cast in the views near Rio de Janeiro, and in the enamelled brightness of the atmosphere, that makes them look more like the composition of an artist of lively imagination for the illustration of an opera or ballet, "à grand spectacle," than a mere actual landscape; and the more faithful the drawing and colouring is to nature in this country, the more such an impression is produced.*

* In the description of Plate No. II, allusion is made to the alteration that foreign proper names undergo in the language of English seamen.

A general rule of their dialect is to change the final *a* into *o*.

As many words in the languages of Southern Europe end in *o*, they probably think it best to adopt that letter as the uniform vowel termination.

Thus *manga* becomes *mango* (and this has become the usual English name of the fruit), and even *Gloria* is constantly transformed by the sailors into *Glorio*.

A still more startling improvement was adopted by one boat's crew that I had frequent opportunities of hearing: they called the place *Glory hole*.

The process by which they arrived at this appellation was very regular, and analogous to the figure known as the "Paragoge;" although I cannot say that to my knowledge they appeal to classical authority for their "alteration of the last syllable." First, by their general rule adopting the final *o*; then the national predilection of the people in many parts of England for putting an *h* before every vowel that has no legitimate right to the *spiritus asper*, or aspirate; and, lastly, some vague notion that the designation applied to the little inlet or creek, rather than to the church above, satisfied them of the propriety, as well as euphony, of the name "Glory-hole."—W. G. O.

PLATE, No. XV.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

CHACRA OF MANGUEIRAS.*

ON the road between the city proper of Rio de Janeiro and the little bay of Botafogo, is the villa of Mangueiras, so called from the avenue of manga trees (or Anglicé, mango or mangoe), leading to it. This house was inhabited for several years by Mr W. Gore Ouseley, while her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Brazil.

It was subsequently occupied by Prince Adalbert of Prussia, during his stay at Rio de Janeiro; and by the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ellis, when sent on a special mission to the Court of Brazil.

This house is a good specimen of the "chacra" or suburban villa of Brazil. It commands a beautiful view of the harbour and town, yet has preserved the quiet and privacy of the country, although in fact much nearer to the city than many of the houses occupied by members of the Corps Diplomatique, the Government, the foreign merchants, and others.

* This Plate does not fully represent the abundant foliage and thick growth of wood, large and small, with which this house is surrounded. Owing to my absence from England while these drawings were preparing for publication, some inaccuracies occur in this and other Plates.—W. G. O.

The Mangueiras was built* by an Italian architect. The whole front is occupied by a gallery of about eighty feet in length, and the house being situated on the projecting face of a hill, has all the benefit of the sea breeze during the day, and of the land breeze in the evening.

The garden was luxuriantly planted with several different sorts of oranges† and lemons, bananas, pomegranates, palm trees, and a vast variety of shrubs and vegetables, peculiar to Brazil; it also possessed, besides the universal coffee-plant, in great profusion, specimens of the tea-plant, cloves, cinnamon, and other spices; arrowroot, mandioca (from which tapioca is made), and many fruits and plants of Chinese and Indian origin, all of which thrive well in Brazil.

* The wood in general use in Rio de Janeiro and other parts of Brazil is very hard and heavy. It is a species of iron-wood, and possesses so far the properties of the metal from which it is named, that it sinks in water, and is not easily consumed by fire. A great advantage resulting from this latter quality is, that very few houses are burnt in this country.

A proof of the incombustible nature of Brazil wood was afforded at this house previous to my arrival at Rio de Janeiro, when it was occupied by Baron Palencia, at that time Russian Minister to the Imperial Court. One night an attempt was made to set fire to the outside door-like shutters of one of the windows, with a view, doubtless, to getting into and robbing the apartments. In the morning was discovered a heap of still smoking combustible materials, partially consumed, applied to the outside of the shutter, the planks of which were little injured, although their surface was charred, as the fire had been in actual contact with the wood probably for some hours.

† There were six or seven different varieties of the orange, among others a pear-shaped orange that I never saw elsewhere.—W. G. O.

PLATE, No. XVI.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

ENTRANCE OF HARBOUR FROM THE
HEIGHTS OF LARANJEIRAS.

To the right on the road from the city to the bay and suburb of Botafogo is the district called Laranjeiras (or the "Orangery"). A good view of the entrance of the harbour and the back of the house of Mangueiras (see preceding Plate, No. 15), is obtained from this position.

Plantations of coffee, oranges, tamarinds, and mangas, occupy the fertile soil of the valley below.

The Laranjeiras road is one of those that lead to the ascent of the Corcovado. It follows the winding course of a mountain brook, and the scenery is varied and beautiful. On either side are country houses, cottages, gardens, and "chacras" or villas, in their enclosed grounds.

An intelligent naturalist employed by the King of Denmark to collect entomological and botanical specimens, mentioned that in a morning walk before breakfast, he procured with little trouble on this road a great number of plants and insects, either quite new, or of varieties previously unknown in Europe. This

wonderful richness in natural productions renders Brazil particularly interesting to the scientific. A traveller fond of the study of botany, mineralogy, geology, or general natural history, finds never-failing interest and occupation in his researches throughout Brazil, and especially in the province of Rio de Janeiro. Medicinal plants, such as sarsaparilla, ipecacuhana, bark, gums, and resinous trees, in great abundance, and pepper of all sorts, as also the *palma Christi* (from which castor oil is produced) and other oleaginous plants, are here very common.

PLATE, No. XVII.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

SUGAR-LOAF ROCK.

FROM the "Caminho Velho" or old road, leading to Botafogo, and commonly called by English residents "the Green Lane," this view of the "Pao de Assucar" is taken.

This singular rock is visible from most of the environs of Rio de Janeiro, and especially from the seaward approach. Navigators, except on rare occasions when they mistake for it a similar rock a few miles to the west, called the "False Sugar-loaf," find it an excellent guide in making the harbour. It is not correct to call it a 'mountain,' for although about a thousand feet in perpendicular height, it is in fact a single enormous stone, a block of granite, with no wood, and little vegetation, except at and around its base. A few stunted trees are visible at the summit, and in the crevices of the rock, are, as usual in Brazil, many specimens of the orchis tribe, the cactus, &c. At a little distance, however, the rock seems perfectly bare, and to all appearance inaccessible.

Strange stories are, or were current, of its being the resort of huge serpents and reptiles, that pre-

vented all approach to its summit, and that even those who were willing to risk the difficulties and evident dangers of its rugged and nearly perpendicular ascent, had been deterred by the fear of these guardians of the Sugar-loaf. However, actual experiment in this, as in many other instances completely destroyed, not the adventurous climbers, but the favourite theory on this subject, of the negroes and other lovers of the marvellous.

Some years ago a young naval officer of one of the foreign squadrons not only ascended to the summit, but planted there the flag of his nation.

The Brazilians are extremely sensitive respecting any act that may be construed into an attack or slight on their sovereign independence. They were even more so at that period than at present, for it was early in the reign of the late Emperor Don Pedro I, when that independence had only just been declared. The scandal caused by the audacious act soon reached the Emperor, therefore, in the form of indignant demands for some condign punishment of the daring middy, as a satisfaction for what was interpreted as a national outrage. It was impossible, even had it been wished, to conceal from the public an act of which the outward manifestation was fluttering in sight from all parts of the bay for several days. Don Pedro, however, contented himself with merely requiring that the same young officer who had hoisted his colours on the Sugar-loaf should again ascend the rock and bring down the flag, after substituting that

of Brazil ; and it must be admitted that the punishment, if regarded as such by the delinquent, could neither be considered as of extreme severity nor as inappropriate to the reputed offence. Perhaps he merited a severer punishment for destroying the legendary and respectable monsters of the Pao de Assucar.

A few years ago the same feat was performed by one of the gentlemen attached to the British Legation, who, with some English seamen, gained the summit of the rock, abstaining, however, from hoisting any national colours, satisfied by signalling his successful attempt by lighting a fire there during the night, and leaving a white flag, or cloth, which remained visible for a length of time afterwards; nor did he meet with any opposition from the dragons supposed to have previously held undisputed watch and ward over the Pao de Assucar.

The ascent is, however, sufficiently difficult and dangerous to deter any one from attempting it, except those who take a pleasure in risking their lives for the somewhat sterile reward of having to say that they have done so ; but the descent is described as terrific even to the most practised climbers.

PLATE, No. XVIII.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

BOTAFOGO BAY.

ABOUT two or three miles from what may be called the "city," or commercial part of Rio de Janeiro, is the little Bay of Botafogo, opening into the outer harbour, at the back of the Sugar-loaf.

The Corcovado mountain is here, as elsewhere in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, a striking feature. Its precipitous side is towards the sea; but, perhaps, the most remarkable of all the mountains near the capital of Brazil is the Gavia, the hill with a flattened summit, sometimes called by the English the Table Mountain. It is the only hill of that obtuse shape along the whole range on this coast. The word "gavia" means the square topsail of a vessel, which this mountain is supposed, on a large scale, to resemble.

It seems evident that the Gavia was once, like the Corcovado, an obelisk-shaped mountain, probably sending up towards the clouds a pinnacle even higher than that of its neighbour. The greater height and a more narrow base were doubtless the causes of its being toppled down, and meeting the common doom

of "lofty pinnacles, or cloud-capped towers," rather sooner than its rival, but less aspiring heights, in some crash of ancient worlds.

It appears to have been broken short off, probably less than half-way to its summit. At one part of the base there has evidently been a fall of immense rocks and earth, which are heaped up against its side, forming a sort of buttress-like acclivity, that is doubtless the wreck of its former peak. This is now so covered with vegetation and forest, that it is only from certain commanding points of view that it strikes the spectator.

The Gavia is reputed to be inaccessible; at least, it has not yet, as far as can be ascertained, been ascended. Seen from the surrounding heights it would appear to form a table-land, well covered with trees and vegetation. It is asserted that deer have been seen, by the aid of a telescope, on the summit. This is probably a mistake. Possibly other quadrupeds, especially those able to climb, as ounces, or jaguars, and monkeys, are its inhabitants.

The "False Sugar-loaf" referred to in the description of the preceding Plate is next towards the left. Between this mountain and the Gavia lie the Botanic Gardens, well worth a visit. At about four miles from Botafogo, and along its beach, the road that leads from the town to the Gardens passes through a very pretty and varied country.

At the extreme left is an excellent bathing-place, that was much resorted to by Don Pedro I, the late

Emperor of Brazil. The buildings on the right in the foreground are part of the outhouses and offices of a "palacete," or pavilion, formerly occupied by his Imperial Majesty.

This villa was at one time the residence of the late Sir Robert Gordon, when her Majesty's Envoy at Rio de Janeiro. Subsequently it was for some time inhabited by the family of Count Reventlow,* now Danish Envoy in England, then charged with the Legation of his country at the Brazilian Court. The Marquis of Barbacena afterwards lived there.

This very beautiful bay, to whose picturesque

* While these pages were in course of publication, accounts reached London of the sudden death of Count Reventlow. The press of this country has but done justice to the high character of the late Danish Minister, and echoed the sentiments of respect and esteem that he universally inspired, now mingled with those of regret for his loss.

His public conduct and private worth are too well known and appreciated in his own country, and at this Court, as well as at others, where he so well sustained the dignity of his Sovereign and the interests of his country, to need any mention here.

