

skulls shaped by having been pressed between planks. They have belonged to Zambos (black Caribs), who are descended from Negroes and true Caribs.* The barbarous habit of flattening the forehead is practised by several nations,† of people not of the same race; and it has been observed recently in North America; but nothing is more vague than the conclusion, that some degree of conformity in customs and manners proves identity of origin. On observing the spirit of order and submission which prevails in the Carib missions, the traveller can scarcely persuade himself that he is among cannibals. This American word, of somewhat doubtful signification, is probably derived from the language of Hayti, or that of Porto Rico; and it has passed into the languages of Europe, since the end of the fifteenth century, as synonymous with that of anthropophagi. "These newly discovered man-eaters, so greedy of human flesh, are called Caribes or Cannibals," ‡ says Anghiera, in the third decade of his "Oceanica," dedicated to Pope Leo X. There can be little doubt that the Caribs of the islands, when a conquering people, exercised cruelties upon the Ygnieris, or ancient inhabitants of the West Indies, who were weak and not very

* These unfortunate remnants of a nation heretofore powerful were banished, in 1795, to the Island of Rattam, in the Bay of Honduras, because they were accused by the English Government of having connexions with the French. In 1760, an able minister, M. Lescallier, proposed to the Court of Versailles to invite the Red and Black Caribs from St. Vincent to Guiana, and to employ them as free men in the cultivation of the land. I doubt whether their number at that period amounted to six thousand, as the island of St. Vincent contained in 1787 not more than fourteen thousand inhabitants of all colours.

† For instance, the Tapoyranas of Guiana (Barrère, p. 239), the Solkeeks of Upper Louisiana (Walckenaer, Cosmos, p. 583). "Los Indios de Cumana," says Gomara (Hist. de Ind.), "aprietan a los niños la cabeza muy blando, pero mucho, entre dos almohadillas de algodón para ensancharlos la cara, que lo tienen por hermosura. Las donzellas traen senogiles muy apretados por debaxo y encima de las rodillas, para que los muslos y pantorillas engorden mucho." [The Indians of Cumana press down the heads of young infants tightly between cushions stuffed with cotton, for the purpose of giving width to their faces, which they regard as a beauty. The young girls wear very tight bandages round their knees, in order to give thickness to the thighs and calves of the legs.]

‡ "Edaces humanarum carniū novi helluones anthropophagi, Caribes alias Canibales appellati."