

knowledge; and among the rest, he says:

"She gart me clearly understand  
How that the ea. . . tripartite was in three;  
In Afric, Europe, and Asie; "

the latter being in the Orient, while Africa and Europe still constituted the Occident, or Western World. Many famous isles situated in "the ocean sea" also attract his notice; but "The new found isle" of the elder poet had obviously faded from all memory of that younger generation.

Another century had nearly run its course since the eye of Columbus beheld the long-expected land, when, in 1590, Edmund Spenser crossed the Irish Channel, bringing with him the first three books of his "Faerie Queen;" in the introduction to the second of which he thus defends the verisimilitude of that land of fancy in which the scenes of his "famous antique history" are laid:—

"Who ever heard of th' Indian Peru?  
Or who in venturous vessel measured  
The Amazon huge river, now found true?  
Or fruitfulest Virginia who did ever  
view?  
Yet all these were, when no man did them  
know,  
Yet have from wisest ages hidden been;  
And later times things more unknown  
shall show;  
Why then should witless man so much  
misween  
That nothing is but that which he hath  
seen;  
What if within the moon's fair shining  
sphere;  
What if in every other star unseen,  
Of other worlds he happily should hear?  
He wonder would much more; yet such  
to some appear."

Raleigh, the discoverer of Virginia, was the poet's special friend, his "shepherd of the Ocean," the patron under whose advice he visited England with the first instalment of the epic which he dedicated to Queen Elizabeth, "to live with the eternity of her fame;" yet it is obvious that to Spenser's fancy this western continent was then scarcely more substantial than his own

faerie land; in truth still almost as much a world apart as if Raleigh and his adventurous crew had sailed up the blue vault of heaven, and brought back the story of another planet on which it had been their fortune to alight.

Nor had such fancies wholly vanished long after the voyage across the Atlantic had become a familiar thing. It was in 1723 that the philosophical idealist, Berkeley—afterwards Bishop of Cloyne,—gave form to a more definite and yet not less visionary Utopia than that of Sir Thomas More. He was about to organize "among the English in our western plantations" a seminary which was designed to train the young American savages, make them masters of arts, and fit instruments for the regeneration of their own people; while the Academe was to accomplish no less for the reformation of manners and morals among his own race. In his fancy's choice he gave a preference at first for Bermuda, or the Summer Islands, as the site of his college, and "presents the bright vision of an academic home in those fair lands of the west, whose idyllic bliss poets had sung, from which Christian civilization might be made to radiate over this vast continent, with its magnificent possibilities in the future history of the race of man." It was while his mind was pre-occupied with this fine ideal "of planting arts and learning in America" that he wrote the well-known lines:—

"There shall be sung another golden age,  
The rise of empire and of arts,  
The good and great inspiring epic rage,  
The wisest heads and noblest hearts.  
Not such as Europe breeds in her decay:  
Such as she bred when fresh and young,  
When heavenly flame did animate her clay,  
By future poets shall be sung.  
Westward the course of empire takes its  
The four first acts already past, [way;  
A fifth shall close the drama with the day;  
Time's noblest offspring is the last."