I cannot, however, refrain from adding a few words of sincere tribute to the memory of the lamented Count Reventlow, as one for whom, during some time as a colleague, and for many years as an honoured and kind friend, I entertained the strongest feelings of esteem and regard. I enjoyed while we resided at Rio de Janeiro, and during excursions together to the interior, opportunities of becoming more intimately aware of his excellent qualities, honourable principles, and kind disposition than are afforded by the usual intercourse at European capitals, and therefore have I the greater reason deeply to sympathise with those whom he has left to deplore his loss.—W. G. O.

shores it would require an excellent artist to do justice, is the favourite situation for the villas and *quasi* country residences of many of the first people of the capital. The late Marquis of Palmas; Mr Hamilton Hamilton, former British Envoy in Brazil; Sir Arthur Aston; Lord Ponsonby, and many others have occupied at different times some of the numerous large and prettily situated houses by which the bay is almost surrounded.

The city, however, has of late years spread so rapidly in this direction that its rural character is in danger of disappearing.

The macadamization of the road from the city has doubtless greatly contributed to people this neighbourhood, and to induce proprietors to build houses, which, however easy of access now, were not so when the sketch from which this Plate is prepared was made. Carriages could then with difficulty force their way through the deep sand, or else, in the rainy season, were not unfrequently in danger of being engulfed in the hollows and quagmires between the town and Bay of Botafogo. *On a changé tout cela.* Omnibuses with four mules are established in all directions, and a variety of European equipages pass rapidly along the well-constructed road, nearly superseding the formerly universal "seja," or two-wheeled chaise, more respectable from antiquity of design than remarkable for grace or convenience.

The bay abounds with fish, and is an excellent little haven for yachts and pleasure boats, as from its shel-

tered position it is rarely much disturbed even by the heaviest gales. Its gradually shelving sands make it an excellent bathing-place for ladies, and little tents fixed temporarily on the beach supply the place of machines. Whole families may often be seen during the hot season enjoying the invigorating and safe bathing afforded by this little bay.*

* The harbour of Rio de Janeiro abounds with sharks; yet although people are constantly bathing at all seasons and hours, I never heard during my residence there of any fatal accident from these voracious fish, nor, indeed, of their ever attacking man, woman, or child.

The ships' companies of the men-of-war, and other vessels in harbour, frequently bathe at their anchorage, as well as elsewhere in the bay, but are never molested by them. Far from attributing this forbearance to any peculiar mildness of disposition of the Brazilian shark, they are well known to be very dangerous to swimmers outside the harbour. I was myself warned to discontinue bathing on the ocean beach, or from a boat, *outside* the Sugar-loaf, where I fancied that the sea-water was purer and more bracing. The sharks there are of the same species as those inside the harbour; the only difference is said to be their greater size, and that they are notorious anthropophagi.

The harmlessness of the shark near the town is merely an affair of appetite. Like the "happy families," composed of the most naturally hostile animals, domesticated in the same cage, the shark, amply fed by the refuse and offal thrown from the public *abattoirs*, or slaughter-houses (which are all situated on the beach in different parts of the harbour), is indifferent to the human prey that elsewhere he seizes with such avidity. I heard it suggested by a naval officer, that possibly these "sea lawyers," as Jack disrespectfully calls them, considering that they are not within their own jurisdiction, but in that of their colleagues on shore, are reluctant to take, or get into, any trouble by attempting to enforce their peculiar act of *habeas corpus* within the harbour.

But it is not only at or near the *abattoirs* that the sharks observe this forbearance. The professional delicacy, I presume, of these sea lawyers induces them not to violate their "rules of court" in any part of the bay. Of this I have had personal experience when bathing at some distance from the city, more especially on one occasion, when in company with the chaplain and one of the gentlemen attached to the Legation.

I had swam out to some distance, when loud confused cries called my attention to the shore. Looking back I saw our respected pastor and his companion rushing to the beach, with that peculiar high action and prancing step that one is forced to adopt when trying to run fast through water about knee deep, giving the effect of an attempted imitation of certain negro dances.

Their gestures and exclamations, however, directed my attention seaward, and there I perceived very distinctly, at about fifteen or twenty yards beyond me, the well known pointed black fin that a shark, when cruising in smooth water, usually shows above the surface.

Notwithstanding my efforts to philosophise and calmly to convince myself that it was very unlikely that a sea lawyer, evidently of respectable size and age, should disregard in *my favour* a rule of such long standing as that by which we had hitherto been permitted to swim about unmolested, or that he could forget the legal maxim, *sancta est persona legati*, and make a meal of my privileged person, I found myself instinctively and hastily turning towards the shore, my head twisted back over my shoulder to observe the movements of the dorsal fin, while I was making way as fast as consistent with *muffled* swimming (to avoid any splashing in the sea, which always excites the curiosity of this fish), and for some reason or other going ahead through the water much faster than usual, albeit much embarrassed by an uncontrollable fit of laughter which seized me on observing the bathers, after gaining the beach, continue their scramble up the hill beyond it, and into the very brushwood, evidently suffering occasionally from sharp stones or thorns, but deeming such annoyances unworthy of consideration while a sea monster was actually at their heels, and, as they seemed to think, leaving his own element in their pursuit.

However, the shark did not follow them up the bank, nor even

pay me the slightest attention, a neglect I readily excused. I followed (only with my eye) the course of the owner of the black fin, who continued a harmless and steady coasting voyage, parallel with the shore, until we saw him no more. Yet I thought I remarked that afterwards that part of the bay ceased to be as favourite a spot for bathing as it was before this incident.

W. G. O.

PLATE, No. XIX.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

SERRA DOS ORGÃOS, OR ORGAN MOUNTAINS;
CABEÇA DO FRAILE.

THE "Cabeça do Fraile," or Friar's Head, is a lofty mountain or rock, of singular shape, that from several points of view is certainly not unlike the head of a friar or monk with his hood thrown back. It is at least as appropriately named as the range of mountains to which it belongs, and whose columnar and obelisk-like pinnacles (of which some specimens are given in the Plate, to the left) are supposed to resemble the pipes of an organ.

The Cabeça do Fraile is, like those so-called "organ pipes," a monolithic mountain, crowned by a large round rock, forming the head of the friar, evidently a separate stone balanced on the apex of the larger rock by some singular accident of nature. Possibly it is a gigantic specimen of the rocking or Loggan stones found elsewhere. But, unless by the aid of a balloon, it will not be possible to verify any conjecture on the subject: it is on all sides utterly inaccessible. So of course are the columnar rocks in the neighbourhood.

The bases of these curious masses of granite are, according to a rough calculation (made, however, from data furnished by scientific travellers respecting this and other parts of this range of mountains), about 3,500 feet above the level of the sea. Their summits are probably from 1,000 to 1,500 feet higher.

The loftiest of this range is the conical mountain in the distance, like those called in other countries Sugar-loaf (although not like the Pão d'Assucar), about 7,000 feet, possibly a little more, above the sea. This monarch of the Organ Mountains, like other really great personages occupying the highest places, is, as becomes his exalted position, much more easy of access than his aspiring satellites. It has been ascended more than once, and the view of the Bay and City of Rio de Janeiro and the surrounding country to an immense distance, is described as wonderfully fine, and even such as to compensate for the difficulty, fatigue, and danger that must be encountered in reaching its summit.

Without a guide there is much risk, not only of losing one's way, but of being lost oneself. The depths of the forest are so completely shut in by the enormous trees forming a sort of continuous roofing for miles, that the exact position of the sun, otherwise a guide in these woods, is with difficulty to be discovered, while the dense growth of underwood, bamboos, gigantic canes of all sorts, *lianes* or parasitical plants forming a net-work, rendered still more impenetrable by the huge thorns with which some of

the plants are armed, quite forbid any progress, unless provided with means of cutting a path as one proceeds, for which purpose the negro guides are armed with heavy cutlasses, or axes, "machetes."

The bewildering effect (referring more especially to Europeans) of finding oneself in the midst of these solitudes in the "matto virgem," or virgin forests of Brazil, can scarcely be conceived by those who have not attempted solitary rambles among them. Here, as in the recent settlements of Canada, or in the western parts of the United States, it not unfrequently happens that a fatal termination attends such attempts to explore the woods without a guide, or with no long experience of the backwoods. People have thus perished by starvation and fatigue within a very short distance from the house or settlement they were seeking, after wandering for days, probably in a circle, while fancying that they were steadily advancing in one direction.

In Brazil the difficulties and risk are enhanced by the thicker growth of the underwoods, the absence of certain signs and marks resulting from the effects of the sun, or certain prevalent winds, on the growth and bark of trees. Then there are hosts of venomous ants, and other insect plagues, which, although not unknown in North America, do not there attain such perfection in their means of annoyance. A negro guide, in order to prove the tenacity of purpose of a large species of black ant, showed one of them to an English explorer of these mountains, holding it cau-

tiously, much as a fisherman does a live crab or lobster, to the network of the instrument used for catching butterflies and other insects. The ant seized it with its forceps, and, while the negro tore asunder every limb and separate part of the unfortunate insect, held on like a bulldog, until nothing was left but the head, which retained its hold to the last.

Ounces, here called "tigers," lynxes, the jaguar, puma, and other varieties of the feline animals, large and small, inhabit these woods, and, although they generally avoid mankind, and are difficult to trace so as to get a shot at them, yet, if wounded, or met with by single travellers during the night, unprepared for encountering them, or subdued by fatigue or sleep, they are formidable neighbours.

Even at the "Casa Grande," or great house, as the building in the Plate is (by comparison, and as being then the residence of the proprietor of the surrounding estate) called, these tigers sometimes venture to attack cattle or sheep.

One night an ounce of large size carried off a bullock, although in an outhouse or pen surrounded with palisades some feet high, over which he had evidently been carried bodily, as a cat would run off with a rabbit or large rat. There are two sorts of ounces, the spotted ounce, a species of leopard, and the tawny unmarked animal of the same genus, often called a lion in Brazil. Its colour in fact very much resembles that of the lion which, judging by the skins of some of them, it often equals in size.

Here are, also, venemous snakes and serpents in considerable numbers. But fatal bites from these reptiles are much less frequent than may be imagined, for snakes almost always seek to avoid rather than to attack the traveller.

Of harmless animals, many of which are used as food, there are a great variety. Thus monkeys,* deer, wild boars, and many different sorts of swine, racoons, sloths, aquatic and amphibious animals, from the water-rat and [a sort of] otter to the tapiir, and numerous others abound. The "anta," or tapiir, is common here on the borders of streams. It is harmless, except that it occasionally commits havoc in the plantations of maize or other vegetables; therefore, and from the usual love of destruction common to the genus hunter, it is killed when met with. It is, although not very large, a very powerful animal. It has been known, when lassoed by two hunters, one of them on horseback, to drag man and horse after him at a great rate, until they were glad to let him, for the time, escape. It is amphibious, and the good quality of the leather made from its skin, and its being impervious to water, are attributed to this circumstance. Its flesh is sometimes eaten, and is said to partake of the flavour both of beef and pork.

* Both the monkey and its counterpart among the feathered tribe—the parrot—are considered fair game, and shot and eaten without remorse by Indians and the lower classes in the interior of Brazil.—W. G. O.

Among the birds that frequent the mountains are several very excellent species of game, some resembling the pheasant, others something between the wild turkey and the blackcock, a sort of partridge or quail, &c.

PLATE, No. XX.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

SERRA DE ESTRELLA.—FALLS OF
ITAMARITY.

