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## SOMETHING ABOUT PERU.

THE coast of Lower Peru, between the sixteenth and eighteenth degrees of latitude, would present a most desolate uniformity of aridity but for certain fertile valleys which break the dreary monotony of the barren ridges, that line the shore of the Pacific for three hundred and twenty miles. The fairest and most tropical of these valleys is that of Tambo, on the slope of the Western Andes. It is enclosed narrowly between a double chain of rocky hills, and rises gradually from the ocean-level to an elevation of six thousand seven hundred and fifty feet. The Tambo River flows through it and empties into the Pacific.

It was from this lovely valley of Tambo that Paul Marcoy, to whom the world owes much of its later knowledge of that country, started on a long journey across the sierra region.

At the period when Marcoy, with gun on shoulder and sketch-book under arm, is discovered, in the valley of Tambo, it contained three large haciendas (*estates*). One of these was a rice, cotton, and sugar plantation, the property of a friend of Marcoy, Pierre Leroux by name. He was a native of Besançon, and had been living in Peru for fifteen years, during which time he had acquired and lost two fortunes in mining operations. As Marcoy has sketched him, with pen and pencil, we are shown a man of forty-five years of age, tall, with a countenance at once frank and intelligent, robust in health, sinewy of limb, and with the iron will of one who, having marked out a goal, seeks it unmindful of obstacles.

Leroux's mind at the moment of Marcoy's appearance in the