

to his eldest son. But these valuable effects were thrown into another lake, in the valley of Orcos, six leagues S. of Cusco: and though numbers of Spaniards, animated with the flattering hopes of such immense treasure, made frequent attempts for recovering it, yet from the great depth of water, and the bottom being covered with slime and mud, all their endeavours were rendered fruitless. For though its circuit is not above half a league, yet the depth of water in most places is not less than 23 or 24 fathoms.

Towards the south part of Titicaca lake, the banks approach one another, so as to form a kind of bay terminating in a river, called El Desaguadero, or the drain; and afterwards forms the lake of Paria, which has no visible outlet: but its many whirlpools sufficiently indicate that the water issues by a subterraneous passage. Over the river El Desaguadero still remains the bridge of rushes invented by Capac-Yupanqui, the fifth Ynca, for transporting his army to the other side, in order to conquer the provinces of Collasuyo. The Desaguadero is here between 80 and 100 yards in breadth, flowing with a very impetuous current under a smooth, and as it were, sleeping surface. The Ynca, to overcome this difficulty, ordered four very large cables to be made of a kind of grass, which covers the lofty heaths and mountains of that country, and by the Indians called ichu: so that these cables were the foundation of the whole structure. Two of these being laid across the water, fascines of dry juncos, and totora, two species of rushes, were fastened together, and