

vigour of character and that natural vivacity which in every state of society are the noble fruits of independence. By subjecting to invariable rules even the slightest actions of their domestic life, they have been rendered stupid by the effort to render them obedient. Their subsistence is in general more certain, and their habits more pacific, but subject to the constraint and the dull monotony of the government of the Missions, they show by their gloomy and reserved looks that they have not sacrificed their liberty to their repose without regret.

On the 4th of September, at five in the morning, we began our journey to the Missions of the Chayma Indians and the group of lofty mountains which traverse New Andalusia. On account of the extreme difficulties of the road, we had been advised to reduce our baggage to a very small bulk. Two beasts of burden were sufficient to carry our provision, our instruments, and the paper necessary to dry our plants. One chest contained a sextant, a dipping-needle, an apparatus to determine the magnetic variation, a few thermometers, and Saussure's hygrometer. The greatest changes in the pressure of the air in these climates, on the coasts, amount only to 1—1·3 of a line; and if at any given hour or place the height of the mercury be once marked, the variations which that height experiences throughout the whole year, at every hour of the day or night, may with some accuracy be determined.

The morning was deliciously cool. The road, or rather path, which leads to Cumanacoa, runs along the right bank of the Manzanares, passing by the hospital of the Capuchins, situated in a small wood of *lignum-vitæ* and arborescent *capparis*.* On leaving Cumana we enjoyed during the short duration of the twilight, from the top of the hill of San Francisco, an extensive view over the sea, the plain covered with *bera*† and its golden flowers, and the mountains of the Brigantine. We were struck by the great proximity in

* These caper-trees are called in the country, by the names *pachaca*, *olivo*, and *ajito*: they are the *Capparis tenuisiliqua*, Jacq., *C. ferruginea*, *C. emarginata*, *C. elliptica*, *C. reticulata*, *C. racemosa*.

† *Palo sano*, *Zygophyllum arboreum*, Jacq. The flowers have the smell of vanilla. It is cultivated in the gardens of the Havannah under the strange name of the *dictanno real* (royal dittany).