Adventure and Beagle, occupying nearly ten years of active service. The southern coasts of South America, and the intricacies of the Strait of Magellan, and of the innumerable channels intersecting Tierra del Fuego, are as accurately defined as any of the well-known coasts of Europe and America.

The Lords of the Admiralty, in 1825, having decided upon an expedition to survey the southern coasts of South America, from the southern entrance of the river La Plata, round to Chiloe, including the Strait of Magellan and the whole of Tierra del Fuego, the Adventure and Beagle were accordingly commissioned for that purpose, and having been provided with every necessary and comfort, sailed from Plymouth on the 22d of May in the following year, for Rio de Janeiro, the former under Commander Philip Parker King, R.N., senior officer of the expedition, who had been previously employed in conducting the Admiralty surveys in New Holland, and the latter under Commander Pringle Stokes, R.N., who, dying in Tierra del Fuego in 1828, was succeeded by Commander Robert Fitzroy, R.N. On the 14th of October, 1830, both vessels anchored at Plymouth, after an absence of four years and two months, having, in a great measure successfully accomplished the objects of the expedition. Four natives of Tierra del Fuego, were brought over by Captain Fitzroy, with a view to have them returned to their own country after a suitable education.

The Beagle was again commissioned in 1831, for the purpose of completing the former surveys, and carrying round the world a chain of meridian distances; and sailed on the second voyage on the 17th of December following, under Captain Fitzroy, who was accompanied by Mr. Darwin, grandson of Dr. Darwin, the poet, as naturalist, and other efficient persons; as also by the Fuegians, and Mr. Mathews, a church missionary. On the 2d of October, 1836, the Beagle anchored at Falmouth, having been four years and nine months from England.

The details of the interesting events that occurred during these expeditions, and the results of the scientific and general observations of all who accompanied them are amply given in a narrative, just published by Captains King and Fitzroy, and Charles Darwin, Esq., in 4 vols. 8vo, with numerous maps, charts, and upwards of sixty illustrations by Landseer and other eminent artists. This narrative is, beyond all question, the most valuable nautical and scientific work that has been given to the public for years, and will be placed among those records of enterprise and observation, which have bestowed on the navy of England—even exclusive of its exploits in war—an immortality of glory and renown. To the scientific geographer and practical seaman, its value is measureless; to the geologist it suggests new theories, while strengthening the old; to the physiologist it affords the most ample details of imperfectly-known districts and unfamiliar objects; to the statist, a real body of facts hitherto unrecorded; and to the philosopher, a full account (amongst others) of tribes whose very stature and dimensions have been, until now, matter of dispute among travellers, and of a whole people purely aboriginal, and still intact in their native barbarity.

Full justice will, no doubt, be amply done elsewhere to the more strictly scientific portions of this valuable work. In our limited space, we must necessarily confine ourselves to only a few points of general

interest; and have therefore collected and arranged the most material portions, distributed throughout the four volumes, relative to the present state of the various tribes of Indians scattered over Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, of which so little has been hitherto known; and for the better understanding, of which it will be necessary to give a brief outline of the general appearance of those countries.

From the bay of St. Antonio to the Strait of Magellan, the plains of Patagonia, extend seven hundred miles in length, backed by the chain of the Andes, and fronted by the shores of the Atlantic. These plains are peculiar from their external configuration, being formed of immense successive terraces rising like steps one above the other. The whole series are horizontally stratified. These steps are often several miles broad; but from one point of view, Mr. Darwin saw five very distinct lines of escarpment abutting one over the other, the lower one being a mere fringe, nearly on a level with the sea; the upper one being 950 feet. "I believe," he says, "I can distinguish seven or eight distinct terraces which occur along the line of coast, and which include heights between 1200 feet and the level of the sea." Their slope is about the same as that of the gradually-shoaling bottom of the neighbouring ocean. The elevation of 350 feet is gained by three steps; one of about 100 feet, the second 250, and the third 350.

