

Werk

Titel: Geography made easy

Autor: Morse, Jedidiah

Verlag: Hall

Ort: Boston

Jahr: 1791

Kollektion: Itineraria; Nordamericana

Digitalisiert: Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

Werk Id: PPN247653810

PURL: <http://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?PPN247653810>

OPAC: <http://opac.sub.uni-goettingen.de/DB=1/PPN?PPN=247653810>

LOG Id: LOG_0041

LOG Titel: SPANISH SOUTH-AMERICA &c

LOG Typ: section

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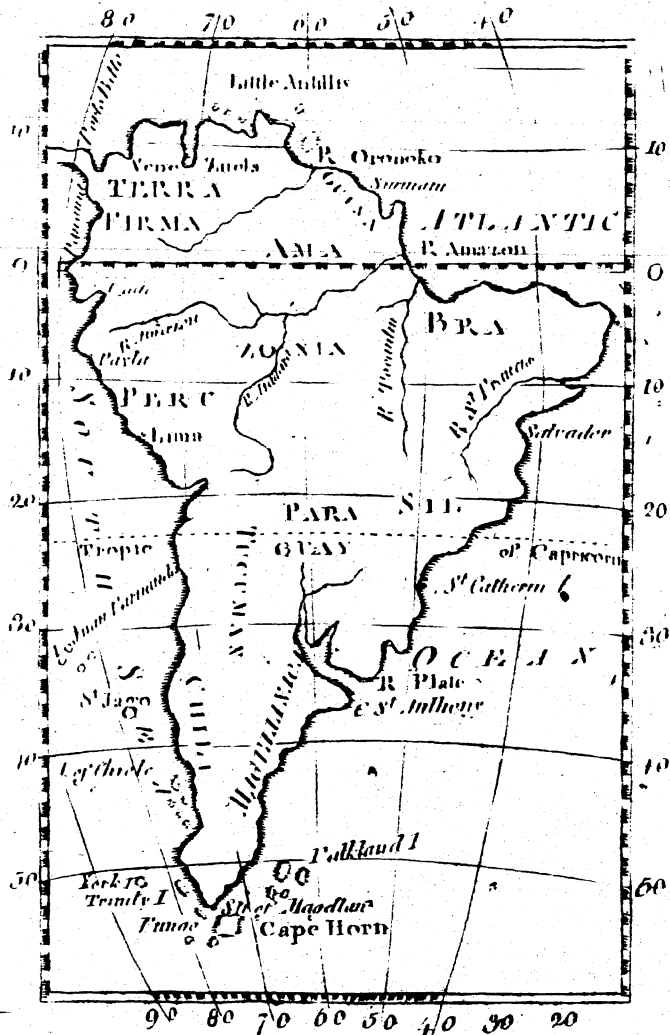
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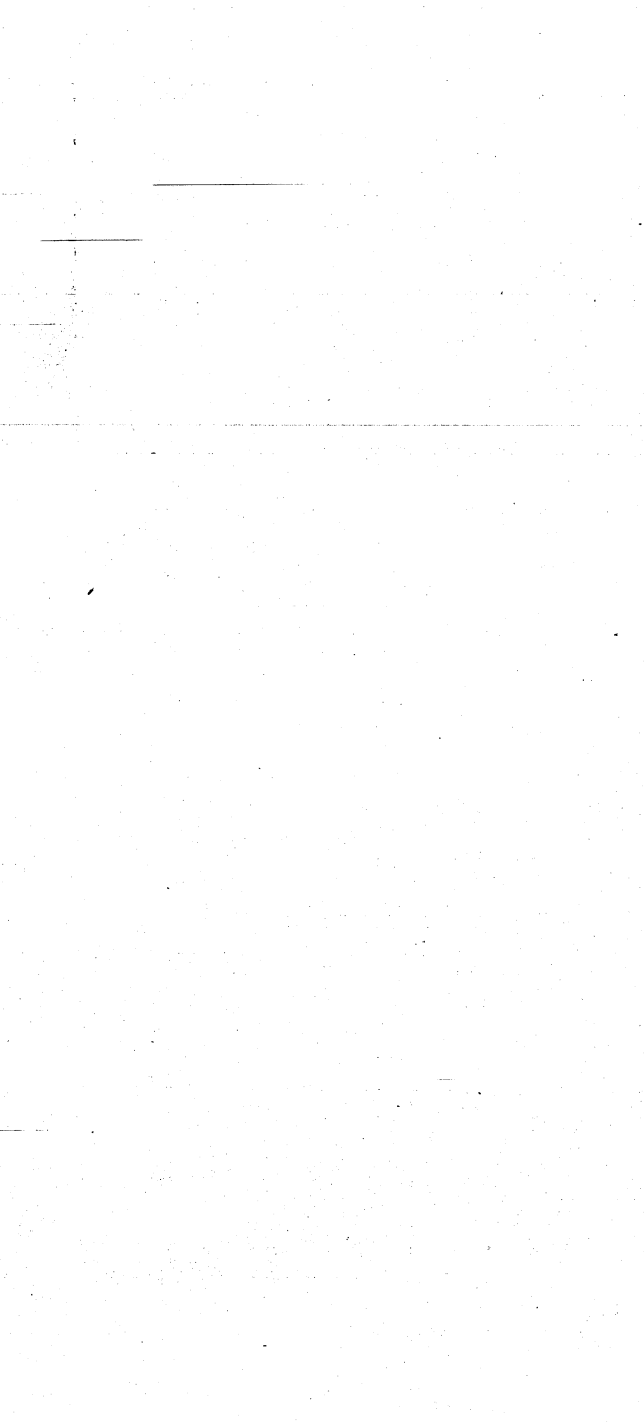
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SOUTH AMERICA





