

man of the ship, told me that some years often passed without a vessel entering here. The sun was setting when we landed; and we found the mules, together with the only horse on the island for myself, in the neighbouring village Massu. Agadon is three miles and a half from hence, and we rode off immediately, through a paradisiacal country, whose odoriferous air had the most grateful and beneficial effects on us: indeed, the Spaniards told us, that the climate was very salubrious, and people on the island lived to a very great age.

The village Massu consists of fifteen houses, built in one line, with gardens between them. These dwellings or boxes, hanging over a space of eight or ten square feet, are raised five feet above the ground, and supported by four pillars; the floors and walls are formed of bamboos, placed so far apart, that a hand may every where be passed through, giving to the whole habitation the appearance of a cage, which need not to be entered to see what occurs inside. This construction is well adapted to the hot climate, as it allows a free current of air to cool and refresh the inmates; the thatched roof protects them against the rain, and the pillars against the reptiles; but the sight is particularly ludicrous when the family is within. The half-naked inhabitants of Massu kindly addressed us in the Spanish language; a large stone cross outside of the village, and a small one about their necks, shewed that they professed the Christian faith. The inhabitants of the island are called *los Indios*, by the Spaniards; they are all Christians, and partly descended from the natives, but chiefly from the people of Mexico and the Philippines, which were transplanted here by the Spaniards, after the extinction of the true aborigines. After having passed through two other villages, we alighted at eight o'clock before Mr. Wilson's house in Agadon. Here we adjusted our dress, and then waited upon the governor, Don Joseph Medinilla y Pineda, captain-general of the Marians or Ladrones, who received us in his uniform, with the utmost politeness. He promised to supply us with every thing the season afforded, only regretting that the season for fruit, which is very abundant, was over on this island; and immediately gave orders to the same effect. This gentleman is the only real Spaniard on the island, all the officers, and even the clergy, being natives of Mexico or Manilla, and descended from Spanish parents. He is a very agreeable companion, and probably also a useful officer, his governorship having been renewed for him, contrary to the Spanish system, by which a governor is never left above three years in the same colony. Mr. Wilson was the interpreter between us; I tried in vain to turn the conversation to the Marians, but the governor, like all