

VI.—*On the Southern Affluents of the River Amazons:—*

1. *Translation from a MS. (1799) on the Advantages to be derived from the Navigation of the Rivers which flow from the Cordilleras of Peru into the Marañon or Amazons.*
2. *An Official Report (1827) on the River Beni, and the Countries through which it flows.* Communicated by Woodbine Parish, Esq., F.R.S. Read, 13th April.

[THADEUS HÄENKE, the writer of the first of these papers, was a member of the Academy of Sciences of Prague and Vienna. He accompanied Malespina on his voyage to the Pacific, and was afterwards sent by the King of Spain with a special commission to Peru, to examine into the mines of that country, and to introduce improvements in the mode of working them. Delighted with the province of Cochabamba, he settled there, and devoted himself for many years to the acquirement of a knowledge of that part of America and of its natural productions. He had prepared a valuable work on those countries, which would have been published many years ago, but for the revolution, which cut off his communications with Europe. He has since died in Bolivia, and it is feared that this work has been lost. Some of his papers, however, have been preserved, and amongst them his official reports addressed to the Spanish Government, of which this is one; and a second, giving some account of the province of Cochabamba, has been published in Azara's work. Others also are in the hands of individuals, who it is to be hoped will, in due time, give them publicity; for all that he wrote on Peru was valuable.]

The second paper is, in the original, accompanied with a map of the Beni; but as the information furnished by this is incorporated with the other materials used in the annexed illustration of the general geography of this country, (and which will shortly be published more detailed and on a greater scale,) it is not specifically copied. It was drawn up, for the use of the Prefect of La Paz, by Francisco Herrera (Commissario Prefecto de Misiones); and is dated from Guanay, 10th Feb., 1827.—W. P.]

1. The provinces of Peru in the actual occupation of the Spaniards form but a small part of the continent of South America; generally speaking, they may be defined as a long narrow strip running along the coast of the Pacific, and bounded by the mountain-chain of the Andes: a vast territory, it is true, but nothing when considered in its relative proportion to the extreme width of the continent.

The precipitous height of the snowy mountains of the Andes on their eastern declivity—the almost impracticability of the passes—and the immense forests, hundreds of leagues in extent, reaching,

indeed, it is hardly known where, are obstacles alone sufficient to have deterred not only the Spaniards, but the Peruvians before them, from making much further satisfactory progress in the examination and peopling of these vast regions; but if to these be added the dangers apprehended from the barbarous nations which inhabit them,—the almost insufferable heats,—the annoyance of the innumerable venomous insects and reptiles, and the many deep and impassable rivers; it ceases to be matter of much astonishment that the conquerors of Peru should have made such small advances beyond the ranges of the Cordilleras. It is doubtless to be ascribed to these causes, operating, it must be confessed, upon a remarkable falling-off in that spirit of discovery and conquest which animated them of old, that both the Spaniards and Portuguese have been satisfied to remain in such ignorance of immense countries within their own possessions.

The Gran-Chaco (or Great Desert); the countries between Paraguay and Chiquitos; those reaching from Moxos and Apolobamba, to the rivers Amazons and Huallaga; and from the Purus to the Ucayale, are regions almost totally unknown; not to speak of those to the north of the Amazons between the Orinoco and the Cordilleras of Quito, and Santa Fé de Bogota; and very many more.

Wherever the interior of these extensive regions has been penetrated, it has been by some of those mighty rivers which, descending from the Cordilleras, have burst, as it were, a natural path through the otherwise impassable and almost boundless forests below.

The names of Chiquitos, Moxos, and Apolobamba, might still have been unheard of, but for the rivers Paraguay, Grande, and Beni, which showed the way to them, and carried their first discoverers to those remote parts, inaccessible to them from any other direction. It is in those provinces that the Spaniards have made their farthest advances into the interior of this continent; but it was not from the coasts of Peru, and proceeding in an easterly direction that they reached them. They were originally made known by adventurers from the south, who discovered them, after toiling up the long and arduous passage of the river Paraguay. It was many years before the communication with them from Upper Peru was opened by the navigation of the Beni, and the Marmoré, and their affluents; and much later that the Portuguese, on their side, coming down from Brazil, not so much to form new settlements in them as to check the further advances of the Spaniards, determined there also to establish their line of military positions.

