

began. The small number of missions founded, or rather re-established, since that period, owe their existence to the Fathers of the Observance; for the soldiers now distributed among the missions are dependent on the missionaries, or at least are reputed to be so, according to the pretensions of the ecclesiastical hierarchy.

The Indians whom we found at San Francisco Solano were of two nations; Pacimonaes and Cheruvichahenas. The latter being descended from a considerable tribe settled on the Rio Tomo, near the Manivas of the Upper Guainia, I tried to gather from them some ideas respecting the upper course and the sources of the Rio Negro; but the interpreter whom I employed could not make them comprehend my questions. Their continually-repeated answer was, that the sources of the Rio Negro and the Inirida were as near to each other as "two fingers of the hand." In one of the huts of the Pacimonaes we purchased two fine large birds, a toucan (piapoco) and an *ana*, a species of macaw, seventeen inches long, having the whole body of a purple colour. We had already in our canoe seven parrots, two manakins (pipa), a motmot, two guans, or *pavas de monte*, two manaviris (cercoleptes or *Viverra caudivolvula*), and eight monkeys, namely, two ateles,* two titis,† one viudita,‡ two douroucoulis or nocturnal monkeys,|| and a short-tailed cacajao. § Father Zea whispered some complaints at the daily augmentation of this ambulatory collection. The toucan resembles the raven in manners and intelligence. It is a courageous animal, but easily tamed. Its long and stout beak serves to defend it at a distance. It makes itself master of the house, steals whatever it can come at, and loves to bathe often and fish on the banks of the river. The toucan we had bought was very young; yet it took delight, during the whole voyage, in teasing the cusicuis, or nocturnal monkeys, which are melancholy and irritable. I did not observe what has been related in some works of natural history, that the toucan is forced, from the structure

* *Marimonda* of the Great Cataracts, (*Simia belzebuth*, Brisson.)

† *Simia sciurea*, the *saimiri* of Buffon.

‡ *Simia lugens*.

|| *Cusiensi*, or *Simia trivirgata*.

§ *Simia melanocephala*, (*mono feo*.) These last three species are new.