

though they were at first

Having observed some supposed that gunpowder, their bodies. One of these to their hands, gave them He was first flayed from but this chemical essay, failure. They have since -arms, and when they are made of them.

warlike tribe of Indians, in dued by the Spaniards, but present day. They lead a ent wars with their neigh- muscular, robust and active. skill in managing horses, alry. They have harassed those unwelcome intruders t to the Arancanians, have tered by the Castilian inva- ounded by the Rio Grande Abipones, who are divided headed by a chief, whom from the Spaniards. This a of government or military n after the arrival of the ommon cause against the often involved in desperate rs have been greatly dimin- well as by the measles and s also checked by a barba- among the women, of killing

ong the Abipones, except by the bow and spear. The edonian pike, and is a most both ends, so that if one be immediately turned against they grease the points, that they also possess a few mus- n. They also use a weapon eather, and fastened together apidly, and dart at an object edition is always preceded by

a drinking festival, in which copious draughts of mead are swallowed; and the drunker they get, the more wisdom is supposed to be in their councils. Whatever is determined upon in these bacchanalian orgies is always religiously executed after they become sober. On their march, each man has three horses, riding one and driving the others, so that he has always a fresh horse. When they attack the Spaniards, they put their horses to a gallop and rush upon them with all the speed they can exert; the attack is made not in close ranks, but in a scattering manner and in various parties, so that the enemy finds himself assailed in front, flank and rear. They strike a single blow, and then leap back quickly, to avoid a blow in return. They can turn their horses round in circles with surprising swiftness, and hold the animal in perfect command; they have all the expertness of a professed tumbler, and practise every sort of gyration and evolution upon the horse's back, sometimes hanging under his belly, and thus by continually changing their position, avoid every shot that is aimed at them.

These savages are capable of enduring great fatigue. On their marches, they pass the day and the night in the open air, and are either parched with heat or drenched with rain for many days together. They expose their bare heads to the burning sun; if wide rivers or lakes are to be crossed, they need neither bridge nor boat; when the water is no longer fordable, they leap from their horses, strip off their clothes, and holding them above the water, on the point of their spears, swim across, leading their horses by the bridle. They use a prodigious number of trumpets, horns and other uncouth instruments, which they sound on going to battle; and these horrid clangors, with the terrific appearance they give themselves by painting, strike great dismay into the Spaniards.

The Jesuit Dobrizhoffer, who lived many years among these Indians, thus speaks of the extreme dread in which they held their neighbors. "How often have I seen the Spanish settlements thrown into the greatest terror by a mere flying report that the Abipones were coming. In an instant every man imagined a troop of these ferocious savages, with blackened faces, mounted on swift horses, rushing to the attack with horrid shouts and the alarm of trumpets, brandishing an enormous spear in their right hands, laden with bundles of arrows, breathing fire and slaughter, and with their ferocious eyes threatening death and destruction! You might see crowds of people running up and down, bewailing their fate, while not an enemy was nigh. Not only women and children, but men distinguished by military titles, took refuge within the stone-walls of the churches, or skulked into hidden