These successive terraces likewise occur on the shores of the Pacific; and Mr. Darwin considers that they have been elevated within a recent epoch above the level of the sea, at an exceedingly gradual rate, each having in turn formed a beach to the base of the Cordillera. These plains have a fossiliferous foundation, above which is a soft friable stone, which from its extreme whiteness has been mistaken for chalk, covered with a thick bed of gravel of well-rounded pebbles, almost exclusively derived from porphyritic rocks. This gravel covers the entire surface of the land, from the Rio Colorado to the Strait of Magellan, a space of 800 miles, and is one chief cause of the desert character of Patagonia. Mr. Darwin supposes that the gravel-beds gradually thicken as they ascend, and even reach the base of the Cordillera; to which mountains must be looked for the parent rocks, of at least a great portion of the well-rounded fragments. So great an area covered by shingle, could scarcely be pointed out in any part of the world.

In one of the cliffs between the Rio de la Plata, and the Strait of Magellan, the organic remains of an extinct llama or guanaco was found, fully as large as the camel.

Water, in Patagonia, is exceedingly scarce; even at the base of the porphyry hills, there are only a few small wells, containing but little, and that rather saline, and half putrid. Grass and thorn-bushes are very thinly scattered over the plains; and a few stunted trees in the dry water-courses show the deficiency of rains. The heats of summer are very great; but in winter, though the days are not cold, the frosts at night are severe; and at all times of the year, in the day-time, strong winds sweep over the plains.

The zoology is as limited as the flora—a few black beetles and occasionally a lizard. There are three carrion hawks, and in the valleys, a few finches and insect feeders. In the stomachs of these birds have been found grasshoppers, cicadæ, small lizards, and even scorpions.

The characteristic quadruped of these countries, and which princi-

pally supplies the inhabitants with food, is the guanaco, the South-American representative of the camel of the East. Its size may be compared to an ass, with taller legs, and with very long neck. The guanaco abounds over the whole of the temperate parts of South America, from the wooded Islands of Tierra del Fuego, through Patagonia, the hilly parts of La Plata, Chile, even to the Cordillera of Peru. In southern Patagonia, and on the northern shores of the Strait of Magellan, they are still more numerous. Generally they go in small herds, from half a dozen to thirty; but on the banks of the St. Cruz, one herd was seen of at least five hundred. While in herds they are extremely difficult of approach from the exceeding vigilance of their sentinels; but singly, or a few together, if met abruptly, they are easily approached. These animals have a singular habit of dropping, in successive days, their dung in the same defined heap. Another peculiarity is, that they have favourite spots for dying in. Mr. Darwin observed, that when wounded they invariably walked towards the river. The great enemy of these animals is the puma, or South-American lion, which, it is said, always kills its prey by jumping on the shoulders, and drawing back the head with one of its paws, until the vertebræ break.

The condor is found on the west coast of South America, from the Strait of Magellan throughout the entire range of the Cordillera. Although gregarious they are oftener seen in pairs. The measurement of one which Mr. Darwin shot in the St. Cruz river was eight and a half feet, from tip to tip of the wings, and four feet from beak to tail. In the Strait of Magellan a larger one was shot, measuring nine feet two inches between the wings, and four feet three and a half inches in length. Ostriches (*Struthio Rhea*) inhabit the country of La Plata and Northern Patagonia as far as a little south of the Rio Negro, in lat. 41°, and the Petise (a smaller kind) takes their place in Southern Patagonia; the part about the Rio Negro being neutral territory. It is not generally known that these birds readily take water; they were seen swimming across the St. Cruz, in a rapid stream of 400 yards wide.

Several species of mice, externally characterized by large thin ears and very fine hair, roam among the thickets in the valleys, where they cannot for months together procure water. They devour each other. A small and delicately-shaped fox, likewise very abundant, probably derives its entire support from these small animals.

Captain Fitzroy, accompanied by Mr. Darwin, ascended the river St. Cruz (lat. 50°), 140 miles from its mouth in the Atlantic—until then a *terra incognita*. Captain King had previously proceeded up for thirty miles. They here met with a marked change in the geological structure of the plains, and entering an extensive lava district, discovered a balsatic glen, a wild-looking ravine, bounded by black lava cliffs.

