

(*exhaussement*) which produced the uniform redistribution of the mountain-masses over the entire superficies of the country, we obtain 1150 feet and 800 feet respectively, for the mean elevation of these continents, and 950 feet for all America.

We need not be surprised, then, at the great elevation of many places on the American mainland. Towns, indeed, exist in the New World, and men pass their lives in localities whose elevation is equal to that of the loftiest European summits. The mean elevation of the ridge of the Andes is, according to Boussingault, about 14,000 feet. But a great number of *cols* or *passes* are still loftier. That of Rumihausi is 16,160 feet above the sea; Altos de Toledo, 15,790 feet; Pacuani, 15,340 feet; Chullunquiani, 15,160 feet; Paramo d'Assäay, 15,528 feet; Vilcañota, 14,520 feet; Gualillas, 14,750 feet; and Guanacas, 14,708 feet. In all these passes isolated habitations, and even small hamlets, are found at extraordinary heights. The post-master's house at Ancomarca, frequented by travellers *en route* from Bolivia to the ports of the Pacific, is situated at 15,900 feet, equal to the altitude of Mont Blanc. The hamlets of Chullunquiani, Rio Mauro, and Huayllas, are suspended on the flanks of the Cordilleras at an absolute elevation of 15,000 feet.

[The following figures,* referring to *inhabited places*, may interest the reader:—

	FEET.	FEET.	
Rumihausi, post station, Peru, ...	15,542	Oruro, city, Bolivia,	12,454
Ayavirini, post station, Peru, ...	14,960	La Paz, city, Bolivia,	12,226
Apo, post station, Peru,	14,376	Quito, city, Ecuador,	9,543
Ancochallani, farm, Peru (17° 35'		Chuquisaca, city, Bolivia, ...	9,343
S. lat.),	14,683	Bogota, city, New Granada, ...	8,730
Tacora, village, Peru (17°47'S.lat.),	13,690	Arequipa, city, Peru,	7,852
Antisana, farm, Ecuador,	13,454	Miquipampa, village, Peru, ...	11,870
Potosi, city, Bolivia,	13,330	Puno, city, Peru,	12,870]

Several of these towns are capitals of provinces. Potosi, famous for its silver mines, stands at a height above the sea equal to that of the Jungfrau. The Indian village Tacora, situated at the base of an extinct volcano, has a total altitude of 14,200 feet.

In the Republic of Ecuador, the great town of Quito is 9492 feet

* [These figures are derived from Humboldt and Pentland.—*Translator.*]