THIS cataract consists in fact of a succession of three waterfalls, subsiding into rapids, and then continuing its course as a turbulent rocky brook, working its way among the hills of the Serra de Estrella. The falls of Itamarity are not near any high road, and have been seldom visited by Europeans.*

It is not possible to obtain a general view of all the falls. That in the Plate is taken from an insulated rock, standing opposite the second fall. The first fall has worked a basin in the rock, as in other similar sites, and, as usual, it is asserted by the natives to be of vast or fathomless depth. Below the isolated rock is a third fall of considerable size; but the rich and thick vegetation prevents much of it from being seen. On the morning that this sketch was taken, when a party visited the Falls, some

* At least when this sketch was made. The foundation and increase of Petropolis may have since then brought these Falls more into notice.

negroes were sent on beforehand to cut away the underwood and parasites, and to fell trees in order to *improviser* a bridge for the nonce.

The ligatures used in fastening the trees, and the sort of parapet railing were made of the lianes or parasitical plants from the surrounding trees. They hang from the highest branches like ropes of various sizes, some little larger than whipcord, others of the circumference of a large cable ; indeed, they are often thicker than a man's body, and frequently form spiral and intricate knots, like the writhings of gigantic serpents, à la Laocoon.

The profuse variety of growth and rapid vegetation in this part of Brazil is scarcely credible to Europeans. A very few weeks, or rather days, after this path had been opened, and the bridge constructed to enable the party to visit these Falls, strangers might have passed close to them, only made aware of their proximity by the loud roar of the falling waters, the hoarse sound of which, deadened and rendered deceptive by the close growth of the forest, would be but an indifferent guide, and hardly enable them to find any approach by which to obtain a view of the Falls.*

The negroes and country people have alarming

* I had myself great difficulty in finding and forcing my way back to this waterfall alone, only some days after our visit, to facilitate which the "matto" or jungle had been cut into a very tolerable path. During the short interval the vegetation had again completely masked its approach.—W. G. O.

stories or traditions respecting vast crocodiles, differing from the common sort in their nature and habits, and, unlike the alligators of the rivers emptying themselves directly into the Bay of Rio de Janeiro, at the foot of these mountains. They are said to be infinitely larger and more voracious than their relations near the salt water. These monsters, they affirm, inhabit the deep pools formed occasionally in the course of the mountain rivers. Poisonous snakes are asserted to be often found in these waters.*

The present existence of these crocodiles seems very apocryphal; nor are serpents so often met with, even by naturalists anxious to enrich their collections, as is generally supposed.

* I cannot say that I ever was molested by either, although I was tempted to bathe frequently in these rivers and brooks, and especially in the fathomless basin at Itamarity and others, which, by contrast with the temperature of the air, are surprisingly cool, and effectually invigorate and refresh the frame when fatigued by exercise in the heat of the day. Once, where I had crossed a deep stream, a large snake, disturbed probably by my landing on the bank, took to the water, and quietly swam to the opposite side, near where my clothes were deposited.

It was not a water snake, but, as far as I could judge from having been previously shown similar snakes, a "*jararaca*," one of the most poisonous species of serpents found in Brazil.

Although its movements in the water were very graceful, I watched them with feelings of singular dissatisfaction; nor was it without great reluctance and considerable delay, that I at length decided on returning whence I came, by no means desirous of making more intimate acquaintance with such "Companions of the Bath."—W. G. O.

The name of these Falls, "Itamariti," or "Itamarity," signifies in the Indian language (probably that of the Guarani tribe) "the shining stones," or "the rock that shines," doubtless so called from the glittering appearance of the large mass of rock, the face of which is worn smooth by the water. "Ita" means stone or rock.

The old road over the Serra de Estrella, constructed when Brazil was a colony of Portugal, was, although much too steep according to modern ideas of engineering, infinitely better than the track dignified with the name of road, formerly leading to the Serra dos Orgãos. Being paved, it was at least safe and practicable.

But the road recently opened to these heights is on vastly improved principles, and on a scale thought even unnecessarily large. The foundation and progress, however, of the new city of Petropolis, situated at the height of about 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, on this route, has doubtless called for the construction of a road wider and more convenient than those hitherto made in this part of the country.

The Emperor has built a summer residence here, near the highest part of the road, and the Court and many of the wealthier citizens of Rio de Janeiro have followed the example, encouraged by his Imperial Majesty's liberal allotment of land for dwelling-houses, hotels, &c.*

* The idea of founding this mountain city as a retreat during

The temperature and climate are delightful, and the annual removal to this and the other Serras is sufficient to restore to health those who have suffered from the enervating heats of the summer in the low lands around the capital. European invalids especially derive great benefit during convalescence from a few weeks' stay in these picturesque mountains. Many foreigners, particularly Germans, have settled at or near this city.

To the naturalist, and more particularly to the entomologist and botanist, a sojourn in these Serras affords endless interest and employment. A railroad is now in construction, and about to be opened, from Rio de Janeiro to the foot of the hills, which promises great advantages to the new settlement.

the great heats originated, I believe, with the late Emperor, Don Pedro I, who made grants of land, absolutely or conditionally, to different noblemen of his Court. He was not enabled, however, to carry into effect either his plan for a city, or the construction of a new road to and through the mountains. To the reigning Emperor belongs the credit of practically calling into existence this thriving and healthy settlement, of which the success is now, I trust, beyond a doubt.

Petropolis may now be regarded as like the Royal Sitios in Spain,—Aranjuez, La Granja, &c., to which the Court regularly removes at certain seasons.—W. G. O.

VIGNETTE.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

SERRA DE ESTRELLA.

THIS sketch is taken on a mountain stream in the Serra de Estrella, some miles beyond Petropolis, near the principal route leading to the province of "Minas Geraes," the gold and diamond district of Brazil, and, where, after passing the first chain of hills, you descend into a valley, along the bottom of which, as in most of the other valleys that intersect these mountains, a brook winds its way, occasionally broken into rocky cascades, or widening considerably where flats or table lands occur, and sometimes forming pools of great depth where rocks or fallen trees make a natural dam in its course.

The brook was swollen by heavy rains at the time the sketch was made, and consequently appears less broken than when in its ordinary state. The boys use their baskets for catching small fish in places where the water rushes through very narrow channels between the rocks.

PLATE, No. XXI.

LA PLATA.

MONTE VIDEO.

THIS city, the capital of the "Banda Oriental" (eastern shore or bank), or, as it is more formally designated, the "Republic of the Uruguay," is situated on the left bank of the River Plate, but, in fact, is a seaport, the river being here above 120 miles across, although this capital is about 100 miles from the ocean. Yet even near Monte Video, after the prevalence of certain winds, the water is not too salt for drinking in case of necessity.

This vast body of fresh water brings, especially after floods, immense quantities of earth, sand, &c., forming continual deposits, gradually filling up this and other harbours in La Plata, and diminishing the depth of water in many places. For instance, in the harbour of Monte Video, the best in the river, formerly large vessels of war, then called frigates (during the Spanish Colonial Government), used to lie quite close to the wharves in the inner part of the harbour, where none but merchant vessels, and those not of the largest size, now find sufficient depth.

This gradual accumulation of alluvial deposit

might easily be prevented in this harbour by the use of excavating and dredging machines. They were, in fact, successfully tried some years ago, but the invasion of the country and the siege of its capital, which has now lasted above nine years, have forced the Government to employ all its resources in self-defence, and this, like many other useful measures, has been suspended.

Monte Video is very advantageously situated for commercial purposes. Its harbour, excepting during certain winds and violent gales, is good, and the inner basin well sheltered. During the few years of peace that this country has enjoyed since its independence was declared, the population has increased from about 12,000 to 40,000 or 50,000.

The city proper, formerly not extending beyond the citadel (now converted into a market place), rapidly spread, and handsome buildings and streets were constructed extending as far as the present inner (formerly the outer) lines of the fortification, enlarging the area of the city to several times its previous size. Beyond the lines were built villas and "saladeros" (establishments for slaughtering cattle and preparing hides and tallow), while pretty and sometimes spacious suburban dwellings, surrounded by well-cultivated gardens, extended to a considerable distance beyond the outer walls.*

* This rapid increase in population and wealth, unusual in the capital of a Spanish American republic, was not attributable solely to the local advantages of its position. The liberal spirit in which

The cathedral, of which the double towers appear towards the centre of the Plate, is a remarkably fine building, both externally and in its internal decoration. "The Mount," or "Cerro," from which Monte Video is supposed to take its name, appears in the

the constitution of this State is conceived greatly encouraged the influx and ultimate naturalization of foreigners. Imitating the system of the United States, it facilitated the acquirement of the rights and privileges of native citizens by emigrants from foreign countries, and even surpasses in this respect the wise provisions of that system, so advantageous for a new and thinly-peopled country, and so successfully adopted by North America. Foreign merchants brought their business and capital to Monte Video, while hard-working Basques, Germans, Irish, French, and Italians (chiefly Genoese) flocked to this city, and in most instances obtained the rights of denizens or citizens. Residence, marriage with a native, the acquisition of a certain amount of property, real or personal, are among the conditions conferring citizenship. This privilege may appear to have been somewhat easily granted, but it must be recollected that no "Oriental" citizen existed previous to 1828, when the independence of the Banda Oriental was first declared, consequently there has not been time for the development of any very jealous feeling of exclusive national rights, as possessed by one race only in the Republic of the Uruguay. It is for these reasons that so many foreigners flocked to the Banda Oriental, and settled in the interior as well as in the towns, and hence the rapid increase of Monte Video in trade and population, which even the invasion and siege of its capital has not sufficed to reduce to the level of their former comparative insignificance.

Having also the advantage of being nearer by about a hundred miles (of somewhat difficult navigation on account of sand banks) than Buenos Ayres to the sea, and that of possessing a far better harbour, it is more frequented than any other port in La Plata by foreign vessels, whenever intervals of peace allow, or protection is afforded to the coasting and other trading vessels from the upper parts of the river and its tributaries.

distance to the left of the cathedral; between the city and the "Cerro," or mount, lies the harbour of Monte Video. On the summit of the "Cerro" is a fortress commanding the bay, and on the opposite, or city side, are batteries and redoubts well placed for defence from an attack by sea.

The usual station for men-of-war is the extreme left, and near the rocks on the shore opposite their anchorage stands the English Church.*

The necessities of self-defence have converted part of the cemetery (from whence this view is taken) into a military post, as also houses, saladeros, and churches. Private property was in many instances cheerfully sacrificed, or voluntarily given for the defence of the town by its inhabitants.

The Buenos Ayrean besieging forces occupy the more distant suburbs, and avail themselves of the cover afforded by gardens, pavilions, and deserted villas to establish their outposts, and occasionally to mask guns with which to annoy the inhabitants;† for these batteries are not, either by position or strength, sufficient to decide the contest or even seriously to damage the defences.

* This church was erected, and, together with the ground on which it stands, presented to the British congregation, by Mr Samuel Lafone, an English merchant and capitalist of high standing resident at Monte Video. This munificent donation, valued at several thousand pounds, was given without reserve or the slightest remuneration.

† See note in Appendix.

The head-quarters of the besieging army, composed almost wholly of Buenos Ayrean troops, with some Basques, and a few Orientales,* are, or were, at the "Cerrito," a hill towards the right of the Plate.

* While these sheets were in press accounts reached England of the liberation of Monte Video from the invasion and siege commenced nearly ten years before.

PLATE, No. XXII.

LA PLATA.

