

Javita, San Carlos del Rio Negro, and the Peak of Duida, the granite is traversed by numerous veins of different ages, abounding with rock-crystal, black tourmalin, and pyrites. It appears that these open veins become more common on the east of the Peak of Duida, in the Sierra Pacaraina, especially between Xurumu and Rupunuri (tributaries of the Rio Branco and the Essequibo), where Hortsman discovered, instead of diamonds* and emeralds, a mine (four) of rock-crystal.

(b) GNEISS predominates along the littoral Cordillera of Venezuela, with the appearance of an independent formation, in the northern chain from Cerro del Chuao, and the meridian of Choroni, as far as Cape Codera; and in the southern chain, from the meridian of Guigne to the mouth of the Rio Tuy. Cape Codera, the great mass of the Silla of Galipano, and the land between Guayra and Caracas, the table-land of Buenavista, the islands of the lake of Valencia, the mountains between Guigne, Maria Magdalena, and the Cerro de Chacao, are composed of gneiss;† yet amidst this soil of gneiss, inclosed mica-slate re-appears, often talcous in the Valle de Caurimare, and in the ancient Provincia de Los Mariches; at Cabo Blanco, west of La Guayra; near Caracas and Antimano, and above all, between the table-land of Buenavista and the valleys of Aragua, in the Montaña de las Cocuyzas, and at Hacienda del Tuy. Between

* These legends of diamonds are very ancient on the coast of Paria. Petrus Martyr relates, that at the beginning of the sixteenth century, a Spaniard named Andres Morales bought of a young Indian of the coast of Paria "admantem mire pretiosum, duos infantis digiti articulos longum, magni autem pollicis articulum æquantem crassitudine, acutum utrobique et costis octo pulchre formatis constantem." [A diamond of marvellous value, as long as two joints of an infant's finger, and as thick as one of the joints of its thumb, sharp on both sides, and of a beautiful octagonal shape.] This pretended "adamas juvenis pariensis" resisted the action of lime. Petrus Martyr distinguishes it from topaz by adding, "offenderunt et topazios in littore," [they pay no heed to topazes on the coast] that is of Paria, Saint Marta, and Veragua. See *Oceanica*, Dec. iii, lib. iv. p. 53.

† I have been assured that the islands Orchila and Los Frailes are also composed of gneiss; Curaçao and Bonaire are calcareous. Is the island of Oruba (in which nuggets of native gold of considerable size have been found) primitive?