

CHAPTER XIII.

PERU—CONTINUED.

1839.

ON the arrival of the Relief at Callao, Messrs. Pickering, Rich, Agate, and Brackenridge, requested permission to make a jaunt to the Cordilleras of Peru, for the purpose of making botanical collections. I felt much gratified that this object had been effected, although I could not but regret that they were suffered to depart without the necessary instruments for obtaining the altitudes, which had been put on board the Relief at Orange Harbour, for that very purpose.

Mr. Rich spoke the Spanish language well, which afforded the party many facilities for overcoming the difficulties that were thrown in their way.

In Lima the journey was considered as a very serious undertaking, and likely to be attended with much danger, from the banditti who frequent the route they intended to pass over,—that to the mines of Pasco. Through the friendly assistance of Mr. Biggs, of the house of Messrs. Bartlett & Co., every thing was made easy. By his advice, they supplied themselves, not only with blankets and horse-furniture, but with all sorts of provisions, and particularly with bread, of which they took as much as they could carry, notwithstanding the country was described as well inhabited. As a preliminary step, it was necessary to provide themselves with passports, for which they lost no time in applying. After the delay of a day, the passports came in the form of a letter of protection and recommendation from Lafuente himself, to the local authorities throughout all Peru, couched in the most liberal terms, and treating the affair with as much importance as if it were a national one. It is a regulation that the names of all who receive passports, shall be published in the official gazette; their intention, therefore, became known to all Lima. From the few who