

warlike; but we must also admit that these cruelties were exaggerated by the early travellers, who heard only the narratives of the old enemies of the Caribs. It is not always the vanquished solely, who are calumniated by their contemporaries; the insolence of the conquerors is punished by the catalogue of their crimes being augmented.

All the missionaries of the Carony, the Lower Orinoco, and the *Llanos del Cari*, whom we had an opportunity of consulting, assured us that the Caribs are perhaps the least anthropophagous nations of the New Continent. They extend this remark even to the independent hordes who wander on the east of the Esmeralda, between the sources of the Rio Branco and the Essequibo. It may be conceived that the fury and despair with which the unhappy Caribs defended themselves against the Spaniards, when in 1504 a royal decree declared them slaves, may have contributed to acquire for them a reputation for ferocity. The first idea of attacking this nation, and depriving it of liberty and of its natural rights, originated with Christopher Columbus, who was not in all instances so humane as he is represented to have been. Subsequently the licenciado Rodrigo de Figueroa was appointed by the court, in 1520, to determine the tribes of South America, who were to be regarded as of Carib race, or as cannibals; and those who were Guatiao,* that

* I had some trouble in discovering the origin of this denomination, which has become so important from the fatal decrees of Figueroa. The Spanish historians often employ the word *guatiao* to designate a branch of nations. To become a *guatiao* of any one, seems to have signified, in the language of Hayti, to conclude a treaty of friendship. In the West India Islands, as well as in the archipelago of the South Sea, names were exchanged in token of alliance. "Juan de Esquivel (1502) se hizo *guatiao* del cacique Cotubanama; el qual desde adelante se llamo Juan de Esquivel, porque era liga de perpetua amistad entre los Indios trocarse los nombres: y trocados quedaban *guatiao*s, que era tanto como confederados y hermanos en armas. Ponce de Leon se hace *guatiao* con el poderoso cacique Ageuinaha."—Herrera, dec. i. pp. 129, 159, 181.—[Juan de Esquivel (1502) became the *guatiao* of the cacique Cotubanama; and thenceforth the latter called himself Juan de Esquivel, for among the Indians, the exchange of names was a bond of perpetual friendship. Those who exchanged names became *guatiao*s, which meant the same as confederates or brethren-in-arms. Ponce de Leon became *guatiao* with the powerful cacique Ageuinaha.] One of the Lucayes Islands, inhabited by a mild and pacific people, was heretofore called *Guatao*; but we will