

1637, '38, '39.

Two Franciscan friars, Dominic de Britto and Andrew de ^{The Amazon.} Toledo, starting from Quito, embarked on a river quite near there, and letting the current bear them on, at last entered the Amazon, which they descended to the sea. On their report, which does not give much light, Don Pedro de Texeyra started from Para, a province in Brazil, on the 25th of December, in the same year, to ascend the river, of which he acquired a better knowledge.

The Spanish wishing to know more fully the course of this great river, the governor of Quito induced Fathers Christopher de Acuña and Andrew de Artieda, Jesuits, to accompany Don Pedro Texeyra on his return to Para. These two missionaries, after an exact observation of the whole country watered by this great river and its branches, went to Spain to give an account to the Spanish monarch. We have the journal of this voyage by Father de Acuña, translated into French by M. de Gomberville, of the French Academy. I have already observed that Father de Acuña was mistaken in laying down on his map a river, or rather an arm issuing from this river, under the name of Marñaon, and emptying in the Bay of Maranham, in Brazil.

Many errors had till now prevailed as to the source of this great river, which was supposed to be near Quito, but they had taken the head-waters of a branch for those of the main stream. Father Samuel Fritz, a German Jesuit, in 1707, discovered it in Peru, in a lake called Laurichoca, near the city of Guanuco, at 11° S. According to this missionary, the true name of this river, of which he has given us a very fine map (*Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses*, vol. xii.), is Marañon. After leaving its source, it runs north about a hundred leagues, then turns east, and empties into the Atlantic by eighty-four mouths, which occupy a breadth of eighty-four leagues. He adds, that it keeps its water fresh more than thirty leagues out at sea.

Foundation of New Sweden and of the town of Christina, ^{New Sweden.} between Virginia and New York, then called New Netherland, and occupied by the Dutch. The latter had settlements even in New Sweden, when the Swedes arrived, and these two