

OTOLUA, a settlement of the province and government of Popayán in the Nuevo Reyno de Granada, on the shore of a river at a small distance from the city of Buga to the *n. w.* and which river divides the settlement from this city.

OTOMACOS, a nation of Indians, reduced, for the greater part, to the faith, and dwelling in the vicinity of the Orinoco and Nuevo Reyno de Granada. They are of such extravagant and rare customs in their natural state of gentility, that they deserve particular note. At the first dawn of light they all start from their sleep, and begin distressing cries and shouts for their dead, the which last till day-light; and then they begin to dance and sing and amuse themselves till twelve at night, thus allowing themselves no more than three hours sleep. During the morning they go and throw themselves into the river, and then assemble at the doors of their captains, and there pick out those who are to go either fishing, or hunting on the mountains the wild-boars, or to employ themselves in tilling the ground; after these are selected, the rest are allowed to go and amuse themselves.

It is truly curious to see them play at tennis; their dexterity is wonderful, and some of them will throw themselves along the ground to meet the ball, and will repel it with their shoulder. This game is well ordered: they have regular umpires, and there is much betting on the two sides, or parties, which regularly amount to 12 each.

The women, in the mean time, occupy themselves in making very fine crockery-ware, and in weaving curious garments and nets, sacks, &c. of hemp, or *pita*, which they procure from the Maunriche, as also in making pavilions or tents to defend them whilst asleep from the swarms of mosquitoes with which they are infested. About mid-day they give over their labour, and also amuse themselves in playing at ball, and with no less dexterity than their husbands.

These Indians have, in their play, a way of cutting and lacerating themselves with lion spikes to such a degree, that in order to stop themselves from bleeding to death they are obliged to plunge into the cold river, and will there fill up the wounds with sand; a practice which, instead of being fatal to them, makes them robust and hardy. They are fond of eating earth; and this food is, no doubt, prevented from being fatal to them through the quantity of oil or grease of the alligator, with which they mix it up.

This is the only nation of Indians of this kingdom who permit polygamy. The young men are forced to marry old widows, and the old men, on losing their wives, may marry young women;

since they assert that it is madness to put two foolish inexperienced people together.

These Indians were, formerly, very numerous, and at constant war with the Caribes, until that these, aided by the Dutch, brought fire-arms into the field, when the Otomacos were so discomfited, as to betake themselves to unknown and distant parts.

They make their bread of certain roots, which they permit to putrefy in water, and then mix it up with the earth and grease, as we have before observed. This nation is bounded *n. e.* by the nation of the Paos, and *n. w.* by that of the Trauros. They began to be reduced to the Catholic faith by the Jesuits in 1732.

OTOMIES, a nation of civilised Indians of Nueva España; thus called as being descendants of Otomiel, sixth son of Itzac Micuati, a noble of the Seven Caves, and of one of the most numerous nations of that kingdom.

They became united to the republic of Tlaxcala, when they fled from the war made against them by the emperor of Mexico, who wished to subject them to his dominion; and when the same declared war against this republic, the greatest confidence was put in these Indians, and they were placed at the very frontiers of Mexico: also in reward for their services they were endowed with great honours, and the first families of Tlaxcala gave them their daughters to wife; nor have the Mexicans been ever able to shake their allegiance to this republic.

At the entrance of the Spaniards, they were induced to serve in the conquest of that empire, and after this they changed their name from Otomies to Chichimecas.

OTONCAPULCO, a small settlement of the province of Mexico and kingdom of Nueva España, where Cortés, after the fatigues of battle, rested himself the night that he retired from Mexico, and where he afterwards constructed a temple, with the title of Nuestra Señora. See REMEDIOS.

OTONTEPEC, SAN JUAN DE, a settlement of the head settlement of the district of Tautoyuca, and *alcaldia mayor* of Tampico, in Nueva España. It contains 69 families of Indians, and is 13 leagues *w.* of its head settlement.

OTOPARI, a large river of the kingdom of Peru, which rises between the Inambari and Chichivara, near the province of Paucartambo. It runs with different names for an infinite number of leagues through unknown countries of infidel Indians, making one large curve, until that, directing its course to *n.* in the territory or country of