

from time to time taken out of the vat, and placed on a platform, when more juice is expressed, by laying boards and heavy stones upon it. That part which is intended for wine proper, or the "must," is received like the first into earthen jars, where it undergoes the requisite fermentation, and receives a small quantity of brandy, or the *aguardiente* of the country, to give it body. The *chicha* is made by boiling down the clear grape-juice after fermentation, for several hours, over a slow fire. After this process, it was put in enormous earthen jars, containing sixty to one hundred and twenty gallons, which are covered over, and tightly luted. The portion not required for consumption, is afterwards distilled with the pumice into *aguardiente* of the country. The stills were of the simplest construction, being nothing more than a number of large earthen pots, holding from eighty to one hundred gallons, placed in the ground over a long narrow oven. Instead of a worm, a straight pipe of copper is used, about twenty feet long; one of these was inserted into each pot or jar, and to effect the condensation, a stream of water from the river was led so as to pass over them. All the agricultural implements are equally rude and primitive. The ploughs are nothing more than a crooked stick, with the share-end pointed, and hardened by charring. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, they are enabled to raise large crops, and bring their farms into tolerable condition.

In the evening they had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Newman, who returned; and his reception of his guests was, if possible, even more kind than that of his good lady. Learning that our gentlemen wished to visit some of the mines in the neighbourhood, he immediately made arrangement to send his agent to his own establishment, five leagues beyond San Felipe, and provided them horses and mules, in order that their own might recruit for their return journey. The temperature at San Felipe varied, between noon and 10 P. M., from 63° to 49°. The night was remarkably clear and fine.

The next morning they started, with Mr. George Alderson, for the mines, which are near the summit of the first Cordillera, on the Mendoza road, and about three thousand feet above the level of the sea. They were here informed, that in consequence of the late heavy falls of snow, the roads were all covered and congealed, and that it extended several thousand feet below the limit of perpetual snow. They had no use for the neglected barometer, and had some satisfaction in feeling they had not been troubled with it. About a league from San Felipe they passed a large porphyritic mass, some specimens broken from which contained grains of quartz. They then passed up a singular gully, about twenty feet deep and as many wide, for about