

INTRODUCTION.

The late Uricoechea, of Bogota, when he offered me a copy of his "Mapoteca Colombiana" said: "I hope that the study of this catalogue may lead you to undertake another one on the geological maps of America. Our views on the ancient geography of the world discovered by Columbus, and on the aboriginal or Indian origin of the name America,¹ are so harmonious, and geology being the history of the earth, a catalogue of all the geological maps published on America will be an important chapter in the history of Colombian cartography."

I have now endeavored to fulfill the wish of my friend. Taking for a model his "Mapoteca Colombiana," a work which is out of print and has become rare, I have united in chronologic and geographic order all the maps relating to American geology known to me.

In general, catalogues of maps are not numerous. Those of geological maps only are very rare. I know of only one purporting to comprise the maps of all the world; it is the "Geognostische Karten unseres Jahrhunderts." Zusammengestellt von Bernhard Cotta, Freiberg (Saxony), 1850. 8vo of only 60 pages. The author, although he has placed in it maps pertaining purely to physical geography, such as the geographical distribution of volcanoes, has only succeeded in enumerating 571 geognostical maps. America is placed in the last division "VI. Ausser-Europa," and its geological maps are united with those of Asia, Africa, Australia, and Oceania. All these large geographical divisions outside of Europe have but 53 numbers, of which 30 belong to maps on the geology of America; and several of the numbers indicate memoirs without geological maps properly so called, and some even without any kind of a map; for instance, No. 525, Finch "Karte de Gegend von Boston," in Silliman's Journal of Science, Vol. VIII, 1824, which does not exist, and is merely an error of the compiler.

Besides the catalogue of Cotta, the only list of geological maps of America is the "list of general geological maps relating to North America" in the "Geology of North America," by Jules Marcou, Chapter X, p. 122. 4to. Zurich, 1858. The author enumerates 23 general geological maps, in chronologic order, each comprising at least two States.

Two of the geological surveys of the United States, Dr. Hayden's and

¹ "Mapoteca Colombiana, Coleccion de los Titulos de Todos los Mapas, Planos, Vistas, etc., relativos a la America española, Brasil o Islas adyacentes." 8vo. Londres, 1860.

² "Origin of the name America," by Jules Marcou. Atlantic Monthly, March, 1875.