

mountains, known by the name of the Copper Mountains, visited by Captain Franklin. The colossal peak of Saint Elias and that of Mount Fairweather, in New Norfolk, do not, properly speaking, belong to the northern prolongation of the Cordilleras of the Andes, but to a parallel chain (the maritime Alps of the north-west coast), stretching towards the peninsula of California, and connected by transversal ridges with a mountainous land, between 45° and 53° of latitude, with the Andes of New Mexico (Rocky Mountains). In South America the mean breadth of the Cordillera of the Andes is from 18 to 22 leagues.* It is only in the *knots of the mountains*, that is where the Cordillera is swelled by side-groups or divided into several chains nearly parallel, and re-uniting at intervals, for instance, on the south of the lake of Titicaca, that it is more than 100 to 120 leagues broad, in a direction perpendicular to its axis: The Andes of South America bound the plains of the Orinoco, the Amazon, and the Rio de la Plata, on the west, like a rocky wall raised across a crevice 1300 leagues long, and stretching from south to north. This upheaved part (if I may be permitted to use an expression founded on a geological hypothesis), comprises a surface of 58,900 square leagues, between the parallel of Cape Pilesar, and the northern Choco. To form an idea of the variety of rocks which this space may furnish for the observation of the traveller, we must recollect that the Pyrenees, according to the observations of M. Charpentier, occupy only 768 square sea leagues.

The name of Andes in the Quichua language (which wants the consonants *d*, *f*, and *g*) *Antis*, or *Ante*, appears to me to be derived from the Peruvian word *anta*, signifying copper or metal in general. *Anta chacra* signifies mine of copper; *antacuri*, copper mixed with gold; and *puca anta*, copper, or red metal. As the group of the Altai mountains† takes

* The breadth of this immense chain is a phenomenon well worthy of attention. The Swiss Alps extend, in the Grisons and in the Tyrol, to a breadth of 36 and 40 leagues, both in the meridians of the lake of Como, the canton of Appenzell, and in the meridian of Bassano and Tegersee.

† Klaproth, *Asia polyglotta*, p. 211. It appears to me less probable that the tribe of the Antis gave its name to the mountains of Peru.