

were astronomers sent out for the more immediate objects of the research, but advantage was taken of the occasion to despatch a competent band of observers for the purpose of penetrating into every region of the vast empire, and making known its condition and resources.

The instructions drawn up for the guidance of the explorers were of the most exhaustive kind. Accurate observations were to be made in the geography and meteorology of each region visited, the positions of the principal places were to be astronomically determined, the nature of the soils, the character of the waters, and the best means of reclaiming the waste places were to be accurately observed. The travellers were to enquire into the rocks and minerals, and to attend to the outer forms and internal composition of the mountains. They were further to carry on careful researches among the plants and animals of each territory, and, in short, to obtain as much accurate information as possible in every department of natural history. Nor were the social problems of life forgotten. The expedition was further instructed to pay special attention to the various races of mankind met with in the journeys, and to report on their manners, customs, religions, forms of worship, languages, traditions, monuments and antiquities. They were likewise enjoined to take note of the condition of agriculture, of the maladies that affected man and beast, and the best remedies for them, of the cultivation of bees and silk-worms, the breeding of cattle and sheep, and generally of the occupations, arts, and industries of each province.

A survey of this complete nature, carried over so