

of the Cordilleras, than the road leading from the capital to Vera Cruz. The slightest glance of the physical sections in the atlas accompanying this work, will suffice to prove the justice of this assertion. In the European road, as we have already observed\*, we remain from the valley of Mexico to beyond Perote, on the central plain, at an elevation of 2300 metres† above the level of the ocean; and from that village we descend with extreme rapidity to the ravin of the *Plan del Rio*, to the west of Rinconada. On the other hand on the road from Acapulco, which we designate by the name of the Asiatic Road, the descent begins at a distance of eight leagues from Mexico, on the southern slope of the basaltic mountain of Guarda. With the exception of that part which passes through the forest of Guchilaque, it might be easy to render this road fit for carriages without any great expence of labour. It is broad and kept in tolerably good order from Acapulco to the table land of Chilpanzingo; but it becomes narrow and extremely bad in advancing towards the capital, especially from Cuernavaca to Guchilaque, and from thence to the summit of the high mountain called *la Cruz del Marques*. The difficulties which are the greatest obstacles to

\* Vol. I. p. 58.

† 7545 feet. *Trans.*