

by the easterly currents; but it also may have happened, that the Spanish navigators, little attentive to languages, gave the names Carib and Cannibal to every race of people of tall stature and ferocious character. Still it is by no means probable that the Caribs of the islands and of Parima took to themselves the name of the region which they had originally inhabited. On the east of the Andes, and wherever civilization has not yet penetrated, it is the people who have given names to the places where they have settled.* The words Caribs and Cannibals appear significant; they are epithets referring to valour, strength, and even superior intelligence.† It is worthy of remark, that, at the arrival of the Portuguese, the Brazilians gave to their magicians the name of *caraiibes*. We know that the Caribs of Parima were the most wandering people of America; possibly some wily individuals of that nation played the same part as the Chaldeans of the ancient continent. The names of nations readily become affixed to particular professions; and when, in the time of the Cæsars, the superstitions of the East were introduced into Italy, the Chaldeans no more came from the banks of the Euphrates than our Gypsies (Egyptians or Bohemians) came from the banks of the Nile or the Elbe.

When a continent and its adjacent islands are peopled by one and the same race, we may choose between two hypotheses; supposing the emigration to have taken place either from the islands to the continent, or from the continent to the islands. The Iberians (Basques), who were settled at the same time in Spain and in the islands of the Mediterranean, afford an instance of this problem; as do also the Malays, who appear to be indigenous in the peninsula of Malacca, and in the district of Menangkabao in the island of Sumatra.‡ The archipelago of the large and small West India Islands forms a narrow and broken neck of land,

* These names of places can be perpetuated only where the nations succeed immediately to each other, and where the tradition is uninterrupted. Thus, in the province of Quito, many of the summits of the Andes bear names which belong neither to the Quichua (the language of the Inca) nor to the ancient language of the Paruays, governed by the Conchocando of Lican.

† Vespucci says: "Charaibi magnæ sapientiæ viri."

‡ Crawford, Ind. Archipel., vol. ii, p. 371. I make use of the word indigenous (autocthoni), not to indicate a fact of *creation*, which does not