

was to them quite a novelty from its low branches, which extended horizontally and covered a space of one hundred and forty feet in diameter.

After leaving the Estrella Pass, the descent was very gradual, the route lying among the mountains. Crossing the river Paibanha, they reached a hamlet beautifully situated on the brow of a hill, and commanding an extensive view of the country. Here they found the place well suited to their employment of making collections of plants, and resolved to stop. Their host kept a small store, and had a German for salesman, who was greatly delighted at finding that Mr. Brackenridge could speak his language. He paid them great attention, and provided amply for their wants.

They were gratified by the rich botanical field that was open to them. Among the plants, or trees, were Cupheas, with deep purple flowers, and others with lilac; Lobelias fifteen feet high, with spikes of blue flowers three feet long; and Acacias in full flower. *Cyrtopodium Andersonii* grew on the rocks in bunches, &c. Several trees of the *Araucaria Brasiliensis*, from seventy to eighty feet high, were found in the valley, which Mr. Brackenridge succeeded in climbing, and obtained two handsome cones. The rivers were also searched for shells, but the water was too high to afford success.

Returning at dark they found the German had provided supper, which was soon served. It consisted of bean soup, Indian bread, fried jerked beef, and sausages: they had the satisfaction of eating the meal on their knees, for there was no table, but one spoon, and only one knife for three persons.

Having loaded themselves with specimens, they concluded to return, their ideas of life in tropical climates having undergone much change in this short time, from the erroneous belief they had entertained that industry was not necessary, that the inhabitants were surrounded by luxuries, having every delicacy imaginable, and that the only reason they were not advanced in agriculture and the arts was from the idleness engendered by the enervating influence of the climate. The fatigue and endurance necessary to overcome the actual state of things, was least of all expected; and such a thing as suffering from cold, even on elevated spots, had not been dreamed of.

The common food of the country was found to be ground manioc and jerked beef, which proved palatable after their fatigues. Their guide, however, who was a New Hampshire man, complained much of his privations.

They had seen the Mato Virgen, or primeval forest, and instead of finding it, as had been represented, beset with difficulties in penetrating it, they were surprised to find it more accessible than some of the