

fluence from one sea to the other. But they prohibited, under pain of death, to those concerned, all communication whatever by that route. A monk, (curate of Novilla,) ignorant of the interdiction, or pretending to be so, assembled all the Indians of his parish, and in a short time cut a canal between the rivers Atrato and San Juan, since called the Canal of the *Raspadura*. Large canoes (*bongos*) loaded with cocon actually passed through it. This communication was speedily stopped by order of government, and the unlucky curate, with great difficulty obtained a pardon." In 1819, Mr. Robinson found, on inquiry, that this canal was still in existence, and that, although choked up with bushes, sand, earth, &c. so as to be at that time impassible, it could at little expense of time and labour, be re-opened again. The distance between the navigable waters of the Atrato and the San Juan is only thirteen leagues, and the whole across from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, following the course of the Ravines, does not exceed 80 leagues. There are several other routes between the waters of the above rivers where a canal might be cut, much shorter than the direction in which that of the *Raspadura* passes. One of these passes through the same province, by the river *Naipi*, which is a branch of the Atrato. Were this direction to be followed the cut would have to run from the head of the navigable waters of the *Naipi* to the Pacific Ocean, which is only a distance of twenty-four miles, and would disembogue at *Cupica*. This writer states, that "the country here is a dead level, and a canal might therefore be cut there without difficulty. The course of the *Naipi* is, stated to be very circuitous, and makes the distance of the navigation a few leagues longer than by the route of the *Raspadura*; but the circumstance of the waters of the *Naipi* being so near the port of *Cupica*, gives to this route an important advantage. The ignorance of the accurate topography of that part of the country precludes us from judging with certainty of the comparative merits of these two routes; and it is not improbable that a better acquaintance with the state of the country may discover other directions in which a communication might be formed preferable to either of them. But what is already known with certainty justifies the assertion, that a communication between the two oceans may be established for the navigation of boats, and it is possible that at a future period, when population becomes dense, and a free trade shall be permitted between the inhabitants of the Atlantic and Pacific shores, the province of Choco may afford a channel for the navigation of larger vessels.

Beside these two, we find other places of the South-American isthmus, where it has been proposed to effect a junction of the two oceans, as will be seen from the following extract from the work above quoted.

"In looking over the excellent maps of Melish and Doctor Robinson, we perceive that the river called San Juan discharges its waters into the Atlantic Ocean in the province of *Costa Rica*, about the latitude of 10 deg. 45 min. north. This noble river, has its source in the lake *Nicaragua*. The bar at its mouth has been generally described, as not having more than 12 feet water on it. About 16 years ago, an enterprising Englishman, who casually visited the river, examined the