Tierra del Fuego is that part of South America which is separated from Patagonia by the Strait of Magellan, and forms the extreme point or tongue of the American continent, ending at Cape Horn. The most curious feature in the geology of this country is the extent to which the land is intersected by arms of the sea. These channels are irregular, and dotted with islands, where the granite and trappean rocks occur, but in the clay-slate formation are so straight, that in one instance, as

Captain King observes, "a parallel ruler placed on the map upon the projecting points of the south shore, extended across, also touched the headlands of the opposite coast."

The Strait of Magellan is extremely deep in most parts, even close to the shore. About mid-channel, eastward of Cape Forward, Captain King found no bottom, with 1536 feet. Captain Fitzroy remarks, that on entering any of these channels from the outer coast, it is always necessary to look out directly for anchorage; for further inland the depth soon becomes extremely great. The western and central parts of the Strait are of a primitive character, rugged and very mountainous; the eastern portion is of recent formation and low; the centre is free from islands. To the westward the plants are stunted in their growth, in the centre vegetation is luxuriant, and to the eastward there is a total absence of trees. Glaciers abound throughout the various bays and shores, and immense masses are frequently disengaged, crashing and reverberating around, like eruptions of a distant volcano. Tides in the Strait are very strong. The mean temperature in the hottest part of the year in Central Tierra del Fuego, as given by Captain King, is about 50°. That of June, July, and August, answering to our December, January, and February; which three months appear to be the coldest, he gives at 33° 08. Mr. Darwin thinks this a little too low, as the whole of August was not included. The temperature of Port Famine (the central harbour) is very considerably lower, both during summer and winter, than that of Dublin; at the former the difference between the seasons not being so great, the climate being more equable. The frosts are not so severe or so long as in England. The sealers say, that throughout the whole year they wear the same quantity of clothing. Nevertheless Captain King states, that during the winter of 1828, the temperature was once as low as 12° 6′. It is remarkable that notwithstanding the accounts of former navigators, and the innumerable glaciers that are continually being detached from the mountains and cliffs into the various channels of the Strait, on no occasion, during several seasons and all parts of the year, were the vessels employed in this expedition ever blocked up or impeded in their progress by ice. Violent and sudden squalls and hurricanes, however, render the navigation extremely dangerous.

The vegetation, says Captain King, is most luxuriant, and large woody-stemmed trees of Fuchsia and Veronica, in England considered and treated as tender plants, are in full flower, within a very short distance of the base of a mountain covered for two thirds down with snow, and with the temperature at 36°. He states also that humming-birds were seen sipping the sweets of the flowers, after two or three days of constant rain, snow, and sleet, during which time the thermometer had been at the freezing point. Mr. Darwin saw parrots feeding on the seeds of the winter's bark, south of lat. 55°.

The snow-line in Tierra del Fuego descends very low, and the mountain-sides are abrupt; which causes the glaciers to descend far down their flanks. The general range of the mountains is considered by Captain Fitzroy, from angular measurements, to have an elevation rather under 4000 feet, with one point called Chain Mountain rising to 4300. Further inland, there is, indeed, a more lofty mountain (Sarmiento) of 7000 feet, but this is not immediately connected with the

glaciers. This range of mountains is in the latitude of the Cumberland hills.

The zoology of Tierra del Fuego, as might be expected, is very poor. Of mammalia, besides cetacea and phocæ, there is one bat, three species of mice, the tucutuco, a fox, sea-otter, guanaco, and one deer (the huelmul).

Of birds, there are the steamer-duck, or racehorse (whose small wings, insufficient for flying, are used like paddles of a steam-vessel, propelling it with great velocity), geese, penguins, paroquets, hawks, owls, the creeper, finches, starling, thrush, white-tufted tyrant-flycatcher, humming-bird, black woodpecker with scarlet crest, little dark-coloured wren, &c.

