

ness that the spots or rings can be distinguished only in the sunshine. The number of *matacani*, or little deer,* is so considerable in the Llanos, that a trade might be carried on with their skins.† A skilful hunter could easily kill more than twenty in a day; but such is the indolence of the inhabitants, that often they will not give themselves the trouble of taking the skin. The same indifference is evinced in the chase of the jaguar, a skin of which fetches only one piastre in the steppes of Varinas, while at Cadiz it costs four or five.

The steppes that we traversed are principally covered with grasses of the genera *Killingia*, *Cenchrus*, and *Paspalum*.‡ At this season, near Calabozo and San Jerome del Pirital, these grasses scarcely attain the height of nine or ten inches. Near the banks of the Apure and the Portuguesa they rise to four feet in height, so that the jaguar can conceal himself among them, to spring upon the mules and horses that cross the plain. Mingled with these gramina some plants of the dicotyledonous class are found; as turneras, malvaceæ, and, what is very remarkable, little mimosas with irritable leaves,|| called by the Spaniards *dormideras*. The same breed of cows, which fatten in Europe on sainfoin and clover, find excellent nourishment in the herbaceous sensitive plants. The pastures where these shrubs particularly abound are sold at a higher price than others. To the east, in the llanos of Cari and Barcelona, the cypura and the craniolaria,§ the beautiful white flower of which is from six to eight inches long, rise solitarily amid the gramina. The pastures are richest not only around the rivers subject to inundations, but also wherever the trunks of palm-trees are near each other. The least fertile spots are those destitute of trees; and attempts to cultivate them would be nearly fruitless. We cannot attri-

* They are called in the country 'Venados de tierras calientes' (*deer of the warm lands*.)

† This trade is carried on, but on a very limited scale, at Carora and at Barquesimeto.

‡ *Killingia monocephala*, *K. odorata*, *Cenchrus pilosus*, *Vilfa tenacissima*, *Andropogon plumosum*, *Panicum micranthum*, *Poa repens*, *Paspalum leptostachyum*, *P. conjugatum*, *Aristida recurvata*. (*Nova Genera et Species Plantarum*, vol. i, pp. 84-243.)

|| The sensitive-plant (*Mimosa dormiens*).

§ *Cypura graminea*, *Craniolaria annua* (the scorzonera of the natives).