

see the inhabitants of Paria, and those of the island of Trinidad, better made, more civilized (*de buena conversacion*), and whiter than the natives whom he had previously seen."* This certainly did not mean that the *Pariagotos* are white. The lighter colour of the skin of the natives, and the great coolness of the mornings on the coast of Paria, seemed to confirm the fantastic hypothesis which that great man had framed, respecting the irregularity of the curvature of the earth, and the height of the plains in this region, which he regarded as the effect of an extraordinary swelling of the globe in the direction of the parallels of latitude. Amerigo Vespucci (in his pretended *first* voyage, apparently written from the narratives of other navigators) compares the natives to the Tartar nations,† not in regard to their colour, but on account of the breadth of their faces, and the general expression of their physiognomy.

But if it be certain, that at the end of the fifteenth century there were on the coast of Cumana a few men with white skins, as there are in our days, it must not thence be concluded, that the natives of the New World exhibit everywhere a similar organization of the dermoidal system. It is not less inaccurate to say, that they are all copper-coloured, than to affirm that they would not have a tawny hue, if they were not exposed to the heat of the sun, or tanned by the action of the air. The natives may be divided into two very unequal portions with respect to numbers; to the first belong the Esquimaux of Greenland, of Labrador, and the northern coast of Hudson's Bay, the inhabitants of Behring's Straits, of the peninsula

* Churchill's Collection, vol. ii. Herrera, pp. 80, 83, 84. Munoz, *Hist. del Nuevo Mundo*, vol. i., "El color era baxo como es regular en los Indios, pero mas claro que en las islas reconocidas." (Their colour was dark, as is usual among the Indians; but lighter than that of the people of the islands previously known.) The missionaries are accustomed to call those Indians who are less black, less tawny, *whitish*, and even *almost white*.—Gumilla, *Hist. de l'Orenoque*, vol. i., chap. v., § 2. Such incorrect expressions may mislead those who are not accustomed to the exaggerations in which travellers often indulge.

† *Vultu non multum speciosi sunt, quoniam latas facies Tartariis adsimilatas habent.* (Their countenances are not handsome, their cheekbones being broad like those of the Tartars.)—*Americi Vesputii Navigatio Prima*, in Gryn's *Orbis Novus*, 1555.