

carrying on their shoulders the cylinders of palmetto, improperly called "the cabbage palm," three feet long, and five to six feet thick. The stem of the palm-tree has been for ages an esteemed article of food in those countries. I believe it to be wholesome, although historians relate that, when Alonso Lopez de Ayala was governor of Uraba, several Spaniards died, after having eaten immoderately of the palmetto, and at the same time drinking a great quantity of water. In comparing the herbaceous and nourishing fibres of the young undeveloped leaves of the palm-trees, with the sago of the *Mauritia*, of which the Indians make bread, similar to that of the root of the *Jatropha manihot*, we involuntarily recollect the striking analogy which modern chemistry has proved to exist between ligneous matter and the amylaceous fecula. We stopped on the shore to collect lichens, opegraphas, and a great number of mosses (*Boletus*, *Hydnum*, *Helvela*, *Thelephora*) that were attached to the mangroves, and there, to my great surprise, vegetating, although moistened by the sea-water.

Before I quit this coast, so seldom visited by travellers, and described by no modern voyager, I may here offer some information which I acquired during my stay at Carthagena. The Rio Sinu, in its upper course, approaches the tributary streams of the Atrato, which, to the auriferous and platini-ferous province of Choco, is of the same importance as the Magdalena to Cundinamarca, or the Rio Cauca to the provinces of Antioquia and Popayan. The three great rivers here mentioned have heretofore been the only commercial routes, I might almost add, the only channels of communication, for the inhabitants. The Rio Atrato receives, at twelve leagues distance from its mouth, the Rio Sucio, on the east; the Indian village of San Antonio is situated on its banks. Proceeding upward beyond the Rio Pabarando, you arrive in the valley of Sinu. After several fruitless attempts on the part of the Archbishop Gongora to establish colonies in Darien del Norte and on the eastern coast of the gulf of Uraba, the Viceroy Espeleta recommended the Spanish Government to fix its whole attention on the Rio Sinu; to destroy the colony of Cayman; to fix the planters in the Spanish village of San Bernardo del Viento, in the jurisdiction of Lorica; and from that post, which is