

Vertentes and the Rio de Tres Barras (tributary streams of the Araguay and the Topayos), several ridges of the Monts Parecis run northward. On the right bank of the Topayos, a series of little hills advance as far as the parallel of 5° south latitude, to the fall (cachoeira) of Maracana; while further west, in the Rio Madeira, the course of which is nearly parallel with that of the Topayos, the rapids and cataracts indicate no rocky ridges beyond the parallel of 8° . The principal depression of the basin of which we have just examined the outline, is not near one of its banks, as in the basin of the Lower Orinoco, but at the centre, where the great recipient of the Amazon forms a longitudinal furrow inclining from west to east, under an angle of at least $25''$. The barometric measurements which I made at Javita on the banks of the Tuamini, at Vasivia on the banks of the Cassiquiare, and at the cataract of Rentema, in the Upper Marañon, seem to prove that the rising of the Llanos of the Amazon northward (at the foot of the Sierra Parime), is 150 toises, and westward (at the foot of the Cordillera of the Andes of Loxa), 190 toises above the sea-level.

(b.) *Part of the basin of the Amazon stretching from south to north.* This is the zone or land-strait by which, between 12° and 20° of south latitude, the plains of the Amazon communicate with the Pampas of Buenos Ayres. The western bank of this zone is formed by the Andes, between the knot of Porco and Potosi, and that of Huanuco and Pasco. Part of the spurs of the Rio Beni, which is but a widening of the Cordilleras of Apolobamba and Cuzco and the whole promontory of Cochabamba, advance eastward into the plains of the Amazon. The prolongation of this promontory has given rise to the idea that the Andes are linked with a series of hills which the Serras dos Parecis, the Serra Melgueira, and the supposed Cordillera of San Fernando, thro' t towards the west. This almost unknown part of th ontiers of Brazil and Upper Peru merits the attention of travellers. It is understood that the ancient mission of San Jose de Chiquitos (nearly lat. 17° ; long. $67^{\circ} 10'$, supposing Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in lat. $17^{\circ} 25'$; long. $66^{\circ} 47'$), is situated in the plains, and that the mountains of the spur of Cochabamba terminate between the Guapaix (Rio de Mizque) and the