BUENOS AYRES—QUINTA.

THE house of which this is a sketch was occupied successively by three British Ministers at Buenos Ayres, Mr H. Hamilton, Mr Mandeville, and Mr W. Gore Ouseley.

It is situated in the suburb of the city, and stands in a pretty garden and pleasure grounds, occupying above nine acres. This sketch was taken while a squall was coming on, the probable precursor of a "Pampero" or gale blowing over the *Pampas* plains that stretch out to the foot of the Andes. These storms come on very suddenly, so that not unfrequently while one part of the landscape is still basking in calm sunshine, the rest is shrouded in a dark veil almost intercepting the light of day, while black clouds are impetuously swept onwards by the advancing gale, discharging in their course torrents of rain, until in a short time the whole of the horizon is alike invaded by the Pampero. Vessels in the river and along the coast of course often suffer severely from these gales, which last generally for three days. Even experienced pilots and mariners have but short

warning of their approach ; at certain seasons of the year particularly great vigilance is necessary to guard against their sudden violence.

The soil is, like most alluvial deposits, fertile, and not a stone is to be found for many miles around Buenos Ayres, excepting those brought from a distance,* chiefly from the Island of Martin Garcia, for the purposes of building, paving, &c. On the right is the sandy beach of the river, which even at this distance from the sea is thirty miles across. On the opposite coast lies Colonia, next to Monte Video the chief town in the state of Uruguay. Along these sands, which are used as a road, groups of cattle are driven to the town, and the "Gauchos," or country-

* Great stones, or masses of rock, sometimes called boulders, are occasionally found on the vast plains of the Pampas, although the soil generally from Buenos Ayres to the foot of the Andes is devoid of stones and entirely alluvial. The existence, therefore, however rare, of these isolated lumps of rock has hitherto been a subject of puzzling conjecture.

It seems to me that the glacial theory fully accounts for, and explains the means by which, these 'boulders' were thrown on the places they now occupy, and that this is the only satisfactory solution of the problem they present.

The waters of the Parana and Uruguay have a petrifying quality. Branches and trunks of trees are often found in the bed of these rivers in a petrified state. Some specimens were brought to me from the Uruguay of large masses of timber, petrified and not unlike the stone of the rock of Gibraltar in colour and variety of tint. This petrification is, however, much harder, and capable of taking a high polish, showing distinctly the original veins and knots of wood.—W. G. O.

people are frequently to be seen galloping their horses, either racing or in chase of the cattle.

Neither port nor harbour, properly so called, exists at Buenos Ayres. A vessel of 300 or 400 tons cannot approach within some miles of the beach with safety or security. The anchorage, miscalled the *Harbour* of Buenos Ayres, is a mere open roadstead. Frigates that are now considered of a small class cannot approach within eight or nine miles. All goods have to be transhipped in lighters or boats, causing great delay and expense, and incurring risk of damage to the merchandize.

In order to land at Buenos Ayres from a boat bullock carts with very high wheels are used, as it is seldom that a dry landing can be otherwise effected, even from the gig of a man-of-war. On horseback it is often possible to wade out to a considerable distance, and even a carriage can sometimes be driven so as conveniently to meet boats.

In general, however, people of all ranks are embarked from these rude conveyances, or are thus carted ashore, in a manner more picturesque than either dignified or agreeable. Nor is there any resource even for ladies as elsewhere, such, for instance, as being carried on shore by the seamen. The nature of the broken ground, deep holes, &c., would infallibly add a mud bath to the other *agrémens* of the landing were it attempted.

Thus when the family of the late British Minister arrived off Buenos Ayres in 1845, great efforts were

made to land the lady of the party from a boat, as she declined very decidedly accepting the triumphal (ox) car, provided as a substitute for a gaily decorated carriage that had been sent, but had broken down, although she expressed her readiness to walk, wade, or be carried, she was ultimately obliged to exchange the "gig" for the cart, and was thus,—under protest,—jolted ashore through deep mud, over heaps of earth and through pools of water, standing up holding by the sides of the cart, and supported by the captain of the port (more at home in this conveyance), in a mode neither convenient nor imposing, although it seemed highly to amuse the midshipmen who accompanied the party.

The river abounds in excellent fish, and its water is perfectly fresh and drinkable. Here, however, as at Monte Video, the reservoirs or tanks for potable water are chiefly supplied by the rain conducted from the flat terraced roofs, as at Cadiz, Bermuda, and elsewhere. The water, when allowed to settle in the tank or reservoir, especially if large and deep, is pure and clear. In some places small tortoises, like the American "terrapins," are kept in these tanks, as they are supposed to free the water from insects and animalculæ.

PLATE, No. XXIII.

LA PLATA.

BUENOS AYRES FROM THE "AÇOTEA," OR
TERRACE OF THE QUINTA.

THE roofs of most of the houses in this part of the world are flat, and form terraces covered with a hard white lime stucco or cement; and of course the best view of the surrounding scenery is generally to be had from these "açoteas."

This sketch is taken from the terrace of the house that forms the subject of the preceding Plate (No. XXII), looking towards the town. The city of Buenos Ayres is, like Monte Video and nearly all the towns in these provinces, built on the rectangular system, the streets intersecting each other at prescribed distances and at right angles, forming what the Americans call regular "squares" or "blocks" of buildings.

It does not seem that this regularity contributes in reality either to the beauty or convenience of a town. It is monotonous, and the uniformity is certainly far less picturesque than the sort of irregularity that gives so pleasing an effect to the Boulevards of Paris, and to many parts of the

older capitals of Europe. Regent street or Piccadilly would surely gain little or nothing, if levelled and straightened by the dull rectangular rule and line adopted generally in Spanish America. The aspect of Rio de Janeiro as a town, for instance, is infinitely more striking, and a walk through the city far more interesting on account of its very irregularity and the variety of direction given to its streets, than it would be were it parallelogrammatized like Monte Video and Buenos Ayres. Moreover, they relinquish the advantages of what French artists call a "*terrein accidenté*," or the accidental occurrences of hilly or broken ground, affording commanding positions for public buildings, or favourable opportunities for obtaining a good view. All is reduced to dull uniformity in the rectangular towns. Philadelphia and other cities in the United States are sometimes reproached with this defect.

Possibly some idea of the propriety of adopting in the construction of their cities the levelling principle supposed in all things to guide a republican community, originally recommended this mode of planning cities in some of the United States.*

* It is to be feared that all the more modern parts of New York will thus afford, in a picturesque point of view, an unfavourable contrast with the lower and old districts, such as the Battery and its neighbourhood, and be condemned to straight lines, right angles, and flat surfaces, allowing the eye, and at the same time the winds and dust, an uninterrupted sweep along the streets from

Buenos Ayres contains some handsome buildings, which, as usual in Spanish and Portuguese America, are mostly of an ecclesiastical character,—churches, convents, &c. At a distance, or softened by the shades of evening, they have an imposing appearance, but a nearer approach and bright daylight show, as in Eastern towns, that the ravages of time have never been checked by proper care; that few have ever been completely finished or repaired; and most of them bear marks of utter neglect and decay.

This is especially the case with edifices constructed for charitable purposes and public buildings. Hospitals, schools, lunatic asylums, &c., are going to ruin, and whatever funds or estates may have originally been granted by private or public benefactors for the support of these institutions in Buenos Ayres, they have not of late been employed by the Government for their maintenance, as intended by the donors.

Several of the streets are paved, but on a bad principle, as the stones are neither of equal size nor properly cut; the streets therefore soon become uneven and very trying for carriages. Some are safe, however, *i. e.*, for slow coaches, but even the principle of "*chi'va piano va sano*" cannot be fol-

the four points of the compass, and offering no object to terminate the perspective by crossing what artists call the 'vanishing point' of the vista.

lowed in those that are unpaved, especially after heavy rains, for there being no stones, while the soil is fine and of great depth, deep holes, quagmires, and pools of water form in parts of them, which become actually dangerous or impassable for carriages or horses.

There are several spacious showy dwelling-houses in the city and suburbs, built very much like those often seen in Spain, except that the houses are not lofty. They generally consist of a square of building surrounding a "Patio," or quadrangular court, paved with marble, and having either a fountain or, more frequently, a drawwell in the centre. This well is placed over the centre of the great tank or reservoir for rain water, conducted from the roof of the house and from the pavement of the patio, and thus most of the large houses are supplied with water. Not unfrequently flowers, shrubs, and fruit pleasingly ornament these patios.

The buildings are generally not more than two stories high, *i. e.*, a ground floor and one over it, unless the *açoteas* or terraces are to be considered as a third, along which the whole range of a "block" of houses may, by climbing over the partitions or parapets, be traversed without descending into the streets. In times of siege, attacks by foreign enemies, or during internal struggles, these houses form temporary fortresses, admitting of formidable defence. Being solidly built, and furnished with strong gates and doors, while the windows of the lower and ground

floors are protected by strong iron bars, it is no easy matter to take a town, or even a house, built in this way, as has been sufficiently proved on more than one occasion. Artillery of course would soon destroy such defences as these houses afford; but as there are often, especially in the course of civil strife, friends as well as enemies in the buildings attacked, and as cannon balls notoriously show neither favour nor discrimination in their action, artillery is not often employed, unless when (as at Monte Video) a town is besieged by an army composed mostly of foreigners.

The very nature of the warfare carried on in these countries prevents the utter destruction that must long since have annihilated their cities and towns, were it not that the party outside generally claims, or wants to gain, possession of the place attacked, and not to destroy the property, but to oust the occupants. This serves to explain the little damage suffered by towns in South America that have been attacked, taken, and retaken a score of times in as many months.

The mode and materials of building in South America are such as to obviate in a great degree the danger of fire. Stone or brick, iron, stucco, and tiles are the chief component parts of a house; little wood is employed, except for beams, and this is generally hard and heavy, especially in Brazil, and not readily combustible. The floors, except in some houses built by foreigners, are not made of

wood but of glazed tiles, as in the south of Europe: the staircases of solid masonry.

As in Spain, the floor is covered with a smooth floor-cloth or double carpeting preparatory to a ball, the tiled floors not being convenient for dancing.

The population of the city of Buenos Ayres some years ago was said to be 80,000 or 90,000. It has, however, constantly decreased since that time, and there is a general air of decay about the place. A mole or jetty would be of the greatest use to the commerce of this town; and the foundation of one on a sufficiently large scale to promise great utility was laid many years ago, but nothing has since been done for its completion, or for the protection of the work then commenced.

PLATE, No. XXIV.*

LA PLATA.

RIVER PARANA—CAPITANIA DEL PUERTO—
CORRIENTES.

THIS drawing represents the "Capitania del Puerto," equivalent to the English term, Harbour Master's residence or office. There is, however, more of a military authority combined with the usual duties of a Captain of the Port in South America than is exercised by our Harbour Master, giving him some of the powers of a commandant. The existence of regularly organised ports of entry for foreign vessels so far up the river (and there are others much higher up the Parana and Paraguay) is not generally known.

It has been the not unnatural, but injurious, policy of the Government of Buenos Ayres to seek to monopolise the trade of the states of La Plata, and to

* This and the following Plate, No. XXV, are from sketches made by my son, Mr Wm. Charles Ouseley, who accompanied the expedition of the blockading squadron up the Parana.

W. G. O.

prevent direct intercourse between the other maritime, or rather fluvial, provinces and foreign countries.

