

vellers, who may visit those marshy regions, will rectify what I have advanced.

III. The *Guaquieries* or *Guaikeri*, are the most able and most intrepid fishermen of these countries. These people alone are well acquainted with the bank abounding with fish, which surrounds the islands of Coche, Margareta, Sola, and Testigos; a bank of more than four hundred square leagues, extending east and west from Maniquarez to the Boca del Draco. The Guaquieries inhabit the island of Margareta, the peninsula of Araya, and that suburb of Cumana which bears their name. Their language is believed to be a dialect of that of the Guaraons. This would connect them with the great family of the Caribbee nations; and the missionary Gili is of opinion that the language of the Guaquieries is one of the numerous branches of the Caribbean tongue.* These affinities are interesting, because they lead us to perceive an ancient connection between nations dispersed over a vast extent of country, from the mouth of the Rio Caura and the sources of the Erevato, in Parima, to French Guiana, and the coasts of Paria.†

IV. The *Quaquas*, whom the Tamanacs call *Mapoje*, are a tribe formerly very warlike and allied to the Caribbees. It is a curious phenomenon to find the *Quaquas* mingled with the *Chaymas* in the Missions of Cumana, for their language, as well as the *Atura*, of the cataracts of the Orinoco, is a

* If the name of the port *Pam-patar*, in the island of Margareta, be Guaiquerean, as we have no reason to doubt, it exhibits a feature of analogy with the Cumanagoto tongue, which approaches the Caribbean and Tamanac. In Terra Firma, in the Piritu Missions, we find the village of *Cayguapatar*, which signifies *house of Caygua*.

† Are the *Guaquieries*, or *O-aikeries*, now settled on the borders of the Erevato, and formerly between the Rio Caura and the Cuchivero, near the little town of Alta Gracia, of a different origin from the *Guaikeries* of Cumana? I know also, in the interior of the country, in the Missions of the Piritus, near the village of San Juan Evangelista del Guarive, a ravine very anciently called *Guayquiricuar*. These resemblances seem to prove migrations from the south-west towards the coast. The termination *cuar*, found so often in Cumanagoto and Caribbean names, means a *ravine*, as in *Guaymacuar* (ravine of lizards), *Pirichucuar* (a ravine overshadowed by pirichu or piritu palm-trees), *Chiguatacuar* (a ravine of land-shells). Raleigh describes the *Guaquieries* under the name of *Ouikeries*. He calls the *Chaymas*, *Saimas*, changing (according to the Caribbean pronunciation) the *ch* into *s*.