

## CHAPTER XIV.

Tambo del Oro—Passo Domingarios—Rope Bridge—La Plata—Pedregal  
—San Francisco—Insa—Mountain of Guanacas—Totoro—Panikita—  
Popayan—Volcano of Puracc.

I QUITTED Neyva on the 30th of September at seven o'clock in the morning; in the evening, I perceived by the road-side, a cottage of rather inviting appearance; what was my surprise upon arriving at it, to find it stripped and deserted, its owners, pillaged by the soldiers, had fled into the mountains. There being no other habitation in the neighbourhood, my guides overcame their fear of ghosts, and we put up for the night in this solitary hut. As a substitute for a kettle to cook our supper in, we placed some stones in the fire, these when red hot, we threw into a calabash containing some chocolate; this formed our repast.

The next day, the 1st of October, I passed through Ovo, and Sevilla, villages situated on our left, and breakfasted at the tambo of Ovo.

The tambos are thatched sheds, erected upon the highways by the nearest municipalities as caravansaries of merchants and soldiers, but in general very little accommodation is to be found

in them. In the neighbourhood of the tambo del Ovo, several cottages have been built; in these women dress provisions, which, although coarse, are very welcome; it is astonishing that this example has not been imitated in the neighbourhood of other tambos, by inducing persons to settle there, who would thus be of great utility to travellers. It is true that the majority of these carry their provisions with them, that is to say, a few yards of dried meat,\* and chocolate; they are almost always provided with moist sugar, which, in this country, is generally eaten previously to drinking water; the consumption is therefore considerable.

After quitting the tambo del Ovo, several ravines are traversed, the inhabitants of which wash the sand to procure from it the particles of gold with which it is mixed; the Llanos or plains are then quitted for the mountains, where, the roads leading from Neyva to Timana and to Gigante, and on the other side to the Magdalena unite, only to separate: we chose the latter one. Before night, I arrived on the banks of this river which I crossed at the Passo Dominigarios; this did not take up much time, as the Magdalena is not above thirty toises in width. Having disembarked on the strand, which is wholly composed of pebbles and rocks, we proceeded

\* Dried meat is always cut into strips, and sold by the yard.

to a hut known by my guide ; it was at a considerable distance from the road, the intention of the owner being, as he afterwards informed me, to escape the billeting and the pillage of the soldiery.

This man received us with kindness, and lodged us in his own room : it was a stinking pigeon house : the birds which were perched over our heads, hindered us from sleeping by their cooings, and our host took the opportunity of telling us how much he regretted the destruction of a chapel erected near his hut, which had been entrusted to his care by the curate of Neyva ; this charge had lately been confided to him upon condition of his placing there a miraculous Virgin ; in fulfilment of this bargain, the poor fellow had undertaken a laborious journey to Santa-Fè, had there purchased of a very pious woman an image gifted with miraculous powers, and congratulating himself at having obtained it at the moderate price of twelve piastres, had returned in all haste to his chapel and his hut.

The curate, satisfied with his scrupulous exactitude, lost no time in attributing to the sacred image the most efficacious virtues, placed it with no small pomp and solemnity in the most striking part of the chapel, and established a fête in honour of this patroness, to which the parishioners were annually invited. The journey from Neyva to passo Domingarios, is so agreeable

amid a rich and fertile country, that it was frequented by crowds ; our host, as a reward for his devotions, found plenty of hungry pilgrims repair to his hut, and had the precaution to furnish it well with all sorts of provisions ; these it was not difficult to obtain, for the offerings brought by the pious, such as eggs, fowls, &c., served them afterwards as a meal. This prosperity was however transitory : the war broke out, the soldiers of the republic contented themselves with eating the offerings, and respected the image of the chapel ; but the Spaniards broke it in pieces : “ Therefore,” added our host, with all the satisfaction of vengeance, “ these wretches of *Godos*\* are now beaten on all sides, God punishes them in every battle for their infamous sacrilege.”

The next day I continued ascending, for the country began to be very elevated, and the roads became in consequence very bad. Population was so scarce, that we were obliged to take our repose in the middle of the fields : sometimes halting under a tree by the side of a rivulet. Between the tropics, it is a treat to breakfast in the shade, and to procure fresh and limpid water.