Europeans have been in the habit of looking on Buenos Ayres and Monte Video as the sole ports fitted for foreign commerce in the states of La Plata, whereas there is no doubt that the best ports are in the river Parana itself, which affords excellent positions for depôts of produce, and for loading or discharging vessels. Many such ports exist on the banks not only of the Parana but on the rivers Uruguay and Paraguay. In the Parana there is deep water, generally from five to twenty and sometimes forty fathoms, with good anchorage.

The current runs three or four knots, often more, when floods increase the large body of water coming down from the river Paraguay and the numerous smaller rivers which empty themselves into the Parana from various quarters, and are swollen by the melting snow of the Andes.

The soil about Corrientes is sandy: trees thrive, but there is more brushwood than timber. The inhabitants, having hitherto had but little intercourse with the rest of the world, are naturally ignorant respecting Europe and its usages. Many of them know but little Spanish, using the Indian dialect, the "Guarani," which prevails more or less throughout all this part of the interior of South America, including Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Of their little knowledge of things considered as the everyday comforts or necessities of life in other

countries, an eye-witness* related a somewhat amusing proof.

"An old Scotchman, who had been settled at Corrientes for the greater part of his life, begged some coal from a British war-steamer on her way up. His sole object in making the request was to be enabled to vindicate his reputation for veracity. It seems that he had often told them that in England they had a kind of black stone that could be used as fuel, an assertion which was scouted as absurd and incredible, and he was considered as a Scotch Munchausen. He obtained the coal, however, and on the day fixed for the experiment half the town assembled, and, seated in a large circle, with their cigarritos in their mouths, watched the smoke arising from the coal with silent incredulity. It did not readily ignite, so the Dons began to shrug their shoulders and intimate their contempt for the whole affair; but when the fire blazed up a total change came over them, and it was highly amusing to witness the enthusiastic delight they evinced, shouting energetically, vivaing, &c."

He adds, speaking of the Corrientinos, "As a race the men of this country seem much finer in stature and appearance than the women, who are generally

* Mr W. Ch. Ouseley, by whom the sketches of Corrientes are furnished. Capt. McKinnon mentions the same circumstance in his account of the 'Expedition up the Parana.' I give it, however, in the words of my informant.—W. G. O.

small, fair, and delicate, and it is said that further in the interior and in Paraguay they are still more fair and northern looking."

Some travellers assert that what they call their religion is often little else than superstition, and that their morality is far from strict, but this may be a false impression, adopted on slight grounds. In dress they are perfectly innocent of any superfluity, for which the great heat is a valid reason. But whatever are their shortcomings resulting from their isolated position, they are most hospitable and kind towards strangers. "Travelling through the country one is well received at every house one rides up to; refreshment is always promptly offered, especially water melons, which are particularly grateful in these climates. Payment when offered is almost invariably declined, and never demanded."

In consequence of the gradual filling up of the Parana by alluvial deposits towards the Delta at its mouth, the navigation is much better higher up in the river than where it spreads into many small channels, emptying themselves into the upper part of the River Plate; still a vessel drawing sixteen or seventeen feet water can go over all the passes when the river is moderately high. Although during the prevalence of certain winds from the north and west there is less water, and near the island of Martin Garcia generally not more on the banks than fourteen feet.

Thus from Colonia to the Bajada, and further up

to the pass of San Juan, without any extraordinary rise in the water, a large vessel can ascend. From San Juan to Corrientes there is only a depth of thirteen feet on the worst passes, and about the same depth may be had all the way to Assumpcion, watching opportunity.

There are neither "snags" nor "sawyers,"* rocks nor other obstructions, but steamers may go at full speed up or down by keeping the right channel. In the broad parts the stream runs at the rate of about three, and in the narrow channels, four knots, or even more.

Tug-steamers could be most usefully employed. One of 200-horse power would tow a string of five or six vessels, carrying each about 100 tons, and not drawing more than six feet, at about seven knots *through the water*. At this rate they would be about ten or twelve days in getting from Colonia to Corrientes. They might return, under sail, in about half that time.

* Trunks of trees carried down by the current and fixed in the bottom, very dangerous in the Mississippi and other great rivers of North America, where they are known by these names.

These observations on the navigation of the Parana are furnished by naval officers and others, who either accompanied the expedition or had previously ascended the river to, or beyond, the capital of Paraguay, Assumpcion. To Capt. Sullivan's kindness I am more particularly indebted for information on this subject, as that officer made surveys of the river, from which the maps lately published were prepared. His well known skill as a hydro-

grapher needs no eulogy here. Unfortunately he had no opportunity of completing his survey as far as Assumpcion, for which task no one is better qualified.

Capt. Sullivan, as well as two or three other officers, became excellent pilots for the Parana, and after a comparatively short experience of the river navigation could pilot large vessels of war up and down the river, a task entirely beyond the skill of the native pilots, who, after repeated trials, proved to be utterly incompetent.

The French steamer of war 'Fulton,' commanded by Capt. Mazères, ascended the Paraguay river as high as Assumpcion, the first and hitherto the only steamer that ever proceeded so far up the river.

H. M. steamer 'Alecto' went up as high as Corrientes, but no higher.—W. G. O.

PLATE, No. XXV.

LA PLATA.

RIVER PARANA—CORRIENTES.

THE capital of the province of Corrientes, of which this is a sketch taken from the deck of a man-of-war, is not a large place. Its population has been variously estimated at 3,000, 6,000, and 8,000 inhabitants. This difference is partly accounted for by the fluctuations incident to the military system by which they have too long been oppressed. In fact, subjection to martial law has hitherto been, not the exceptional, but the normal state of these countries.

A traveller visiting one of these towns while the greater part of its male inhabitants are absent on military service as *volunteers*,* would have a very different impression as to the number of its population from that which he would receive during a time of peace and in the commercial and busy season.

Moreover, a great many of the wives and children of these men follow, as best they may, the

* The alternative to taking service being summary execution or merciless corporal punishment. Should their leader be defeated, they are often enrolled under the command of the victor, on a similar principle of voluntary enlistment.

march of the troops, so that whole districts are thus nearly depopulated by these frequent drains of their inhabitants.

The 'Gauchos,' as the country people are called, are naturally a good-natured, hardy, and courageous race. The demoralization and recklessness consequent on their being forcibly taken from useful and peaceful occupations to swell the ranks of some ambitious "caudillo" or chieftain, have of course produced much evil, inuring them to scenes of violence, bloodshed, and injustice.

It is true that they are called out and armed for the loudly-proclaimed purpose of defending "la libertad, la patria," &c., and appeals to the feelings of independence, honour, virtue, and all the high-sounding words of the sonorous language of Spain are employed by those who want their services. Here, as too generally in Spanish America, their feelings of patriotism have been so frequently invoked either to defend or attack some individual or party, that it is only surprising their characters are not more completely perverted, and that the moral devastation should not keep pace with that which has so long physically blighted these naturally fine provinces.

The resources of these states have been wasted in order to maintain a military force much too large in proportion to their population, and it has been employed either in aggression on neighbouring countries, or for the intimidation or coercion of the provinces.

themselves, to support the personal policy of the executive.

Thus their great capabilities of production have not been developed, and industrial improvement has been completely checked. The evils of such a system are even more injuriously felt in these vast and thinly inhabited regions than they might be in countries differently circumstanced.

While the "defence of pure principles of republicanism, liberty, and national independence" (which no one attacks), are the mottoes repeated *usque ad nauseam* in proclamations, public papers, manifestos, &c., and form the "Gritos" or war-cries taught to the troops, the only practical lessons that the Gaucho soldier receives from his superiors (with some honourable exceptions) are those of lawless and sanguinary abuse of power. He sees personal aggrandizement furthered by the most unscrupulous treachery and corruption, while opposition, however reasonable and just, to misrule, is put down, openly or secretly, by the knife or bullet, or by a resort to measures that, if less summary and openly atrocious, ensure by relentless and vindictive persecution the ultimate ruin of the victim.

It is to be hoped that whenever the navigation of the Parana and its tributaries is permanently opened, and the products of the vast and fertile regions through which they run can be brought to the ports and towns on its banks for shipment, the softening and civilizing effects of commerce on the

people of the interior of South America, and their direct intercourse with the rest of the world, will have here, as elsewhere, the most beneficial effects. Under present circumstances agriculture is, of course, much neglected.

The wealth of Corrientes consists chiefly in vast herds of cattle, sheep, and horses. The pasturage of the province is remarkably fine: its exports are hides, tallow, wool, hair, and some agricultural produce.

The trade which might arise with the countries in the interior through which these mighty rivers flow, were the navigation open, is beyond calculation, and its profits would soon enable the States of La Plata to pay with ease their foreign and domestic creditors, and to raise funds for internal improvements.

During the few months that the navigation of the Parana was kept open in 1845-6, two convoys, (under the admirable arrangements adopted by the distinguished officer who commanded H. M. squadron in the Parana, Commodore Sir Charles Hotham,) one consisting of upwards of one hundred vessels, laden with produce, the other of more than seventy, came down that river and the Paraguay with very little loss or damage, after having exchanged the cargoes of European or North American merchandise that they brought up for the goods with which the different depôts at Corrientes and other places were overflowing, to the value of

some millions of hard dollars. It is true that an accumulation of produce at the ports of the river then existed, caused by the interdiction of the navigation by the governing power of one of the banks of the river. But as it is the manifest interest of the different states whose natural outlet is by the River Plate and its confluent,—the Parana and Uruguay,—that internal navigation should be free, or placed, for instance, on a similar footing to that of the Rhine, it is to be hoped that before very long the governments most interested in this question, those of La Plata especially, will awaken to a sense of the vast interest they have in opening these great channels of inter-communication to the commerce of the world.

All countries would then be gainers. Those foreign states who claim a "right of way" for their vessels in virtue of their geographical position are Brazil, Bolivia, and the Republic of Paraguay.

The population of the last-mentioned state alone is considerably greater than that of all the provinces formerly called the United Provinces of the River Plate, and latterly styled the Argentine Provinces, or Confederation, put together.

That Brazil and Paraguay, as well as the Banda Oriental, or Republic of the Uruguay, will be more

* The population of Paraguay is very differently estimated by different travellers. The lowest computation of one very good authority (that of Sir Charles Hotham, who visited Assumpcion),

benefited than any other *foreign* countries by establishing the free navigation of the rivers there can be no doubt, but the greatest advantage will certainly be reaped by the Argentine Provinces themselves from so wise and salutary a measure.

is about 800,000. The highest given by others is from one million and a half to two millions. But in the latter calculation the Indians, civilised and uncivilised, are included. The population of Assumpcion, the capital of Paraguay, is about 25,000.

PLATE, No. XXVI.

LA PLATA.

PARANA—OBLIGADO.

THE pass of Obligado, on the River Parana, was the position selected for obstructing the passage of the English and French vessels employed in completing the blockade of the province of Buenos Ayres, by cutting off its communication with the provinces on the opposite bank.

A blockade of the capital only of Buenos Ayres, and of its River Plate shores would, of course, be nugatory unless enforced along the course of the Parana as far as the limits of that province extend. Reinforcements of troops, horses, artillery, and war-like stores of all sorts, would continue to be sent across the Parana into the province of Entre Rios, from whence continually to renew and supply the Buenos Ayrean army invading the Banda Oriental and besieging Monte Video. To prevent this and ultimately cause a cessation of these disastrous hostilities it was necessary to blockade the whole fluvial coast of the province of Buenos Ayres.

