

decrement of heat, the table-land of Cocollar being less elevated than the site of the town of Caracas. †

As far as the eye could reach, we perceived, from this elevated point, only naked savannahs. Small tufts of scattered trees rise in the ravines; and notwithstanding the apparent uniformity of vegetation, great numbers of curious plants* are found here. We shall only speak of a superb lobelia† with purple flowers; the *Brownea coccinea*, which is upwards of a hundred feet high; and above all, the pejoa, celebrated in the country on account of the delightful and aromatic perfume emitted by its leaves when rubbed between the fingers.‡ But the great charms of this solitary place were the beauty and serenity of the nights. The proprietor of the farm, who spent his evenings with us, seemed to enjoy the astonishment produced on Europeans newly transplanted to the tropics, by that vernal freshness of the air which is felt on the mountains after sunset. In those distant regions, where men yet feel the full value of the gifts of nature, a land-holder boasts of the water of his spring, the absence of noxious insects, the salutary breeze that blows round his hill, as we in Europe descant on the conveniences of our dwellings, and the picturesque effect of our plantations.

Our host had visited the new world with an expedition which was to form establishments for felling wood for the Spanish navy on the shores of the gulf of Paria. In the vast forests of mahogany, cedar, and brazil-wood, which border the Caribbean Sea, it was proposed to select the

* *Cassia acuta*, *Andromeda rigida*, *Casearia hypericifolia*, *Myrtus longifolia*, *Buettneria salicifolia*, *Glycine picta*, *G. pratensis*, *G. gibba*, *Oxalis umbrosa*, *Malpighia caripensis*, *Cephaelis salicifolia*, *Stylosanthes angustifolia*, *Salvia pseudococcinea*, *Eryngium foetidum*. We found a second time this last plant, but at a considerable height, in the great forests of bark trees surrounding the town of Loxa, in the centre of the Cordilleras.

† *Lobelia spectabilis*.

‡ It is the *Gualtheria odorata*. The pejoa is found round the lake of Cocollar, which gives birth to the great river Guarapiche. We met with the same shrub at the Cuchilla de Guanaguana. It is a subalpine plant, which forms at the Silla de Caracas a zone much higher than in the province of Cumana. The leaves of the pejoa have even a more agreeable smell than those of the *Myrtus pimenta*, but they yield no perfume when rubbed a few hours after their separation from the tree.