

gerous character, when persons, debilitated by long labour and copious perspiration, expose themselves to the fine rains, which frequently fall as evening advances. Nevertheless, the men of colour, and particularly the Creole negroes, resist much better than any other race, the influence of the climate. Lemonade and infusions of *Scoparia dulcis* are given to the sick; but the cuspare, which is the cinchona of Angostura, is seldom used.

It is generally observed, that in these epidemics of the town of Cariaco the mortality is less considerable than might be supposed. Intermitting fevers, when they attack the same individual during several successive years, enfeeble the constitution; but this state of debility, so common on the unhealthy coasts, does not cause death. What is remarkable enough, is the belief which prevails here as in the Campagna of Rome, that the air has become progressively more vitiated in proportion as a greater number of acres have been cultivated. The miasms exhaled from these plains have, however, nothing in common with those which arise from a forest when the trees are cut down, and the sun heats a thick layer of dead leaves. Near Cariaco the country is but thinly wooded. Can it be supposed that the mould, fresh stirred and moistened by rains, alters and vitiates the atmosphere more than the thick wood of plants which covers an uncultivated soil? To local causes are joined other causes less problematic. The neighbouring shores of the sea are covered with mangroves, avicennias, and other shrubs with astringent bark. All the inhabitants of the tropics are aware of the noxious exhalations of these plants; and they dread them the more, as their roots and stocks are not always under water, but alternately wetted and exposed to the heat of the sun.\* The mangroves produce miasms, because they contain vegeto-animal matter combined with tannin.

\* The following is a list of the social plants that cover those sandy plains on the sea-side, and characterize the vegetation of Cumana and the gulf of Cariaco. *Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicennia nitida*, *Gomphrena flava*, *G. brachiata*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (*vidrio*), *Talinum cuspidatum* (*vicho*), *T. cumanense*, *Portulacca pilosa* (*zargasso*), *P. lanuginosa*, *Illecebrum maritimum*, *Atriplex cristata*, *Heliotropium viride*, *H. latifolium*, *Verbena cuneata*, *Mollugo verticillata*, *Euphorbia maritima*, *Convolvulus cumanensis*.