These provinces, in common with all those situated to the east of the Andes, however rich their lands, and precious their produc-

tions, would seem destined to labour under the greatest possible natural disadvantage, in being shut in by that tremendous barrier, the Andes—a barrier, unrivalled not only in the height of its mountains, but in the extent of its ranges; one, which Nature herself seems to have created for the especial purpose of cutting off their communications with the nations to the westward; of which, it may be truly said, as of the ocean, by Horace,—

“ Deus abscedit
Prudens oceano dissociabili
Terras.”

The difficulties with which the nations eastward of the Andes have to contend in the transport of their productions across the Cordillera double their cost in conveying them only to the provinces of Upper Peru; and if this be the case between countries apparently bordering on each other, what must be the labour and expenses of their further carriage to those ports upon the Pacific from whence they are to be shipped for Spain!

The productions of Chiquitos and Moxos are transported more than 200 leagues to Lima, over a double range of the Andes; if they are to be sent to Europe by way of Buenos Ayres, the distance, not to speak of the difficulties of the mountainous roads of Jujuy, cannot be calculated at less than 600 leagues. Nothing but gold, and silver, and precious stones, can repay the enormous expenses of transport on beasts of burthen over such immense distances.

It is not to be wondered at that, with such impediments before them, the inhabitants should relax in their industry, and look with indifference upon the cultivation of the most precious of their productions, contented to raise a bare sufficiency for their own domestic wants, with the consciousness of being able to supply the world.

But the truth is, these impediments and disadvantages, however apparently great and discouraging, are not without a remedy,—the evil should be referred to its true source,—the false and unnatural system on which the intercourse between Europe and those countries has been hitherto carried on. By changing that system, and by opening a new channel for their exports, every obstacle would vanish, the inhabitants of those regions would be stimulated to exertion, and to the cultivation of their fruitful possessions, and Europe would reap immense benefits.

Nature, indeed, has framed her works on this continent on a gigantic scale; where else is to be found a mountain-chain like the Cordilleras of the Andes? where rivers like the Amazons and La Plata? where such extensive plains; such interminable forests? But the same hand which has raised the most wondrous and impassable barriers, in appearance, to the progress of man, in these

vast regions, has not omitted to provide safe and convenient means of communication with their remotest parts, and for the interchange of their varied productions. The innumerable rivers which pour down from the Cordilleras, for the most part navigable, are but so many highways which Nature herself has opened through rocks and mountains and impenetrable forests, for the safe and convenient passage of man, and for the transport of the fruits of his industry.

Of these, one of the principal, if it be not the queen of the rivers of the world, is the Amazons, or Marañon,—in truth it may be called a sea of fresh water, which, without exaggeration, from its junction with the ocean, may be traced for upwards of a thousand leagues across this continent, communicating with all the provinces of Peru, as far as 18° S. lat., by means of the many navigable branches which flow into it: it is particularly of these rivers, which from their sources in the mountain-chains of Peru descend into the countries to the eastward, and finally fall into the Marañon or Amazons, that I propose in this paper to give some account.

In proceeding eastward from the celebrated pass or pongo of Manseriche, on the Marañon, the first river we meet with is the Huallaga; its source may be traced to the neighbourhood of Lima, not far from those of the Marañon itself, in 11° south latitude. One of its main branches descends from the mining district of Pasco, to the north-east of Lima, through a wide and broken gorge, to the city of Huanuco; it afterwards runs through the mountains of Chinchao and Cochero; and on my first visit to those parts, in 1790, I saw where they embark upon it at its junction with the river Chinchao; whence its course is northward through different ranges of the Andes, and through the district of Los Lamas, where it is increased by the streams which flow from the mountains of Huamalies, Moyobamba, and Chachapoyas, districts abounding in the finest quality of cascarilla. In about 7° south it runs through a passage something like that of Manseriche, but shorter; thence through a plain country till it unites with the Marañon, near the missions of La Laguna, in 5° south latitude, and more or less in about the meridian of 77° west from Paris. It was by this river that Pedro de Ursoa descended, in the year 1560, when sent by the Viceroy, the Marquis de Cariete, in search of the lake of Parima and the city of El-dorado, an expedition cut short by his being assassinated by one of his own companions. The famous missionary, Father Fritz, also passed it several times.