In order, therefore, to effect this blockade a small combined squadron of French and English vessels was detached from the force in the River Plate to

occupy the Parana, as far as the effectual enforcement of the blockade of the province of Buenos Ayres might require.

The boundary between the province of Buenos Ayres and that of Santa Fe strikes the Parana at the "*Arroyo del Medio*." This division, marked by a brook running into the river, is about thirty or forty miles above the turn in the Parana, called the "*Vuelta de Obligado*," which it was of course necessary to pass in order to reach the limits of the province.

It was determined by the Government of Buenos Ayres to prevent the combined squadron from proceeding beyond the pass of Obligado if possible. But although the preparations for defence could not but have been known to hundreds, long previous to the declaration of the blockade, as well as the fact of works being in progress for barring the passage, the construction of batteries, and placing the chain cables, vessels, &c., all of which must have occupied much time, it is remarkable that no information whatever as to the plan or real nature of the intended obstruction could be obtained either at Buenos Ayres or Monte Video.

Vague rumours did reach the admirals commanding in chief, and other officers, of preparations in progress, but some reported that vessels were sunk in the channel, others said that forts or batteries were in course of construction at every commanding point on the river; in fact, the true nature of the intended resistance was entirely unknown,

until some boats which preceded the squadron when proceeding up the river were fired upon a few miles below Obligado, at a place called San Pedro. And even then it was not believed that any serious opposition would be attempted to the advance of the blockading flotilla.

However, when once the fire had been opened by the Buenos Ayreans at Obligado it became of course necessary to return it, and the result was the general engagement that ensued.

When it is recollected that the scale on which the defences had been prepared was quite unexpected, and that the Buenos Ayrean force employed was much greater than was anticipated (amounting to about 4,000 men), while the nature of the other obstacles to be encountered was previously unknown, it will be evident that the skill and experience of the able officer who commanded the squadron were put to a severe test, and that it required his well concerted arrangements in the plan of attack and the gallantry displayed in carrying them into effect, to obtain the successful result that added to the high professional reputation of Sir Ch. Hotham, already too well known to need any tribute here. It must also be borne in mind, in order to form a just estimate of this successful engagement, that with the exception of the steamers and a corvette, the major part of the force consisted of a mere flotilla of small vessels, armed for the purpose of ascending the river, and that they were for several hours exposed at no great distance to a heavy and well-

directed fire from formidable and skilfully planned batteries.

It is, however, needless here to give any detailed description of the action that resulted in the destruction of the batteries and other defences at this place. The despatches of the commanders of the English and French squadrons, Sir Charles Hotham and Admiral Tréhouart, were published at the time, and give a clear account of the manner in which the affair was conducted, showing the skill and great gallantry manifested generally throughout this affair. A few words only of explanation are required to render the plan and sketch intelligible.

Across the pass from the Buenos Ayrean shore and batteries to the wooded island in the plan and sketch, a number of coasting vessels and river craft, chiefly Sardinian, as are most of that class of vessels in those rivers, were moored, supporting four large chain cables, solidly fastened to the shore on either side, thus presenting no trifling barrier to the passage up the river. On the right bank (*i. e.* on the Buenos Ayrean side) were constructed four batteries, of which two were close to the level of the water, and all well placed for defending the approach to the barrier of chains and boats.

On the opposite, or Entre Rios bank, above the chains, were anchored a brig of war and some gun boats, with heavy guns, out of the line of fire from the opposite batteries, but well placed for the annoyance of any attacking force.

The brig was anchored off the Entre Rios shore, near an island, between which and the main land the water was too shallow to admit of the brig and gun-boats being attacked from that side.

The batteries, four in number, mounted, according to the despatch of Gen. Mancilla, the Buenos Ayrean Commander-in-Chief, twenty-nine guns; the vessel had six mounted on one broadside, which, with field-pieces posted in the woods, made forty-two guns. The guns were well manned and served, chiefly by Europeans and North Americans, and troops to the number of about 3 or 4,000 lined the Buenos Ayrean shore.

Some of the smaller vessels were fired upon as they approached the batteries: this was of course returned, and then commenced the action, which lasted for several hours, and was kept up with much spirit by the Buenos Ayrean batteries, until the fire of some of their guns was silenced, when boats were sent to break the chains,* which service was gallantly effected under a heavy fire, and ultimately parties of English marines and seamen, (and subsequently French,) were landed, and, led by Sir Charles Hotham, succeeded in completely driving the Buenos

* This very arduous service was performed in the coolest and most effectual manner by Capt. J. Hope, of the 'Firebrand,' Mr Nicholson, with two engineers of the 'Gorgon,' and a few men, who proceeded in small boats, under a most galling fire, deliberately to break the chains with cold chisels and sledge-hammers, after an attempt to saw them had failed.

Ayreans from their guns and obliging their forces to retire, and the flotilla passed up the river.

The depth of water at Obligado is about twenty-five fathoms, in some places (and at certain seasons) much more. The stream runs at about four knots, which was of course an additional source of difficulty, especially to the sailing vessels and boats.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

Plate No. II.—Note on the Aborigines of Teneriffe.

The first Spanish accounts of the inhabitants of these islands describe them in very favourable terms. They were neither ferocious, nor without some sort of civilization. Their government and laws were mild, just, and well administered. Several native kings are mentioned as having reigned over these islands.

Traces of Christianity are said by the early Spanish writers to have been observed among them when first discovered. The rite of baptism, or at least a practice much resembling it, was general. To this some confused idea of religion or sanctity was attached, but no clear explanation of their estimate of that ceremony has been given. This traditional respect to Christian rites might be explained by the supposition that some vessel with Christians on board had been driven on the islands at a remote period, and that their endeavours to implant their religion among the aborigines might have left traces which existed when the Spaniards discovered the island.

This conjecture is not improbable, as it is positively stated that an image of the Virgin and Child was found by the early discoverers of the Canary Islands, said to have drifted on to the beach, to which the natives paid great reverence, and attributed a supernatural origin and power.

Such traditions must, however, be received with doubt. In Mexico and South America the early Spanish conquerors also found, as they thought, evident traces of Christianity. Unfortunately even this apparently valid claim to the goodwill and kindness of the fervent Roman Catholics, their conquerors, was of no more avail in the Canaries than in America.

The unfortunate inhabitants were treated here with the same cruelty and injustice that have ever disgraced the early Spanish discoverers wherever they came in contact with those whom they called savages. Sanguinary massacres, spoliation, and a wanton spirit of destruction and extermination, as cruel as it was impolitic, seem almost universally to have followed the blood-stained banner of the Spanish conquerors of "the Indies."

Plate No. VIII.—Whales in Rio Harbour.

Formerly a successful whale fishery was carried on at Rio de Janeiro, and the '*armação*,' or building and apparatus employed for cutting up the whale and obtaining oil, &c., still exists on the Praya Grande shore, opposite Rio de Janeiro. Of late years this has, as a regular business, entirely ceased; the fish have, as elsewhere, disappeared before the increase of shipping, especially since the introduction of steamers, which appear to have alarmed and driven them from the harbour and its neighbourhood.

They are sometimes, however, very numerous on the coast. I have seen them playing on the surface and throwing themselves half out of the water, all round as far as the eye could reach, from the deck of a vessel. Whales are occasionally stranded on the beach near Rio, outside the harbour.

More than once I have also seen whales in the harbour of

Rio de Janeiro playing about, spouting water high up in the air; and in these gambols they might endanger boats or small craft, although this species of whale is timid, always avoiding intentional collision with vessels or boats.

Note to Plate No. XI.—Praya Grande Braganza, &c.

It is a constant and well-known habit of English (and American) seamen, either to coin names for foreign places, or so to pronounce or alter them, that they are not easily recognisable.

Thus, there is a small island called, I believe, by the late Sir Sydney Smith, to whom it was given by the King of Portugal, Don John VI, "Braganza;" but the shore, or beach, the "Praya," to a considerable extent along the side of the bay opposite the city of Rio de Janeiro (from whence this view is taken), is called "Praia Grande." The English sailors and their officers and others call the whole of that shore of the bay the "Braganza side," doubtless from confounding the name given to Sir Sydney's grant from the Crown, "Braganza," with the words, "Praia Grande;" when rapidly pronounced, and to ears unaccustomed to the vernacular of Rio de Janeiro, there is more resemblance in the names than one would think. Indeed, when I once asked a naval officer why they called the whole shore "Braganza," he told me to listen to the boatmen whom he was hiring to take him across, affirming that they called it so; nor was it until I had asked the "patron," or head boatman, to pronounce the words slowly, that the officer was convinced of his having mistaken their rapid utterance of "Praia Grande" for the Anglo-Brazilian appellation "Braganza."

On this shore is the political capital of the province of Rio de Janeiro, that is, the provincial representatives meet,

and the local authorities reside, here, in the modern city of Nichtherohy. This recently-founded capital is called by the ancient Indian name of the whole bay and harbour of Rio de Janeiro. Its signification describes exactly the peculiar position of Rio de Janeiro, a town or settlement on a salt-water lake, the literal meaning being "inner water," or "a land-locked bay."

Nichtherohy bears as a town the same relation in size and position to Rio de Janeiro as, Southwark to London, or Brooklyn or New Jersey city, to New York. It has increased rapidly, and is apparently prosperous.

Note on the Health and Climate of Rio de Janeiro.

I have more than once alluded to the advantage of a resort to the Serras or neighbouring mountains of Rio de Janeiro, in the hot season. But although during convalescence from severe illness a removal to some climate cooler than that of the capital is essential to complete recovery, yet it must by no means be inferred that Rio de Janeiro, or Brazil generally, is unhealthy; on the contrary, were not the air very pure, and the climate naturally healthy, the careless and ill-managed system, or rather absence of any system, of scavengering, the deficiency of proper supplies of water for the purpose of clearing the houses and streets of filth, would breed a pestilence. The heavy periodical rains, and the occasional violent thunder-storms, inundate and thoroughly wash the streets from time to time, and this is very salutary. But a prolonged dry season often severely tests the salubrity of the climate. Carrion and offal are left about, often in the heart of the city, where the regular scavengers—viz., a species of vulture,*—do not often approach.

* These birds act, in the country and outskirts of the town, very efficiently in abating such nuisances.

Yet this neglect seems to produce less serious illness than it would elsewhere.

In a similar manner, and with equal impunity, I have seen the dead bodies of cats and dogs left in the streets of Madrid, where they crumble into dust unremoved, and apparently without evil consequences to the inhabitants. But then Madrid lies on an elevated plateau or table-land, more than 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and the atmosphere is consequently light and pure; whereas Rio is on the very shores of the bay, yet until lately no capital was more free from epidemic or dangerous sickness than that of Brazil.

The fever that has lately ravaged the port of Rio is one of the inflictions caused by the slave trade. It is a sort of yellow fever, previously not known in Brazil,* as remarked in a late pamphlet on the slave trade.

"For many years the healthy climate of Brazil resisted the effect of the enormous influx of Africans, and although instances occurred of frightful ravages on board the slave-ships, disease often decimating the crew as well as the negroes, nay, sometimes destroying nearly all on board, it is only of late that this great scourge has been felt by the population of Brazil on their own shores."

Note to Views in the Serras.

