

Cordilleras. It is a mountain torrent throughout its whole course. The quantity of water in it is small. The width at its mouth is about thirty feet, and one foot deep. It has not sufficient force to break a passage through the beach to the sea, and the water filters through the pebbly soil.

In Peru, when the land is irrigated, it is one continued vegetation throughout the year. Harvests are gathered in every season, and flowers and fruit may be seen at the same time. On the east side of the Cordilleras the harvest takes place about the middle of June. Tarma and Jauja are the first cultivated districts. The "montanas," as they call the forests, are situated at the eastern base of the Andes. Their crest is estimated to be thirty or forty leagues from the coast, and it is about fifteen leagues farther to the montanas. The thermometer during the jaunt to the Cordilleras ranged from 50° to the freezing point of Fahrenheit.

During our visit, the Chilian troops were in possession of the country, and Lima was garrisoned by them. They were a sickly and worn-out body of men, the tertiana prevailing to a great extent among them. They were apparently well clad, new clothing having been issued to them at the expense of the Peruvian treasury. They were all, I was told, extremely anxious to return to Chili. Although the nominal power was in the President, Gamarra, or the acting Governor, Lafuente, until his arrival, yet Bulnes commanded and watched over their proceedings. The Peruvians are to all intents and purposes a conquered people, although they profess to think the Chilians their friends, and say that the war was only against Santa Cruz and his policy. No favourable accounts can now be given of the state of Peru. A want of confidence exists every where. The government is bankrupt in principle and funds. The tenure of property is uncertain, and oppression, extortion, and want of principle have brought the country to the verge of ruin. The people are harassed by the frequent changes; and the government, a military, and constantly changing one, gives rise to all kinds of disorder. This is to be imputed to the ambition of the various rulers or generals, who endeavour to keep old and little understood controversies in continual agitation, for their own benefit. Revolution is the order of the day. One broke out again in Payta a few days before we sailed, and Peru was raising troops to attack Bolivia.

The manner of recruiting the army is not unlike the employment of press-gangs in England. They scour the country far and near for recruits, and if not obtained, compel every poor Indian met with, to serve against his will. Agriculture, and every other kind of honest industry, has fallen into disrepute, if not into entire neglect, and the whole country is left in a continued state of anarchy and confusion.