this, together with the excessive heat, so impregnates the air with vapours, that in many provinces, particularly about Popayan and Porto Bello, it is extremely unwholesome.

The soil of this country is very different, the inland parts being exceedingly rich and fertile, and the coasts sandy and barren. It is impossible to view without admiration, the perpetual verdure of the woods, the luxuriance of the plains, and the towering height of the mountains. This country produces corn, sugar, tobacco and fruits of all kinds; the most remarkable is that of the manzanillo tree. It bears a fruit resembling an apple, but which, under this specious appearance, contains the most subtle poison. The bean of Carthagenia is the fruit of a species of willow about the bigness of a bean, and is an excellent and never failing remedy for the bite of the most venomous serpents, which are very frequent all over this country. Among the natural merchandize of Terra Firma, the pearls found on the coast, particularly in the bay of Panama, are not the least considerable. An immense number of negro slaves are employed in fishing for these, and have arrived at a wonderful dexterity in this occupation. They are sometimes, however, devoured by sharks while they dive to the bottom, or are crushed against the shelves of the rocks.

Animals.] Among the animals peculiar to this country, the most remarkable is the sloth; or, as it is called by way of derision, the *Scurf Peter*. It resembles an ordinary monkey, in shape and size, but is of a most wretched appearance, with its bare hams and feet, and its skin all corrugated. He stands in no need of a chain, as he never stirs, unless compelled by hunger—and he is said to be several minutes in moving one of his legs—nor will blows make him mend his pace. When he moves, every effort is attended with such a plaintive, and, at the same time, so disagreeable a cry, as at once excites pity and disgust. In this cry consists the whole defence of this wretched animal; for on the first hostile approach, it is natural for him to be in motion, which

which is always accompanied with disgustful howlings.

Chief Towns.] PANAMA is the capital of Terra Firma Proper, and is situated upon a capacious bay to which it gives its name. It is the great receptacle of the vast quantities of gold and silver, with other rich merchandize, from all parts of Peru and Chili: Here they are lodged in store-houses, till the proper season arrives to transport them to Europe.

PORTO BELLO is situated close to the sea, on the declivity of a mountain which surrounds the whole harbour. The convenience and safety of this harbour is such, that Columbus, who first discovered it, gave it the name of Porto Bello, or the Fine Harbour.

History.] This part of South-America was discovered by Columbus, in his third voyage to this continent. It was subdued and settled by the Spaniards about the year 1514, after destroying, with great inhumanity, several millions of the natives. This country was called Terra Firma, on account of its being the first part of the continent which was discovered; all the lands discovered previous to this being islands.