A stranger is sometimes startled while exploring the Brazilian forests by a loud and singular roaring, and prepares for immediate defence against some ferocious and anthropophagous animal. The sound might be mistaken for the roar of a tiger or lion. It proceeds, however, from a species of monkey endowed with an apparatus by which it inflates the

* See Mr Ouseley's 'Notes on the Slave Trade,' &c. Rodwell, 1850.

throat and cheek, thus producing these strange sounds, whether to terrify its enemies or warn its friends of approaching danger, is not clear.

Perhaps it is a trumpet-tongued protest or warning against the Indian practice in the interior of Brazil of eating members of the Quadrumanous families. Some think that this roaring howl is the monkey's mode of making a declaration to the object of its affections, to which it would certainly not be easy to turn a deaf ear, unless at a very great distance.

Flights of parrots, some of them of a diminutive green species, and very pretty, and numbers of toucans, with their brilliant plumage, abound in the woods on the Serras. Humming-birds, of great beauty and in great variety, are also numerous.

On Influence of Tropical Climate and great Fertility of Soil.

On Disposition and Habits of Natives of Brazil.

The natives of Brazil are often accused of indolence and improvidence, and their want of industrial energy is unfavourably contrasted with the hard-working habits of Northern Europeans and Americans. But let us examine and fairly compare the different positions and respective conditions of life of the English, the Belgians, New Englanders, &c., with those of Brazilians.

We might justly attribute much of the propensity to the *dolce far niente* of the Brazilians to the mere effects of climate. Even Europeans, after a year or two passed in these tropical countries, yield to the enervating influence of the temperature, and often become quite as disinclined to exertion, mental or physical, as the natives.

This I have often not only witnessed, but I must confess, personally experienced. It is not perhaps that the heats of

other, or even northern climates, are not at certain seasons as great, or greater, as, for instance, at Washington, New York, or even Quebec and Montreal, but then in Brazil, as a rule, *it is never cold*. There is in the tropics no bracing winter for weeks or months, restoring the tone and repairing the exhaustion caused by the preceding summer. The very hot season is followed by mild, warm, or wet weather. To quote the words of a naval friend, "there is nothing to set up your rigging or taughthen the ropes."

But it is not merely to the warmth of the climate that the indisposition to labour is attributable. The Brazilian has less need to work than most people, nature is so bountiful in his country. The inhabitants of the interior, with few artificial requirements, have comparatively little incentive to industry. The woods produce the banana and plantain, and many other fruits amply sufficient, with their habits, to sustain life. Water is generally abundant. Where it is less so, the Brazilian carries a joint of the large cane, a sort of bamboo, thicker than a man's arm, and two or three feet long, that holds some quarts, which he slings across his shoulders, quiver fashion. The strap or band is made of flat strips of bark of a certain tree, very tough and serviceable. A bottle, if required for milk, or other less innocent liquid, is provided by either a small hollow cane or the gourd or cocoa-nut, and a drinking cup also of similar materials. Look at that family party crossing a stream. There is a woman and a child on a mule; the child is thirsty; the dusky attendant turns to the thicket, pulls a large leaf, twists it scientifically into a cup (it looks easy, but I have tried it and got a shower bath from the throat downwards), like a "cornet à bonbons," and the child drinks out of it quite conveniently. The "carga," or load of the baggage-mule has slipped, and a cord is broken. The man whips out his knife and cuts a liane or creeper from the nearest tree, twists and prunes it

a little, and there is a serviceable rope, which soon secures the mule's load. The sun's rays strike full on that open space of road ; he pulls a leaf or two of plantain, or cuts a stem of the larger species of fern, and there is a parasol or awning over the woman and child.

A basket is crushed against a rock or tree by the mule in a narrow pass. Whilst they halt for rest or dinner, a few of the canes or reeds are cut, split, hammered, or flattened, and made into a very handy pannier, to which are transferred the contents of the disabled basket.

On approaching a town or Fazenda, when they wish to appear to advantage, instead of invoking the aid of Day and Martin's or Warren's blacking, they pluck the red flower of a shrub, the name of which I am sorry to say I forget, and bruising it, rub it on the shoes or boots of such of the party as are addicted to the use of such superfluities, and in a few minutes they are quite black. Then a few brilliant flowers, selected with a good eye for colour and adjusted with taste, are perhaps added to the toilette of the female part of the family, just as they reach the town or Fazenda.

In hauling the heaviest logs the stronger lianes are fastened to the horns of oxen, and the timber is thus dragged, sometimes on rollers, made by sawing the bole of the palm or cocoa-nut tree into proper lengths, to the road.

Fish is abundant all along the coast. A canoe is readily made from the single trunk of a tree.

Should medicine be required, there are in every village or community, experienced native doctors (grizzly old negresses or aged Indian women are preferred), skilled in simple lore, who understand extracting useful and powerful medicines from the shrubs and plants around.

Sarsaparilla is found in vast abundance on some of the small streams, and it is reported that the first knowledge by Europeans of its medical virtues was acquired by ob-

serving the Indians bathing in streams the waters of which were impregnated, and even coloured, by flowing for miles through sarsaparilla, that grows like rushes in the streams.

Finally, the palm leaves and branches furnish means of making an extemporaneous hut or shelter easily and rapidly, and the flooring is strewed as readily with aromatic herbs, said to keep off reptiles and insects. The skins of wild beasts make an excellent couch ; in a word, pages might be filled with the list of useful productions furnished spontaneously by nature in Brazil. Why, then, should a Brazilian labour ? Why should he sacrifice time, health, and contentment to establish cotton mills or stocking-web frames, a sufficiency of the products of which he can obtain at a low price from England ?

These observations apply of course to the inhabitants of the country and interior ; for in the capital the habits and requirements are much the same as in other large cities.

But besides the articles alluded to in the above remarks which nature lavishes on the Brazilians, there are many other products of the '*matto virgem*,' or virgin forest, of Brazil, that are, in their natural state, or that become, with but little manual labour, articles of wholesome food, medicine, or clothing, or are otherwise useful for various purposes.

Thus, among esculent plants, there is the cabbage palm, which produces an excellent vegetable, yams, and a species of wild potato. In addition to the well-known fruits and vegetables, such as the orange, lemon, pine-apple, melon, prickly pear, &c., there are many utterly unknown in Europe, such as the '*araça*,' the '*pitanga*,' &c. There are also many fruits in the woods to which Europeans have as yet given no name, and have forgotten the Indian designations by which they doubtless were distinguished.

It is not always safe to eat these fruits or vegetables, as some of them are poisonous. I was told, however, of a

general rule, not likely to mislead, as to those which are edible. The plants having any acid taste (prussic acid, as in the *Daphne* tribe, I presume to be excepted), may be eaten with impunity; those which are sweetish or insipid, and without acidity, are dangerous or doubtful.

Then, as respects useful articles in a household, when a floor or table is to be scrubbed, they saw a cocoa-nut with the outer husk on in two, across the grain, or in its shortest diameter. The stiff fibre answers perfectly as a scrubbing-brush; indeed, it is in common use even in town houses for this purpose.

Very little manipulation suffices to make brooms or brushes of certain palmated plants, and of a sort of reeds or grass, of rushes and canes, matting, hats, basket-work, &c., are readily fabricated. Instead of a bellows, a sort of fan, easily made from certain leaves, is used. Great bowls, or tubs, are hollowed out of a certain tree, that I only know as the '*gamela*' tree—*gamela* meaning a large bowl. I have seen them as large as two or three feet in diameter, and have used them for sponge baths. But it is needless to attempt an enumeration of all the useful articles furnished in profusion to man by the fertile soil of Brazil. The few that I have pointed out will sufficiently explain that while the mild, warm climate renders clothing, fuel, &c., comparatively of little importance, no very severe toil is requisite to procure the necessaries of life in Brazil.

But industry in Brazil suffers from another and more injurious cause. Where slavery exists, labour is dishonoured. When one class is robbed of its "fair day's wages for its fair day's work," and made to go through unremunerated toil by force, the other classes will become more or less idle and corrupted. This is inseparable from the existence of slavery in any community.

The slave, of course, will only do that portion of work to

which he is forced, and which he cannot avoid without incurring maltreatment. In this he is perfectly justified; he has no inducement to labour but that of the fear of violence and outrage (I am speaking generally). The master will, as a rule, live on the labour of the slave, and only rouse and misapply his own energies in extracting as much from his bondman as he can. From such a state of things what but evil can be expected? Slavery is the converse of what Shakespeare says of mercy, "The quality of slavery is strained"—it is the law of the strongest—"it *curseth* him that gives and him that takes." One, and not the least, of the curses it entails, is the discredit it throws on labour; nor does the evil cease even long after its origin is removed.

Thus, in the States of La Plata, where slavery has been long abolished, the habit of confounding labour with degradation and slavery leaves honest industry, and especially domestic service, still under the ban of a sort of stigma.

Seeing once a burly fellow dressed as a Gaucho leaning on a fence, and smoking his cigarito at a small quinta, or garden ground, near Monte Video, which showed evident traces of great neglect of a fertile soil, an English officer entered into conversation with the apparent owner, and asked whether the ground might not be rendered more usefully productive. "Oh! certainly," replied the man; but, shaking his head ruefully, he added, "no hay brazos"—"there are no arms," or, as they say on board ship, "hands," to work it. While saying this, he himself displayed a pair of as powerful and brawny arms spread over the fence as would, in the opinion of a European, have sufficed to cultivate the whole extent of the property. He never dreamed of the possibility of digging himself; yet the River Plate is not in the tropics, and the Gaucho will undergo the most fatiguing and violent labour and privation, accompanied with danger to life or limb, in chasing wild cattle with his lasso and

bolas, on horseback, for days together; but the other sort of work had, when slavery existed, been exclusively assigned to slaves, hence the repulsion it inspired.

The effect of slavery even on those "not to the manner born," is generally very injurious. I have known Europeans come out to Brazil with habits of industry, and willing to be employed in agriculture, or in various kinds of skilled labour. After earning a few hundred milreis, they would be persuaded, or induced by example, to purchase a slave: from that time generally dated a commencement of negligence, and the gradual adoption of indolent and vicious habits. The slave is made to work for them. Instead of the hard-working farmer or mechanic, up early and actively employed in thrifty labours, the emigrant often degenerates into a lounging idler, listlessly directing, cigar in mouth, the clumsy and ignorant work of an unhappy African, or frequenting the 'vendas,' or grog-shops, for the support of which mode of existence the slave is hired out for a daily stipend, or is obliged to bring a certain sum, no matter how acquired, to his master, under pain of being flogged or otherwise maltreated.

The European, under these circumstances, generally gets into habits of low excess and debauchery, which soon lead to his ruin or shorten his existence.

Europeans are, it is true, often unfit for agricultural labour in the plains, but in the mountains, and in many provinces of Brazil, the white man can work in the open air with perfect safety; and were it not for the existence of slavery, many parts of Brazil would long since have been peopled with hard-working and useful emigrants from Europe. The Government has, to its credit, done much to favour the introduction of free colonists and labourers, and to suppress the slave-trade, but the evils of slavery continue seriously to counteract its good intentions.

Notes on the Indian Tribes.

The aboriginal Indians are fast disappearing in the neighbourhood of Rio, and near the other large towns and well-peopled districts. At an 'aldeia,' or village on the upper part of the Bay, called St Lorenzo, there is still the remnant of a tribe of Indians. They are also losing, except in parts of the interior, their peculiarities and the habits of savage life. From the first discovery of South America they were subdivided into such a multitude of separate tribes, generally at feud with each other, that their extinction went on even more rapidly than is usual whenever the savage man comes in contact with the European and civilised race. Their continual internecine wars (in which they were aided by the Portuguese and Spaniards, who espoused, as caprice or interest might dictate, the cause of one or the other of the belligerents), soon thinned their numbers. When the colonists became the stronger and more numerous, the oppression that the Indians suffered induced them to retire into the forests of the interior.

