

the closing and dilatation of the petioles, contrasts with the rest, which is whitish and fendilated. It appears like two columns, the one surmounting the other. The *palma-real* of the island of Cuba has feathery leaves rising perpendicularly towards the sky, and curved only at the point. The form of this plant reminded us of the *radgiai* palm-tree, which covers the rocks in the cataracts of the Orinoco, balancing its long points over a mist of foam. Here, as in every place where the population is concentrated, vegetation diminishes. Those palm-trees round the Havannah, and in the amphitheatre of Regla, on which I delighted to gaze, are disappearing by degrees. The marshy places which I saw covered with bamboos, are cultivated and drained. Civilization advances ; and the soil, gradually stripped of plants, scarcely offers any trace of its wild abundance. From the Punta to San Lazaro, from Cabaña to Regla, and from Regla to Atares, the road is covered with houses, and those that surround the bay are of light and elegant construction. The plan of these houses is traced out by the owners, and they are ordered from the United States, like pieces of furniture. When the yellow fever rages at the Havannah, the proprietors withdraw to those country houses, and to the hills between Regla and Guanavacoa, to breathe a purer air. In the coolness of night, when the boats cross the bay, and owing to the phosphorescence of the water, leave behind them long tracks of light, these romantic scenes afford charming and peaceful retreats for those who wish to withdraw from the tumult of a populous city. To judge of the progress of cultivation travellers should visit the small plots of maize, and other alimentary plants, the rows of pine-apples (ananas) in the fields of Cruz de Piedra, and the bishop's garden (Quinta del Obispo), which of late is become a delicious spot.

The town of the Havannah, properly so called, surrounded by walls, is only 900 toises long, and 500 broad ; yet more than 44,000 inhabitants, of whom 26,000 are negroes and mulattoes, are crowded together in this narrow space. A population nearly as considerable occupies the two great suburbs of Jesu-Maria and La Salud.* The latter place does not verify the name it bears ; the temperature of the air is indeed lower than in the city, but the streets might

* Salud signifies Health.