

treatment does not subdue them, and then they are lassoed round the horns and dragged back.

“The various herds were driven in compact bodies against the walls bounding the market, and some of the vaqueiros dismounted, and kept the cattle together by the use of their thongs and shouting; but one at least at every herd remained mounted, ready to chase any animal which might break away. The scene was most exciting. Often three or four cattle were loose at once and careering madly in all directions, jumping over obstacles like deer, and with two or three vaqueiros after each, at full gallop, spurring their little horses to the utmost, twisting and turning with wonderful dexterity. One wild cow went right up the main street. She was very fast, and five vaqueiros had a sort of race after her; now one gained a little, now another, and it appeared as if the beast were going to make off altogether; but at last a big black vaqueiro shot ahead, and threw her sprawling in the road. I kept close to a sheltering corner, ready to retreat round it when a beast came in my direction.

“The cattle dealers rode round from herd to herd, on their mules and horses, and most of the dealing was done on horseback. As soon as a herd was sold, it was driven off, one or more vaqueiros accompanying the drovers, according to the wildness of the cattle.

“In the middle of the open space horses and mules were being sold. The sellers of the horses were mounted on them, and were showing off their paces in an open lane formed amongst a crowd of buyers and on-lookers. The sellers made their horses amble full pace up the lane, turn sharp round, and return: and on reaching the starting-point, stop suddenly, without slacking pace in the least beforehand, in doing which the animals were thrown almost back upon their haunches. The ability to stop thus suddenly when in full pace is one of the points most admired in horses by Brazilians.

“The horses are small, but well made. Good well-trained horses cost about £40. Good riding mules are worth as much or even more. The Brazilians of the better class ride their ambling horses with their legs straight and stiff and carried right forward, with the toes turned up and the tips of the toes only resting on the stirrup irons. The vaqueiros, however, ride much in the usual English fashion.

“Sheep are used as beasts of burden in a small way in Feira St. Anna. I saw three or four laden with small barrels of water slung across their backs. They were driven by children, who were thus taking water from the well outside the town round to the various houses. The sheep seemed perfectly trained, and went along at a smart pace. Sheep are used as beasts of burden in Ladak to transport goods over the mountains of Little Thibet, and carry from 20 to 30 lbs.¹; but their use for this purpose is very uncommon.

“In the crowd we met with a German farmer, who was a friend of my companion, and he invited us to pass the night at his house, his farm lying on the road to St. Amaro, by which we were to travel. We had our mules brought up to the inn door, and there gave

¹ The Middle Kingdom, Williams, vol. i. p. 204.