Wherever the Spanish and Portuguese, in their early discoveries, extended their dominion, it must with regret be admitted that they almost universally treated the natives with the harshest and most cruel tyranny. When they did not exterminate they enslaved. Sometimes, under the pretext of zeal for their conversion from Paganism, they made them their slaves; at others, as in the province of St Paul, they openly opposed and defied the praiseworthy efforts of the Jesuits to protect and educate the natives, and made forays into their settlements with the express object of slave-hunting. It is but too true that in the early times of the discoveries of the Spanish and Portuguese, they treated the aborigines as though they had no claim to be regarded as men or classed as fellow creatures. The Indians of the Asiatic islands, as well

as those of the American continent and the natives of Africa, were alike considered as possessing no inherent rights. Our own countrymen of that age largely shared in the guilt of oppression and injustice towards the conquered races. And although more just ideas have of late years been professed by Christian nations, and England especially has paid a heavy self-imposed fine to atone for her former misdeeds, it must be admitted that even at the present day great oppression and injustice form the rule, and kindness or common fairness the exception, in the treatment experienced by Indians and negroes at the hands of the white man.

The Indian dialects are as numerous as the tribes. In the north of Brazil alone there are, or were, known to exist 150 different tribes, and in the south of the continent, although perhaps not so much subdivided, where, as in the Pampas, they spread over a large unwooded territory, there are also many separate nations and languages.

A mere barren list of the names of the various tribes or nations of Indians, formerly the sole inhabitants of South America, would have little interest. The names of the tribes and of individuals, like those of places, generally designated in the native dialects some quality or peculiarity. Thus the '*Jupuràs*' were so called from a fruit of that name, which was their staple food. They inhabited part of the province of Bahia.

The '*Omaguas*' mean flat-heads. A name of similar meaning is given to a tribe in North America.

Another tribe were called the '*Encabellados*,' or long-haired, from their wearing their hair very long, reaching below their knees; but this is evidently a title given them by Europeans.

The '*Topajos*' used poisoned arrows.

The '*Topinambos*,' or '*Tupinos*,' were noted as archers. The vegetable called topinambo by the French (*Anglice*, Jerusa-

lem artichoke, a corruption of the Italian *girasole*), may have given this name to the vegetable, or received it from its being abundant there.

The '*Puros*' practise fasting. These fasts were considered as acts of religion and expiation.

The '*Caripurias*' and '*Zurinas*' were clever carvers in wood. The '*Tupi*' were a widely-spread tribe in the north, and I believe the first use of the India rubber, or caoutchouc tree, is attributed to them. The '*Guaranis*,' who spoke one of the most expressive of the Indian languages, were numerous in Paraguay, the Omaguas in Peru. The '*Tucunas*' and '*Urinas*' believed in a sort of metempsychosis, or transmigration of souls. Then there were the '*Curiraris*,' the '*Taoba*,' the '*Macobi*,' the '*Abipones*,' further to the south, and in what is called the '*Chaco*,' or desert land, on the right bank of the Parana and Paraguay. Some of these, and the '*Araucanians*' and '*Patagonians*,' are equestrian tribes, and very warlike.

The '*Botacudos*,' and certain other native Indians of Brazil, are said to be Anthropophagi. They are now nearly extinct. When, in 1810, the late Sir Gore Ouseley's embassy to Persia touched at Rio de Janeiro on its way to the Persian Gulf, the Queen of the Botacudo tribe had just been taken prisoner and brought down to Rio, and was exhibited at Court. Sir William Ouseley, in his travels, describes her as certainly not of prepossessing aspect, and the cannibal practices of her tribe were said to be well known, and that the necklace of human teeth with which she was adorned was part of the *spolia opima* of those on whom she had dined.

There is little doubt that cannibalism existed among some tribes in Brazil, as among other savages; but I am apt to take *cum grano* much of the disparaging accounts of the native tribes given by their conquerors and oppressors, whether in North or South America. In almost every

instance that has come under my observation, or respecting which I have been enabled to investigate reports and obtain credible information, the Indians proved to be much more sinned against than sinning, and the indiscriminate hostility that they often show towards the white race by acts of outrage must be regarded only as a natural retaliation—wild justice—for injuries inflicted, if not by those who actually suffer the penalty, at least by others supposed by the Indians to belong to the same tribe, and to be participators in acts of aggression or cruelty committed against themselves.

Lingoa Geral.

The multiplicity of different Indian dialects would render amicable intercourse between the tribes difficult or impossible, but for the existence of a sort of *quasi* universal language current among all the different nations. This is called by Brazilians the '*lingoa geral*,' or general language. Whatever may be the language of a particular tribe or nation, they also speak or understand this general language, which thus serves them to communicate with natives of the most distant tribes without knowledge of their particular dialect. This is also the language learnt by Europeans whose avocations or travels bring them in contact with the aboriginal natives of South America, as that most likely to be useful in their intercourse with the different tribes.

These savage nations have thus discovered, and for generations successfully practised, a system the adoption of which had long been a desideratum in civilised countries, where it had in vain been proposed by learned and eminent men.

Thus in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it was attempted to revive former efforts to adopt Latin as a common medium, and in the writings at least, of learned authors, it was successfully employed; for precisely similar reasons as

those which gave rise to the *lingoa geral* of the Indians, viz., to remedy the inconvenience arising from the diversity of languages, and to give more general currency to thought. Thus Grotius, Puffendorf, Niebuhr, and a host of other learned authors, clothed their thoughts in Latin, and ecclesiastical and theological writers, although probably not with precisely identical views (as Sauchez and others), used a dead language to address their cotemporaries. It was even used as the language of diplomacy between different nations. In medicine it was sought to render prescriptions universally intelligible by adopting Latin forms. As among the American Indians, European nations whose population was comparatively small, for instance, in Sweden, Denmark, and Holland, sought a language more generally used than their own, and recourse was had to Latin. But powerful countries soon attempted to profit by their preponderance, and sought to introduce their language in the court, the cabinet, and in society.

The French succeeded in a great measure in causing their language to be accepted as that of diplomacy and of the higher classes throughout Europe, where it continues to be in some sort the '*lingoa geral*.' English is now becoming the general medium, not only in North America, but in the East Indian Empire, China, Australia, and Polynesia.

As relates to diplomacy, of late years national feelings and a disinclination to allow to any one nation the real advantage and apparent assumption of superiority that would result from the adoption of its language, have induced the use of its own language by every nation respectively, thus placing all, theoretically at least, on an equality.

Charles XII, of Sweden, on this principle refused to employ the French language either verbally or in writing; but as Swedish was little known beyond his native country, he adopted Latin as his *lingoa geral* in his intercourse with foreigners.

(Plate No. XXI.)—*Destruction of Property caused by Invasion, and Siege of Montevideo.*

Had the siege of Montevideo been carried on by an entirely Oriental force striving to oust another party of their own countrymen, less injury to the buildings and estates in the neighbourhood and suburbs might have been inflicted. The principle on which hostile parties generally contend in these states, is merely that of civil war, "*ôte toi de là que je m'y mette*," seeking the possession of the property in dispute, not its destruction. But the foreign force brought against Montevideo by General Oribe, consisting principally of Buenos Ayrean or Argentine troops, had little interest in sparing, except in individual cases, the property of the Montevideans, which they often wantonly destroyed throughout the Banda Oriental, and especially near the capital.

This destruction was often aided, from patriotic motives, by the owners themselves, who in many instances voluntarily gave up, for the purpose of strengthening the defences of the town, their villas and grounds, or destroyed them when likely to prove a cover to the besiegers.

The President Suarez, General Pacheco y Obes, Montevidean Minister to France, and many others, did not hesitate to set the example of thus sacrificing their property. The whole extent between the outer and inner lines of defence was a scene of devastation, and was exposed to the, fortunately not very sharp, practice of the Buenos Ayrean Artillerymen, who were in the habit of firing at any group of people that they observed, whenever an unusual number of promenaders appeared, tempted beyond the inner lines, perhaps, by the fineness of the weather. On a fête day particularly, they were pretty sure to draw upon themselves the unwelcome attention of the besieging troops.

On one occasion, when Mrs Ouseley, accompanied by several officers and others, was riding beyond the inner lines

on a holiday, while the promenade was unusually thronged with people, an appearance of confusion in the crowd not far from our party attracted our attention. I thought that the people were trying to avoid a dog that I saw running along the path, when a man rushed out of a group in alarm, and carried off a child playing on the road near our party. Thinking that he was afraid of our riding over the child, I remarked to him that there was nothing to fear from our horses, and that we were riding very quietly. He looked up and smiled, saying, "I know that very well, but it was not your horses that I feared for the '*niño*,' but a ball from the enemy's batteries passed close by us a moment ago, and I fear that others will follow."

Another time, riding near the outer lines, what I thought a spent ball rolled almost under Mrs Ouseley's horse. It was picked up and taken to the French Minister, and proved to be a hollow shot, of which the fuse had fortunately not ignited. The next day a young officer had his leg shattered by the explosion of a similar shot, close to the same place, and died in consequence.

It may appear singular that the inhabitants, especially women and children, should expose themselves so unnecessarily for a mere promenade, and draw upon themselves the fire of the besiegers. But the siege had lasted several years, and such is the effect of habit, that those ladies who at first shut themselves up on hearing the firing, or hardly ventured to go out even in quarters of the town not in the line of fire, and were kept in constant terror by the cannonading so frequently heard, latterly scarcely heeded it. They were not prevented from frequenting their usual walks, merely taking the precaution of first inquiring from some of those on duty, as to which side the firing was, and which part of the town they had better select for their promenade; information which it was not possible to give with any cer-

tainty, but merely as a matter of conjecture. The copy-book aphorism is quite right as to the effects produced by familiarity.

Note.—Since the above was written, accounts have been received of the termination of the siege of Montevideo, after having rivalled that of Troy in duration. It lasted about nine years. The whole of the Banda Oriental has been evacuated by the Buenos Ayrean invaders, and the independence of the Republic is guaranteed by Brazil. It is now to be hoped that commerce and agriculture will revive, and that the great resources of the country will be peaceably and usefully developed; while the free navigation of the tributaries of the River Plate, will be of the greatest importance to the trade of all nations, and ensure incalculable benefits to the States through which these noble rivers flow.—
W. G. O.

Mem. referring to Views in Brazil.

The bearded parasites represented as hanging from the trees in some of the Brazilian views, are *air-plants*, deriving nourishment from air and moisture, but never taking root in the earth.

As these plants do not grow and are little known in Europe, this explanation may be thought necessary.

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1871
The first of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the ground was very dry. The crops were much injured, and the weather was very hot. The ground was very dry.

The second of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very cold, and the ground was very wet. The crops were much injured, and the weather was very cold. The ground was very wet.

The third of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the ground was very dry. The crops were much injured, and the weather was very hot. The ground was very dry.

The fourth of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very cold, and the ground was very wet. The crops were much injured, and the weather was very cold. The ground was very wet.

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The sixth of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very cold, and the ground was very wet. The crops were much injured, and the weather was very cold. The ground was very wet.