The next river of this class is the *Ucayale*, a river not inferior to the Marañon itself at its junction,—from which it is often held to be the true Marañon. Its origin is from the lake Chinchicocha,

in the plains of Pombom, thirty leagues east of Lima, in $11^{\circ} 30'$ south latitude. The tributary streams which unite to form this magnificent river water a wonderful extent of country. I followed and crossed many of them in my journeys from Lima to Cuzco, and particularly in 1794 I had an opportunity of verifying the junctions with it of the rivers Yauli, Jauja, Mayoc, Mantaro, Canaire, Tambo, Pachachaca, Apurimac, Paucartambo, Vilcanota, tracing it as far as Cailloma in the intendency of Arequipa, and eastward to the confines of the Partido of Carabaya. After emerging from its narrow bounds in the Cordillera, it is increased by the river Perrene, and in 8° south latitude by the Pachitea; whence it runs through a labyrinth of forests, receiving many smaller streams in its progress. Its banks are peopled by various Indian tribes, whose names alone would make up a long vocabulary. Having passed through a prodigious extent of country it empties itself into the Marañon, near the Missions of San Joaquin de Omaguas, in $4^{\circ} 30'$ south latitude, and in about the meridian of 73° west from Paris. Below Omaguas, the Marañon receives from the same side the rivers Yavari, Yutay, Yuruta, Tefe, and Coari; they are of secondary order compared with the Huallaga and Ucayale, but are nevertheless navigated by the Indians even to the confines of Upper Peru, a voyage of months.

In the 63rd meridian (from Paris) and in 4° south latitude, the Purus, or by another name the Cuchivara, discharges itself. It is a river of the first class, and according to the accounts of the Indians not inferior to the Marañon, into which it falls. No one as yet has been able precisely to determine its origin, but I have data sufficient, I think, to fix it between the Cordillera of Vilcanota and the east of the mountains of Carabaya, from which descend many and considerable streams abounding in gold. In October, 1794, the Chuntachitos, the Machuvis, and Pacaguaras Indians, who live to the west of Apolobamba, gave me accounts of a very wide and deep river running through a flat and thickly wooded country, about ten days' journey west of the Beni, where I fell in with them. They distinctly explained to me that a vast many Indians and their families were settled along its shores, that in their language it was called Manoa, and that it was a larger river than the Beni. As no other river of this class falls into the Marañon between the Ucayale and Madera, I am led to believe that the Purus and the Manoa are the same, and that the difference in the name is merely the consequence of its passing through different nations, each of which may have given it a distinct appellation.

Further on, about fifty leagues, in $60^{\circ} 30'$ west longitude from Paris, and in $3^{\circ} 30'$ south latitude, we come to the famous river

Madera, a name which it derives from the many trunks of trees which it sweeps away in its current during the period of its inundation from November to April. Its sources may be traced along the Cordilleras of Pelehuco, Sorata, and La Paz, to the innermost parts of the Spanish possessions,—viz, to Moxos, Chiquitos, and the mountains of the Chiriguan Indians. From the immense extent of territory watered by this river and its affluents, from the safe and easy navigation of its main branches, from its comparatively near junction with the Atlantic ocean, and its being by far the most convenient channel of communication with the Marañon and the Portuguese settlements, I shall dwell the more particularly upon its description.

The interior or secondary range of the Andes, which, from the neighbourhood of Quito, runs in a direction from north-west to south-east, forms a considerable curve or sweep before it reaches the confines of the province of La Paz, in about 16° south latitude; where it changes its original inclination, turning in an easterly direction from its original parallel line with the coast, and stretching towards the centre of the continent. This alteration in the direction of the mountain-ranges produces a line of demarcation, as it were, between those rivers which, within a short distance of each other, run some to the north and others to the south, and which supply a large portion of the waters which subsequently form the two principal drains of this continent,—viz. the rivers Marañon and La Plata.

The principal rivers which form the Madera are the Beni, the Marmoré, and the Itenes—all navigable almost from their sources. Of the three, the Beni is the first, or most western branch: it is formed of an infinite number of smaller streams, which, falling into it within a short distance of each other, soon constitute a very considerable body of water. They have their sources in the mountains of Pelehuco, Suches, Sorata, Challana, Songo, La Paz, Suri, and Cochabamba. The farthest to the west is the Tuche; then follow the Aten, the Mapiri, or Sorata, and the rivers which, descending from the celebrated mines of Tipuani, from Challana, and from Coroico, afterwards unite; then the Chulumani and its confluent streams, the Tamampaya, the Solacama, the Rio de La Paz, the Suri, and the Cañamena; to the east, and last of all, is the Cotacajes.