If the dispersion of the inhabitants caused by the fear inspired by the passage of troops, is favourable to the clearing of new lands and the

\* Goths ; the name given by the Colombians to the Spaniards.

increase of the population which is always on the decline in towns; on the other hand, as the markets are not held in consequence of the destruction of the villages, no one sows more than is sufficient for the maintenance of his family; this is very little: the church even offers but a small attraction, as the ecclesiastics no longer mount the pulpit except to preach contribution and taxation; men consequently accustom themselves to live isolated, and visit each other but seldom; and when intercourse is interrupted amongst a people, commerce, agriculture, and industry become extinct; ignorance spreads itself in all directions, and excesses of every kind are the consequence.

The western Cordillera in which we then were, did not appear to me more practicable than that of the east, for I found the roads there equally as difficult and dangerous. The pass which we surmounted about nine o'clock in the morning, is named the Volador del Nema, and is not unattended with danger. The word volador signifies a mountain on the side of which a path has been formed, but so narrow, that in many places two mules cannot pass each other; when such a circumstance happens, one of them is obliged to return backwards, until he comes to a place wide enough to allow the other to get by him. Precipices of a frightful depth border these slippery roads.

These difficulties happily overcome, we found ourselves in a plain of considerable extent, situated on the summit of a lofty mountain; it is very fertile, and enjoys a delightful temperature, its breadth is inconsiderable, so that to the right and left of the bottom of the mountain, we could perceive deep vallies covered with rich meadows. That which we had on our right is watered by the Paï, a river that falls into the Magdalena, at the Passo-Domingarios.—To the north-west is Carniseria a small hamlet, thinly peopled; and at a distance is Nataya inhabited by a tribe of Indians, who speak a language peculiar to themselves.

The heat we experienced was here tempered by breezes from the west south-west, which continued to blow till we arrived at Paical.—We found the village deserted, it having been depopulated the year before by an epidemia; violent pains in the head and loins, followed by the frequent spitting of black blood, were the first symptoms of the disease, which generally proved fatal on the eleventh day. Punch was the only remedy employed, and in many cases it was not unsuccessful. The Indians were all free from this disorder, which justifies the saying of the mulattoes, that, “The Indians are never ill.”

The following day, leaving the banks of the Paï, I proceeded along those of the Rio de la Plata which falls into it; and before two o'clock in the afternoon, arrived in sight of the town of

that name. We could not immediately enter it on account of the bridge of communication not being sufficiently commodious for the number of persons going to and from la Plata. On each side of the river, leather bands are made fast to stakes driven in the ground, and upon this tarabita (for thus they call this singular sort of a bridge) is placed a piece of wood furnished with leather straps, by which the traveller is fastened, and according to whichever side he wishes to go, he is drawn across. The passage at first seems rather alarming, and one cannot, without shuddering, find one's self suspended over an abyss by a few hide ropes, which are very liable to be injured by the rain, and consequently to break; accidents however seldom happen; animals are made to swim across.

When I gained the Plata shore, one of the inhabitants came to offer me hospitality, though I mistrusted this forwardness, so uncommon among the Spaniards; I accepted his invitation with pleasure, on the hint given me by another inhabitant that my host had just killed an ox; a circumstance, which in these villages causes the day upon which it happens, to be considered as one of great importance. In order to arrive at his house, I passed through a part of the town, exceeding all I had ever seen in wretchedness; the greater part of the inhabitants whom I met, and who were all men of colour, being disfigured by enor-

mous goitres; they were besides disgustingly dirty, and their ragged coverings afforded no concealment to the leprous sores that afflicted them.

I was perfectly satisfied with my host, he procured me guides and mules, bought for me whatever provisions I might want in crossing the solitary deserts of Guanacas, and shewed me many attentions. At la Plata I became acquainted with a Prussian general who was returning from Popayan, with the intention of embarking for Europe.—This rencontre in the midst of the deserts of New Grenada, was somewhat singular; at the foot of the Tarabita, in view of those prodigiously high summits where the de la Plata derives its source, and where formerly another town of that name stood, two inhabitants of the old world, as they are called by the Americans, experienced some delight in recalling it to their recollection.

