

of plants which he had been able to save from the influence of the damp climate; and I was occupied in settling by astronomical observations the longitude and latitude of the capital,* as well as the dip of the magnetic needle. These labours were soon interrupted. We were both attacked almost on the same day by a disorder, which with my fellow-traveller took the character of a debilitating fever. At this period the air was in a state of the greatest salubrity at Angostura; and as the only mulatto servant we had brought from Cumana felt symptoms of the same disorder, it was suspected that we had imbibed the germs of typhus in the damp forests of Cassiquiare. It is common enough for travellers to feel no effects from miasmata till, on arriving in a purer atmosphere, they begin to enjoy repose. A certain excitement of the mental powers may suspend for some time the action of pathogenic causes. Our mulatto servant having been much more exposed to the rains than we were, his disorder increased with frightful rapidity. His prostration of strength was excessive, and on the ninth day his death was announced to us. He was however only in a state of swooning, which lasted several hours, and was followed by a salutary crisis. I was attacked at the same time with a violent fit of fever, during which I was made to take a mixture of honey and bark (the *cortex Angosturæ*): a remedy much extolled in the country by the Capuchin missionaries. The intensity of the fever augmented, but it left me on the following day. M. Bonpland remained in a very alarming state, which during several weeks caused us the most serious inquietude. Fortunately he preserved sufficient self-possession to prescribe for himself; and he preferred gentler remedies, better adapted to his constitution. The fever was continual; and, as almost always happens within the tropics, it was accompanied by dysentery. M. Bonpland displayed that courage and mildness of character, which never forsook him in the most trying situations. I was agitated by sad presages; for I remembered that the botanist Loeffling, a pupil of Linnæus, died not far from Angostura, near the banks of the Carony, a victim of his

* I found the latitude of Santo Tomas de la Nueva Guiana, commonly called *Angostura*, or the *Strait*, near the cathedral, $8^{\circ} 8' 11''$, the long. $66^{\circ} 15' 21''$.