

Beyond the city of Almaguer the chain re-divides into two ranges, which thenceforth continue separate; the eastern range throwing off the branches known as the Central and Eastern Cordilleras of New Granada. Within their basin lie the head waters of the Magdalena, separated by the eastern range from those of the Orinoco, and by the central from those of the Cauca.

HEIGHT OF TABLE-LANDS.

	FEET.
Table-land of Titicaca (Desaguadero),	12,700
„ Cuzco,	8,800
„ Pasco,	11,000
„ Assuay,	15,520
„ Quito,	9,543
„ Bogota,	8,958

Passing from this rapid survey of the Andes to the other mountains of South America, we observe that they are grouped into two systems: that of Brazil, between the Rio de la Plata and the Amazons, and that of Parimé and Guiana, between the Amazons and the Orinoco.

The Brazilian chains lie nearly parallel, with a general direction of S.W. to N.E. Their total length is about 680, and their breadth 400 miles. On either hand they throw off magnificent spurs; those which dominate above the bay of Rio de Janeiro forming conspicuous objects in a peculiarly sublime panorama. Their lower slopes teem with exuberant forest-growth; tall trees of tropical character, lianas, parasitical creepers, strange blossoming shrubs, and arborescent ferns.

The Parimé mountains are broken up into seven chains, which traverse a table-land about 2000 feet above the sea, between the Orinoco, the Rio Negro, the Amazons, and the Atlantic. Their loftiest peak is the Cerro Duida, which rises from the rich plain of Esmeralda to an elevation of 7155 feet.

In Central America we meet with a continuation of the Andes, irregularly scattered over a wide area in fantastic mixture of mountains and table-lands. Three distinct groups, however, are capable of being recognized—namely, that of Costa Rica, that of Honduras