

accurate ideas, would reproduce on their maps the *Mar Dorado* or *Mar Blanco*. Thus, notwithstanding the numerous proofs which I have furnished since my return from America, of the non-existence of an inland sea the origin of the Orinoco, a map has been published in my name,* on which the Laguna Parima figures anew.

From the whole of these statements it follows, 1st, that the Laguna Rupunuwini, or Parima of the voyage of Raleigh and of the maps of Hondius, is an imaginary lake, formed by the lake Amucut† and the tributary streams of the Uraricuera, which often overflow their banks; 2ndly, that the Laguna Parime of Surville's map is the lake Amucu, which gives rise to the Rio Pirara and (conjointly with the Mahu, the Tacutu, the Uraricuera, or Rio Parima, properly so called) to the Rio Branco; 3rdly, that the Laguna Parime of La Cruz is an imaginary swelling of the Rio Parime (contounded with the Orinoco) below the junction of the Mahu with the Xurumu. The distance from the mouth of the Mahu to that of the Tacutu is scarcely $0^{\circ} 40'$; La Cruz enlarges it to 7° of latitude. He calls the upper part of the Rio Branco (that which receives the Mahu) Orinoco or *Purumu*. There can be no doubt of its being the Xurumu, one of the tributary streams of the Tacutu, which is well known to the inhabitants of the neighbouring fort of San Joaquim. All the names that figure in the fable of El Dorado are found in the tributary streams of the Rio Branco. Slight local circumstances, joined to the remembrances of the salt lake of Mexico, more especially of the celebrated lake Manoa in the *Dorado des Omaguas*, have served to complete a picture created by the imagination of Raleigh and his two lieutenants, Keymis and Masham. The inundations of the Rio Branco, I conceive, may be compared at the utmost to those of the Red River of Louisiana, between Nachitoches and Cados, but not to the *Laguna de los Xarayes*, which is a temporary swelling of the Rio Paraguay.‡

* *Carte de l'Amérique, dressée sur les Observations de M. de Humboldt, par Fried.* (Vienna, 1818.)

† This is the lake Amaca of Surville and La Cruz. By a singular mistake, the name of this lake is transformed to a village on Arrowsmith's map.

‡ *Southey*, vol. i, p. 130. These periodical overflowings of the Rio