

take their name from the ravine *Pirichucuar*, where the small thorny palm-tree,* called *piritu*, grows in abundance; the wood of this tree, which is excessively hard, and little combustible, serves to make pipes. On this spot the village of La Concepcion de Piritu was founded in 1556; it is the chief settlement of the Cumanagoto Missions, known by the name of the *Misiones de Piritu*.

VI. The *Caribbees* (*Carives*). This name, which was given them by the first navigators, is retained throughout all Spanish America. The French and the Germans have transformed it, I know not why, into *Caräibes*. The people call themselves *Carina*, *Calina*, and *Callinago*. I visited some Caribbean Missions in the *Llanos*,† on returning from my journey to the Orinoco; and I shall merely mention that the *Galibes* (*Caribi* of Cayenne), the *Tuapocas*, and the *Cunaguaras*, who originally inhabited the plains between the mountains of Caripe (*Caribe*) and the village of Maturin, the *Jaoi* of the island of Trinidad and of the province of Cumana, and perhaps also the *Guarivas*, allies of the *Palencas*, are all tribes of the great Caribbee nation.

With respect to the other nations whose affinities of language with the Tamanac and Caribbee have been mentioned, they are not necessarily to be considered as of the same race. In Asia, the nations of Mongol origin differ totally in their physical organisation from those of Tartar origin. Such has been, however, the intermixture of these nations, that, according to the able researches of Klaproth, the Tartar languages (branches of the ancient Oigour) are spoken at present by hordes incontestably of Mongol race. Neither the analogy nor the diversity of language suffice to solve the great problem of the filiation of nations; they merely serve to point out probabilities. The Caribbees, properly speaking, those who inhabit the Missions of the Cari, in the llanos of Cumana, the banks

* *Caudice gracili aculeato, foliis pinnatis*. Possibly of the genus *Aiphanes* of Willdenow.

† I shall in future use the word *Llanos* (*loca plana*, suppressing the *p*), without adding the equivalent words *pampas*, *savannahs*, *meadows*, *steppes*, or *plains*. The country between the mountains of the coast and the left bank of the Orinoco, constitutes the llanos of Cumana, Barcelona, and Caracas.