

was constructed of large adobes, or rather blocks of clay, and finished in the inside neatly with the same material. It consisted of but one apartment, the floor of which was clay. It had a thatched roof, which was open in several places. There was no window. The door and the holes in the roof supplied all the light. The furniture, if such it could be called, consisted of a rude bedstead and an apology for a table, at one end; the other was divided into three bins, one to contain corn, another beans, and the third potatoes, with saddles and various kinds of horse-gear, and a bag or two of wheat. On one side was a clay seat, three feet broad by six long, and the height of an ordinary seat, whilst from the rafters hung in nets a good supply of bread, cheese, and numerous strings of onions, garlic, and red Chili peppers. There were besides two chairs and a bench. All the cooking is done in a small detached building; and a small clay oven in the yard is an accompaniment of every rancho. Bread and an abundance of grapes, of which they could not eat more than a third, were supplied them for a "medio." The second cuesta was shortly afterwards mounted, of about five hundred feet elevation, and on the top they were gratified by witnessing the mode in which the Chilians capture the wild horses. A party of four or five horsemen, with about twenty dogs, were seen formed in an extended crescent, driving the wild horses towards the river with shouts. All were armed with the lasso, which was swinging over their heads, to be in readiness to entrap the first that attempted to break through the gradually contracting segment; the dogs serving with the riders to head the horses in. They continued to advance, when suddenly a horse with furious speed broke the line, passing near one of the horsemen, and for a moment it was thought he had escaped; the next, he was jerked round with a force that seemed sufficient to have broken his neck, the horseman having, the moment the lasso was thrown, turned round and braced himself for the shock. The captured horse now began to rear and plunge furiously to effect his escape. After becoming somewhat worn out, he was suffered to run, and again suddenly checked. This was repeated several times, when another plan was adopted. The dogs were set on him, and off he went at full run, in the direction of another horseman, who threw his lasso to entangle his legs and precipitate him to the ground. The dogs again roused him, when he again started, and was in like manner brought to a stand; after several trials, he became completely exhausted and subdued, when he stood perfectly still, and allowed his captors to lay hands upon him. The shouts of the men, the barking of the dogs, and the scampering of the horses, made the whole scene quite exciting.