

PERSONAL NARRATIVE
OF A
JOURNEY
TO THE
EQUINOCTIAL REGIONS
OF
THE NEW CONTINENT.

CHAPTER XXV.

Spanish Guiana.—Angostura.—Palm-inhabiting tribes.—Missions of the Capuchins.—The Laguna Parime.—El Dorado.—Legendary tales of the early voyagers.

I SHALL commence this chapter by a description of Spanish Guiana (Provincia de la Guyana), which is a part of the ancient *Capitania general* of Caracas. Since the end of the sixteenth century three towns have successively borne the name of St. Thomas of Guiana. The first was situated opposite to the island of Faxardo, at the confluence of the Carony and the Orinoco, and was destroyed* by the

* The first of the voyages undertaken at Raleigh's expense was in 1595; the second, that of Laurence Keymis, in 1596; the third, described by Thomas Masham, in 1597; and the fourth, in 1617. The first and last only were performed by Raleigh in person. This celebrated man was beheaded October the 29th, 1618. It is therefore the second town of Santo Tomas, now called Vieja Guyana, which existed in the time of Raleigh.