

attention of physiologists. Bouguer relates, that when he reached the summit of Montagne Pelée, in the island of Martinique, he and his companions shivered with cold, though the heat was above 21.5° . In reading the interesting narrative of captain Bligh, who, in consequence of a mutiny on board the *Bounty*, was forced to make a voyage of twelve hundred leagues in an open boat, we find that that navigator, in the tenth and twelfth degrees of south latitude, suffered much more from cold than from hunger. During our abode at Guayaquil, in the month of January 1803, we observed that the natives covered themselves, and complained of the cold, when the thermometer sunk to 23.8° , whilst they felt the heat suffocating at 30.5° . Six or seven degrees were sufficient to cause the opposite sensations of cold and heat; because, on these coasts of South America, the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere is twenty-eight degrees. The humidity, which modifies the conducting power of the air for heat, contributes greatly to these impressions. In the port of Guayaquil, as everywhere else in the low regions of the torrid zone, the weather grows cool only after storms of rain: and I have observed that when the thermometer sinks to 23.8° , De Luc's hygrometer keeps up to fifty and fifty-two degrees; it is, on the contrary, at thirty-seven degrees in a temperature of 30.5° . At Cumana, during very heavy showers, people in the streets are heard exclaiming, *que hielo! estoy emparamado*;* though the thermometer

* "What an icy cold! I shiver as if I was on the top of the mountains." The provincial word *emparamarse* can be translated only by a very long periphrasis. *Paramo*, in Peruvian *puna*, is a denomination found on all the maps of Spanish America. In the colonies it signifies neither a desert nor a heath, but a mountainous place covered with stunted trees, exposed to the winds, and in which a damp cold perpetually reigns. In the torrid zone, the paramos are generally from one thousand six hundred to two thousand toises high. Snow often falls on them, but it remains only a few hours; for we must not confound, as geographers often do, the words *paramo* and *puna* with that of *nevado*, in Peruvian *ritticapa*, a mountain which enters into the limits of perpetual snow. These notions are highly interesting to geology and the geography of plants; because, in countries where no height has been measured, we may form an exact idea of the lowest height to which the Cordilleras rise, on looking into the map for the words *paramo* and *nevado*. As the *paramos* are almost continually enveloped in a cold and thick fog, the people say at Santa Fé and at Mexico, *cae un paramito*,