P E R U.

miles.
Length 1800 }
Breadth 500 } between { 60° and 81° West Longitude.
The Equator and 25° S. Latitude.

BOUNDED north by Terra Firma; east, by the Andes; south, by Chili; west by the Pacifick ocean.

Rivers.] A prodigious number of rivers rise in the Andes, and run through this country, among which are the Grenada or Cagdalena, Orinoco and Amazon. The last has its source in Peru, and after running eastward upwards of three thousand miles, falls into the Atlantick ocean. This river, like all other tropical rivers, annually overflows its banks.

Climate, Soil and Productions.] Though Peru lies within the torrid zone, yet, having the Pacifick ocean on the west, and the Andes on the east, the air is not so sultry, as is usual in tropical countries. The sky is generally

generally cloudy, so that the inhabitants are shielded from the direct rays of the sun ; but what is extremely singular, it never rains in Peru. This defect, however, is sufficiently supplied by a soft and gentle dew, which falls every night on the ground, and so refreshes the plants and grass, as to produce in many places the greatest fertility. In the inland parts of Peru, and by the banks of the rivers, the soil is generally very fertile, but along the sea coast it is a barren sand. The productions of this country are, Indian corn, wheat, balsam, sugar, wine, cotton, cattle, deer, poultry, parrots, wild fowls, lions, bears, monkeys, &c. Their sheep are large, and work as beasts of burden. Another extraordinary animal here, is the vicunna, or Indian goat, in which is found the bezoar stone, celebrated for expelling poisons. The province of Quito abounds with cedar, cocoa, palm trees, and the kinguenna, which affords the Peruvian or Jesuit's bark ; also the storax, guaiacum, and several other gums and drugs. Gold and silver mines are found in every province, but those of Potosi are the richest. The mountain of Potosi alone, is said to have yielded to the Spaniards, the first forty years they were in possession of it, two thousand millions of pieces of eight.

Government.] Peru is governed by a Viceroy, who is absolute ; but it being impossible for him to superintend the whole extent of his government, he delegates a part of his authority to the several audiences and courts, established at different places throughout his dominions.

Chief Towns.] LIMA, the capital of Peru, and residence of the Viceroy, is large, magnificent and populous ; and for the splendor of its inhabitants, the grandeur of its publick festivals, the extent of its commerce, and the delightfulness of its climate, is superior to all cities in South-America. These eminent advantages are, however, considerably overbalanced by the dreadful earthquakes which frequently happen here. In the year 1747 a most tremendous earthquake laid three-fourths of this city level with the ground, and entirely

demolished Callao, the port town belonging to it. Never was any destruction more complete or terrible ; but one, of 3000 inhabitants, being left to record this dreadful calamity, and he by a providence the most singular and extraordinary imaginable.

Lima contains 60,000 inhabitants, of whom the whites amount to a sixth part.

All travellers speak with amazement of the decoration of the churches with gold, silver and precious stones, which load and ornament even the walls. Quito is next to Lima in populousness.

History.] The Spaniards first visited Peru in 1526. Pizarro, with an army of about 160 men, after a series of treacherous and cruel acts, made a conquest of the whole country, for the King of Spain, in 1533, to whom it has ever since been subject. The natives have frequently attempted to regain their liberty, but have hitherto been unsuccessful. Some late insurrections have happened, but the consequences are not yet particularly known.

C H I L I.

Length ^{miles.} 1200 }
Breadth 500 } between { 25° and 45° South Latitude.
65° and 85° West Longitude.

BOUNDED north, by Peru ; east, by La Plata ; south, by Patagonia ; west, by the Pacifick ocean.

