

of Pinos, in the same plains. We also find pines in the south-eastern part of the island of Cuba, on the declivity of the Copper Mountains, where the soil is barren and sandy. The interior table-land of Mexico is covered with the same species of coniferous plants; at least the specimens brought by M. Bonpland and myself from Acaguisotla, Nevado de Toluca, and Cofre de Perote, do not appear to differ specifically from the *Pinus occidentalis* of the West India Islands, described by Schwartz. Now those pines which we see at sea level in the island of Cuba, in  $20^{\circ}$  and  $22^{\circ}$  of latitude, and which belong only to the southern part of that island, do not descend on the Mexican continent between the parallels of  $17\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  and  $19\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , below the elevation of 500 toises. I even observed that, on the road from Perote to Xalapa, in the eastern mountains opposite to the island of Cuba, the limit of the pines is 935 toises; while in the western mountains, between Chilpanzingo and Acapulco, near Quasiniquilapa, two degrees further south, it is 580 toises, and perhaps on some points, 450. These anomalies of stations are very rare in the torrid zone, and are probably less connected with the temperature than with the nature of the soil. In the system of the migration of plants, we must suppose that the *Pinus occidentalis* of Cuba came from Yucatan before the opening of the channel between Cape Catoche and Cape San Antonio, and not from the United States, so rich in coniferous plants; for in Florida the species of which we have here traced the botanical geography, has not been discovered.

About the end of April, M. Bonpland and myself, having completed the observations we proposed to make at the northern extremity of the torrid zone, were on the point of proceeding to Vera Cruz with the squadron of Admiral Ariztizabal; but being misled by false intelligence respecting the expedition of Captain Baudin, we were induced to relinquish the project of passing through Mexico on our way to the Philippine Islands. The public journals announced that two French sloops, the "Géographe" and the "Naturaliste," had sailed for Cape Horn; that they were to proceed along the coasts of Chili and Peru, and thence to New Holland. This intelligence revived in my mind all the projects I had formed during my stay in Paris,