

they be born with a forehead little raised, and the head flat, they endeavour to depress the foreheads of their children. If they be distinguished from other nations by a thin beard, they try to eradicate the few hairs that nature has given them. They think themselves embellished in proportion as they heighten the characteristic marks of their race, or of their national conformation.

We were surprised to see, that, in the camp of Pararuma, the women far advanced in years were more occupied with their ornaments than the youngest women. We saw an Indian female of the nation of the Ottomacs employing two of her daughters in the operation of rubbing her hair with the oil of turtles' eggs, and painting her back with *anato* and *caruto*. The ornament consisted of a sort of lattice-work formed of black lines crossing each other on a red ground. Each little square had a black dot in the centre. It was a work of incredible patience. We returned from a very long herborization, and the painting was not half finished. This research of ornament seems the more singular when we reflect that the figures and marks are not produced by the process of tattooing, but that paintings executed with so much care are effaced,* if the Indian exposes himself imprudently to a heavy shower. There are some nations who paint only to celebrate festivals; others are covered with colour during the whole year: and the latter consider the use of *anato* as so indispensable, that both men and women would perhaps be less ashamed to present themselves without a *guayuco*† than destitute of paint. These *guayucos* of the Orinoco are partly bark of trees, and partly cotton-cloth. Those of the men are broader than those worn by the women, who, the missionaries say, have in general a less lively feeling of modesty. A similar observation was made by Christopher Columbus. May we not attribute this indifference, this want of delicacy in

* The black and caustic pigment of the *caruto* (*Genipa americana*) however, resists a long time the action of water, as we found with regret, having one day, in sport with the Indians, caused our faces to be marked with spots and strokes of *caruto*. When we returned to Angostura, in the midst of Europeans, these marks were still visible.

† A word of the Caribbean language. The *perizoma* of the Indians of the Orinoco is rather a band than an apron.