

on the American shores if it were possible for anyone to have seen as much in so short a time I would have said it was impossible. Many interesting circumstances have arisen and as many disagreeable ones, but I am now much more comfortably situated than I was shortly after my arrival - When we first entered this small village, there was not a house to put our heads into sufficient to shelter us from the rain and vermin; but we have built several new ones, constructed entirely of wood. The one in which I am now writing is of this description and is very comfortable it contains three rooms, one for taking our meals in, another for sleeping and the remaining one for an Office, the situation of it is strikingly beautiful, being on the summit of a small hill which commands an extensive view on all sides, but there is nothing near me like unto England, on all sides it is an immense forest of fine trees, which are always green, no winter being known in these climates, the leaves are always gradually falling, but they are immediately succeeded by fresh green leaves. The ground descends suddenly from the front of our house for about a mile in which small distance the fall is no less than 800 feet. From the bottom of this descent the ground rises rapidly to the height of 1000 feet forming a mountain ridge, which is covered to the very summit with strong trees that are always green. Beyond this small ridge of hills rise others still higher and higher until their tops are covered with everlasting snow, and where not a spot of vegetation is to be seen, all being white with snow and ice - No one has ever been able to go to the top of this mighty mountain, which is at least eighteen thousand feet above the level of the sea. From this short and imperfect description of the view from the front of our little cottage you may conceive how different it is from any thing you are accustomed to see in England indeed it has been well remarked that in these Southern countries the face of nature is completely changed, nay the constitution of man undergoes a great change, he changes his ruddy complexion which is natural to him in the North, for a paleness which would be said in England to indicate bad health, but it is not the case for though my colour may have changed, I still enjoy good health and feel myself equal to almost any exertion -

Before I close my letter I must give you an account of a great earthquake which we have had in this neighbourhood & which has thrown the people into terrible confusion - it happened on about $\frac{1}{2}$ past ten at night - we were just preparing to go to bed, when we felt the ground begin to move beneath us; the plastering of the walls fell down, and the beams of the roof began to crack; Having been so accustomed with small Earthquakes, we knew in a moment what was the matter and of course we all ran immediately in the street, where we found the inhabitants. some singing psalms, some on their knees, and some prostrate on the ground calling out in prayers to the Almighty to spare them - In almost a minute all was quiet, but the people continued during the greater part of the night walking the streets in small parties singing & praying - No houses were thrown down in Mariquita, but in Honda which is a large town about 12 miles off many are severely damaged and unfit for anyone to enter - Bogota has suffered considerably, two churches were instantly level with the ground and scarcely a house has escaped without a great deal of injury. The cathedral in Bogota is a beautiful & splendid building is expected to fall - A Town named Tapaquira situated 19 Miles from Bogota is said to be completely destroyed; we have not heard how far the shock extended to the East, but bad news are feared, as several populous towns exist at no great distance from Bogota in that direction - We were very fortunate in the vicinity of Mariquita as I hear of no houses being thrown down, though several are injured, especially in Honda in which place the