Climate, Soil and Productions.] The air of Chili, though in a hot climate, is remarkably temperate, occasioned by the refreshing breezes from the sea, and the cool winds from the top of the Andes, which are continually covered with snow. This country is free from lightning, and although thunder is frequently heard, it is far up in the mountains. Spring begins here about the middle of August, and continues till November. It is summer from November till February. Autumn continues till May ; and winter till August. It rarely snows in the vallies, though the mountains are always covered. This country is entirely

tirely free from all kinds of ravenous beasts, poisonous animals and vermin ; not even so much as a fly is to be found here. The soil is extremely fertile, being watered with numberless little rivulets from the mountains. It produces in the greatest abundance, apples, pears, plumbs, peaches, quinces, apricots, almonds, olives, grapes, cocoa nuts, figs, &c. It abounds in gold, silver and lead mines, and the rivers themselves roll on golden sands. But their staple commodity is cattle ; they have them in such abundance, as frequently to cast the flesh into the rivers, reserving the hides, tallow and tongues for exportation.

History, Inhabitants, &c.] The Spaniards made several attempts to reduce this country, but with no great success till the year 1541, when they built the capital St. Jago, now the residence of the Spanish Governor, and a Bishop's see ; and afterwards Coquimbo, Concepcion, and Baldivia. The natives are remarkable for wit, fortitude and patience ; and the Spaniards to this day have never been able to subdue them ; they continue still masters of part of the inland country. There have lately been some formidable insurrections against the Spaniards by the natives, which have greatly alarmed the Spanish court.

PARAGUA OR LA PLATA.

Length ^{miles.} 1500 } between { 12° and 37° South Latitude.
Breadth 1000 } { 50° and 75° West Longitude.

BOUNDED north, by Amazonia ; east, by Brazil ; south, by Patagonia ; west, by Peru and Chili.

Rivers and Mountains.] This country, besides an infinite number of small rivers, is watered by three principal ones, which united near the sea, form the famous Rio de la Plata, or Plate river, and which annually overflow their banks, and, on their recess, leave them enriched with a slime, that produces great plenty of whatever is committed to it. This river, where it unites with the ocean, is 150 miles broad. At 100 miles

miles from its mouth, a ship in the middle of the channel cannot be seen from either shore ; and at Buenos Ayres, 100 miles still further back, one cannot discern the opposite shore. There are no mountains of consequence here, excepting that remarkable chain which divides South-America, called the Andes.

Climate, Soil and Produce.] This country consists of extensive plains, 300 leagues over, except on the east, where it is separated by high mountains from Brazil. La Plata is a most desirable climate, and one of the most fruitful countries in the world. The cotton and tobacco produced here, with the herb called Paragua, which is peculiar to this country, would alone be sufficient to form a flourishing commerce. There are here also several gold and silver mines.

Chief Towns.] BUENOS AYRES, the capital of La Plata, is the most considerable sea-port town in South-America. It is situated on the south side of the river La Plata, 200 miles from the mouth of it. The river is upwards of 20 miles broad at this place. From this town a great part of the treasure of Chili and Peru is exported to Old Spain. The natives of Tacuman are said to have wooden houses built on wheels, which they draw from place to place as occasion requires.

History and Religion.] The Spaniards first discovered this country in the year 1515, and founded the town of Buenos Ayres in 1535. Most of the country is still inhabited by the native Americans. The Jesuits have been indefatigable in their endeavours to convert the Indians to the belief of their religion, and to introduce among them the arts of civilized life, and have met with surprizing success. It is said that above 340,000 families, several years ago, were subject to the Jesuits, living in obedience, and an awe bordering on adoration, yet procured without any violence or constraint. In 1767, the Jesuits were sent out of America, by royal authority, and their subjects were put upon the same footing with the rest of the country.

PORTUGUESE AMERICA.

B R A Z I L.

Length 2500 } ^{miles.} between { 35° and 60° West Longitude.
Breadth 700 } { The Equator, and 35° N. Lat.

BOUNDED north, by the mouth of the river Amazon and the Atlantick ocean; east, by the same ocean; south, by the mouth of the river La Plata; west, by a chain of mountains, which divides it from Paragua, and the country of the Amazons.

Air, Soil and Produce.] The air of this country is hot, but healthy, and the soil exceedingly fertile in maize, millet, rice, fruits, saffron, balsam of capivi, ginger, indigo, amber, rosin, train oil, cotton, the best of tobacco, fine sugar, brazil wood, &c. Here also are mines of gold, silver and diamonds, and a great quantity of excellent crystal and jasper. This country also abounds in cattle, apes, parrots, and beautiful birds. The rivers and lakes are stored with fish, and there is a whale fishery on the coast.

