

After this remark, a belief was entertained that his saddle-bags contained edibles, and he was accordingly plied with questions until he confessed he had a loaf of bread: this proved quite acceptable, and a triumph over their fellow-lodger, who promised them a farther treat in the morning upon some fine chocolate.

On the morning of the 25th, the Frenchman departed early, and forgot all about his fine chocolate. They regretted to hear, shortly after their arrival at Lima, that he had been robbed and murdered on his return.

Our party set out early, and after an hour's ride reached Culnai, where the villagers were busy gathering in their potatoes. There were also several patches of *Oxalis cunata*, *Tropæolum tuberosum*, and a species of *Basella*. The two former when cooked were well-tasted, and all of them are much esteemed by the natives. These patches are enclosed by low stone dikes; the plants as they advance are earthed up, as we do potatoes, in the early part of the season; irrigation is necessary, as the soil is light and open, and consists chiefly of decayed rock and vegetable mould. Here some very interesting seeds and roots of a species of *Alstrœmeria* were gathered.

Culnai and Baños are about on the same level, ten thousand feet above the sea, and are the highest points of cultivation; they are both distant from the crest, by the route of the water-course, about nine miles.

Dr. Pickering having preceded the party on foot, reached Culnai after nine o'clock, when he entered a store and was received with the utmost cordiality; a meal was at once prepared for him, consisting of eggs and potatoes, called *chupe* in the country, which was kindly tendered; the landlord was very inquisitive, and examined his budget, calling the attention of the bystanders to it; his charge was reasonable, and he gave the doctor a hearty salutation at parting, with the "Adios per Dios."

At dark the party was reunited at Obrajillo. Those who arrived first witnessed the slaughtering of a bullock in the square, on which occasion great numbers of condors and buzzards were collected in the air above. The latter bird is seldom seen higher up than Yaso. They stopped at the *posada*, which they found occupied by the company of Chilian troops whom they had met at Casa Cancha, and in consequence they were obliged to take up with a filthy hut.

At Obrajillo good crops of Indian corn, rye, and beans are raised; but none of these grow at a greater altitude.

A singular and rather amusing custom was witnessed in the morning, which does not speak much for the gallantry of the male population.