I have been enabled, in my various journeys, to verify the sources of all these rivers. On the 22nd of September, 1794, I embarked on the Tipuani, and followed it to the Beni, under the guidance of the native Indians, as far as the Missions of Apolobamba and Moxos, and to the village of Reyes, near Isiamas and Tumupasa. This voyage took me not more than four days, from the rapidity of the currents as they descend from the Cordillera;

there are many dangerous passages, but the dexterity of the Indians in the management of their balsas (rafts) leaves the traveller nothing to fear.

Below Reyes, the Beni receives various other streams from the west, as the Tequeje, the Masisi or Cavinás, and others. From its junction with the Marmoré, in about 10° S. lat., both lose their names in that of the Madera.

This river flows in one even, uninterrupted, and majestic course through the level country, forming islands of considerable size, and its breadth in some parts exceeding a quarter of a league: it is full of fish, and is infested by numerous crocodiles, or caimans. Both shores are thickly studded with lofty forests, and are peopled by a variety of Indian tribes, with which the missionaries from Apolobamba have begun to have some communication. The eastern side is inhabited by the Cavinás, the Pacaguaras, the Bubues, the Torromanos, the Napas, and Tobatinguas; and the western by the Bulepas, and very many others.

It would be extremely easy to unite the Beni with the Marmoré by means of the river Yacuma, which rises near Reyes, and running eastward through the flat country between, falls into the Marmoré close to the town of Santa Anna. The fall of the land is so imperceptible, and so nearly on a level with the horizon, that it does not exceed twenty feet in the distance of more than sixty leagues.

The second or middle branch of the Madera is the Marmoré. It is inferior in nothing to the Beni, running from south to north through the centre of the extensive territories of the Missions of Moxos. Under the name of the Chaparé, it unites the rivers Paracti, San Mateo, Coni, Chimoré, Sacta, and Matani, rising in the mountains inhabited by the Yuracaree Indians, not far from Cochabamba: another arm of it is the river Grande, which divides the province of Cochabamba from that of Charcas, and into which fall the many streams which run from the Cordillera of Santa Cruz. It is from the junction of the Chaparé with the river Grande, in about 16° S. lat., that they take the name of the Marmoré. The people of Moxos navigate this river against the current for more than one hundred leagues, carrying the fruits of their industry from Exaltacion to the neighbourhood of Santa Cruz. I myself, in the months of October and November of 1794, passed over from the Beni to the Yacuma, and continued my voyage up the Marmoré and Rio Grande till I reached the port of Forès, near the city of Santa Cruz.

The third or most eastern branch is the Iténes, which rises in the low hills of the interior of Brazil, and of which the Portuguese have taken care as yet to give us very little account. It runs from

east to west. Its waters are clearer and more translucent than those of the Beni and Marmoré, and some distance up it are found stones, which, in the low lands bordering on the Beni and Marmoré, are as scarce as diamonds. The bulk of its waters is less than that of those rivers. The fortification of Beyra, one of the most advanced posts of the Portuguese, is situated upon it, in about 12° S. lat., more or less, and in the meridian of $66^{\circ} 30'$ from Paris. It falls into the Marmoré much in the same latitude, but about half a degree to the westward of the said fort.

These are the three main branches of the celebrated river Madera, the most proper of all that I have spoken of, as a channel whereby to open a direct communication between Spain and all those vast and rich countries situated to the eastward of the Andes.

It is a pitiable sight to see the inhabitants of the most valuable and fertile possessions of the crown of Spain on this continent forced into the unnatural course of having to carry their productions to the shores of the Pacific Ocean; struggling, as it were, against the elements themselves in the toilsome passage up rivers which every league become more rapid and impracticable as they approach the Cordillera,—that Cordillera so fatal to the wretched Indians, enervated by the delicious climate of their own regions, and seldom provided with more clothing than a shirt to their backs to protect them against the cold and inclemency of the snows of the Andes; whilst, on the other hand, by merely following that course which nature herself points out in the opposite direction, and abandoning their vessels to the favouring currents of their own rivers, they would save thousands of miles in their communication with Europe. Condamine calculates that the passage of the Andes alone may be considered as equivalent to 1000 leagues of transport by sea.

And here I must make some observations upon the productions of these countries. Excepting the territory of Guayaquil, to the west of the Andes, it is solely in the Cordilleras and in the lands to the eastward of them that the most valuable productions of this continent are to be found. Gold, and it is the finest in the world, is found there in such abundance that I have no hesitation in saying there is scarcely a pass in the mountains where it is not to be discovered, although in some parts it may be of easier access than in others, and better known.

