

tranquil night's rest, for the *jejen* is not a nocturnal insect. Since the year 1801, the great blue-winged gnat (*Culex cyanopterus*) has appeared in such numbers, that the poor inhabitants of Simiti know not how to procure an undisturbed sleep. In the marshy channels (*esteros*) of the isle of Baru, near Carthagena, is found a little white fly called *cafafi*. It is scarcely visible to the naked eye, and causes very painful swellings. The toldos or cottons used for mosquito-curtains, are wetted to prevent the *cafafi* penetrating through the interstices left by the crossing threads. This insect, happily rare elsewhere, goes up in January, by the channel (*dique*) of Mahates, as far as Morales. When we went to this village in the month of May, we found there *cimulicæ* and *zancudos*, but no *jejens*.

The insects most troublesome at Orinoco, or as the Creoles say, the most ferocious (*los mas feroces*), are those of the great cataracts of Esmeralda and Mandavaca. On the Rio Magdalena the *Culex cyanopterus* is dreaded, particularly at Mompox, Chiloa, and Tamalameca. At these places this insect is larger and stronger, and its legs blacker. It is difficult to avoid smiling on hearing the missionaries dispute about the size and voracity of the mosquitos at different parts of the same river. In a region the inhabitants of which are ignorant of all that is passing in the rest of the world, this is the favourite subject of conversation. "How I pity your situation!" said the missionary of the Raudales to the missionary of Cassiquiare, at our departure; "you are alone, like me, in this country of tigers and monkeys; with you fish is still more rare, and the heat more violent; but as for my mosquitos (*mias moscas*) I can boast that with one of mine I would beat three of yours."

This voracity of insects in certain spots, the fury with which they attack man,* the activity of the venom varying in the same species, are very remarkable facts; which find their analogy, however, in the classes of large animals. The crocodile of Angostura pursues men, while at Neuva Barce-

* This voracity, this appetite for blood, seems surprising in little insects, that live on vegetable juices, and in a country almost entirely uninhabited. "What would these animals eat, if we did not pass this way?" say the Creoles, in going through countries where there are only crocodiles covered with a scaly skin, and hairy monkeys.