

of each particular count of the plea, and moral conviction is enhanced by a law of increments similar to that of geometrical progressions. . . . Now the main part of this evidence, so consistent, yet so diversified, was extant in the age of Columbus, a most keen and scrutinizing inquirer into geographical questions. Indeed, we have reason to believe that some evidences of American discoveries existed in that day, among his fellow-countrymen, which are now lost. What would be the natural result on such a mind but a fixed conviction, not merely derived *a priori* from the physical principles of our planet, but likewise *a posteriori* from the consent of historical evidences, of the existence of America ?