

GOSMOGRAPHIE,

LIB. IV. PART II.

CONTAINING THE CHOROGRAPHY & HISTORIE O F

A M E R I C A,

And all the Principal Kingdoms, Provinces, Seas,
and Isles of it,

Of A M E R I C A.



M E R I C A, the fourth and last part of the World, is bounded on the East with the *Atlantick Ocean*, and the *Fergivian Seas*, by which parted from *Europe*, and *Africa*; which Seas, the Marriners call *Mare del Nord*; on the West, with the *Pacificque Ocean*, by the Marriners called *Mare del Sur*, which divides it from *Asia*; on the South, with some part of *Terra Australis Incognita*, from which separated by a long, but narrow *Street*, called the *Streits of Magellan*; the North, bounds of it hitherto not so well discovered, as that we can certainly affirm it to be *Island*, or *Continent*.

It is called by some, and that most aptly, *THE NEW WORLD*: *New*, for the late Discovery; and *World*, for the vast greatnesse of it. The most usual, and yet somewhat the more improper name, is that of *America*; because *Americus Vesputius* an Adventurous *Florentine*, discovered a great part of the Continent of it. But since the first light he had to finde out those parts, came from the directions and example of *Columbus*, who first led the way; and that *Sebastian Cabot* touched at many places, which *Americus Vesputius* never saw: it might as properly have been called *Columbana*, *Sebastiana*, or *Cabotia*. The most improper name of all, and yet not much lesse used than that of *America*, is, the *West-Indies*: *West*, in regard of the Western situation of it, from these parts of *Europe*; and *Indies*, either as mistook for some part of *India*, at the first Discovery, or else because the Sea-men used to call all Countreys, if remote and rich, by the name of *India*.

Many are of opinion, but rather grounded on conjectural presumptions, than Demonstrative Arguments, that *America* was known long before our late Discoveries. Their Reasons drawn. 1. From the Doctrine of the *Antipodes*, which being maintained by many of the ancient Writers, interreth (as they think) a knowledge of these parts of the world, which are opposite to us. But unto this it may be answered, that the knowledge of the *Antipodes* amongst the ancients was by supposition, at the best by Demonstration onely, and not in fact: or thus, that it was known that there were *Antipodes*, but the *Antipodes* were not known. 2ly. It is said that *Hanno*, a Noble *Carthaginian*, discovered a great Island in the Western Ocean, and after a long voyage returned home again, not wanting Sea-room, but Victuals, as he told the Senate. But he that writ the actions of *Hanno* in this famous voyage, (which some conceive to be *Hanno* himself) informs us that he layed not Westwards, but more towards the South: and therefore this great Island, whatsoever it was, (whether *Madera*, or some one of the *Fortunate Islands*, I determine not) could not be *America*. 3ly. It is alledged that *Plato* in his *Timæus* speaks of a great Island of the *Atlantick Ocean*, *Lybiam & Africam adæquant* (as out of him *Terullian* hath it) as big as *Lybia*, and *Africk* properly so called: which he confesseth to be drowned long before his time. and there.

Vvvv