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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