

Meta, from south to north, like the river Magdalena. The tributary streams, therefore, which were made to issue from the lake Cassipa, the Carony, the Arui, and the Caura, then took the direction of the latitude, while in nature they follow that of a meridian. Beside the lakes Parima and Cassipa, a third was traced upon the maps, from which the Arouague (Apurwaca) was made to issue. It was then a general practice among geographers to attach all rivers to great lakes. By this means Ortelius joined the Nile to the Zaire or Rio Congo, and the Vistula to the Wolga and the Dnieper. North of Mexico, in the pretended kingdoms of Quivira and Cibola, rendered celebrated by the falsehoods of the monk Marcos de Niza, a great inland sea was imagined, from which the Rio Colorado of California was made to issue.\* A branch of the Rio Magdalena flowed to the Laguna de Maracaybo; and the lake of Xarayes, near which a *southern Dorado* was placed, communicated with the Amazon, the Miari† (Meary), and the Rio de San Francisco. These hydrographic reveries have for the most part disappeared; but the lakes Cassipa and Dorado have been long simultaneously preserved on our maps.

In following the history of geography we see the Cassipa, figured as a rectangular parallelogram, enlarge by degrees at

\* This is the *Mexican Dorado*, where it was pretended, that vessels had been found on the coasts [of New Albion?] loaded with the merchandise of Catayo and China (*Gomara, Hist. Gen.*, p. 117), and where Fray Marcos (like Hutten in the country of the Omaguas) had *seen from afar* the gilded roofs of a great town, one of the *Siete Ciudades*. The inhabitants have great dogs, "en los quales quando se mudan cargan su menage." (*Herrera*, dec. VI, p. 157, 206.) Later discoveries, however, leave no doubt that there existed a centre of civilization in those countries.

† As this river flows into the gulf of Maranhão (so named because some French colonists, Rifault, De Vaux, and Ravadière, believed they were opposite the mouth of the *Marañon* or Amazon), the ancient maps call the Meary *Marañon*, or *Maranham*. (See the maps of Hondius, and Paulo de Forlani.) Perhaps the idea that Pinçon, to whom the discovery of the real *Marañon* is due, had landed in these parts, since become celebrated by the shipwreck of Ayres da Cunha, has also contributed to this confusion. The Meary appears to me identical with the *Rio de Vicente Pinçon* of Diego Ribeyro, which is more than one hundred and forty leagues from that of the modern geographers. At present the name of *Marañon* has remained at the same time to the river of the Amazons, and to a province much farther eastward, the capital of which is Maranhão, or St. Louis de *Marañon*.