

at  $26.8^{\circ}$ ; the temperature exceeded  $4.2^{\circ}$  that which we had found near the breakers of Diego Perez. At the distance of half a mile from the coast, the sea water was not more than  $2.5^{\circ}$ ; we had no opportunity of sounding, but the depth of the water had no doubt diminished. On the 14th March, we entered the Rio Guaurabo, one of the two ports of Trinidad de Cuba, to put on shore the *practico*, or pilot of Batabano, who had steered us across the flats of the *Jardinillos*, though not without causing us to run aground several times. We also hoped to find a packet-boat (*correo maritimo*) in this port, which would take us to Carthagena. I landed towards the evening, and placed Borda's azimuth compass and the artificial horizon, on the shore, for the purpose of observing the passage of some stars by the meridian; but we had scarcely begun our preparations, when a party of small traders of the class called *pulperos*, who had dined on board a foreign ship recently arrived, invited us to accompany them to the town. These good people requested us mount two by two on the same horse; and, as the heat was excessive, we accepted their offer. The distance from the mouth of the Rio Guaurabo to Trinidad, is nearly four miles, in a north-west direction. The road runs across a plain which seems as if it had been levelled by a long sojourn of the waters. It is covered with vegetation, to which the *miraguama*, a palm-tree with silvered leaves (which we saw here for the first time), gives a peculiar character.\* This fertile soil, although of *tierra colorada*, requires only to be tilled, and it would yield fruitful harvests. A very picturesque view opens westward on the Lomas of San Juan, a chain of calcareous mountains from 1800 to 2000 toises high, and very steep towards the south. Their bare and barren summits form sometimes round blocks; and here and there rise up in points

\* *Corypha miraguama*. Probably the same species which struck Messrs. John and William Fraser (father and son), in the vicinity of Matanzas. Those two botanists, who introduced a great number of valuable plants to the gardens of Europe, were shipwrecked on their voyage to the Havannah from the United States, and saved themselves with difficulty on the *cayos* at the entrance of the Old Channel, a few weeks before my departure for Carthagena.