Coleopterous insects occur in very small numbers. The sea, however, is most abundantly stocked with living creatures. Kelp, *Fucus giganteus* of Solander, is found in immense quantities, attaining, in some instances, according to Captain Cook, whose statement is not doubted, the enormous length of 360 feet; the number of living creatures of all orders whose existence intimately depends on this marine production, is stated by Mr. Darwin to be incredible.

The absence of any species whatever, in the whole class of reptiles, is a marked feature in the zoology of this country, as well as of the Falkland Islands.

After this brief outline of the general appearance and natural history of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, we now proceed to consider the state of the wandering tribes inhabiting these rarely-visited regions.

And first, as to the Patagonians—those

> "Athropophagi, whose heads
> Do grow beneath their shoulders"—

those famous people, whose height and appearance have occasioned so much wonder, doubt, and controversy, from the period of their being first seen by the great Magelhaen, who represents them as about seven feet French, or seven feet six inches, English measure, to Le Maire, whose skeletons were ten or eleven feet long; and from Admiral Byron, who states them to be between seven and eight feet, to the Jesuit Falkner, whose *maximum* was seven feet eight inches, giving six feet as the middle height.

Without, however, entering into the disputed question of the past state of the ever-varying tribes inhabiting that portion of America between the parallels of 30° and 40°, or the still more disputed state of those between the more southern parallels of 40 and 53.4, we are necessarily confined to the present state of the natives of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, as narrated in the account of the Beagle and the Adventure.

To enable the reader more readily to comprehend the following description, we may observe that Patagonia, including that portion of South America, which lies between the river Negro and the Strait of Magellan, is divided into eastern Patagonia, a district lying eastward of the Cordillera; and western Patagonia, lying between the summits of the Andes, and the Pacific Ocean. Tierra del Fuego takes in all the islands southward of the Strait of Magellan (including Staten Island), as far as the Ramirez islets.

The entire adult population of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, is thus estimated by Captain Fitzroy:

Patagonians (Tehuel-het) as above	1600
Fuegians (Yacana, Tekeenica, Alikhoolip)	1500
Ditto (Pecheray) central parts of Strait	200
Huelmul (both sides of Strait)	100
Chonos (between western coast of Patagonia and Chonos Archipelago)	400
	3800

which Captain Fitzroy does not think is 500 in error, making in round numbers about 4000 adults south of the latitude of forty degrees, exclusive of the island of Chiloe.

The existing Patagonians are divided by Captain Fitzroy into four parties, each of which has a separate though ill-defined territory. Each of these parties has a leader, or cacique; but they speak one language, and are evidently subdivisions of one tribe. When mutually convenient, they all assemble in one place: but if food becomes scarce, or quarrels happen, each party withdraws to its own territory. At such times, one body will encroach upon the hunting-grounds of another, and a battle is the consequence. About four hundred adults, and a rather large proportion of children, are in each of these parties: the number of women being to that of the men as three to one. Near the Strait of Magellan about 1400 Patagonians have been lately seen encamped together for a short time; but usually there is only one horde, of about 400 grown people, in that neighbourhood.

The Patagonians travel on horseback over the country between the River Negro and the Strait of Magellan; and from the Atlantic to the Cordillera of the Andes. They have no boats or canoes of any kind; and their disposition, habits, and language are very different from those of the Fuegians (Yacana-Kunny, Key-uhue, and Poy-us). Those who live on the north-eastern part of Tierra del Fuego, have neither canoes nor horses. The natives of the southern and western islands, and of the shores of the Skyring and Otway waters, also the people upon the western islands and coast of Patagonia, have canoes, but no horses.

The different tribes of horse-Indians are generally upon hostile terms with each other, as well as with the canoe-Indians. This is particularly noticed about the western entrance of Magellan's Strait, where the tribes which inhabit opposite sides are particularly inveterate in their hostility.

