

the Darling, and the Murray, 700 miles. In Victoria: the Mitta Mitta, the Ovens, the Goulbourn, the Loddon (tributaries of the Murray), the Glenelg, the Latrobe, and the Yarra Yarra (or "flowing-flowing")—the latter is liable to sudden floods from the heavy rains and the melting of the snow. And in Tasmania: the Tamar and the Derwent.]

Nearly all the great rivers in SOUTH AMERICA have an easterly flow, and empty themselves into the Atlantic Ocean. The belt of ground between the Pacific and the western Cordilleras is too narrow to permit the formation of any important stream.

The estuary of *La Plata* receives the *Rio Parana*, which, like the *Paraguay*, comes down from the north. These two rivers unite at Corrientes, and then in a single channel repair to the Atlantic. Their tributaries, all of westerly origin, are the rivers Pilcomayo, Vernejo, and Salado (whose water is brackish). The *Uruguay* flows parallel to the Parana, and also falls at Buenos Ayres into the magnificent La Plata estuary—a vast bay of fresh water, with a width of 125 miles at its mouth; it penetrates inland upwards of 185 miles.

The *San Francisco* comes from the south, and skirts the littoral mountain-range of Brazil. It flows into the Atlantic. The *Rio de Para* is the common estuary of the Uruguay and the Tocantins, which traverse Brazil from south to north.

The island of Marajos separates this estuary from the mouth of the *Amazons* river, or the *Maranon*, the greatest river on the surface of the globe.

Its basin embraces 2,000,000 square miles. It is fed by the streams which descend from the eastern flank of the Peruvian Andes, and its banks are clothed with the luxurious and almost impenetrable growth of the virgin forests. Its mouth was discovered in 1500, by Pinzon, one of the comrades of Columbus. Francisco Orellana descended it from its source to its mouth. It has recently been explored, to a greater or lesser extent, by Messrs. Bates, Burton, Wallace, and Agassiz, who have greatly enlarged our knowledge respecting its characteristic features. At its mouth the Amazons is 170 miles broad; its length is 3000 miles; so that it separates the North American hemisphere from the Southern, like a liquid equator. Its channel is navigable inland for 2500 miles; is so deep that the sounding-lead touches no bottom; and so broad that its two banks are frequently indistinguishable by the voyager, who seems to be sailing in the open sea.

Its principal affluents are the Madeira, the Rio-Negro, by whose means it communicates with the basin of the Orinoco, the Tapajos, and the Xingu. They water immense tracts of fertile land and impassable forest.

"To give an idea," says a French writer,\* "of the immense variety of trees and

\* Eliséé Reclus, "Revue des Deux-Mondes."