

Dutch, under the command of Captain Adrian Janson, in 1579. The second, founded by Antonio de Berrio in 1591, near twelve leagues east of the mouth of the Carony, made a courageous resistance to Sir Walter Raleigh, whom the Spanish writers of the conquest know only by the name of the pirate *Reali*. The third town, now the capital of the province, is fifty leagues west of the confluence of the Carony. It was begun in 1764, under the Governor Don Joaquin Moreno de Mendoza, and is distinguished in the public documents from the second town, vulgarly called the fortress (*el castillo, las fortalezas*), or Old Guayana (*Vieja Guayana*), by the name of *Santo Thomé de la Nueva Guayana*. This name being very long, that of Angostura\* (the strait) has been commonly substituted for it.

Angostura, the longitude and latitude of which I have already indicated from astronomical observations, stands at the foot of a hill of amphibolic schist † bare of vegetation. The streets are regular, and for the most part parallel with the course of the river. Several of the houses are built on the bare rock; and here, as at Carichana, and in many other parts of the missions, the action of black and strong strata, when strongly heated by the rays of the sun upon the atmosphere, is considered injurious to health. I think the small pools of stagnant water (*lagunas y anegadizos*), which extend behind the town in the direction of south-east, are more to be feared. The houses of Angostura are lofty and convenient; they are for the most part built of stone; which proves that the inhabitants have but little dread of earthquakes. But unhappily this security is not founded on induction from any precise data. It is true, that the shore of Nueva Andalusia sometimes undergoes very violent shocks, without the commotion being propagated across the Llanos. The fatal catastrophe of Cumana, on the 4th of February, 1797, was not felt at Angostura; but in the great earthquake of 1766, which destroyed the same city, the

\* Europe has learnt the existence of the town of Angostura by the trade carried on by the Catalonians in the Carony bark, which is the beneficial bark of the *Bonplanda trifoliata*. This bark, coming from Nueva Guiana, was called *corteza* or *cascarilla del Angostura* (*Cortex Angosturæ*). Botanists so little guessed the origin of this geographical denomination that they began by writing *Augustura*, and then *Augusta*.

† Hornblendschiefer.