

lects, and the *Religious de la Mercy*, have each a Convent. There is likewise an Hospital, but there are so few poor People in these Parts that 'tis of little use.

Monfieur Acarete du Biscay's Journey from Buenos Ayres to Peru.

I Left *Buenos Ayres*, and took the Road to *Cordoua*, leaving *Santa Fe* on my right hand, of which place take this account, 'tis a *Spanish Settlement* dependant upon *Buenos Ayres*, the Commander is no more than a Lieutenant, and does nothing but by order from the Governor of *Buenos Ayres*. 'Tis a little place containing 25 Houses, without any Walls, Fortifications, or Garrison, distant 80 Leagues from *Buenos Ayres* Northward, Situate upon the River *de la Plata*, large Vessels might come up to it, were it not for a great bank that obstructs the passage a little above *Buenos Ayres*. Nevertheless 'tis a very advantageous Post, because 'tis the only passage from *Peru*, *Chili* and *Tucuman* to *Paraguay*, and in a manner the Magazine of the Commodities

ties drawn from thence, particularly that Herb already spoken of, which they cannot be without in those Provinces. The Soil is as good and Fertile here as at *Buenos Ayres*; and the Town having nothing remarkably different from what has been observ'd of *Buenos Ayres*, I leave it, and proceed upon my Journey. 'Tis counted 140 Leagues from *Buenos Ayres* to *Cordona*, and because some parts of the Road are uninhabited for a long way together; I furnished my self at my departure with what I was inform'd I should stand in need of; so I set out having a Savage for my Guide, with Three Horses and Three Mules, some to carry my Baggage, and the rest to change upon the way when that I rid upon was tired.

From *Buenos Ayres*, to the River *Lucan*, and even as far as the River *Recife*, 30 Leagues, I pass'd by several Habitations and Farms cultivated by the *Spaniards*, but beyond *Recife* to the River *Salladillo*, I saw none. Let it be observed by the way, that these Rivers as well as all the rest in the Provinces of *Buenos Ayres*, *Paraguay* and *Tucuman*, that fall into the River *de la Plata* are fordable on Horse-back; but when the Rains or
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any other accident swells them, a Traveller must either swim over, or else get upon a bundle in the nature of a raft, which a Savage hawls over to the other side. I could not Swim, and so was forc'd to make use of this expedient twice or thrice when I could not find a Ford. The way was this, my *Indian* kill'd a Wild Bull, flaid the Hide off, stuffed it with straw, and ty'd it up in a great bundle with thongs of the same Hide, upon which I plac'd my self with my Baggage ; he swam over hawling me after him by a Cord ty'd to the bundle, and then he repass'd and swam my Horses and Mules over to me.

All the Country between the River *Recife* and *Salladillo*, tho' uninhabited, abounds in Cattle and all sorts of Fruit-trees, except Walnut and Chesnut-trees ; there are whole Woods of Nectarine-Trees, Three or Four Leagues in compass, that bear excellent Fruit, which they not only eat raw, but bake them, or dry them in the Sun, to keep, as we in *France* do Prunes : They seldom use any other than the Wood of this Tree for common firing at *Buenos Ayres*, and thereabouts. The Savages that dwell in these Parts are distinguish'd into two sorts, those that
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voluntarily submit to the *Spaniards* are call'd *Panpistas*, the rest *Serranos*, both cloathed with Skins, but the last set up on the *Panpistas* as their mortal Enemies wherever they meet with them. All Fight on Horse-back, either with Lances pointed with Iron or Bones sharpen'd, or else with Bows and Arrows, they wear Bulls-hides fashion'd like a Doublet without sleeves, to defend their Bodies. Their Chiefs that command over them in War and Peace, are call'd *Couracas*. When they take any one of their Enemies, alive or dead, they meet all together, and after they have reproach'd him, that either he or his Relations were the death of their Kindred or Friends, they cut and tear him into pieces, which they roast a little and eat, making a drinking Bowl of his Scull. They feed mostly upon flesh either raw or dress'd, and particularly Colts flesh, which they like better than Veal. They catch abundance of Fish likewise in their Rivers. They have no settled places of aboad, but ramble up and down, several Families together, and live in Tents.

