

nished, in 1800, near 1500 quintals of copper of excellent quality. The green-stone rocks of the transition mountains of Tucutunemo (between Villa de Cura and Parapara), contain veins of malachite and copper pyrites. The indications of both ochreous and magnetic iron in the coast-chain, the native alum of Chuparipari, the salt of Araya, the kaolin of the Silla, the jade of the Upper Orinoco, the petroleum of Buen-Pastor, and the sulphur of the eastern part of New Andalusia, equally merit the attention of the government.

It is easy to ascertain the existence of some mineral substances, which afford hopes of profitable working, but it requires great circumspection to decide whether the mineral be sufficiently abundant and accessible to cover the expense.* Even in the eastern part of South America, gold and silver are found dispersed in a manner that surprises the European geologist; but that dispersion, together with the divided and entangled state of the veins, and the appearance of some metals only in masses, render the working extremely expensive. The example of Mexico sufficiently proves that the interest attached to the labours of the mines is not prejudicial to agricultural pursuits, and that those two branches of industry may simultaneously promote each other. The failure of the attempts made under the intendant, Don Jose Avalo, must be attributed solely to the ignorance of the persons employed by the Spanish government, who mistook mica and hornblende for metallic substances. If the government would order the Capitania-General of Caracas to be carefully examined during a series of years by men of science, well versed in geognosy and chemistry, the most satisfactory results might be expected.

The description above given of the productions of Venezuela, and the development of its coast, sufficiently shows

* In 1800, a day-labourer (peon) employed in working the ground, gained in the province of Caracas, 15 sous, exclusive of his food. A man who hewed building timber in the forests on the coast of Paria, was paid at Cumana 45 to 50 sous a-day, without his food. A carpenter gained daily from 3 to 6 francs in New Andalusia. Three cakes of cassava (the bread of the country), 21 inches in diameter, 1½ line thick, and 2½ lb. weight, cost at Caracas one half-real, or 6½ sous. A man eats daily not less than 2 sous' worth of cassava, that food being constantly mixed with bananas, dried meat (tasajo), and raxelon, or unrefined sugar.