

an elevation, formed a striking contrast with the willows* scattered on the depth of the more temperate valley of Caracas. We here discovered plants of European forms, situated below those of the torrid zone.

After proceeding for the space of four hours across the savannahs, we entered into a little wood composed of shrubs and small trees, called el Pejual; doubtless from the great abundance here of the *pejoa* (*Gaultheria odorata*), a plant with very odoriferous leaves.† The steepness of the mountain became less considerable, and we felt an indescribable pleasure in examining the plants of this region. Nowhere, perhaps, can be found collected together, in so small a space, productions so beautiful, and so remarkable in regard to the geography of plants. At the height of a thousand toises, the lofty savannahs of the hills terminate in a zone of shrubs which, by their appearance, their tortuous branches, their stiff leaves, and the magnitude and beauty of their purple flowers, remind us of what is called, in the Cordilleras of the Andes, the vegetation of the *paramos* and the *punas*.‡ We there find the family of the alpine rhododendrons, the thibaudias, the andromedas, the vacciniums, and those befarias with resinous leaves, which we have several times compared to the rhododendron of our European Alps.

Even when nature does not produce the same species in analogous climates, either in the plains of isothermal parallels,§ or on table-lands, the temperature of which re-

* *Salix Humboldtiana* of Willdenow. On the alpine palm-trees, see my Prolegomena de Dist. Plant. p. 235.

† It is a great advantage of the Spanish language, and a peculiarity which it shares in common with the Latin, that, from the name of a tree, may be derived a word designating an association or group of trees of the same species. Thus are formed the words *olivar*, *robledar*, and *pinal*, from *olivo*, *roble*, and *pino*. The Hispano-Americans have added *tunal*, *pejual*, *guayaval*, &c., places where a great many Cactuses, *Gaultheria odorata*s, and *Psidium*s, grow together.

‡ For the explanation of these words, see p. 178.

§ We may compare together either latitudes which in the same hemisphere present the same mean temperature (as, for instance, Pennsylvania and the central part of France, Chile and the southern part of New Holland); or we may consider the relations that may exist between the vegetation of the two hemispheres under isothermal parallels.