The cocoa of Apolobamba, of Moxos, of Yuracares, and of all the woods which extend from thence to the shores of the Marañon, is infinitely superior to that of Guayaquil. The finest quality of cascarilla is only found on the eastern side of the Andes; of the indigo there is no end; I can say the same of the cotton and the rice. The precious balsam of copayva, the sarsaparilla, the gum-

elastic, and the most fragrant species of vanilla, are all produced in an extraordinary abundance in these regions. The mighty forests which line the shores of the rivers abound in the finest timber for all uses, especially for ship-building, and in trees distilling the most aromatic and medicinal gums. Amongst others, there is a species of cinnamon called by the natives the *canela de clavo*, which only differs in the greater thickness of the bark and its darker colour, according to its age, from that found in the East Indies, and which is as fragrant as the spice from which it takes its name (clove).

But the easier conveyance to Europe of these precious commodities would not be the only advantage of opening these new channels; by stimulating their industry and intercourse with the rest of the world, the people of these regions would become by degrees reduced to Christianity and civilization; and nations, at present unknown to us even by name, would be brought into direct communication with us. If Spain did but possess an establishment at the mouth of the Amazons, what would she not gain in distance alone?—Consider the difference between a voyage direct to Spain from the mouth of this river, which would scarcely occupy a month, and one round Cape Horn from Lima, or perhaps from Guayaquil!

The Indians are excellent sailors on their own rivers, and manage with great dexterity their canoes—vessels often of fifty or sixty feet long, and of considerable burthen; they are indefatigable on these inland voyages, which are of months' duration; they require but few hands, and no stock of provisions, subsisting themselves without difficulty on the fish they take, on the wild fruits and roots they gather on the passage, and on the monkeys and other game which they kill with their bows and arrows.

I would willingly volunteer my services to be the first to explore this new passage to Spain, and to survey these mighty rivers from their sources, provided the king's government would be pleased to furnish me with the necessary astronomical instruments, and such passports and recommendations as would enable me to pass without hindrance and annoyance the Portuguese ports on the way. Such an expedition would be at least of some use as a preliminary measure, to obtain a correct knowledge of the whole course of the Madera, and of the precautions requisite for its ordinary navigation, as well as to acquire some more general acquaintance than we as yet possess with the vast territories through which it flows, and the character and disposition of their various inhabitants and productions. The easterly winds which blow, according to Condamine, from October to May, favour the navigation against the current in sailing vessels, although it should be

observed that further on in the interior the prevailing winds are more commonly either from the north or south, especially at the period of the inundations.

2. *The River Beni.*—This great River has its origin in the springs which issue from the lofty ranges north-west of Cochabamba, forming part of the snowy Cordillera visible from the city of La Paz; the other rivers, also, of which I shall have here occasion to speak, have their sources in the same range.

The Beni waters the whole of the district of Mosetenes; it skirts the province of Moxos, leaving it to the east, and pursues its course till it unites with the Marmoré, and loses its name.

The extent of territory comprised in the map is about 200 leagues, situated, according to astronomical observations, between 8° and 17° 30' south latitude. In this range there seems to be nothing wanting to make it everything that man could desire for his abode. Here he may find every variety of hill, and vale, and plains, with abundant streams of running water. The vast and extensive levels along the banks of the rivers, but especially those which are watered by the Beni, offer the finest locality in the world for agricultural establishments, and for the maintenance of a numerous population. Its fertility may be seen in the extraordinary growth of the trees, and the innumerable plants which it spontaneously produces, affording sustenance and shelter to a prodigious variety of the animal creation. Amongst the beasts the most common are the tapir, the tiger, the leopard, six or seven sorts of monkeys, and several amphibious creatures. Amongst the feathered tribe may be enumerated the parrot, the caque (?), several kinds of turkeys, and a multitude of beautiful singing birds, easily tamed, such as the thrush, the whistler (*silvador*), and the *maltico*, as remarkable for its plumage as for the sweetness of its note.

It is not so easy to describe the many wild fruits, medicinal herbs, and aromatic gums which are to be met with here in the greatest abundance, inasmuch as they require in the first instance to be carefully examined by men of science; but there is not a doubt that such an examination of them would lead to many new and valuable discoveries amongst the vegetable productions of these regions.