The aborigines of eastern Patagonia are a tall and extremely stout race of men. Their bodies are bulky, their heads and features large; their hands and feet, however, are comparatively small. They wear a large mantle of guanaco-skins, sewed together, which hangs loosely from their shoulders to their ankles, and adds so much to the bulkiness of their appearance, that it is no wonder they have been called "gigantic." Their peculiar habit of folding the arms in these mantles renders them very high-shouldered, and greatly increases their apparent height and bulk; it was this, doubtless, that led to the description of their wearing their "heads beneath their shoulders."

"I am not aware," says Captain Fitzroy, "that a Patagonian has appeared, during late years, exceeding in height six feet and some inches;" although he sees no reason to disbelieve Falconer's account of the Cacique Cangapol, represented as seven feet and some inches. Among two or three hundred natives, scarcely half a dozen men are

seen whose height is above five feet nine or ten; the women being tall in proportion. Captain Fitzroy adds, that he has nowhere met an assemblage of men and women whose average height and apparent bulk, approached to that of the Patagonians. Until actually measured, he could not believe that they were not much taller than was found to be the fact.

Captain King gives the average height at between five feet ten inches and six feet—one man only exceeding six feet, whose dimensions, measured by Captain Stokes, were in height, six feet one inch and three-quarters; round the chest, four feet one inch and one-eighth; round the loins, three feet four inches and three-quarters. Captain King, however, thinks that the disproportionate largeness of head and length of body of these people, has occasioned the mistakes of some former navigators; yet suggests that the preceding generation may have been a larger race of people, but by a different mode of life, or a mixture by marriage with the southern or Fuegian tribes, which he states is known to have taken place, they may have degenerated in size, and lost all right to the title of giants. Captain King also states, that, from a mirage or haze, during very fine weather and a hot day, arising from the rapid evaporation of the moisture so abundantly deposited in the Strait, an optical deception takes place, which causes the natives, seen at a little distance, to "loom very large." This may be another cause of their being taken for giants by former navigators.

The colour of the Patagonians is a rich reddish-brown, between that of rusty iron and clean copper, rather darker than copper, yet not so dark as good old mahogany. Captain Fitzroy compares it to the colour of the Devonshire breed of cattle. The colour differs, however, in various ages. The head is rather broad, but not high; and, except in a few instances, the forehead is small and low. The brow is prominent; the eyes are rather small, black, and even restless. They have round faces, with projecting cheek-bones: noses a little depressed, narrow between the eyes, and broad and fleshy about the nostrils, which are rather large; and a large coarse mouth, with thick lips. The chin is usually broad and prominent. Nothing is worn on their rough, coarse, black hair, which is tied above the temples with a fillet of platted or twisted sinews. The hair from the faces and bodies is all studiously removed by pincers made of two shells; and the absence of whiskers and beard gives the younger men a very effeminate look, many being scarcely distinguishable in appearance from the women, but by the mode of wrapping themselves in their mantles, and by their hair, which is turned up. Their noses or lips are not pierced, but they disfigure their features by red, black, or white paint, with which they make grotesque ornaments, such as bands or daubs across the face, and circles around the eyes. The upper part of the body, from the waist upwards, is also, on particular occasions, decorated by paint, awkwardly laid on, with very little design. The mantles are tied round the neck, and usually round the middle, by sinew cords. Often the upper part is dropped, and the body left quite exposed above the waist, especially in active exercise on horseback: in the hood thus formed the women often carry their children. The men wear a triangular piece of hide instead of breeches. The mantle is made of skins of the guanaco, puma, fox, skunk, cavy, dog, otter, seal, or colt; but the small gray fox-skins are

most esteemed. On their feet and legs are boots made of the hock part of the skins of horses' legs. Wooden spurs, if they cannot get iron; sets of balls (*bolas*), and a long tapering lance of bamboo, pointed with iron, complete the equipment. These lances are seldom seen near the Strait of Magellan, but the natives are not always without them.