I was preparing to take my leave of the alcaid to whom I was under some obligations, when I was informed that his colleague, who was also his debtor, had caused him to be arrested for his political opinions, and had thrown him into a narrow dungeon. This unfortunate event afflicted me very much, yet I was so confident of the justice of the cause of the worthy alcaid, that I departed, not doubting the favourable termination of the affair. When I had got half way between

la Plata and the place where I intended to spend the night, I passed near an iron mine\* ; the inhabitants of the neighbourhood derive no advantage from it. I henceforth did not quit the banks of the Paï. This river gives its name to a jurisdiction of eighteen Indian villages situated to the west south-west of la Plata. Each village is governed by a chief of their own election, and all are under the controul of a white magistrate who lives at Ouila. These Indians are christians and subjects of the state. They have a particular system of municipality which is common to all those countries that were formerly called, "Tierras de Indias".

We were surprised by a storm near a cottage situated in a place called Cuevas, and were hospitably received. When our host, who was absent, returned, his daughter knelt before him to receive his blessing, and when at night she lighted a candle, repeated a long prayer, a custom very general among the country people.

The next day we experienced considerable difficulty in climbing up a very high mountain, which the rains, that had fallen for some days, had rendered extremely slippery. It was very late before I arrived at Pedregal, an Indian village ; all the inhabitants with the exception of the

\* It is a singular circumstance that for ages the Africans have worked the iron mines in their country, whilst on the other hand, the Indians have made no use of theirs.

curate had fled. I have already observed that, since the breaking out of the war, hospitality had become a scourge from which the people saved themselves by taking up their abode in inaccessible places; thus a few years of contention have destroyed the work of three centuries. The Indians grown familiar to the yoke, threw it off, and returning to the woods, resumed their former barbarous manners.

We followed the course of a river called the *Ullucos*, and when on the top of the mountains forming its western bank, had a view of Santa-Rosa, which, from the whiteness of its buildings placed amidst frightful precipices, is distinguishable from a great distance, and produces a beautiful effect in the perspective. On the banks of the *Ullucos* some manufactories are established for the preparation of the salt produced from the mine of Segovia, which is close by, but the quantity is not sufficient for the consumption of the country.

After having traversed San Francisco, I arrived at Insa where I spent the night. Inhabitants were no where to be met with; a circumstance rendered the more disagreeable by one's being tormented by thousands of insects of every kind; an annoyance which is not experienced in the eastern Cordilleras, where the cold is notwithstanding as severe as in the western.

At Santa-Fè they had given me a terrific

description of the Guanacas, it was not in the least exaggerated. When travelling through the Socorro I had imagined that the roads were the worst I should ever have to encounter; but I had as yet seen nothing. It is true that, here, they did not present the frightful aspect of the rocks of Guacha, but the difficulties experienced were not the less terrible. To render these mountains accessible, square pieces of wood have been placed at equal distances, where the feet of the mules slip at every step they take, then, the humidity which, for ages has continued to soften this muddy ground, has formed a complete marsh in which horses sink at the risk of never rising more. Every thing concurs to increase the danger, for there are numerous springs from which the water bursts forth with violence, overthrowing the rude labours of the Indians, and rolling down in torrents, which threaten the traveller with destruction. Even at the period when they are driest, one is soaked through, the mists in which these mountains are enveloped being dissolved into drizzling rain which almost freezes the unfortunate traveller. We arrived quite benumbed with cold at the tambo de la Ceja, where we rested no longer than was necessary to refresh our mules, as we should not find another habitation within two days' journey. One of my mules overcome with fatigue stopped suddenly in the middle of this dreadful road; and as no time was to be lost,

I was obliged, greatly against my inclination, to leave the poor animal in this situation, where he was destined to become the victim of beasts of prey, musquitoes, or cold.

The rain still continued to fall, and night approached; we were obliged to quicken our pace, notwithstanding the fatigues of the day, and had just enough twilight to proceed to the tambo de los Corales, where two Indian salt merchants had already established themselves, and were cooking their supper at a fire, which, from the wood being constantly wet, they had had considerable trouble in lighting. These tambos are so badly constructed, as to afford but little shelter from the inclemency of the weather. The government is at no expence in improving these miserable asylums, the only ones which the traveller meets with in the midst of the stormy nights of these elevated regions. The water flows in on all sides, and the wood, always wet, ignites with difficulty; thus, after having spent the night soaked through, every limb benumbed with cold, and bathed in blood by the bites of the mosquitoes, one rises the next day in order to cross the terrible Guanacas, without having taken any nourishment than that of a few bananas, and often without having eaten any thing. We experienced all these miseries; the rain did not cease to inundate us, and we procured no other warmth than that which our

mules afforded us, by disputing with us our wretched habitation.

