

northern side unquestionably presents the vestiges of the northern chain of Venezuela, that is, of the Montaña de Paria (the 'Paradise' of Christopher Columbus), the peninsula of Araya, and the Silla of Caracas. The observations of latitude I made at the Villa de Cura ($10^{\circ} 2' 47''$), the farm of Cocollar ($10^{\circ} 9' 37''$), and the convent of Caripe ($10^{\circ} 10' 14''$), compared with the more anciently known position of the south coast of Trinidad (lat. $10^{\circ} 6'$), prove that the southern chain, south of the basins of Valencia and of Tuy* and of the gulfs of Cariaco and Paria, is still more uniform in the direction from west to east than the northern chain from Porto Cabello to Punta Galera. It is highly important to know the southern limit of the littoral Cordillera of Venezuela, because it determines the parallel at which the Llanos or the savannahs of Caracas, Barcelona, and Cumana begin. On some well-known maps, we find erroneously marked between the meridians of Caracas and Cumana, two Cordilleras stretching from north to south, as far as latitude $8\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$, under the names of Cerros de Alta Gracia, and del Bergantin, thus describing as mountainous a territory of 25 leagues broad, where we should seek in vain a hillock of a few feet in height.

Turning to the island of Marguerita, composed, like the peninsula of Araya, of micaceous slate, and anciently linked with that peninsula by the Morro de Chacopata and the islands of Coche and Cubagua, we seem to recognize in the two mountainous groups of Macanao and La Vega de San Juan, traces of a third coast-chain of the Cordillera of Venezuela. Do these two groups of Marguerita, of which the most westerly is above 600 toises high, belong to a submarine chain stretching by the isle of Tortuga, towards the Sierra de Santa Lucía de Coro, on the parallel of 11° ? Must we admit, that in lat. $11\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, a fourth chain, the most northerly of all, formerly stretched out in the direction of the island of Hermanos, by Blanquilla, Los Roques, Orchila, Aves, Buen Ayre, Curaçao, and Oruba,

* The bottom of the first of these four basins bounded by parallel chains, is from 230 to 460 toises above, and that of the two latter from 30 to 40 toises below the present sea-level. Hot springs gush from the bottom of the gulf of the basin of Cariaco, as from the bottom of the basin of Valencia on the continent.