Inhabitants, Religion, &c.] The coast of this large country is only known; the natives still possess the inland parts; whereof those towards the north are called Tapayers, and those in the south Tupinamboys. These natives seem to have little religion, and no temple or place for publick worship; but yet are said to believe a future state, and have some notion of rewards and punishments after this life.

History, &c.] The Portuguese discovered this country in the year 1500, but did not plant it till the year 1549, when they took possession of All-Saints Bay, and built the city of St. Salvador, which is now the residence of the Viceroy and Archbishop. The Dutch invaded Brazil in 1623, and subdued the northern provinces; but the Portuguese agreed, in 1661, to pay the Dutch eight tons of gold, to relinquish their interest in this country, which was accepted, and the

Portuguese remained in peaceable possession of all Brazil till about the end of 1762, when the Spanish Governor of Buenos Ayres, hearing of a war between Portugal and Spain, took, after a month's siege, the Portuguese frontier fortress, called St. Sacramento; but by the treaty of peace it was restored.

G U I A N A,

(Belonging to the *French* and *Dutch*.)

IS divided into Cayenne, which belongs to the French, and into Surinam, which is a Dutch province.

Cayenne extends 240 miles along the coast of Guiana, and near 300 within land. It is bounded north, by Surinam; east, by the Atlantick; south, by Amazonia; west, by Guiana. All the coast is very low, but within land there are fine hills, very proper for settlements. The commodities are similar to those of the West-India islands.

Surinam is one of the richest and most valuable colonies belonging to the United Provinces. The chief trade of Surinam consists in sugar, cotton, coffee of an excellent kind, tobacco, flax, skins, and some valuable dying drugs. They trade with the United States, of whom they receive horses, live cattle, and provisions, and give in exchange large quantities of molasses. The Torporifick Eel is found in the rivers of Guiana, which, when touched either by the hand, or by a rod of iron, gold, copper, or by a stick of some particular kinds of heavy wood, communicates a shock perfectly like that of electricity. There is an immense number and variety of snakes in this country, which form one of its principal inconveniences.

A M A Z O N I A.

Length 1200—Breadth 960 miles.

BOUNDED north, by Terra Firma and Guiana; east, by the Atlantick ocean and Brazil; south, by La Plata; and west, by Peru. Rivers.]

Rivers.] The Amazon, which is one of the largest rivers in the world, runs a course from west to east of about 3000 miles, and receives near 200 other rivers, many of which have a course of 5 or 600 leagues, and some of them not inferior to the Hudson and the Delaware. The breadth of this river, at its mouth, where it discharges itself by several channels into the ocean, almost under the Equator, is 150 miles; and 1500 miles from its mouth it is 30 or 40 fathoms deep. In the rainy season it overflows its banks, and waters and fertilizes the adjacent country.

Climate, Soil and Produce.] The fair season here is about the time of the solstices, and the wet or rainy season at the time of the equinoxes. The trees, fields and plants, are verdant all the year round. The soil is extremely rich, producing corn, grain, and fruits of all kinds, tobacco, sugar canes, cotton, cassavi root, potatoes, yams, sarsaparilla, gums, raisins, balsams of various kinds, pine-apples, guavas, bonanas, &c. The forests are stored with wild honey, deer, wild fowls and parrots. The rivers and lakes abound with fish of all sorts; but are much infested with crocodiles, alligators and water serpents.

Inhabitants.] The Indian nations inhabiting this wide country are very numerous; the banks of almost every river are inhabited by a different people, who are governed by petty sovereigns, called Caciques, who are distinguished from their subjects by coronets of beautiful feathers. They are idolators, and worship the images of their ancient heroes. In their expeditions they carry their gods along with them.

