

of St. Domingo exported, in 1700, at the time of Necker's administration, nearly seventy-six million pounds of coffee.*

Tea could be cultivated as well as coffee in the mountainous parts of the provinces of Caracas and Cumana. Every climate is there found rising in stages one above another; and this new culture would succeed there as well as in the southern hemisphere, where the government of Brazil, protecting at the same time industry and religious toleration, suffered at once the introduction of Chinese tea and of the dogmas of Fo. It is not yet a century since the first coffee-trees were planted at Surinam and in the West India Islands, and already the produce of America amounts to fifteen millions of piastres, reckoning the quintal of coffee at fourteen piastres only.

On the eighth of February we set out at sunrise, to cross the Higuerote, a group of lofty mountains, separating the two longitudinal valleys of Caracas and Aragua. After passing, near Las Ajuntas, the junction of the two small rivers San Pedro and Macarao, which form the Rio Guayra, we ascended a steep hill to the table-land of La Buenavista, where we saw a few lonely houses. The view extends on the north-west to the city of Caracas, and on the south to the village of Los Teques. The country has a very wild aspect, and is thickly wooded. We had now gradually lost the plants of the valley of Caracas.† We were eight hun-

* French pounds, containing 9216 grains. 112 English pounds = 105 French pounds; and 160 Spanish pounds = 93 French pounds. The island of St. Domingo was at that time, it must be remembered, a French colony.

† The Flora of Caracas is characterized chiefly by the following plants, which grow between the heights of four hundred and six hundred toises. *Cipura martinicensis*, *Panicum mierantherum*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Vernonia odoratissima*, (*Pevetera*, with flowers having a delicious odour of *heliotropium*), *Tagetes caracasana*, *T. scoparia* of Lagasca (introduced by M. Bonpland into the gardens of Spain), *Croton hispidus*, *Smilax scabriusculus*, *Limnocharis Humboldtii*, Rich., *Equisetum ramosissimum*, *Heteranthera alismoides*, *Glycine punctata*, *Hyptis Plumeri*, *Pavonia cancellata*, Cav., *Spermacoce rigida*, *Crotalaria acutifolia*, *Polygala nemorosa*, *Stachytarpheta mutabilis*, *Cardiospermum ulmaceum*, *Amaranthus caracasanus*, *Elephantopus strigosus*, *Hydrolea mollis*, *Alternanthera caracasana*, *Eupatorium amygdalinum*, *Elytraria fasciculata*, *Salvia fimbriata*, *Angelonia salicaria*, *Heliotropium strictum*, *Convolvulus batatilla*, *Rubus jamaicensis*, *Datura arborea*, *Dalea enneaphylla*, *Buchnera rosea*, *Salix Humboldtiana*; Willd., *Theophrasta longifolia*, *Tournefortia cara-*