

chana, man is called *cocco*; woman, *gnacu*; water, *cagua*; fire, *eyussa*; the earth, *seke*; the sky, *mumeseke* (earth on high); the jaguar, *impîi*; the crocodile, *cuipoo*; maize, *giomu*; the plaintain, *paratuna*; cassava, *peibe*. I may here mention one of those descriptive compounds that seem to characterise the infancy of language, though they are retained in some very perfect idioms.* Thus, as in the Biscayan, thunder is called 'the noise of the cloud (*odotsa*);' the sun bears the name, in the Salive dialect, of *mume-seke-cocco*, 'the man (*cocco*) of the earth (*seke*) above (*mume*).'

The most ancient abode of the Salive nation appears to have been on the western banks of the Orinoco, between the Rio Vichada† and the Guaviare, and also between the Meta and the Rio Paute. Salives are now found not only at Carichana, but in the Missions of the province of Casanre, at Cabapuna, Guanapalo, Cabiuna, and Macuco. They are a social, mild, almost timid people; and more easy, I will not say to civilize, but to subdue, than the other tribes on the Orinoco. To escape from the dominion of the Caribs, the Salives willingly joined the first Missions of the Jesuits. Accordingly these fathers everywhere in their writings praise the docility and intelligence of that people. The Salives have a great taste for music: in the most remote times they had trumpets of baked earth, four or five feet long, with several large globular cavities communicating with one another by narrow pipes. These trumpets send forth most dismal sounds. The Jesuits have cultivated with success the natural taste of the Salives for instrumental music; and even since the destruction of the society, the missionaries of Rio Meta have continued at San Miguel de Macuco a fine church choir, and musical instruction for the Indian youth. Very lately a traveller was surprised to see the natives playing on the violin, the violoncello, the triangle, the guitar, and the flute.

We found among these Salive Indians, at Carichana, a white woman, the sister of a Jesuit of New Grenada. It is difficult to define the satisfaction that is felt when, in the midst of nations of whose language we are ignorant, we meet with a being with whom we can converse without an

* See vol. i, p. 326.

† The Salive mission, on the Rio Vichada, was destroyed by the Caribs.