

## PLATE XXIV.

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### LUZON.

#### UPPER SAVANA DISTRICT.

*January.*

THE explanations I can offer of this plate are even less satisfactory than those of the last. From a convenient distance we scarcely ever lost sight of the mountains of the island of Luzon from its north point to Manilla, and everywhere we saw the character here represented, *i. e.* large grassy plains, upon generally not very steep heights, always alternating with less extended districts, covered with thick and tall forests, which only appear to be connected with each other at the foot of the mountains. The custom of burning the tall grasses during the dry season is practised all over the island, and in sailing along we had on several evenings an opportunity of admiring this peculiar spectacle. The view represented in our plate was taken in the mountains east of the Lagoon of Bahia, a lake drained by the river Passig, about 800 to 1000 feet above that lake. Although I have endeavoured to represent the aspect of the forest as faithfully as possible in its details, I am unable to name any of the prevailing species. On the whole, these forests are during this winter season remarkable for the number of leafless trees; the underwood, to which belong an endless variety of creepers, is very spiny, and renders the thickets scarcely penetrable. Amongst the creepers especially, there are many so abundantly clad with hooked spines that it is difficult to extricate oneself from them. The finest and most conspicuous form is the genus *Calamus* ( $11 \mid 12 \frac{n}{o}$ ), which in a peculiar manner combines the character of palms with that of creepers. Long thin strings are cobweb-like crossing the forest, here and there exhibiting complete crowns of palm leaves, and their long nodding bunches of flowers are principally armed with claw-like thorns. Their number of species, and the masses in which