

THE
GEOGRAPHICAL,
NATURAL AND CIVIL HISTORY
OF
CHILI.

BY ABBE DON J. IGNATIUS MOLINA.

ILLUSTRATED BY A HALF-SHEET MAP OF THE COUNTRY.

WITH NOTES
FROM THE SPANISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS,

AND
AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING COPIOUS EXTRACTS FROM THE ARAUCANA
OF DON ALONZO DE ERCILLA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL ITALIAN,
BY AN AMERICAN GENTLEMAN.

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
Situation, Climate and Natural Phenomena, - - -	1
SECTION 1.—Limits, - - -	2
2.—Name, - - -	3
3.—Natural Divisions, - - -	4
4.—Political Divisions, - - -	7
5.—Of Rain, &c. - - -	12
6.—Winds, - - -	16
7.—Meteors, - - -	20
8.—Volcanoes, - - -	20
9.—Earthquakes, - - -	22
10.—Salubrity of Climate, - - -	25

CHAPTER II.

Waters, Earths, Stones, Salts, Bitumens and Metals, -	30
SECTION 1.—Rivers, - - -	30
2.—Lakes, - - -	32
3.—Mineral Waters, - - -	33
4.—Soil, - - -	36
5.—Physical Organization, - - -	40
6.—Earths, - - -	44
7.—Stones, - - -	49
8.—Salts, - - -	56
9.—Bitumens, - - -	58
10.—Pyrites, - - -	59
11.—Semi-Metals - - -	60
12.—Metals, - - -	61

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER III.

Herbs, Shrubs and Trees, - - - - -	85
SECTION 1.—Herbs, - - - - -	86
2.—Alimentary Herbs or Plants, -	89
3.—Herbs used in Dying, - -	97
4.—Medicinal Plants, - -	102
5.—Grasses, - - - - -	106
6.—Climbing Plants, - -	107
7.—Shrubs, - - - - -	109
8.—Trees, - - - - -	115

CHAPTER IV.

Worms, Insects, Reptiles, Fishes, Birds and Quadrupeds,	136
SECTION 1.—Molluscas, - - -	136
2.—Crustaceous Fishes and Insects -	143
3.—Reptiles, - - - - -	151
4.—Fishes, - - - - -	153
5.—Birds, - - - - -	162
6.—Quadrupeds, - - - - -	189
A Methodical Table of the various species of Natural Pro- ductions described in this Work, - -	239
A Supplement to the Table of the Vegetable Kingdom,	249
Supplementary Notes, illustrative of the History of Chili,	251

Various species of the holothuria, especially the *holothuria physalis*, or the galley, are frequently found upon the shore, whither they are driven by the waves. This mollusca, called by several authors the sea nettle, from its producing an inflammation of the skin when touched, is of the shape and size of an ox-bladder filled with air. It is furnished within with a great number of branching feelers, or tentaculæ, intertwined with each other, in the centre of which is placed the mouth, of a very deformed appearance.

These tentaculæ are of several colours, red, purple or blue; the skin that forms the vesicle or bladder is transparent, and appears to consist of different longitudinal and transverse fibres, within which a peristaltic motion is perceptible. The top of this bladder is ornamented with a membrane in the shape of a crest, which serves the animal as a sail, and contains nothing excepting a little clear water, confined to one of its extremities by a membrane or diaphragm, which prevents it from spreading throughout the whole cavity of the bladder.

Besides the common cuttle fish (*sepia octopodia*) three other singular species are found in the sea of Chili. The first, the unguled cuttle fish (*sepia unguiculata*) is of a great size, and instead of suckers, has paws armed with a double row of pointed nails, like those of a cat, which it can, at its pleasure, draw into a kind of sheath. This fish is of a delicate taste, but is not very common. The second I have called the tunicated cuttle fish (*sepia tunicata*) from its body being covered with a second skin, in the form of a tunic; this is transparent, and terminates in two