The women are dressed and booted like the men, with the addition of a half-petticoat, made of skins, if they cannot procure foreign coarse cloth. They cross their mantles over the breast like a shawl, and fasten it together with iron pins or skewers, round which are twisted strings of beads and other ornaments. They comb their hair with the jaw of a porpoise, and divide it into two tails, which are platted, and hang down, one on each side; those who have short hair wear false tails made of horsehair. Ornaments of beads, bits of brass or silver, or any similar trifles, are much prized, and worn in necklaces, or as bracelets; sometimes also as earrings, or round the ankles.

Mounted upon horses of about fourteen hands and a half in height, the Patagonians chase ostriches or guanacoes, which, when at full speed, they entangle with their bolas. These are stones or iron balls of about a pound weight, covered with leather, and united by a thin platted thong about eight feet long, others having three balls united by thongs to a common centre.

In hunting they are assisted by their dogs. With bridles of hide tied to the lower jaw, when there is not a Spanish bit, and a light saddle of wood, covered with some skins, and placed upon others, they ride hard when there is occasion, frequently changing their horses. Many large dogs, of a rough, lurcher-like breed, assist them in hunting, and keep an excellent watch at night.

The toldos or huts of these wanderers are rectangular, about ten or twelve feet square, seven feet high in front, and two or three in the rear. The frame of the building is formed by poles stuck in the ground having forked tops to hold cross pieces, on which are laid poles for rafters, to support the covering, which is made of skins of animals sewn together, so as to be almost impervious to rain or wind. The posts or rafters, which are not easily procured, are carried from place to place, in all their travelling excursions. The frontage is always open. Several families sleep in one hut. Away from the coast, it is said, these toldos are much larger, forming an oblong shed with a sloping roof; some of them are even twelve feet in length, and above five feet high. Their goods and furniture are placed on horseback, under charge of the females, who are mounted aloft, astride, upon them. The men carry nothing but the lasso and bolas, for chase or for defence.

In war, the Horse-Indians of Patagonia clothe themselves in three of their thickest mantles: the outer ones being deprived of hair, and gaily painted; all these are worn like ponchos. Some wear a broad-brimmed hat or helmet of doubled bull's-hide; and a tunic or frock, with high collar and short sleeves, made of several hides sewed together; sometimes of anta-skins. It resists arrows or lances, and deadens the blow of a stone ball; but it is not impervious to musket-bullets. On foot they use a shield of hides. Their weapons are lances, bows and arrows, and clubs, and balls or lassos, with which they entangle the horses. A formidable missile is a single ball, about a pound weight, attached to a thong about a yard long, which they whirl round the head and throw

at their adversaries with the force of a shot. At close quarters it is used with the cord shortened, like a life preserver. On making an assault, they kill all the men who resist, and carry away the women and children for slaves.

Their principal sustenance is the flesh of mares (horses, however, not being eaten, unless disabled by an accident), ostriches, cavies, or guanacoes. The meat is broiled and eaten with a lump of fat and salt. They also eat the tus, a bulbous root, and chalas, a long, white root, about the size of a goose-quill. The only prepared drink they use besides a decoction of chalas, is the juice of barberries, mixed with water, and drank in its natural state. They have no fermented liquor.

Their wealth consists chiefly in horses and dogs; the richer individuals having forty or fifty horses, and a large number of dogs,—the poorer only one or two horses, and but one dog.

The richer Indians have three, four, five, or even more wives; the poor but one. Marriages are made more by sale than by mutual agreement. Instead of receiving a dowry, a man pays a large price to the girl's nearest relations. They have also betrothals, and sometimes elopements. Men do not marry until about twenty years of age: girls earlier; from fourteen to fifteen they are considered marketable commodities. Except hunting, providing food, and fighting (although not always the latter) all work is done by the women. Some families have slaves for household work; but if they have not, even the wives of caciques are not exempt from household labour.

