a ground of some common wood. There are two kinds of inlaying; the one, which is the more ordinary, goes no far­ther than the making of compartments of different woods; the other requires much more art, and represents flowers, birds, and the like figures. The first kind is what we pro­perly call *veneering;* the latter we have already described under Marquetry.

The wood intended for veneering is first sawed out into slices or leaves, about a line thick. In order to saw them, the blocks or planks are placed upright in a kind of vice or sawing press, the description of which may be seen under the article just referred to. These slices are afterwards cut into slips, and fashioned divers ways, according to the de­sign proposed; then the joints being carefully adjusted, and the pieces brought down to their proper thickness, with seve­ral planes for the purpose, they are glued down on a ground or block of dry wood, with good strong English glue. The pieces being thus joined and glued, the work, if small, is put in a press; if large. It is laid on the bench, covered with a board, and pressed down with poles, or pieces of wood, one end of which reaches to the ceiling of the room, and the other bears on the boards. When the glue is quite dry, they take it out of the press and finish it ; first with little planes, then with divers scrapers, some of which resemble rasps, which take off dents left by the planes. When sufficiently scraped, the work is polished with the skin of a sea-dog, wax, and a brush and polisher of shave-grass.

VENEZUELA, one of the provinces which composed the republic of Colombia, but which has recently been erected into an independent republic, is situated between 2° and 12° north lat. and 60° and 73° west long. It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean sea, on the east by British Guiana, on the west by New Granada, and on the south by Brazil. This country was named Venez­uela by the Spaniards, from the towns of the Indians, built on the small islands in the lake Maracaibo, having a re­semblance to Venice.

The mountains of Venezuela, which form a part of the great branch extending from the west to the gulph of Paria, divide the lands of the coast from the plains of the valley of the Orinoco. It is on these rivers that there is such a diversity of climate, that a traveller may observe the fruits of the tropics luxuriating at a short distance from those of Europe. The surface of the ground is rent in every direc­tion by the force of subterraneous convulsions. To the south of this chain, the llanos, or plains, which stretch to the Orinoco, are inhabited solely by herds of cattle tended by mulattoes. The climate of Venezuela is modified ac­cording to the situation of its districts. On the coast and in the plains a scorching heat prevails, accompanied in the latter with deluges of rain. In the mountain valleys the air is in general pure and mild, and in some of the more elevated parts even cold.

The soil of Venezuela is fertile, and yields in abundance all the products of the West Indies, besides many which those islands do not possess. Its chief commercial article is cocoa, which is inferior to none in the Americas. The other objects of cultivation are vanilla, maize, indigo, cotton, sugar, tobacco, and coffee. Here also wild cochineal, dyewoods, medicinal drugs, gums, and resins, find that climate which is most favourable to their growth. The immense plains in the interior feed multitudes of cattle, horses, and mules ; and in the valleys and mountains sheep and deer are nu­merous. All kinds of game are found in this country; and the rivers abound with fish.

The forests produce every species of timber fit for the purposes of the joiner or the shipwright. Cedar is used for their door-posts, window-frames, tables, &c. ; black, red, and yellow ebony are common ; mahogany, brasiletto, and all sorts of ornamental woods, are to be found in the greatest abundance and of the finest quality. The immense forests which overspread the chain of mountains remain unexplor­ed.

For about a century after this country was subdued by the Spaniards, their attention was almost wholly directed towards its mineral productions, and the pearl fishery on its coasts. But being disappointed in their expectations of immense riches from these sources, they at last began to cultivate the soil. They first planted cocoa trees ; and so large were the profits from this source, that cocoa alone occupied their fields till a very late period. About the year 1774, indigo began to be cultivated; and immense plains, hitherto desert, were soon covered with this plant, which was speedily followed by cotton, sugar, tobacco, coffee, &c. But notwithstanding the aptitude of the soil, and the genial nature of the climate, agriculture still languishes in these fine regions, partly from want of enterprise and industry, and partly from too great a confidence in the prolific nature of the soil.

On the plains of Venezuela the rainy season commences in April and continues till November. The rains fall oftener in the morning than in the evening, and on an average oc­cupy three hours of each day. During this period, the plains nearest the rivers are converted into lakes of immense extent.

The rivers of Venezuela are more numerous than in any other part of Spanish America. Every valley has its stream ; and though many of them are not of sufficient size to be navigable, yet all afford ample supplies of water to irrigate the plantations on their banks. The principal of those which run from the mountains of Caraccas and Coro into the Caribbean sea, are the Guiges, Tocuyo, Aroa, Ya- racuy, and the Tuy. The Guiges falls into that sea six­teen leagues west of the city of Coro. The Tocuyo dis­charges its waters twenty-five leagues east of the Gauges, or Gaigues : its source is fifteen leagues south of the town of Curora, at the distance of nearly one hundred miles from the ocean ; and it is navigable as far as the village of Banagua, at the distance of forty leagues from its mouth, its banks furnishing abundance of timber of the largest size, and fit for every kind of building. The Aroa rises in the mountains west of the town of St. Felipe, and en­ters the ocean at Burburata bay. The Yaracuy enters the Caribbean sea near the latter. The Tuy discharges it­self into the sea thirty leagues east of La Guayra ; it rises in the mountains of St. Pedro, ten leagues from the capital, and being joined by the Guayra, becomes navigable, and serves to transport the produce of the cultivated plains or valleys of Aragoa, Tacata, Cua, Sabana, Ocumare, Santa Lucia, and Santa Teresa, through which it passes, and which particularly abound in cocoa of the best quality. The fol­lowing are the more important rivers which rise on the southern side of the chain, and flow to the Orinoco: the Guarico, which receives some of the branches of the Apure, and then following a course parallel to that river, enters the Orinoco by the Rio Mancapra, which flows through the plains of Calaboso ; the Portuguesa. which is formed by the union of the two rivers Pao and Barquisimeto, flows through the greater part of Venezuela, and joins the Apure forty miles north-west of its mouth. For an account of the Orinoco, see Orinoco.

Besides Caraccas, the capital of Venezuela, (see Carac­cas), the principal towns are La Guayra, the port of Caraccas, one of the hottest places in the world ; Caro, the principal town of the province of that name, with a population of about 10,000; Porto Cavello, thirty leagues north-east of Caraccas, with a population of 9000 ; Guanara, ninety-three leagues south-west of Caraccas, with a population of above 12,000; Barquisimeto, 120 miles west-south-west of Carac­cas, with a population of more than 11,000 ; Tocuyo, twenty leagues north of Truxillo, with above 10,000 inhabitants; San Carlos, situate on the small river Aguare, with about