that the intention of the voyage has in every reſpect been fully anſwered ; the ſouthern hemiſphere ſufficiently explo­red ; and a final end put to the ſearching after a ſouthern continent, which has at times engrossed the attention of ſome of the maritime powers for near two centuries paſt, and been a favourite theory amongſt the geographers of all ages. That there may be a continent, or large tract of land near the pole, I will not deny : on the contrary, I am of opinion there is ; and it is probable that we have ſeen a part of it. The exceſſive cold, the many iſlands, and vaſt floats of ice, all tend to prove that there muſt be land to the ſouth ; and for my perſuasion that this ſouthern land muſt lie or extend fartheſt to the north, oppoſite to the Southern Atlantic and Indian Oceans, I have already assigned ſome reaſons ; to which I may add, the greater de­gree of cold experienced by us in theſe ſeas than in the Southern Pacific Ocean under the ſame parallels of lati­tude.”

*TERBA Firma,* in geography, is ſometimes uſed for a con­tinent, in contradiſtinction to iſlands.

*Terra Firma,* otherwiſe called *New Castile,* or *Castella del Oro,* a country of America, bounded on the north by the North Sea and part of the Atlantic Ocean, by the ſame ſea and Guiana on the eaſt, by the country of the Amazons and Peru on the ſouth, and by the Pacific Ocean and Veragua on the west. It lies between 62 and 83 de­grees of weſt longitude, and between the equator and 12 degrees of north latitude ; being upwards of 1200 miles in length from eaſt to weſt, and 800 in breadth from north to ſouth. It had the name of *Castella del Oro* from the quan­tities of gold found in the diſtricts of Uraba and other parts; and was firſt diſcovered by the celebrated Columbus in his third voyage.

The climate is neither pleaſant nor healthy ; the inhabi­tants one part of the year being ſcorched by the moſt intenſe and burning heat, and the other almoſt drowned with per­petual floods of rain, pouring from the ſky with ſuch violence as if a general deluge was to enſue.

In ſo large a tract of country the soil muſt necessarily va­ry. Accordingly, in ſome parts it is a barren sand, or drowned mangrove land, that will ſcarce produce any kind of grain ; in others it yields Indian corn, balms, gums, and drugs, almoſt all manner of fruits as well of Old as oſ New Spain, ſugar, tobacco, Braſil wood, and ſeveral other kinds of dyeing woods ; a variety of precious ſtones, particularly emeralds and ſapphires ; veniſon and other game. The plan­tations of cacao, or chocolate nuts, in the diſtrict of the Caraccas, are eſteemed the beſt in America. The mountains abound with tygers, and, according to ſome, with lions, and great numbers of other wild beaſts. The rivers, ſeas, and lakes, teem with fiſh, and alſo with alligators ; and the bowels of the earth were once furniſhed with the richeſt treaſures, now almoſt exhauſted. The ſame may be ſaid of the pearl-fiſheries on the coaſt, which are far from being ſo profitable now as formerly.

Terra Firma is a very mountainous country. Terra Fir­ma Proper, in particular, consiſts of prodigious high moun­tains, and deep valleys flooded more than half the year. The mountains in the provinces of Carthagena and St Martha, according to Dampier, are the higheſt in the world ; being ſeen at ſea 200 miles off : from theſe run a chain of hills of almoſt equal height, quite through South America, as far as the Straits of Magellan, called the *Cordilleras des Andes.* The province of Venezuela alſo, and diſtrict of the Caraccas, the moſt northerly parts of South America, are almoſt a continued chain of hills, ſeparated by ſmall valleys, point­ing upon the coaſt of the North Sea. A chain of barren mountains, almoſt impassable, runs through the province of Popayan from north to ſouth, ſome whereof are volcanoes ; but towards the ſhores of the Pacific Ocean it is a low coun­try, flooded great part of the year.

The principal rivers of Terra Firma are, the Darien, Chagtre, Santa Maria, Conception, Rio Grande or Magdalena, Maricaibo, and Oroonoko.

Terra Firma contains the provinces of Terra Firma Pro­per or Darien, of Carthagena, St Martha, Rio de la Ha­cha, Venezuela, Comana, New Andaluſia or Paria, New Granada, and Popayan.

Terra Firma Proper lies in the form of a creſcent, about the ſpacious bay of Panama, being the iſthmus which joins South and North America ; and extending in length be­tween the two ſeas 300 miles, but in breadth, where the iſthmus is narroweſt, only 60. Here are found gold mines, gold ſands, and fine pearls ; and though the land is general­ly rough, there are ſome fruitful valleys, watered by rivers, brooks, and ſprings. The chief places are Panama and Por­to Bello.

The inhabitants of Terra Firma have never been tho­roughly ſubdued, and in all probability never will ; as they are a brave and warlike people, have retreats inacceſſible to Europeans, and bear an inveterate enmity to the Spani­ards. See Darien.

*Terra Japonica,* more commonly called *catechu,* a drug for­merly ſuppoſed to be an extract from the ſeeds of the areca catechu, but lately diſcovered by Mr Kerr, aſſiſtant ſurgeon to the civil hoſpital at Bengal, to be obtained from the *mimoſa catechu.* Mr Kerr gives the following account of the manner in which the extract is made : “ After felling the trees, the manufacturer carefully cuts off all the exterior white part of the wood.@@ The interior coloured wood is cut into chips, with which he fills a narrow-mouthed unglazed earthen pot, pouring water upon them until he ſees it among the upper chips ; when this is half evaporated by boiling, the decoction, without ſtraining, is poured into a flat earthen pot, and boiled to one third part ; this is set in a cool place for one day, and afterwards evaporated by the heat of the ſun, ſtirring it ſeveral times in the day. When it is reduced to a conſiderable thickneſs, it is ſpread upon a mat or cloth, which has previouſly been covered with the aſhes of cow-dung ; this mass is divided into ſquare or quadrangular pieces by a firing, and completely dried by turning them frequently in the ſun until they are fit for ſale @@(a).”

This extract is called *cutt* by the natives, by the Eng-

@@@[mu] Med. Obser. and Inquiries, vol. v.

@@@(a) “ In making the extract, the pale brown wood is preferred, as it produces the fine whitiſh extract ; the darker the wood is, the blacker the extract, and of leſs value. They are very careful in drying their pots upon the fire before they are uſed ; but very negligent in cutting their chips upon the ground, and not straining the decoction ; by which, and the dirty aſhes they uſe, there must be a conſiderable quantity of earth in the extract, beſides what avarice may prompt them to put into it.

“ The antiſeptic quality of catechu appears from the experiments made by Sir John Pringle. Huxham employed it succeſsfully in cafes where a putrid diſſolved ſtate of the blood prevailed. This extract is the principal ingredient in an ointment of great repute in India, compoſed of catechu four ounces, alum nine drams, white resin four ounces ; theſe are