

governor of Santo Thomé del Angostura, displayed an extreme ardour for reaching the imaginary lake of Manoa. Arimuicaipi, an Indian of the nation of the Ipurucotos, went down the Rio Carony, and by his false narrations inflamed the imagination of the Spanish colonists. He showed them in the southern sky the Clouds of Magellan, the whitish light of which he said was the reflection of the argentiferous rocks situate in the middle of the Laguna Parima. This was describing in a very poetical manner the splendour of the micaceous and talky slates of his country! Another Indian chief, known among the Caribs of Essequibo by the name *El Capitan Jurado*, vainly attempted to deceive the governor Centurion. Fruitless attempts were made by the Caura and the Rio Paragua; and several hundred persons perished miserably in these rash enterprises, from which, however, geography has derived some advantages. Nicolas Rodriguez and Antonio Santos (1775—1780) were employed by the Spanish governor. Santos, proceeding by the Carony, the Paragua, the Paraguamusi, the Anocapra, and the mountains of Pacaraymo and Quimiro-paca, reached the Uraricuera and the Rio Branco. I found some valuable information in the journals of these perilous expeditions.

The maritime charts which the Florentine traveller, Amerigo Vespucci,* constructed in the early years of the sixteenth century, as *Piloto mayor de la Casa de Contratacion* of Seville, and in which he placed, perhaps artfully, the words *Tierra de Amerigo*, have not reached our times. The most ancient monument we possess of the geography of the New Continent,† is the map of the world by John Ruysch, annexed to a Roman edition of Ptolemy in 1508. We there find Yucatan and Honduras (the most southern part of Mexico)‡ figured as an island, by the name of *Culicar*.

* He died in 1512, as Mr. Muñoz has proved by the documents of the archives of Simancas. (*Hist. del Nuevo Mundo*, vol. i, p. 17.) *Tiraboschi, Storia della Letteratura*.

† See the learned researches of M. Walckenaer, in the *Bibliographie Univ.* vol. vi, p. 209, art. "Buckinck." On the maps added to Ptolemy in 1506 we find no trace of the discoveries of Columbus.

‡ No doubt the lands between Uucatan, Cape Gracias á Dios, and Veragua, discovered by Columbus (1502 and 1503), by Solis, and by Pinçon (1506).