

the *juruma* bread is made; and far from being a palm-tree of the shore, like the *Chamærops humilis*, the common cocoa-tree, and the *Lodoicea* of Commerson, is found as a palm-tree of the marshes as far as the sources of the Orinoco.* In the season of inundations these clumps of *mauritias*, with their leaves in the form of a fan, have the appearance of a forest rising from the bosom of the waters. The navigator, in proceeding along the channels of the delta of the Orinoco at night, sees with surprise the summit of the palm-trees illumined by large fires. These are the habitations of the Guaraons (Tivitivas and Waraweties of Raleigh†), which are suspended from the trunks of trees. These tribes hang up mats in the air, which they fill with earth, and kindle, on a layer of moist clay, the fire necessary for their household wants. They have owed their liberty and their political independence for ages to the quaking and swampy soil, which they pass over in the time of drought, and on which they alone know how to walk in security to their solitude in the delta of the Orinoco; to their abode on the trees, where religious enthusiasm will probably never lead any American *stylites*.‡ I have already mentioned in

Indian Archipelago, vol. i, p. 387 and 393.) This produce is triple that of corn, and double that of potatoes in France. But the plantain produces, on the same surface of land, still more alimentary substance than the sago-tree.

* I dwell much on these divisions of the great and fine families of palms according to the distribution of the species: 1st, in dry places, or inland plains, *Corypha tectorum*; 2nd, on the sea-coast, *Chamærops humilis*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Corypha maritima*, *Lodoicea seychellarum*, *Labill.*; 3rd, in the fresh-water marshes, *Sagrus Rumphii*, *Mauritia flexuosa*; and 4th, in the alpine regions, between seven and fifteen hundred toises high, *Ceroxylon andicola*, *Oreodoxa frigida*, *Kunthia montana*. This last group of *palmeæ montanæ*, which rises in the Andes of Guanacas nearly to the limit of perpetual snow, was, I believe, entirely unknown before our travels in America. (*Nov. Gen.* vol. i, p. 317; *Semanario de Santa Fé de Bogotá*, 1819, No. 21, p. 163.)

† The Indian name of the tribe of Uraus (*Guaraunos* of the Spaniards) may be recognized in the Warawety (*Ouarawety*) of Raleigh, one of the branches of the Tivitivas. See *Discovery of Guiana*, 1576, p. 90, and the sketch of the habitations of the Guaraons, in *Raleighi brevis Descrip. Guianæ*, 1594, tab. 4.

‡ This sect was founded by Simeon Sisanites, a native of Syria. He passed thirty-seven years in mystic contemplation, on five pillars, the last of which was thirty-six cubits high. The *sancti columnares* attempted