

Mr. Pennant begins with observing, that he will only give as much of Mr. Falkener's narrative as that gentleman could vouch for the authenticity of, as having been an eye witness to. He then proceeds to notice all who have mentioned these extraordinary people.

Magellan first saw one of them in 1519: he was afterwards visited by numbers of them. Their height was about seven feet (French,) but the first he saw was taller. In 1525 *Garcia de Louisa* saw some men of great stature, but does not mention their height. In 1586 Sir *Thomas Cavendish* measured one of their foot-steps, which was eighteen inches long. *Anthony Knevet*, who sailed with Sir Thomas in his second voyage, saw some of these men fifteen or sixteen spans high, and measured the bodies of two recently buried, which was fourteen spans long; and after this three Dutchmen, at different times, saw some men of a gigantic stature; one of whom thought they were ten or eleven feet high. *Le Maire* and *Scheewen* found some skeletons ten or eleven feet long. In 1616 *Gracia de Nodal*, a Spaniard, trafficked with men taller by the head than Europeans, on the south side of the Straits of Magellan; and in 1642 *Henry Bruever*, a Dutchman, observed in the Straits *La Maire* foot-steps of men which measured eighteen inches. These are the only two instances of their being found on this side of the Straits. Sir *Francis Drake*, however, and two other voyagers, in the 16th, and four more in the 17th century, saw none of these people.

In the present century there are only two evidences of their existence. In 1764 the crew of a ship, belonging to St. Maloes, saw some of them. In the philosophical transactions for 1767, p. 75, is an account given by Mr. *Clarke*, an officer in Mr. *Byron's* ship, who had an opportunity of standing for two hours within two yards of this race, and seeing them examined, and on measured by Mr. *Byron*, who though six feet high, could scarce when on tip-toe reach the top of the Patagonian's head. He assures us, that none of the men were lower than eight feet, some even exceeded nine, and the women were from seven and half to eight feet. Neither Mr. *Wallis* nor Mr. *Bougainville* met with any people approaching to such a height.

Let us now hear Mr. Falkener. About the year 1742 he was sent on a mission to the vast plains of *Pampas*; there he first met with some tribes of these people. The tallest which he measured, in the same manner that Mr. *Byron* did, was seven feet eight inches high; the common height was six feet, and there were numbers short-

er. The tallest women did not exceed six feet. They are supposed to be a race derived from the *Chiloe Indians*, the *Puelches*, who defeated and destroyed the Spaniard *Baldivia*. They dwell in large tents, covered with the hides of mares, and divided within into apartments for the different ranks of the family, by a sort of blanketing. They are a most migratory people: the women, like the females of all savage countries, undergo all the laborious work. Their food is (almost entirely) animal. Their drink is water, except when certain species of fruit are ripe, of which they make a fermenting liquor called *chicha*, common to many parts of South America, with which they intoxicate themselves. There are two fruits of this kind, one called *algarrova*, which they eat as bread, the other *mila*. Their clothing is either a mantle of skins, or of woollen cloth, manufactured by themselves. They have naturally beards, but they generally pluck up the hairs though some leave mustaches.

The slings which they use in the chase of horses, cattle, or ostriches, have a stone fixed to each end; and sometimes another thong, with a third stone, is fastened to the middle of the other: these, with amazing dexterity, they sling round the objects of the chase, be they beasts or ostriches, which entangles them so that they cannot stir. The Indians leave them, I may say, thus tied neck and heels, and go on in pursuit of fresh game; and having finished their sport return to pick up the animals they left secured in the slings.

Their commerce with the Europeans has corrupted them greatly, taught them the vice of dram-drinking, and been a dreadful obstacle to their moral improvement.—"The venereal distemper is common among them. They do not speak of it as an exotic disorder, so probably it is aboriginal."

In respect to religion they allow two principles, a good and a bad. The good they call the *Creator of all things*; but consider him as one that after that never solicits himself about them. He is styled by some *Sevela*, or chief in the land of strong drink; by others *Canyara-Cunne*, or Lord of the dead. The evil principle is called *Hurrican*, or the wanderer without. Sometimes these (or there are several) are supposed to reside over particular persons, protect their own people, or injure others. These are likewise called *Kaliku*, or dwellers in the air.

They have priests and priestesses, just such jugglers as those of all other barbarous nations.

The *Puelches* have a notion of a future state, and imagine that after death they are to be transported to a country, where the