History.] The first discovery of this country was made by Francisco Orellana, about the year 1580, who coming from Peru, sailed down the river Amazon to the Atlantick ocean. He observed on the banks of the river, companies of women in arms, and from thence called the country Amazonia, or the land of the Amazons; and gave the name of Amazon to the river, which formerly had been called Maragon. The Spaniards made several attempts to plant this country, but always

met with so many difficulties and disasters as rendered all their designs abortive. The Portuguese have some small settlements on that part of the coast which lies betwixt Cape North and the mouth of the river Amazon ; but this excepted, the natives are in the sole possession of all the country.

P A T A G O N I A,

IS a tract of country, 7 or 800 miles long, and 2 or 300 broad, at the southern extremity of the American continent.

Climate, Soil and Productions.] This country is full of high mountains, which are covered with snow most of the year. The storms of wind, rain and snow here are terrible. The soil is very barren, and has never been cultivated.

Inhabitants, Character, &c.] The natives live in thatched huts, and wear no clothes, notwithstanding the rigour of the climate. They live chiefly on fish and game, and what the earth spontaneously produces. They are of a tawny complexion, have black hair, and are a gigantick, brave, hardy, active race. Their arms are bows and arrows headed with flints. We know nothing of their government or religion.

History.] Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese, in the service of Spain, first discovered this country ; at least he was the first that sailed through the straits called by his name. Magellan passed these straits in the year 1519. The continent is often called Terra Magellanica ; and the largest of the neighbouring isles, from a volcano in it, is called Terra del Fuego, the most southerly point of which is called Cape Horn.

Upon the first discovery of the Straits of Magellan, the Spaniards built forts, and sent some colonies thither ; but most of the people perished with cold and hunger ; since which time no settlements have been attempted here by any Europeans.

WEST-INDIA ISLANDS.

(These belong to *Great-Britain, Spain, France, Holland, and Denmark.*)

TO GREAT-BRITAIN belong, Bermudas, the Bahama islands, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Antigua, St. Christopher's, Grenada, and the Grenadines, Nevis, Montserrat, Barbuda, Dominica, St. Vincent, Anguilla; to which we may add their northern islands, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and St. John's. Jamaica, the richest of the West-India islands, is computed to produce annually 70,000 tons of sugar, upwards of 4,000,000 gallons of rum, besides coffee, cocoa, indigo and pepper.

To SPAIN belong, the island of Cuba, nearly half of St. Domingo, Porto Rico, Trinidad, Margareta, Tortuga, Virgin islands, to which we may add the island of Juan Fernandez, which lies 300 miles west of Chili, in the Pacifick Ocean, famous for having given rise to the celebrated romance of Robinson Crusoe. The story is this: One Alex. Selkirk, a Scotchman, was left ashore in this solitary place, where he lived several years, till he was taken up by Capt. Rogers, 1709; he had almost forgotten his native language, seeming to speak his words by halves. During his residence on the island, he had killed 500 goats by running them down, and he had marked as many more on the ear which he had let go. Upon his return to England he was advised to publish an account of his life and adventures, in his little kingdom. For this purpose he gave his papers into the hands of one Defoe, to prepare them for publication. But the writer, by the help of these papers, transformed Alexander Selkirk into Robinson Crusoe.

To the FRENCH belong, the largest part of the island of St. Domingo, the islands of Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, Maria-Galante, Tobago, St. Bartholomew.

lomew and Defcada, and the North-American islands St. Pierre and Miquelon. These with their African and Asiatick possessions, and their settlements at Guiana and Cayenne, contain, according to Mr. Necker, 600,000 inhabitants.

To HOLLAND belong, the islands of St. Eustatia, Saba and Curracoa.

To DENMARK belong, the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. In these islands the Moravians have useful establishments.

E U R O P E.

miles.

Length 3000 }
Breadth 2500 } between { 10° W. & 65° E. L. from Lond.
36° and 72° North Latitude.

BOUNDED north by the Frozen ocean ; east, by Asia ; south, by the Mediterranean sea, which divides it from Africa ; west, by the Atlantick ocean, which separates it from America. Containing 2,627,574 square miles.

Divisions, Population, &c.] The following TABLE exhibits the latest and most accurate account of the grand divisions of Europe, of their extent, and real and comparative population, of any extant.

EUROPE

