

from Estrella, is about ten miles, due north. The country is flat, with occasional undulations. About two miles from Estrella they came to a guard-house, where they were stopped. Their guide not being at hand, and not understanding the language themselves, they supposed their passports were demanded, and believing the reports to be true that we had all heard so often of the jealousy of the Brazilians in relation to the admission of foreigners into the interior, they concluded they were now to experience it. But on the guide coming up, the matter was soon arranged by the payment of a small tax, which was the only passport they found necessary. The ascent of the pass is made by a well-paved zigzag road. They soon reached the house of Padre Luiz, where they were kindly and hospitably received, and supper was supplied them from his scanty larder.

Padre Luiz's house was quite spacious: a long one-story building, containing under the same roof the stable and storehouse, as well as accommodations for travellers and the females of the family. The latter, agreeably to the custom of the country, were not seen, though known to exist. Cold and wet, our travellers were ushered into an apartment where there was neither floor nor fire, and in which there was a free circulation of air through the cracks and crevices in the walls. The roof, however, was tight, which was lucky, as it was raining hard. A little further insight and experience into the customs and comforts of the country, made them think that the accommodations here had been excellent. After a most unreasonable delay, coffee, a fowl, and rice were set before them, with much parade and ceremony. During the night they heard what was supposed to be the howling monkey, but upon inquiry it turned out to be a Brazilian toad, called in Brazil "the blacksmith," whose croak is said to resemble very much the sound of hammering on an anvil.

The next morning, understanding that they had been treated with luxuries and as persons of distinction, they told their host that they preferred the dish of the country, "carne seca" and "farinha," which, with the addition of a few eggs and a cup of coffee, made an excellent meal, and was quickly served.

They rode this day about twenty miles beyond the Organ Mountains, the extent to which their jaunt reached. On their way, they met vast numbers of mules heavily laden. The roads were generally good, and very little expense would have made them excellent for carriages.

At Padre Coneas', at the top of the pass, they found a native fig-tree, of enormous size, with numerous parasitical plants upon it. It