

any pay for several years: they are certainly without money, yet they are never without the necessaries of life, with which the land furnishes them; and thus I think them rich and happy. I went to live in a small house, belonging to a soldier's widow, and I now stayed on shore to regulate my chronometers. The evenings we devoted to recreation; the good-natured inhabitants used then to assemble round our tent; a couple of flutes and violins increased the mirth and invited dancing and singing, and we had frequent opportunities of admiring the skill with which the girls danced the *sandango*. Immediately after sun-set, the air is here filled with an innumerable quantity of shining beetles, which have the appearance of fiery sparks; the great grasshoppers too begin to chirp; and frogs, as large as hedge-hogs, come forth from their holes, and, as it were, bark like dogs. Near our tent flows a rivulet with very good water, with which we filled our casks. We attempted to fish near the shore, and always drew up a full net; we often found remarkable aquatic animals in them, which were very well known to our naturalists. Ships that are going round Cape Horn will do well to touch at the island of St. Catherine, in preference to Rio Janeiro; as the provisions are cheaper there, the climate better, and there is an advantage in being nearer Cape Horn. They grow here excellent coffee, and every inhabitant has a coffee-grove near his house; yet the trade, although now open, is inconsiderable, since only a few ships come here.

On the 26th, we again took our instruments on-board, and found every thing in order. On the 28th, we set sail, with a gentle land-breeze. We perceived, with some gratification, that the inhabitants regretted our departure. My sailors, whom I had ordered on shore every day, to strengthen themselves for the voyage, had feelingly acknowledged the friendly reception of these people, and behaved themselves with propriety, so as to acquire a good character as Russians. I had a copper-plate, with the name of the ship and the date, fixed to the house where I had lived; by which the landlady felt herself much flattered. Chronometer, Baraud's, lost now, in 24 hours, 4".4, and Hardy's 49".5. Lieutenant Zacharin had so far recovered that he again entered on service. The men were all well, with the exception of the locksmith.

*From St. Catherine to Conception.*—On the 31st of December, lat. 34 deg. 10 min. S., long. 48 deg. 3 min. W., we saw three large tortoises; a remarkable sight at so great a distance from land. Up to the 10th of January, 1816, lat. 45 deg. 46 sec., long. 57 deg. 2 min., nothing happened that deserves notice; wind and weather were favourable, till the proximity of Cape Horn was announced by violent gales, which assailed us for six