As soon as daylight appeared, our eyes were fixed upon the summit of the Guanacas, and my experienced guides assured me that we should have a fine day, and a pleasant journey. The mules were immediately saddled, and we departed with the assurance that the paramo would be free from storms. The first part of our journey we travelled, as on the preceding evening, through thick forests of low trees loaded with water, which deluged us every time our mules touched their branches. The road was, perhaps, better than before; for, as it was formed upon rocks, the water ran over it without producing any of those dangerous marshes we had met with in other places. In proportion as we ascended, we observed the vegetation to be more sickly, and soon perceived that we were near the paramo from the number of bleached human bones which lay scattered all around. Perhaps, alas! they were those of the proscribed, who had concealed themselves in these frightful retreats during the late wars; one might have supposed it to have been a field of battle;—here, were shoes, there, female clothing; further on the head of an infant indicated its having died after having lost its mother. Our company became serious and silent as we advanced into these desolate regions: we were all gay in the morning, but now not a word was

spoken, and we only looked at each other to see whether fatigue did not excite in some of us a fatal propensity to sleep, that we might prevent its being indulged. We soon after saw nothing but a few crooked and stunted trees covered with moss, and nearly falling from age: these were succeeded by frailecons, whose yellow flowers are so brilliant amid the surrounding desolation. We were now opposite a lake of small extent. The danger is very great, if the passage be attempted when the tempest agitates it, and an icy wind blows, which is fatal to those who yield to fatigue or the want of repose.

Near this fearful spot we recognized the garments of a clergyman, and of two black servants, who had fallen dead beside him; and, at a short distance, saw many mules, which, abandoned by their masters, were living upon frailecons, waiting till a tempest should terminate their misfortunes by death. We now found the ground less stony and much drier, being now upon the western side of the Guanacas. The sky was cloudy, but without a threatening aspect, and we now and then saw the sun as in our winters; his rayless disk scarcely warmed us, whilst, at the distance of a day's journey, glowing with light, he poured torrents of fire on the inhabitants of the banks of the Cauca.

The journey was very long, and it was eight in the evening before we arrived at Totoro, where

the inhabitants speak a peculiar dialect. Upon the walls of the house where we passed the night, some one had written two verses in French, expressive of much anguish, and in perfect keeping with the aspect of the country from which we had just descended. Notwithstanding my fatigue of the preceding evening, I had no inclination to remain at Totoro, for the inhabitants, who are all Indians, are reputed to be thieves. I therefore set out at day-break, and, upon arriving on the heights which command Totoro, perceived the superb valley of Popayan. As we descended towards these fertile plains, the heat increased, and the temperature became more agreeable; we were soon at Panikita. This village is inhabited by Indians who speak a language different from that of the inhabitants of Totoro. In spite of the filth and nastiness prevailing in the interior of their houses, they have displayed some taste and care in the disposition of their streets, which are bordered with hedges, while the water flows on both sides in covered canals; the church of Panikita is extremely neat.

Having already obtained a view of Popayan, I was very desirous of arriving there; and, although the road was variegated by beautiful country seats and well-cultivated fields, it appeared to me long and fatiguing; besides the plain of Popayan, which, from the summit of the mountains had appeared to me quite a level

surface, was interspersed with elevations, these, traversing the road, rendered travelling very disagreeable. It is a rugged country, like the valley of Socorro, so level when viewed from the heights of the Cordilleras, but so uneven in reality. A light bridge of reeds served us to pass the Palaca, which runs at a tremendous depth between two ridges of rocks that looked as if they had formerly been but one. This place was not destitute of interest to my guides; it recalled to their recollection the battle which Narino fought here against the Spaniards, and in which he was conqueror, notwithstanding his unfavourable position and the small number of his undisciplined troops.

On each side of the road were elegant houses, the opulence of which might be surmised from the comfortable appearance of their negro majordomos, who were mounted on fine horses well harnessed. Passing near me, and perceiving that I was a foreigner, they took much pride in making them prance. At four o'clock, I entered the village bearing the name of the Cauca, near which it is built; crossing a brick bridge built by the Spaniards, which is tolerably handsome but very narrow, I proceeded along a pleasant road in the direction of Popayan, and arrived in that town at five o'clock; according to the custom of the country, I was lodged in a shop.

