

is composed of five elements, easy to be distinguished. This compound signifies 'the quality (*met*) of a subject (*reph*), which makes (*er*) the thing which is (*pet*), evil (*ou*).' Nevertheless the Coptic language has had its literature, like the Chinese, the roots of which, far from being aggregated, scarcely approach each other without immediate contact. We must admit that nations once roused from their lethargy, and tending towards civilization, find in the most uncouth languages the secret of expressing with clearness the conceptions of the mind, and of painting the emotions of the soul. Don Juan de la Rea, a highly estimable man, who perished in the sanguinary revolutions of Quito, imitated with graceful simplicity some Idyls of Theocritus in the language of the Incas; and I have been assured, that, excepting treatises on science and philosophy, there is scarcely any work of modern literature that might not be translated into the Peruvian.

The intimate connection established between the natives of the New World and the Spaniards since the conquest, have introduced a certain number of American words into the Castilian language. Some of these words express things not unknown before the discovery of the New World, and scarcely recal to our minds at present their barbarous origin.\* Almost all belong to the language of the great Antilles, formerly termed the language of Hayti, of Quizqueja, or of Itis.† I shall confine myself to citing the words *maiz*, *tabaco*, *canoa*, *batata*, *cacique*, *balsa*, *conuco*, &c. When the Spaniards, after the year 1498, began to visit the mainland, they already had words‡ to designate the vegetable productions most useful

genious reflexions of M. Silvestre de Sacy, in the *Notice des Recherches de M. Etienne Quatremère sur la Littérature de l'Égypte*.

\* For example *savannah*, and *cannibal*.

† The word *Itis*, for Hayti or St. Domingo (Hispaniola), is found in the Itinerarium of Bishop Geraldini (Rome, 1631.)—"Quum Colonus *Itim* insulam cerneret."

‡ The following are Haytian words, in their real form, which have passed into the Castilian language since the end of the 15th century. Many of them are not uninteresting to descriptive botany. *Ahi* (*Capsicum baccatum*), *batata* (*Convolvus batatas*), *bihao* (*Heliconia bihai*), *caimito* (*Chrysophyllum caimito*), *cahoba* (*Swietenia mahagoni*), *jucca* and *casabi* (*Jatropha manihot*); the word *casabi* or *cassava* is employed only for the bread made with the roots of the *Jatropha* (the name of the plant *jucca*,