

probably resembles in its chemical properties birdlime, the vegetable principle obtained from the berries of the mistletoe, and the internal bark of the holly. An astonishing abundance of this glutinous matter issues from the twining branches of the *vejuco de guayca* when they are cut. Thus, we find within the tropics a substance in a state of purity, and deposited in peculiar organs, which in the temperate zone can be procured only by artificial means.

We did not arrive until the third day at the Caribbee missions of Cari. We observed that the ground was less cracked by the drought in this country than in the Llanos of Calabozo. Some showers had revived the vegetation. Small gramina, and especially those herbaceous sensitive-plants so useful in fattening half-wild cattle, formed a thick turf. At great distances one from another, there arose a few fan-palms (*Corypha tectorum*), rhopals\* (chaparro), and malpighias† with coriaceous and glossy leaves. The humid spots are recognized at a distance by groups of mauritia, which are the sago-trees of those countries. Near the coast this palm-tree constitutes the whole wealth of the Guaraon Indians; and it is somewhat remarkable that we also found it one hundred and sixty leagues farther south, in the midst of the forests of the Upper Orinoco, in the savannahs that surround the granitic peak of Duida.‡ It was loaded at this season with enormous clusters of red fruit, resembling fir-cones. Our monkeys were extremely fond of this fruit, which has the taste of an over-ripe apple. The monkeys were placed with our baggage on the backs of the mules, and they made great efforts to reach the clusters that hung over their heads. The plain was undulating from the effects of the mirage; and when, after travelling for an hour, we reached the trunks of the palm-trees, which appeared like masts in the horizon, we observed with

\* The Proteaceæ are not, like the Araucaria, an exclusively southern form. We found the *Rhopala complicata*, and the *R. obovata*, in  $2^{\circ} 30'$ , and in  $10^{\circ}$  of north latitude.

† A neighbouring genus, *Byrsonima coccolobæfolia*, *B. laurifolia*, near *Matagorda*, and *B. ropalæfolia*.

‡ The moriche, like the *Sagus Rumphii*, is a palm-tree of the marshes, not a palm-tree of the coast, like the *Chamærops humilis*, the common cocoa-tree, and the *Iodoicea*.