I could not inform my self exactly what Religion they were of, but I was told that they look'd upon the Sun and Moon

Moon as Deities, and as I travell'd along, I saw a Savage upon his knees with his Face to the Sun, who cry'd out and made strange gestures with his Hands and Arms. I learn'd from the Savage that accompany'd me, that he was one of those they call'd *Papas*, who in the Morning kneel towards the Sun, and at Night towards the Moon, to supplicate those fancy'd Divinities to be propitious to them, to give them fair Weather, and Victory over their Foes.

They make no great Ceremony in their Marriages; but when a Relation dies, after they have rubb'd his body with a certain Earth that consumes all but the Bones, they preserve them, and carry as many of them as they can conveniently about with them in a sort of Chests, and this they do in token of their affection to their Kindred; indeed they are not wanting in good Offices to them during their Lives, nor in their Sickness and Death.

Along the River *Salladillo*, I took notice of a great many Parrats, or *Papagays*, as the *Spaniards* call them, and certain Birds, call'd *Guacamayos*, which are of divers Colours, and twice or thrice as big as a Parrat. The River it self is full

full of the Fish, call'd *Dorado*, which is very good to eat. There is also a Creature in it, whether 'tis Meat or Poyson no body knows, it has Four Feet and a long Tail like a Lizard.

From *Salladillo* quite to *Cordona*, you go along a very fine River, that abounds with Fish, which is neither wide nor deep, for it may be forded over. On the Bank of it you meet with little Plantations every Three or Four Leagues; which are like Country Houses inhabited by *Spaniards*, *Portuguese*, and the Natives, who have all the necessary accommodations of Life they can wish, and are very Civil and Charitable to Strangers; their principal Wealth is in Horses and Mules, in which they Trade with the Inhabitants of *Pern*.

Cordona is a Town Situate in a pleasant and fruitful Plain upon the side of a River, bigger and broader than that I have just spoken of: 'Tis compos'd of about 400 Houses, Built like those of *Buenos Ayres*. It has neither Ditches, nor Walls, nor Fort for its defence; He that Commands it is Governor of all the Provinces of *Tucuman*; and tho' it be the place of his ordinary Residence, yet he is wont now and then, as he sees occasion,

casion, to go and pass some time at *St. Jago de l'Estro*, at *St. Miguel de Tucuman*, (which is the Capital City of the Province) at *Salta* and at *Xuxui*. In each of these Villages there is a Lieutenant, who has under him an *Alcalde* and some Officers for the Administration of Justice. The Bishop of *Tucuman* likewise usually resides at *Cordoba*, where the Cathedral is the only Parish Church of the whole Town; but there are divers Convents of Monks, namely of *Dominicans*, *Recollects*, and those of the Order *de la Mercy*: and one of Nunns. The *Jesuits* have a College there, and their Chappel is the finest and richest of all.

The Inhabitants are Rich in Gold and Silver, which they get by the Trade they have for Mules, with which they furnish *Peru* and other Parts; which is so considerable, that they sell about 28 or 30000 of 'em every Year, which they breed up in their Farms. They usually keep 'em till they are about Two Years old, then expose 'em to Sale, and have about Six *Patagons* a piece for 'em. The Merchants that come to buy 'em, carry 'em to *St. Jago*, to *Salta* and *Xuxui*, where they leave 'em for Three Years, till they are well grown and become strong,

strong, and afterwards bring 'em to *Peru*, where they presently have Vent for 'em, because there as well as in the rest of the Western part of *America*, the greatest part of their Carriage is upon Mules. The People of *Cordona* also drive a Trade in Cows, which they have from the Countrey of *Buenos Ayres*, and carry to *Peru*, where without this way of Subsistence 'tis certain they would have much ado to live. This kind of Traffick makes this Town the most considerable in the Province of *Tucuman*, as well for its Riches and Commodities, as for the Number of its Inhabitants, which are counted to be at least 5 or 600 Families, besides Slaves who are three times the number. But the generality of 'em of all degrees have no other Arms but a Sword and Poignard, and are very indifferent Souldiers, the Air of the Country, and the Plenty they enjoy, rendring them Lazy and Cowardly.

From *Cordona* I took the way of *St. Jago de l' Esyro*, which is 90 Leagues distant from it. In my Journey I from time to time, that is Seven or Eight Leagues, met with single Houses of *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*, who live very solitarily ;