

*Xuchicopdl.*—A large tree, whose wood is very hard and valuable. It grows in the province of Vera Paz, in the kingdom of Guatemala, and yields spontaneously an odoriferous gum or resin.

## Y.

*Yacumama.*—A name given in the province of the Amazonas to the buho.—See *Buho*.

*Yanacona.*—Or more properly Yanacuna. A name given in Peru to those Indians who are destined for personal attendance.

*Yerba de Mate.*—See the following article.

*Yerba del Paraguay.* (*Cagire Paraguay.*)—The leaf of an odoriferous shrub, of which there is an incredible consumption throughout the kingdom of Peru, being the herb of which they make their mate. It has obtained the name of Paraguay from the province of that name, which is the only part in America where it grows, and it enjoys a very considerable commerce in this article. The trees which form very thick woods are more than 100 leagues from the capital, and in the midst of infidel warlike Indians, yet they never fail to go and pluck the leaves. The neighbouring people are all engaged in this lucrative commerce and employment, which consists in laying the leaves on plates to be dried by fire, and in rubbing them with the hands till they are nearly as small as steel-filings; and without any further preparation they pack it up in bags, of seven or eight arrobas, to send it to Peru and Chile, embarking it on the river Paraguay and la Plata, for Buenos Ayres. According to the cosmographer, Don Casme Bueno, the quantity gathered annually exceeds 12,000 arrobas. The herb is of two kinds; one which is the most tender part of the leaf, and falls off first, which is the finest and most esteemed, and is called camini: the other contains the fibres and stalks of the leaves, and is somewhat coarser, and is called yerba de palos, or the herb with sticks. Whoever has been in Peru, and has observed the continual use of the mate, is alone competent to judge of the riches which must have accrued, and daily do accrue to the province of Paraguay from this commodity, even allowing it to be sold at the low price of six piastres each arroba.

[*Yeso.*—Gypsum.]

*Yuca.* (*Tatropa Manihot.*)—A plant of the monœcia order. It is very large, with branches and a pointed broad leaf: the root is the most useful of any found in America, and grows moderately in temperate, and to profusion in hot, climates; the root is white, and of two kinds, distinguished by the epithets of sweet and bitter. The former is eaten boiled or roasted; but the latter, which is the most useful, is made into a sort of cakes, as red cazabe, which is almost the only bread used in every part of America, and for its good taste is preferred by many Europeans to wheaten bread. They also make of it a sort of starch, of excellent quality, which is in general use in America.

[*Fucal.*—See *Yuca*.]

## Z.

*Zambo.*—The offspring of a black man and mulatto woman, or *vice versa*, which is the most despicable class, on account of their general depravity of manners. When the offspring is of an Indian man and negro woman, or a negro man and Indian woman, it is called zambo de Indio. The latter in New Spain is called cambujo.

*Zancudo.*—A sort of gnat with very long shanks, whose bite is very painful. It is very common, and extremely troublesome.

*Zapayo.*—A general term for several species of pumpkins, particularly one large red kind, which is the usual food of the common people when boiled with butter and sugar.

*Zapote.* (*Achras Sapote.*)—A round fruit, five inches in diameter, whose rind is soft and of a straw colour. The pulp is yellow, resembling that of a peach, with a large stone, covered with a soft woolly skin, and serving for a sand-box when the kernel is taken out. The tree is very tall and bulky.