

O F C A L I F O R M I A.



CALIFORNIA in the large and general acception of it, containeth all those Provinces of *Mexicana*, which lie on the West-side of that Northern Peninsula, beyond *Nova Galicia*, and *New Spain*: though in the stricter, limited to that Province onely which lieth on the other side of a long and spacious Gulf, called *Mer Vermiglio*, and from hence the Bay of *California*. But taking it in the largest sense, it hath on the West *New Spain*, and *New Galicia*, and so unto those undiscovered parts which lie furthest North, to the Streits of *Anian*. So witnesseth *John de Laer*, lib. 6. cap. 11. *CALIFORNIA communiter dicitur quicquid terrarum Novæ Hispaniæ atque Gallicię ad Occidentem obicitur, ad extremos Americę Septentrionalis terminos, & Fretum quod vulgo Anian vocant*. Limited in the stricter sense and acception of it, to an Island (as it is now generally conceived to be) extended in a full length from North to South, on the West coast. So that for our more regular proceeding in the *Chorographie* and Story of it; we must divide it into the Continent, and the Island: the Continent subdivided into the two large Provinces of 1. *Quivira*, and 2. *Cibola*; the Island into 3. *California* specially so called, and 4. *Nova Albion*.

And first, the Continent of this part which we call *California*, hath on the East some parts of *Nova Galicia*; and besides that, those vast and undiscovered Countreys, which lie on the West-side of *Canada* and *Virginia*, on the opposite shore: bounded on the North with the unknown parts of this *Mexicana*; on the North-west, with the Streits of *Anian*, if such Streits there be; on the West, with the Sea interposing betwixt it and the Island, called *Mer Vermiglio*; and on the South, and South-west, with the rest of *Nova Galicia*, from which parted by a great River called *Rio del Noort*. A River which rising in the 40. degree of Northern Latitude, first parteth *Tignez* a Province of *Quivira*, from that of *New Mexico*, one of the Provinces of *Nova Galicia*; and after a long course falleth into the Sea, called *Mer Vermiglio*, above *Cinola*, another of the Provinces of that Division. Divided as before was said, into the two great Provinces of 1. *Quivira*, and 2. *Cibola*.

1. *QUIVIRA*, taking up the most Northern parts of this side of *America*, is said to be very plain and level; of few Trees, not many houses, nor much stored of people; quite destitute of fruits and Corn, and yielding nothing for mans life but the flesh of beasts, which they eat raw, and swallow down in great bits without any chewing. The men apparelled in Bulls-skins, from the head to the feet; the women, though in a cold Countrey, with no other garment than their hair, which they wear so long, that it serveth them in stead of a vail to hide their nakedness. They live in *Hordes* and companies, like the *Hordes* of the *Tartars*; not having any certain dwellings (except some chief men) but remove from one place to another, like the ancient *Nomades*. Neer Neighbours unto *Tartary*, from whence (not being much distant from it) it is supposed that the Inhabitants first came; and from hence by degrees peopled all *America*.

The Countrey being full of herbage, breeds great store of Cattel; differing not much in bignesse from those of *Europe*, but that they have an high bunch betwixt their shoulders; bristled upon the back like Bores, with somewhat which resembleth the mane in Horses, and the beard in Goats; their legs short, and clad with fetlocks, their horns short, but sharp; the whole Beast of an aspect so horrid, that an Horse will not venture near them, till well acquainted. Yet in these Beasts lie all their Riches; these being to this people, as we say with us of our *Ale* to Drunkards, meat, drink, and cloth, and more too. For the Hides yield them Houses, or at least the covering of them; their bones, bodkins; their hair, thread; their sinews, ropes; their horns, maws, and bladders, vessels; their dung, fire; their Calveskins, budgets to draw and keep water; their blood, drink; and their flesh, meat. There is thought to be some traffick from *China*, or *Cathay*, hither. For when *Vasques di Coronado* conquered it, he saw in the further Sea certain ships, not of common making, which seemed to be well laden, and did bear in their prows the figure of *Felicans*; which could not be conjectured to come from any Countrey but one of these two. I know some place this Countrey more within the Land: and others are so far from letting it look towards any part of the Sea, that they have laid it close unto the back of *Virginia*. For my part, I have laid it along the Coasts, upon good authority; though I deny not but that some parts hereof may be more remote. Or else to reconcile the difference, it may thus be ended: that the *maritime* parts being known by other names, the *Inlands* might retain more specially the name of *Quivira*; as we have seen in many other Countreys before described.

And this I am the rather inclined to think, because I finde mention of three Provinces on the North of *Cibola*, but in the way unto *Quivira*; the one called *Seio*, the other called *Cicwic*, and the third *Tignez*: which I look upon as the *maritime* parts of the same one Countrey, but better peopled and frequented then the *Inlands* are, because lying in the way of traffick. The principal Towns of which Provinces. 1. *Acui*, or *Aenco*, a small Town, but situate in a strong and defensible place; about which groweth some store of Cotton, from the place the Natives call by the name of *Aenco*. 2. *Tignez*, on the banks of a River so called; inhabited by a stout and courageous people, who being resolved not to fall alive into the hands of the *Spaniards*, when besieged by *Vasques de Coronado*, after they had held out above six weeks, laid all their household-stuffe and treasure in an heap together, which they set on fire;