

DISCOVERY OF THE VERRAZANO PLANISPHERE OF 1529.

The interesting discovery by Mons. R. Thomassy, an experienced archivist, author of interesting geographical papers and of the geology of Louisiana, among the maps of the College *de Propaganda Fide* in Rome, of a Mapamundi, made by a certain Hieronimus de Verrazano, dating from about the year 1529, was first made known in a paper entitled *Les Papes Géographes*, published in the *Annales des Voyages*, Paris, 1852.* Mons. Thomassy could hardly have been aware of the keen interest that such a discovery would awaken among those interested in early American explorations, or he would have given a less meagre account of this precious map. He deserves our sincere thanks, however, for drawing attention to this and other valuable geographical monuments preserved in Rome, and which seem to have escaped the active research of Humboldt and Jomard. A study of this map by the author of the *Examen Critique de la Géographie du Nouveau Continent*, would have been fruitful of results, and we can hardly venture to tread a path which he first opened, without great diffidence, and the hope that the investigation which we may only sketch out, will by others be prosecuted to definite results.

Our remarks are based upon a study of two photographic copies of the original map, which, after long and repeated attempts, have at last, through the kind offices of Mr. Thos. E. Davis, been procurèd from Rome by the President of this Society.†

These photographs are now before you, but are unfortunately not distinct enough to enable us to read the names inscribed along our coast, between the points which limit the explorations of our navigator. This is most unlucky, and another copy must be procurèd before the critical examination of the subject can be properly

* See note, *Thomassy*.

† See page 80 of the Report of this Society for 1871.