

*A Narrative of Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro, with an Account of the Native Tribes and Observations on the Climate, Geology, and Natural History of the Amazon Valley.* By A. R. WALLACE. Pp. 541. 8vo. London, 1853. Reeve & Co.

This book has interested us greatly, and we advise our readers to peruse it. The travels of a good naturalist in such a region as that of the Amazon could scarcely be related without forming a most agreeable work. That is pre-eminently the case in the instance before us, in which the author has so happily blended the account of his journey with the scientific observations, as to produce a narrative, which no reader, even only slightly or not at all acquainted with natural science, will read without pleasure.

During a residence of four years in the valley of the Amazon, Mr. Wallace visited most of the interesting places upon the banks of the lower half of that great river, and also throughout nearly the whole extent of the Rio Negro. Perhaps the most interesting part

of the book is that containing an account of his two visits to the Rio Uaupés, which is inhabited solely by tribes of Indians in their natural state, not at all altered and deteriorated by contact with the unprincipled white residents on the banks of the neighbouring rivers. Mr. Wallace collected quite a museum of the productions of the Indian tribes, but, most unfortunately, lost them all, together with the specimens of natural history obtained during the latter two years of his stay in that country, his journals for that period and numerous sketches, by the burning of the ship on his homeward voyage. The results which we have before us cause us the more to lament this misfortune. We hope that when he fulfils the desire expressed in his preface, of "again visiting the wild and luxuriant scenery and the sparkling life of the tropics," he may be again successful, but escape the concluding misfortune of his former journey. The author proposed to pay the expenses of his journey by making collections in natural history, and was enabled to do so, notwithstanding the deplorable loss which we have mentioned.

At the conclusion of the narrative there are four chapters on the natural history of the country and on the Indian tribes, which, had he saved all his materials, were intended to form part of a separate work on the Physical History of the Amazon. They well deserve careful perusal, and lead us to hope that, should Mr. Wallace fulfil his desire of revisiting the country, we may at a future time have such a work from his pen.

At the end of the volume are some valuable remarks by Dr. R. G. Latham on the vocabularies of Amazonian languages collected in the course of this journey.