

north-west, led Ordaz to the coast of Paria, where in the territory of the cacique Yuriapari (Uriapari, Viapari), Sedeno had constructed the *Casa fuerte de Paria*. This post being very near the mouth of the Orinoco, the Mexican Conquistador resolved to attempt an expedition on this great river. He sojourned first at Carao (Caroa, Carora), a large Indian village, which appears to me to have been a little to the east of the confluence of the Carony; he then went up the Cabruta (Cabuta, Cabritu), and to the mouth of the Meta (Metacuyu), where he found great difficulty in passing his boats through the Raudal of Cariven. The Aruacas, whom Ordaz employed as guides advised him to go up the Meta; where, on advancing towards the west, they asserted he would find men clothed, and gold in abundance. Ordaz pursued in preference the navigation of the Orinoco, but the cataracts of Tabaje (perhaps even those of the Atures) compelled him to terminate his discoveries.

It is worthy of remark, that in this voyage, far anterior to that of Orellana, and consequently the greatest which the Spaniards had then performed on a river of the New World, the name of the Orinoco was for the first time heard. Ordaz, the leader of the expedition, affirms, that the river, from its mouth as far as the confluence of the Meta, is called Uriaparia, but that above this confluence it bears the name of Orinucu. This word (formed analogously with the words Tamanacu, Otomacu, Sinarucu) is, in fact, of the Tamanac tongue; and, as the Tamanacs dwell south-east of Encaramada, it is natural that the conquistadores heard the actual name of the river only on drawing near the Rio Meta.* On this last tributary stream Diego

* *Gili*, vol. iii, p. 381. The following are the most ancient names of the Orinoco, known to the natives near its mouth, and which historians give us altered by the double fault of pronunciation and orthography; *Yuyapari*, *Yjupari*, *Huriaparia*, *Urapari*, *Viapari*, *Rio de Paria*. The Tamanac word *Orinucu* was disfigured by the Dutch pilots into *Worinoque*. The Otomacs say, *Joga-apurura*, (great river); the Cabres and Guaypunabis, *Paragua*, *Bazagua Parava*, three words signifying great water, river, sea. That part of the Orinoco between the Apure and the Guaviare is often denoted by the name of *Baraguan*. A famous strait, which we have described above, bears also this name, which is no doubt a corruption of the word *Paragua*. Great rivers in every zone are called by the dwellers on their banks 'the river,' without any particular