

this coast, we shall see confirmed by future voyagers, whose authenticity we cannot dispute; but with all this exaggeration, it seems the savage was peaceable in his deportment, and thankful for such trifling presents as he received, till the Spaniards endeavoured to put shackles on his legs to secure him; and if he then roared out like a bull, we need not wonder, since the provocation and the danger were sufficient to make him exert every faculty both of body and mind.

He was dressed in the skins of some strange wild beast; and we learn, that the people, in general, on this coast, were habited in a similar manner. They are described as ignorant and superstitious, believing that their country is haunted by evil spirits, of whose influence they are much afraid. Their weapons were bows and arrows. Their huts were constructed with skins, and portable from place to place. They devoured their meat with the voraciousness of cannibals, without seeming to know any modes of previous dressing it. They used a root, called Caper, instead of bread, and drank vast quantities of water with their meals.

The only religious ideas they seemed to possess, centred in the belief of two beings, one of whom they termed Sebetos, who seemed to be superior; and the other, whom they denominated Chelcule, a subordinate kind of deity. In this barren country, since called Patagonia, they set up a cross, and took possession with the usual solemnities.

Serrano, who, as has been mentioned before, was dispatched on an expedition to reconnoitre the coast, discovered a river about a league broad, at the entrance, to which he gave the name of Saint Clare. He spent six days in examining it,