

march, in a country bristled with hills and rocks. The natives of San Marcellino speak of a Sierra Tunuhy, nearly thirty leagues west of their village, between the Xiè and the Icanna. La Condamine learned also from the Indians of the Amazon, that the Quiquiari comes from "a country of mountains and mines." Now, the Iquiari is placed by the French astronomer between the equator and the mouth of the Xiè (Ijié), which identifies it with the Iguiare that falls into the Icanna. We cannot advance in the geologic knowledge of America without having continually recourse to the researches of comparative geography. The small system of mountains, which we may provisionally call that of the sources of the Rio Negro and the Uaupes, and the culminant points of which are not probably more than 100 or 120 toises high, appears to extend southward to the basin of Rio Yupura, where rocky ridges form the cataracts of the Rio de los Engaños and the Salto Grande de Yupura (south lat. $0^{\circ} 40'$ to north lat. $0^{\circ} 28'$), and the basin of the Upper Guaviare towards the west. We find in the course of this river, from 60 to 70 leagues west of San Fernando del Atababo, two walls of rocks bounding the strait (nearly $3^{\circ} 10'$ nor. lat. and $73\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ long.) where father Maiella terminated his excursion. That missionary told me, that in going up the Guaviare, he perceived near the strait (angostura), a chain of mountains bounding the horizon on the south. It is not known whether those mountains traverse the Guaviare more to the west, and join the spurs which advance from the eastern Cordillera of New Grenada, between the Rio Umadea and the Rio Ariari, in the direction of the savannahs of San Juan de los Llanos. I doubt the existence of this junction. If it really existed, the plains of the Lower Orinoco would communicate with those of the Amazon only by a very narrow land-strait, on the east of the mountainous country which surrounds the source of the Rio Negro: but it is more probable that this mountainous country (a small system of mountains, geognostically dependent on the Sierra Parime) forms as it were an

to be found in going up the Uaupes (nor. lat. $0^{\circ} 40'$) with another gold lake (south lat. $1^{\circ} 10'$) which La Condamine calls Marahi or Morachi (water), and which is merely a tract often inundated between the sources of the Jurubech (Urubaxi) and the Rio Marahi, a tributary stream of the Caqueta.