

what are called rapids (*raudales*). Such are the *yellalas*, or rapids of the River Zaire,* or Congo, which Captain Tuckey has recently made known to us; the rapids of the Orange River in Africa, above Pella; and the falls of the Missouri, which are four leagues in length, where the river issues from the Rocky Mountains. Such also are the cataracts of Atures and Maypures; the only cataracts which, situated in the equinoctial region of the New World, are adorned with the noble growth of palm-trees. At all seasons they exhibit the aspect of cascades, and present the greatest obstacles to the navigation of the Orinoco, while the rapids of the Ohio and of Upper Egypt are scarcely visible at the period of floods. A solitary cataract, like Niagara, or the cascade of Terni, affords a grand but single picture, varying only as the observer changes his place. Rapids, on the contrary, especially when adorned with large trees, embellish a landscape during a length of several leagues. Sometimes the tumultuous movement of the waters is caused only by extraordinary contractions of the beds of the rivers. Such is the *angostura* of Carare, in the river Magdalena, a strait that impedes communication between Santa Fé de Bogotá and the coast of Carthagera; and such is the *pongo* of Manseriche, in the Upper Marañon.

The Orinoco, the Rio Negro, and almost all the confluent of the Amazon and the Marañon, have falls or rapids, either because they cross the mountains where they take rise, or because they meet other mountains in their course. If the Amazon, from the *pongo* of Manseriche (or, to speak with more precision, from the *pongo* of Tayuchuc) as far as its mouth, a space of more than seven hundred and fifty leagues, exhibit no tumultuous movement of the waters, the river owes this advantage to the uniform direction of its course. It flows from west to east in a vast plain, forming

* Voyage to explore the River Zaire, 1818, pp. 152, 327, 340. What the inhabitants of Upper Egypt and Nubia call *chellâl* in the Nile, is called *yellala* in the River Congo. This analogy between words signifying rapids is remarkable, on account of the enormous distance of the *yellalas* of the Congo from the *chellâl* and *djenadel* of the Nile. Did the word *chellâl* penetrate with the Moors into the west of Africa? If, with Burckhardt, we consider the origin of this word as Arabic (Travels in Nubia, 1819), it must be derived from the root *challa*, 'to disperse,' which forms *chellil*, 'water falling through a narrow channel.'