

## The Author's PREFACE.

*first of the land and inhabitants, as being the object and subject of their endeavours; and I have been forced to be more diffuse in it, than I would have been about a place already known to the world by any history or relations made of it. For this reason, I have employ'd six books in the description of the land, and the valorous fierce disposition of its inhabitants, that the force and efficacy of the divine grace might shine out the more in the beginnings of the conversions of that untractable nation, mentioned in my two last books, which are almost as comprehensive as my six first, which were divided into so many, only to answer the diversity of matter which they contain.*

*Thus I have informed my reader of this work, in which he will find variety of entertainment. Some things will answer the curiosity of those who delight in knowing natural causes; others will be moved and incited to valiant actions by the examples of those performed here. Those likewise, who love historical relations, will be pleased, since here is an epitome of the discovery of the best part of the Indies, according to the order of times, and persons concerned in the conquests and discoveries of so many kingdoms; and, lastly, the pious disposition of devout minds will be elevated to praise God for the signal favours, which the queen of heaven has bestowed on the kingdom of Chile in particular; and adore the Lord of all things, for having in little more than one century made his name known, and his worship introduced among so many heathen nations, even to bring the untamed and powerful Araucano's upon their knees to him; after so many years stubborn resisting the entrance of the Gospel. I cannot desire my Reader to express any acknowledgements for this work of mine, because I do not judge it deserves so great a reward; but I hope he may, with indulgence, excuse its faults, and make me some allowance for the little helps I have had in writing. I have endeavoured to please all; but, particularly, to shew how the kingdom of Christ may be advanced in that new world, if the apostolical zeal of the evangelical workmen will employ itself in this great harvest of so extended a gentilism and new christianity.*

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## To the READER.

**T**HE first six books being the only ones that contain the historical and natural accounts, they alone are translated; and some chapters even out of them omitted, for their tedious superstitious narratives.

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