

a few natives who were harpooning fish by throwing a pole tied to a cord, and terminating in an extremely sharp point. They asked them in the Hayti language their name; and the Indians, thinking that the question of the strangers related to their harpoons, which were formed of the hard and heavy wood of the Macana palm, answered *guaike, guaike*, which signifies pointed pole. A striking difference at present exists between the Guayquerias, a civilized tribe of skillful fishermen, and those savage Guaraounos of the Orinoco, who suspend their habitations on the trunks of the Moriche palm. The population of Cumana has been singularly exaggerated, but according to the most authentic registers it does not exceed 16,000 souls.

Probably the Indian suburb will by degrees extend as far as the Embarcadero; the plain, which is not yet covered with houses or huts, being more than 340 toises in length. The heat is somewhat less oppressive on the side near the sea-shore, than in the old town, where the reverberation of the calcareous soil, and the proximity of the mountain of San Antonio, raise the temperature to an excessive degree. In the suburb of the Guayquerias, the sea breezes have free access; the soil is clayey, and, for that reason, it is thought to be less exposed to violent shocks of earthquake, than the houses at the foot of the rocks and hills on the right bank of the Manzanares.

The shore near the mouth of the small river Santa Catalina is bordered with mangrove trees,* but these mangroves are not sufficiently spread to diminish the salubrity of the air of Cumana. The soil of the plain is in part destitute of vegetation, in part covered with tufts of *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Gomphrena flava*, *G. myrtifolia*, *Talinum cuspidatum*, *T. cumanaense*, and *Portulaca lanuginosa*. Among these herbaceous plants we find at intervals the *Avicennia tomentosa*, the *Scoparia dulcis*, a frutescent mimosa with very irritable

(so called on account of the vessel of Columbus having anchored there,) and the port of Manzanillo, where they first swore to the whites in 1498, that friendship which they have never betrayed, and which has obtained for them, in court phraseology, the title of *fieles*, loyal.—See p. 144.

* *Rhizophora mangle*. M. Bonpland found on the Plaga Chica the *Allionia incarnata*, in the same place where the unfortunate Loeffling had discovered this new genus of *Nyctagineæ*.