

## Werk

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Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1 37073 Göttingen Germany Email: gdz@sub.uni-goettingen.de tirely free from all kinds of ravenous beafts, poisonous animals and vermin; not even so much as a fly is to be found here. The soil is extremely fertile, being watered with numberless little rivulets from the mountains. It produces in the greatest abundance, apples, pears, plumbs, peaches, quinces, apricots, almonds, olives, grapes, cocoa nuts, figs, &c. It abounds in gold, silver and lead mines, and the rivers themselves roll on golden sands. But their staple commodity is cattle; they have them in such abundance, as frequently to cast the sless into the rivers, reserving the hides, tallow and tongues for exportation.

History, Inhabitants, &c.] The Spaniards made several attempts to reduce this country, but with no great success till the year 1541, when they built the capital St. Jago, now the residence of the Spanish Governor, and a Bishop's see; and afterwards Coquimbo, Conception, and Baldivia. The natives are remarkable for wit, fortitude and patience; and the Spaniards to this day have never been able to subdue them; they continue still masters of part of the inland country. There have lately been some formidable insurrections against the Spaniards by the natives, which have greatly alarm-

ed the Spanish court.

## PARAGUA OR LA PLATA.

Length 1500 between { 120 and 370 South Latitude. Breadth 1000 between { 500 and 750 West Longitude.

POUNDED north, by Amazonia; east, by Brazil; south, by Patagonia; west, by Peru and Chili. Rivers and Mountains.] This country, besides an infinite number of small rivers, is watered by three principal ones, which united near the sea, form the famous Rio de la Plata, or Plate river, and which annually overslow their banks, and, on their recess, leave them enriched with a slime, that produces great plenty of whatever is committed to it. This river, where it unites with the ocean, is 150 miles broad. At 100 miles

miles from its mouth, a ship in the middle of the channel cannot be seen from either shore ; and at Buenoa Ayres, 100 miles still further back, one cannot discern the opposite shore. There are no mountains of consequence here, excepting that remarkable chain which divides South-America, called the Andes.

Climate, Soil and Produce. This country confifts of extensive plains, 300 leagues over, except on the east, where it is separated by high mountains from Brazil. La Plata is a most desirable climate, and one of the most fruitful countries in the world. The cotton and tobacco produced here, with the herb called Paragua, which is peculiar to this country, would alone be fufficient to form a flourishing commerce. There are here also several gold and filver mines.

Chief Towns. ] Buenos Ayres, the capital of La Plata, is the most considerable sea-port town in South-It is fituated on the fouth fide of the river La Plata, 200 miles from the mouth of it. The river is upwards of 20 miles broad at this place. From this town a great part of the treasure of Chili and Peru is exported to Old Spain. The natives of Tacuman are faid to have wooden houses built on wheels, which they draw from place to place as occasion requires.

History and Religion.] The Spaniards first discovered

this country in the year 1515, and founded the town of Buenos Ayres in 1535. Most of the country is still inhabited by the native Americans. The Jesuits have been indefatigable in their endeavours to convert the Indians to the belief of their religion, and to introduce among them the arts of civilized life, and have met with furprizing fuccels. It is faid that above 340,000 families, feveral years ago, were subject to the Jesuits, living in obedience, and an awe bordering on adoration, yet procured without any violence or constraint. In 1767, the Jesuits were sent out of America, by royal authority, and their subjects were put upon the same footing with the rest of the country.