It is said that the position of Popayan seems to have been created by the imagination of poets; and, in fact, it is difficult to find one more beautiful: it was selected by Benalcazar, who is less known than either Pizarro, Cortez, or Quesada, but deserves to be more celebrated, as he was the founder of many towns, all delightfully situated.

The valley of Popayan has not the gigantic magnificence of that of Santa-Fè, but the air is so pure; the country fertilized by its vicinity to the snowy mountains of Puraca is so rich, and its temperature is so mild, that one would be almost tempted to give it a preference over the plateau of the other Cordilleras, if the number of disgusting insects, particularly fleas, did not render the place almost uninhabitable.

It is not so easy to draw a comparison between the two towns of Popayan and Bogota, as each of them possesses advantages highly valuable, but entirely different. Santa-Fè, though not so well built, will perhaps please strangers more, merely from its being the capital. The houses of Popayan are, however, more handsomely constructed, and there are some that would not disfigure the finest parts of our own cities; the street of Belen is particularly remarkable, the houses are all one story high, built in a straight line, and bordered with well-paved trottoirs; the windows are closed with balconies, and there are

none of those gratings which produce so gloomy an effect.

Some taste is displayed in the architecture of their churches ; they have a fault, however, in common with all the edifices of Popayan, that of the height being too great for the width of the building : a defect very unpleasant to the eyes of Europeans, who are accustomed to more exact proportions.

The warehouses make not a very gay appearance, for as there are no markets held here, all provisions are sold in the shops, which, in comparison with the number of the inhabitants, are more numerous than at Santa-Fè.

There are numerous squares, these, however, offer nothing worthy of remark ; the greater part of the houses surrounding them are falling into ruin. Many other proofs may be adduced of the decay of Popayan, in which there once resided many inhabitants, worth a million of dollars. The excessive sobriety of the inhabitants, their dress, and their deportment, show that the war has entirely ruined this town, formerly enriched by the commerce of Santa-Fè and Quito, of which it was the entrepot, and by the mines of gold in the Choco, and on the banks of Cauca, which belonged to the inhabitants. There are still four families in Popayan, who enjoy a fortune of 400,000 dollars, but this is only the wreck of their immense riches, which they con-

tinue to sacrifice every day to the republican cause they have embraced.

There is but one convent for men in Popayan, and that belongs to the Franciscans; the other monasteries, to the great regret of the inhabitants, have been converted into barracks, and their revenues devoted to the foundation of a college. These new arrangements have greatly displeased the inhabitants, who are very partial to the monks; it is even apprehended, that they may occasion an insurrection, as was the case at Maracaïbo.

The commerce of Popayan consists of some woollen cloths\*, which, on account of the war, are obliged to be conveyed by the way of Barbacoas, or by San-Buenaventura, in order to forward them to Quito and Guayaquil; they also trade in European baizes, the salt of Santa-Fè, the grain of Pasto, Timana cocoa, and Cali sugar.

If any credit could be given to what the people of Santa-Fè say of those of Popayan, the latter would be regarded as rather unsociable. It must be acknowledged, that they are haughty in their manners, as well as very affected in their conversation; but, in general, they are more dignified than the people of Santa-Fè. In other respects, they are more obliging and polite, but extremely avaricious; they are also much reproached for

\* Particularly red, yellow, and green baizes, which are sold at 22 reals per vara.

their negligence, a very natural fault in a people possessing slaves.

Both men and women have a fine physiognomy ; they have preserved the solemn deportment of the Spaniards, together with their features ; many families seem to be of Jewish origin. The number of negroes and mulattoes is double that of the whites, and the quarrelsome disposition of these slaves, almost enfranchised by the disorders of the war, causes much uneasiness to the whites, especially when they reflect that, between Pasto and Carthagena, there are none but blacks to be met with in the western Cordilleras.

The recent insurrection of the negroes of Barbacoas and Patia has caused much alarm at Popayan. Would the white population of this town be sufficiently strong to arrest the torrent, should it rush in upon them ? The whites place much reliance upon the help of the Indians, the mortal enemies of the negroes ; but their assistance would be of very little use against such strong and brave men, skilful in the management of horses and arms.

The Indians of Popayan differ very little from those of Santa-Fè, except that they are darker and not quite so tall ; their costume is the same in all respects, except the head-dress, called *montera* ; this consists of a hat similar to those of the Chinese mandarins, and is made of

pieces of cloth of different colours. The whites follow the fashions of Santa-Fè, but, like all the people of the provinces, dress without either art or taste.