The Patagonians are not ignorant of the healing property of some herbs. The chalas root, pounded and mixed with water, is a favourite specific. They know the effect of bleeding, and can adroitly open a vein with a sharp piece of shell or flinty stone. In burials the corpse is placed in a square pit (where others have been deposited), in a sitting posture, adorned with mantles, plumes of feathers, and beads. The spurs, sword, balls, &c., of the deceased are laid beside him, and the pit covered with a high conical pile of dried twigs and branches, decorated with red flags, bells, cloth, &c. The favourite horse is afterwards killed, and sometimes more than one. They are skinned and stuffed, and propped up on sticks (for legs), with the head towards the grave. For a cacique, four horses are sacrificed; and one put at each corner of the grave. The deceased's clothes are burned; and to finish all, a feast is made of the horseflesh. Other modes of burial, however, are observed; one of which is to burn the flesh, and place the skeleton under a pile of stones four feet high. Widows mourn and fast a whole year after the death of their husbands. On visits of condolence, to the survivor, the visiters cry, howl, and sing in the most dismal manner; straining out tears, and pricking their arms and thighs, with sharp thorns, to make them bleed. For this show of grief, the mourners are paid with glass beads or other baubles esteemed by them. They have burial-grounds at great distances in the interior, to which the bones are afterwards conveyed.

The Patagonians are fond of racing. Their race-courses are only a quarter of a mile in length; which accustoms them to short bursts of speed in hunting or warfare. They have a species of cards, too, pieces of skin with figures. Both in racing and gaming, they stake high, sometimes their wives and children, making payment faithfully to the uttermost. Manslaughter is not unfrequent among them.

Little has been discovered in the Beagle's expedition respecting the religious belief and superstitions of the Patagonians. Falkner, whose accounts are considered credible by the present writers, says that they are "superstitious polytheists, imagining a multiplicity of deities, good and evil." They believe that their souls go to live with the deity who presides over their particular family. They have wizards, who conduct their rites, which are entirely directed to the powers of evil. These wizards are chosen when children, from effeminacy, epileptic disorders, &c., and are clothed early in female attire, which they must not abandon, and they may not marry. They have witches, too, who are not restricted in this respect. Captain King describes a tribe near the Magellan Strait, who worship an image of wood cut into the figure of a man's head and body, which they call Cristo—a custom evidently derived from the Spaniards.

During the ceremony of exposing this image, they cover their bodies with figures of small crosses, formed by rubbing white paint on their hands, and scoring crosses upon them, which being pressed on the body leave the skin white, with the exception of the parts where the crosses have been scored out, each cross being afterwards separately more strongly defined by marking them over. They then prick their bodies with an awl, in order that the blood might flow. They have a tree, resembling a thorn, which they never burn, and esteem sacred.

Excepting the caciques, who are hereditary, there seems to be no superiority of one person over another. Their slaves are purchased from the canoe-tribes. The Patagonians have a great antipathy to negroes, at whom they shout, hoot, hiss, and make grimaces.

No signs of hieroglyphics, or writing, have been noticed among the Patagonians. They can reckon as far as thousands. Time is counted by years and moons, days and nights. There are particular words denoting the various phases of the moon, the seasons of the year, and the times of day and night. In counting, the fingers and toes are used, as well as numbers, especially to strangers. They have no kind of pottery, using only wooden vessels or bladders for water.

They pay great respect to, and take great care of, old people. The conduct of the women does not seem to correspond with Falkner's account of them; they are now thought to be unfaithful to their husbands, who appear to be indifferent about their want of chastity.

Captain Fitzroy had described to him by an eyewitness, a kind of "court of justice" among the Patagonians, at which the capitan, the only person mounted, presided on horseback, the older men of the tribe sitting in a ring upon the ground, as a council. Within the circle were four prisoners, and twelve witnesses. The trial lasted a whole day; but the informant did not see or hear the result. The same individual stated that the Patagonians often played at a game like hockey.

These people profess to like white men, and Mr. Low, a gentleman who resided long among them, thinks that they would encourage and be friendly to a settlement of whites made in Patagonia.

The Fuegians are, in every respect, a far inferior race to the Patagonians;—but the description of these, and of the Chonos Indians, or tribes inhabiting the western coasts and islands of Patagonia, we must reserve for the next number.

(*To be continued.*)