

Orinoco pass the cataract, which were bound for the harvest of turtles' eggs, and eight boats laden with merchandize.

About eleven on the morning of the 17th of April we reached our boat. Father Zea caused to be embarked, with our instruments, the small store of provisions he had been able to procure for the voyage, on which he was to accompany us; these provisions consisted of a few bunches of plantains, some cassava, and fowls. Leaving the *embarcadero*, we immediately passed the mouth of the Cataniapo, a small river, the banks of which are inhabited by the Macos, or Piaroas, who belong to the great family of the Salive nations.

Besides the Piaroas of Cataniapo, who pierce their ears, and wear as ear-ornaments the teeth of caymans and peccaries, three other tribes of Macos are known: one, on the Ventuari, above the Rio Mariata; the second, on the Padamo, north of the mountains of Maraguaca; and the third, near the Guaharibos, towards the sources of the Orinoco, above the Rio Gehette. This last tribe bears the name of Macos-Macos. I collected the following words from a young Maco of the banks of the Cataniapo, whom we met near the *embarcadero*, and who wore in his ears, instead of a tusk of the peccary, a large wooden cylinder.\*

Plantain, *Paruru* (in Tamanac also, *paruru*).

Cassava, *Elente* (in Maco, *cahig*).

Maize, *Niarne*.

The sun, *Jama* (in Salive, *mume-seke-cocco*).

The moon, *Jama* (in Salive, *vexio*).

Water, *Ahia* (in Salive, *cagua*).

One, *Nianti*.

Two, *Tajus*.

Three, *Percotahuja*.

Four, *Imontegroa*.

The young man could not reckon as far as five, which certainly is no proof that the word five does not exist in the Maco tongue. I know not whether this tongue be a dialect of the Salive, as is pretty generally asserted; for idioms

\* This custom is observed among the Cabres, the Maypures, and the Pevas of the Amazon. These last, described by La Condamine, stretch their ears by weights of a considerable size.