

though the Council of Bishops, which met in Lima in 1569, pronounced the Indian stimulant a useless and pernicious leaf, and on account of the belief entertained by the Indians that the habit of chewing coca gave them strength, "an illusion of the devil," though a great many people agree with the devil (pp. 187, 188). The great vegetable product, however, of the Montaña, is the Jesuits' or Peruvian bark, from which the well-known alkaloid quinine, so extensively used to check fevers, is derived. This bark was first employed in Europe in the middle of the seventeenth century, and derives its name from the Countess de la Chinchon, wife of a Peruvian viceroy, who first brought it to Europe. It is derived from various species of *Cinchona*, or, as Mr. Markham will have it, *Chinchona*, which grows in the Colombian, Ecuadorian, Bolivian, and Peruvian forests. This bark used to be collected by the *Cascarillos* Indians chiefly, who endure great hardships, but whose method of obtaining it was to cut down the tree which produced it. This, of course, soon thinned the more valuable trees, and such was the reckless stupidity of the Peruvian Government, that, though it put every obstacle in the way of the tree being planted elsewhere, they never attempted by a system of forestry to renew the riches thus improvidently wasted. The result was that quinine was getting scarcer and scarcer, and dearer and dearer every year, and threatened soon to be unobtainable. In these circumstances, the Indian Government determined to try and naturalise the tree in India. To obtain seeds and young plants was the difficult task assigned to Mr. Clements R. Markham, C.B., F.R.S., late of the India Office. This duty Mr. Markham, with his assistants—Dr. Spruce, Mr. Cross, and M'Ivor—performed most successfully, and a flourishing plantation—already yielding much quinine—on the Neilgherry Hills, will ever remain a monument of noble work well done. In Java and the mountainous region in Jamaica the tree has also got naturalised, so that we very soon shall be quite independent of the Peruvian forests for this valuable bark.* Another source of riches of the Montaña is also disappearing, owing to the reckless manner in which "the goose that laid the golden eggs" is being destroyed. We refer to the beautiful skins of the chinchilla (*C. lanigera*, p. 304).

We now leave the Land of the Sun and the New World for islands still sunnier, and a world still newer.

* See the numerous works of Mr. Markham, as well as those of Howard and Weddell, and the reports of Dr. Spruce and others. More recent researches in Peru, &c., are those of Dr. A. Basteau ["Die Culturländer des alten Amerika" (1878)], and on the border lands of the republic those of Señor Zeballos ["La Conquista de Quince Mil Leguas" (1878).]