The gold mines are abandoned, and scarcely support those who still work them ; the convents of Carmen and Incarnation, which possess some that are very rich \*, see the produce daily diminish, through the desertion or death of the slaves who work them.

If the secular and regular clergy are not rich, the bishop at least is extremely so, his income being reckoned at 40,000 dollars per annum.

I formed the project, during my stay in this town, of visiting the mountain of Purace, whose snowy summit overlooks and fertilizes the valley of Popayan. In consequence of this resolution, I set out on the 14th of October, and proceeded eastward ; although the road was dry, and tolerably level, it was late before I arrived on the banks of the Vinagra, a river which flows from the volcano of Purace, and whose waters are almost as sour as vinegar. We then ascended the mountain as high as the village of Purace, where we were to pass the night ; and as we entered it, saw a small party of Indians carrying ice to Popayan.

The situation of Purace is very agreeable,

\* See Note X.

this village being above the valley of Popayan. The inhabitants are frequently incommoded by a black dust brought by the north north-west wind, which is very cold; but notwithstanding this rigorous climate, there is a very high palm-tree in the middle of the village.

The streets and the cottages of Purace are arranged very neatly, each house being built in the midst of a good-sized inclosure; facing the street is the yard, and behind the house is the garden, kept with great care, in which maize, wheat, potatoes, and apples, are cultivated. The principal streets are watered by limpid rivulets, while, taking advantage of the slope of the ground, every inhabitant has constructed a little fountain to supply himself with water always pure.

The Indians of Purace are of a very mild disposition; their language, like that of Totoro, is full of consonants, and consequently very harsh; they are fond of agriculture, to which they ardently devote themselves; the tithes they pay their curate amount to 700 dollars a year, a sum which enables some idea to be formed of their wealth.

I passed the night at the house of one of the inhabitants, who paid me much attention, and early the next morning again set out to ascend the mountain. In passing the paramos that lie at the foot of the snowy regions, I found them less dangerous than the Guanacas, a circumstance

that is owing to their situation with respect to the wind, those which I crossed being to windward. After having quitted the places where the cryptogamous plants, in their diminutive dimensions, have the appearance of large vegetables, and live crowded one upon another as if for the sake of mutual warmth, I arrived with my guides at the utmost limits of vegetation. Stones and gravel form this region where the sun, destitute of power, permits the accumulation of the ice; the moment we entered it, a tempest burst from the summit, and poured down upon us like a torrent.

The wind, loaded with particles of hail and snow, quite benumbed us; we began to breathe with difficulty; and the obscurity was so great, that we were obliged to call out from time to time to prevent our losing each other.

The tempest blew in gusts, and when it ceased, we distinctly heard the murmurs of the volcano, which we had before mistaken for the moanings of the birds of night. We now proceeded with much difficulty through the thick coating of cinders that covered the mountain, and over the crevices filled with snow; but at length arrived at the volcano, from which there arose a thick smoke spreading a foetid smell in every direction. There have doubtless been frequent eruptions, if we may judge from the volcanic productions spread around on all

sides. The aperture of the volcano is frequently closed, for the sulphur which it throws up adheres to the sides, and so chokes up the entrance, that the vapours escape with great difficulty, and earthquakes threatening Popayan with destruction, are the immediate consequence.

To avoid this danger, Indians are sent from time to time to clear the crater, but independently of this motive, these men pass their time continually upon the mountain in gathering sulphur and collecting ice which they sell in the city at the rate of two dollars per load. It is said, that, upon the western side of the mountain, there is a much larger crater, and that but few Indians are acquainted with the frightful paths leading to it. The Rio Vinagra, which I crossed the night before, flows from the openings of this mountain, and although its acid waters are very dangerous to drink, they are highly valued for their utility in dying.

I was unable to remain upon the mountain so long as I desired, for my guides were alarmed, and threatened to leave me if I stopped there any longer, as the storm still raged with the utmost fury. Indeed, I must confess that I descended with pleasure, for I breathed with so much difficulty, that I could ascend no higher without great pain. It did not require much

time to retrace our steps to the village of Purace ; so that, after crossing many fertile fields, where the corn of Europe is but badly cultivated, we reached Popayan at eight o'clock in the evening.