

## XLIV.

*Extract from the Letter of Robert Thorne to D. Ley, Ambassador of Henry VIII in Spain, in regard to the new lands discovered in the West Indies.*

. . . . . For out of Spaine they have discovered all the Indies and seas Occidental, and out of Portugale all the Indies and seas Oriental . . . . so that nowe rest to bee discovered the said North partes, the which it seemeth to mee is onely your charge and dutie. Because the situation of this your Realme is thereunto neerest and aptest of all other : and also for that you have alreadie taken it in hande, and in mine opinion, it will not seeme well to leave so great and profitable an enterprise . . . . . Though, heretofore, your Grace hath made thereof a prooffe, and found not the commoditie thereby as you trusted, at this time it shall bee no impediment. Fore there may bee nowe provided remedies . . . . and lettes remooved that then were cause your Grace's desire tooke no full effect, which is, the courses to be chaunged, and followe the aforesaid new courses.

And nowe to declare some thing. . . . it ys very cleere and certaine that the seas that commonly men say that without great danger, difficultie, and perill, yea, rather, it is impossible to passe, those same seas bee navigable, and without any such daunger but that shippes may passe . . . . . For they (*your Grace's Subjects*), being past this little way which they named so dangerous, which may bee ii or iii leagues before they come to y<sup>e</sup> Pole, and as much more after they passe the Pole, it is cleere that from thence forth the seas and Landes are as temperat as in these partes, and that then it may be at the will and pleasure of the mariners to choose whither they will saile . . . . For they being past the Pole, it is plaine they maye decline to what parte they list. If they will goe towarde the Orient they shall inioy the regions of all the Tartarians . . . . from thence . . . . to the land of