

existed only among the Caribs of the West Indies. It is they who have rendered the names of cannibals, Caribbees, and anthropophagi, synonymous; it was their cruelties that prompted the law promulgated in 1504, by which the Spaniards were permitted to make a slave of every individual of an American nation which could be proved to be of Caribbee origin. I believe, however, that the anthropophagy of the inhabitants of the West India Islands was much exaggerated by early travellers, whose stories Herrera, a grave and judicious historian, has not disdained to repeat in his *Decades historicas*. He has even credited that extraordinary event which led the Caribs to renounce this barbarous custom. The natives of a little island devoured a Dominican monk whom they had carried off from the coast of Porto Rico; they all fell sick, and would never again eat monk or layman."

If the Caribs of the Orinoco, since the commencement of the sixteenth century, have differed in their manners from those of the West India Islands; if they are unjustly accused of anthropophagy; it is difficult to attribute this difference to any superiority of their social state. The strangest contrasts are found blended in this mixture of nations, some of whom live only upon fish, monkeys, and ants; while others are more or less cultivators of the ground, more or less occupied in making and painting pottery, or weaving hammocks or cotton cloth. Several of the latter tribes have preserved inhuman customs altogether unknown to the former. "You cannot imagine," said the old missionary of Mandavaca, "the perversity of this Indian race (*familia de Indios*). You receive men of a new tribe into the village; they appear to be mild, good,

*incolebant feri trucesque, qui puerorum et virorum carnibus, quos aliis in insulis bello aut latrocinii cepissent, vescebantur; a feminis abstinebant; Canibales appellati.*"—"Some of the islands are inhabited by a cruel and savage race, called cannibals, who eat the flesh of men and boys, and captives and slaves of the male sex, abstaining from that of females." (*Hist. Venet.*, 1551.) The custom of sparing the lives of female prisoners confirms what I have previously said, p. 326, of the *language of the women*. Does the word cannibal, applied to the Caribs of the West India Islands, belong to the language of this archipelago (that of Hayti)? or must we seek for it in an idiom of Florida, which some traditions indicate as the first country of the Caribs?