

coast recedes at the parallel  $10^{\circ} 6'$ , and resumes its original direction ( $10^{\circ} 37'$ — $10^{\circ} 44'$ ) from the western extremity of the peninsula of Araya, to the eastern extremities of Montaña de Paria and the island of Trinidad. From this dissection of the coast, it follows that the range of mountains bordering the shore of the provinces of Caracas and Barcelona, between the meridian  $66^{\circ} 32'$  and  $68^{\circ} 29'$ , (which I saw on the south of the bay of Higuerote and on the north of the Llanos of Pao and Cachipo,) must be considered as the continuation of the southern chain of Venezuela, and as being linked on the west with the Sierras de Panaquire and Ocumare. It may, therefore, be said that between Cape Codera and Cariaco, the inland chain itself forms the coast. This range of very low mountains, often interrupted from the mouth of the Río Tuy to that of the Río Neveri, rises abruptly on the east of Nueva Barcelona, first in the rocky island of Chimanas, and then in the Cerro del Bergantin, elevated probably more than 800 toises, but of which the astronomical position and the precise height are yet alike unknown. On the meridian of Cumana the northern chain (that of Cape Codera and the Silla of Caracas) again appears. The micaceous slate of the peninsula of Araya and Maniquarez joins by the ridge or knot of mountains of Meapire the southern chain, that of Panaquire the Bergantin, Turimiquiri, Caripe, and Guacharo. This ridge, not more than 200 toises of absolute height, has, in the ancient revolutions of our planet, prevented the irruption of the ocean, and the union of the gulfs of Paria and Cariaco. On the west of Cape Codera, the northern chain, composed of primitive granitic rocks, presents the loftiest summits of the whole Cordillera of Venezuela; but the culminant points east of that cape, are composed in the southern chain, of secondary calcareous rocks. We have seen above, that the peak of Turimiquiri, at the back of the Cocollar, is 1050 toises, while the bottom of the high valleys of the convent of Caripe, and of Guardia de San Augustin, are 412 and 533 toises of absolute height. On the east of the ridge of Meapire, the southern chain sinks abruptly towards the Río Arco and the Guarapiche; but, on quitting the main land, we again see it rising on the southern coast of the island of Trinidad, which is but a detached portion of the continent, and of which the