

second belong those that are supposed to lie between the Rio Branco and the mountains of Dutch and French Guiana. It results from this sketch, that the question whether there exists a lake Parima on the east of the Rio Branco, is altogether foreign to the problem of the sources of the Orinoco.

Beside the country which we have just noticed (the *Dorado de la Parime*, traversed by the Rio Branco), another part of America is found, two hundred and sixty leagues toward the west, near the eastern back of the Cordillera of the Andes, equally celebrated in the expeditions to El Dorado. This is the Mesopotamia between the Caqueta, the Rio Negro, the Uaupes, and the Yurubesh, of which I have already given a particular account; it is the *Dorado of the Omaguas*; which contains Lake Manoa of Father Acunha, the *Laguna de oro* of the Guanes, and the auriferous land, whence Father Fritz received plates of beaten gold in his mission on the Amazon, toward the end of the seventeenth century.

The first, and above all the most celebrated enterprises attempted in search of El Dorado were directed toward the eastern back of the Andes of New Grenada. Fired with the ideas which an Indian of Tacunga had given of the wealth of the king or zaque of Cundirumarca, Sebastian de Belalcazar, in 1535, sent his captains Anasco and Ampudia, to discover the valley of El Dorado,\* twelve days' journey from Guallabamba, consequently in the mountains between Pasto and Popayan. The information which Pedro de Anasco had obtained from the natives, joined to that which was received subsequently (1536) by Diaz de Pineda, who had discovered the provinces of Quixos and Canela, between the Rio Napo and the Rio Pastaca, gave birth to the idea that on the east of the *Nevados* of Tunguragua, Cayambe, and Popayan, "were vast plains, abounding in precious metals, and where the inhabitants were covered

\* *El valle del Dorado*. Pineda relates, "que mas adelante de la provincia de la Canela se hallan tierras muy ricas, adonde andaban los hombres armados de piezas y joyas de oro, y que *no havia sierra, ni montana*." [Beyond the province of Canela there are found very rich countries (though without mountains) in which the natives are adorned with trinkets and plates of gold.] *Herrera*, dec. v, lib. x, cap. xiv, and dec. vi, lib. viii, cap. vi. *Geogr. Blaviana*, vol. xi, p. 261. *Southey*, tom i, p. 78 et 373.