

beach ; and, though our boat carried a large sail, we did not arrive at Maniquarez before night.

We prolonged our stay at Cumana only a fortnight. Having lost all hope of the arrival of a packet from Corunna, we availed ourselves of an American vessel, laden at Nueva Barcelona with salt provision for the island of Cuba. We had now passed sixteen months on this coast, and in the interior of Venezuela, and on the 16th November we parted from our friends at Cumana to make the passage for the third time across the gulf of Cariaco to Nueva Barcelona. The night was cool and delicious. It was not without emotion that we beheld for the last time the disc of the moon illuminating the summit of the cocoa-trees that surround the banks of the Manzanares. The breeze was strong, and in less than six hours we anchored near the Morro of Nueva Barcelona, where the vessel which was to take us to the Havannah was ready to sail.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Political state of the Provinces of Venezuela.—Extent of Territory.—Population.—Natural Productions.—External Trade.—Communications between the different Provinces comprising the Republic of Columbia.

BEFORE I quit the coasts of Terra Firma, and draw the attention of the reader to the political importance of Cuba, the largest of the West India Islands, I will collect into one point of view all those facts which may lead to a just appreciation of the future relations of commercial Europe with the united Provinces of Venezuela. When, soon after my return to Germany, I published the "*Essai Politique sur la Nouvelle-Espagne*," I at the same time made known some of the facts I had collected in relation to the territorial riches of South America. This comparative view of the population, agriculture, and commerce of all the Spanish colonies was formed at a period when the progress of civilization was restrained by the imperfection of social institutions, the prohibitory system, and other fatal errors in the science of government. Since the time when I developed the im-