The cacao is to be found wild in many places, in others it is cultivated; in either case it is superior to any brought to the city of La Paz. Tamarinds, the *chirimoya* (?), oranges and lemons, figs, the cotton-plant, the sugar-cane, pine-apples, and every sort

of garden fruit flourish here with very little attention. The plantain also is to be found in abundance—that divine fruit, of all the productions of nature one of the most useful to man!—From it he makes flour, bread, sugar, spirits, and vinegar; whether roasted or boiled, raw or dried in the sun, it is delicious; of it may be truly said, as of the manna of old, *ad quod quisque volebat convertabatur*.

The water of the rivers is in general of very good quality, and the quantity of fish in them is inexhaustible. The chief sorts are the sabalo (a sort of carp), the suche (?), the dorado (a large species of tench), the hava (?), the corvino (a large perch), and many others. For the most part the rivers are navigable, with a gentle current in the deeper parts. On the shores of every one of them gold is to be found. The climate is so mild and salubrious that it may be said truly there is none like it on this continent; as a proof of which, in the settlement of Guanay, where I am now writing, in a population of 240 souls there has not been a single death of man, woman, or child, in two years and five months. The pastures are admirably adapted for cattle, which are, accordingly, in great numbers; but sheep do not thrive so well on account of the heat.

The Indian inhabitants of the territory are, in the first place, the *Aymaristas* and *Quechuistas*, who live about the sources of the rivers Quetoto, Bogpi, Coroico, Challana, Tipuani, Mapiri, and in the province of Apolobamba. Farther down are found the *Lecos*, the *Mosetenes*, the *Maropas*, and, lastly, the *Paraguaras* Indians; of which, the first, the *Lecos*, are confined to the lands between the Mapiri and Guanay, and are but few in number, not amounting in all to more than sixty families, Christians and infidels. They have a language of their own. In appearance they are a stout strong race, of an olive complexion, well-behaved, orderly, hard-working, happy, not quarrelsome, nor superstitious, though, like all others, they have their faults.

The *Mosetenes* Indians principally occupy the better lands along the River Beni; they are also to be found on the Quetoto, the Bogpi, and the Maniaque. Some of them are known by the appellation of Muchanis, Inicuanis, and Chimaris; but the fact is, they are all of the *Mosetenes* nation, and only assume those names from the particular rivers near which they reside; they also have their own separate language. They are a well-conditioned race, frank and disinterested, and very friendly with strangers, very ingenious, and evince an extraordinary sagacity in discovering the medicinal qualities of plants, which they well know also how to administer in sickness with admirable success. Like the *Lecos*, they are peaceably disposed, and free from superstition. They maintain themselves by their labour, and on fish and game,

which they know how to catch with much dexterity. In all the settlements of the Mosetenes there may be about 140 families.

The *Maropas* Indians are commonly known by the name of *Reyesanos*, from their residence about *Reyes*, on the River *Beni*. This settlement of *Reyes* properly belongs to the province of *Moxos*, in which may be counted no less than thirteen different Indian tribes, each having a separate language. The *Maropas* were originally reduced by the Jesuits, since whose expulsion they have been considered under the superintendence of the Bishop of *Santa Cruz de la Sierra*. They are a warlike and proud race, but evince great ingenuity and aptness for many sorts of work; the cloths they manufacture are beautiful; they are very good carpenters; and they show a marked taste for music and painting, in which they were initiated by the Jesuit fathers.

The climate of the province of *Moxos*, where they reside, is very hot, and the air is infested day and night by millions of musquitoes. The water even is hot. There are several lakes in it, and it is subject to the inundations of the River *Marmoré*; the pastures however are excellent, and the cattle are abundant in them.

The *Pacaguaras* Indians reside on the shores of the *Beni*, below *Reyes*. They are a barbarous race, as yet unconverted. Wild and warlike, they go naked, and even the women wear nothing but a few leaves tied round the waist.

The River *Beni*, as has been before said, unites with the *Marmoré*, which takes thence the name of the *Madera*, and falls into the *Amazons*, whereby a communication is open with the Atlantic. Along the shores of these rivers it is believed that many barbarous nations reside, of whom as yet little can be said with any certainty; nor are we likely to know more of them till new expeditions of discovery are set on foot, and intelligent people shall go amongst them. The result of such undertakings would be of the greatest importance to these valuable countries, not only in tending to further the knowledge and increase of their productions, but in establishing an easy communication from them with Europe and with the rest of the world.

The best part of Peru is as yet, it may be said, unknown. The riches it contains are immense; but to secure and turn them to account will require energy and exertion, and some encouragement from our rulers.*

[* The Bolivian Government is now extending this encouragement, offering grants of land to adventurers, and considerable premiums for the establishment of steam-navigation on the rivers above described.]