

the Caribs were mentioned in many geographical works as an extinct race. Writers unacquainted with the interior of the Spanish colonies of the continent, supposed, that the small islands of Dominica, Guadaloupe, and St. Vincent, had been the principal abodes of that nation of which the only vestiges now remaining throughout the whole of the eastern West India Islands are skeletons petrified, or rather enveloped in a limestone containing madrepores.*

The name of Caribs, which I find for the first time in a letter of Peter Martyr d'Anghiera is derived from *Calina* and *Caripuna*, the *l* and *p* being transferred into *r* and *b*. It is very remarkable, that this name, which Columbus heard pronounced by the people of Hayti, was known to exist at the same time among the Caribs of the islands and those of the continent. From the word *Carina*, or *Calina*, has been formed *Galibi* (Caribi). This is the distinctive denomination of a tribe in French Guiana,† who are of much more diminutive stature than the inhabitants of Cari, but speaking one of the numerous dialects of the Carib tongue. The inhabitants of the islands are called *Calinago* in the language of the men; and in that of the women, *Callipinan*. The difference in the language of the two sexes is more striking among the people of the Carib race, than among other American nations (the Omaguas, the Guaranis, and the Chiquitos), where it applies only to a limited number of ideas; for instance, the words mother and child. It may be conceived that women, from their separate way of life, frame particular terms, which men do not adopt. Cicero observes,‡ that old forms of language are best preserved by women, because by

* These skeletons were discovered in 1805 by M. Cortez. They are encased in a formation of madrepoire breccia, which the negroes call "God's masonry," and which, like the *travertin* of Italy, envelops fragments of vases and other objects created by human skill. M. Dauxion Lavaysse and Dr. Koenig first made known in Europe this phenomenon, which has greatly interested geologists.

† The Galibis (Calibitis), the Palicours, and the Acoquouas, also cut their hair in the style of the monks; and apply bandages to the legs of their children, for the purpose of swelling the muscles. They have the same predilection for *green stones* (saussurite), which we observed among the Carib nations of the Orinoco. There exist, besides, in French Guiana, twenty Indian tribes, which are distinguished from the Galibis, though their language proves that they have a common origin.

‡ Cicero, de Orat., lib. III. cap. xii. § 45, ed. Verburg. "Facilius