

of central America extends on toward the intendancia of Oaxaca, at an equal distance from the two oceans; then from  $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  to  $21^{\circ}$  lat. from Misteca to the mines of Zimapan, it approximates to the eastern coast. Nearly in the parallel of the city of Mexico, between Toluca, Xalapa, and Cordoba, it attains its maximum height; several colossal summits rising to 2400 and 2770 toises. Farther north, the chain called Sierra Madre runs N.  $40^{\circ}$  W. towards San Miguel el Grande and Guanaxuato. Near the latter town (lat.  $21^{\circ} 0' 15''$ ), where the richest silver mines of the known world are situated, it widens in an extraordinary degree, and separates into three branches. The most eastern branch advances towards Charcas and the Real de Catorce, and lowers progressively (turning to N.E.) in the ancient kingdom of Leon, in the province of Cohahuila and Texas. That branch is prolonged from the Rio Colorado de Texas, crossing the Arkansas near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri (lat.  $38^{\circ} 51'$ ). In those countries it bears the name of the Mountains of Ozark,\* and attains 300 toises of height. It has been supposed that on the east of the Mississippi (lat.  $44^{\circ}$ — $46^{\circ}$ ), the Wisconsin Hills, which stretch out to N.N.E. in the direction of Lake Superior, may be a continuation of the mountains of Ozark. Their metallic wealth seems to denote that they are a prolongation of the eastern Cordillera of Mexico. The western branch or Cordillera occupies a part of the province of Guadaluajara, and stretches by Culiacan, Aripe, and the auriferous lands of the Pimeria Alta and La Sonora, as far as the banks of the Rio Gila (lat.  $33^{\circ}$ — $34^{\circ}$ ), one of the most ancient dwellings of the Aztek nations. We shall soon see that this western chain appears to be linked by the spurs that advance to the west, with the maritime Alps of California. Finally, the central Cordillera of Anahuac, which is stones, destroyed, on the 11th September, 1541, the Ciudad Vieja, or Almolonga (the ancient capital of the country, which must not be confounded with the ancient Guatemala), is covered with snow, during several months of the year. This phenomenon would seem to indicate a height of more than 1750 toises.

\* Ozark is at once the ancient name of Arkansas, and of the tribe of Quawpaw Indians, who inhabit the banks of that great river. The culminant point of the Mountains of Ozark is in latitude  $37\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , between the sources of the White and Osage rivers.