

form, in the coast valleys, the produce of the lands appropriated to the Ccapac-Inca and the Sun in these valleys being sent to the nearest station in the sierra¹. From Quito southwards the principal Inca-tampus were Llactacunca, Riopampa, Tumipampa, Caxamarca, Xauxa, and Huilleas; south of Cuzco were Hatun Colla and Paria. From one to another there extended, by short distances, a line of minor stations, at each of which two 'chasquis,' or running messengers, were always in attendance, charged with the duty of carrying orders and messages from stage to stage with all possible speed. To facilitate travelling from one end of the dominion to the other, artificial causeways had here and there been built, cuttings made in soil and rock, and bridges constructed of timber laid on strong ropes of twisted grass: and in this manner a high road 1,500 miles long had been in effect provided in the sierra from one end of the dominion to the other. A second route of this kind extended from pueblo to pueblo along the coast, commencing at the Gulf of Guayaquil in the north, and terminating at the Chincha valley in the south. It scarcely needs be said that neither of these roads was a continuous paved causeway; even Garcilasso, who celebrates them as among the chief monuments of the Inca rule, admits that the lower one, in many places, consisted in nothing more substantial than large pieces of timber, planted here and there in the sands to guide travellers in following the track².

Northward of the northern colony, and extending along the plateau of the Andes to the north-westernmost angle of South America, dwelt a succession of tribes which would scarcely have been absorbed into the Inca dominion while it retained its integrity and its centre at Cuzco, though it may be fairly presumed that they would in due time have been annexed to the northern colony had this become a permanently independent dominion having its centre at Quito. Many,

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¹ See p. 586.

² Lib. ix. cap. 13.