

the missionaries Acaray and Tumucuraque. Those two names are found on our maps between $0\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and $3'$ north latitude. Raleigh first made known, in 1596, the system of the mountains of Parime, between the sources of the Rio Carony and the Essequibo, by the name of Wacarima (Pacarima), and the Jesuits Acunha and Artedia furnished, in 1639, the first precise notions of that part of this system which extends from the meridian of Essequibo to that of Oyapoc. There they place the mountains of Yguaracuru and Paraguaxo, the former of which gives birth to a 'gold river,' (Rio de oro), a tributary of the Curupatuba* ; and according to the assertion of the natives, subterraneous noises are sometimes heard from the latter. The ridge of this chain of mountains, which runs in a direction S. 85° E. from the peak of Duida, near the Esmeralda (lat. $3^{\circ} 19'$), to the rapids of the Rio Manaye, near Cape Nord (lat. $1^{\circ} 50'$), divides, in the parallel of 2° , the northern sources of the Essequibo, the Maroni, and the Oyapoc, from the southern sources of the Rio Trombetas, Curupatuba, and Paru. The most southern spurs of this chain approach nearer to the Amazon, at the distance of fifteen leagues. These are the first heights which we perceived after having left Xeberos and the mouth of the Huallaga. They are constantly seen in navigating from the mouth of the Rio Topayo towards that of Paru, from the town of Santarem to Almeirim. The peak Tripoupou is nearly in the meridian of the former of those towns, and is celebrated among the Indians of Upper Maroni. It is said that farther eastward, at Melgaço, the Serras do Velho and do Paru are still distinguished in the horizon. The real boundaries of this series of sources of the Rio Trombetas are better known southward than northward, where a mountainous

* When we know that in Tamanac gold is called *caricuri* ; in Carib, *caricura* : in Peruvian, *cori* (*curi*), we easily recognize in the names of the mountains and rivers (Yguara-curu, Cura-patuba), which we have just marked, the indication of auriferous soil. Such is the analogy of the imported roots in the American tongues, which otherwise differ altogether from each other, that 300 leagues west of the mountain Ygaracuru, on the banks of the Caqueta, Pedro de Ursua heard of the province of Caricuri, rich in gold washings. The Curupatuba falls into the Amazon near the Villa of Monte Alegre, N. E. of the mouth of the Rio Topayos.