

founded in 1749 by Father Gili, the Jesuit, author of the *Storia dell' Orinoco*, published at Rome. This missionary learned in the Indian tongues, lived in these solitudes during eighteen years, till the expulsion of the Jesuits. To form a precise idea of the savage state of these countries it must be recollected that Father Gili speaks of Carichana,\* which is forty leagues from Encaramada, as of a spot far distant; and that he never advanced so far as the first cataract in the river of which he ventured to undertake the description.

In the port of Encaramada we met with some Caribs of Panapana. A cacique was going up the Orinoco in his canoe, to join in the famous fishing of turtles' eggs. His canoe was rounded toward the bottom like a *bongo*, and followed by a smaller boat called a *curiara*. He was seated beneath a sort of tent, constructed, like the sail of palm-leaves. His cold and silent gravity, the respect with which he was treated by his attendants, everything denoted him to be a person of importance. He was equipped, however, in the same manner as his Indians. They were all equally naked, armed with bows and arrows, and painted with *onoto*, which is the colouring fecula of the *Bixa orellana*. The chief, the domestics, the furniture, the boat, and the sail, were all painted red. These Caribs are men of an almost athletic stature; they appeared to us much taller than any Indians we had hitherto seen. Their smooth and thick hair, cut short on the forehead like that of choristers, their eyebrows painted black, their look at once gloomy and animated, gave a singular expression to their countenances. Having till then seen only the skulls of some Caribs of the West India Islands preserved in the collections of Europe, we were surprised to find that these Indians, who were of pure race, had foreheads much more rounded than they are described. The women, who were very tall, and disgusting

are scattered in our maps as if by chance. It is pretended that the Mission of *Guaja* affords a very rare example of the composition of two Spanish words. The word *Encaramada* means things raised one upon another, from *encaramar*, 'to raise up.' It is derived from the figure of *Tepupano* and the neighbouring rocks: perhaps it is only an Indian word *carcamana*, in which, as in *manati*, a Spanish signification was believed to be discovered.

\* Saggio di Storia Americana, vol. i. p. 122.