

habitants nature of they were. The king, tribute for allan flatly been told those coun- renowned ia, judged ions; and ble as he d, had in- prince, his rite of spi- colition of minions in the prince use of ex-; but that y was im- stand the nderstand one, with- but it is imes, and essentials; tory cere- n for reli- s as man possession racter for ages, the ellan was roceeded r the go- vernment

vernment of two kings, from whom the Spaniards demanded an acknowledgment of tribute. This being justly refused, an open rupture ensued; and the admiral, with only sixty Spaniards, gave battle to the natives, whose numbers have been calculated to amount to six thousand. After a long and sharp conflict, in which the loss on the side of the Indians was much less than might have been expected, and on both not very considerable; Magellan, being too far advanced, was wounded with a poisoned arrow, and pierced in the head with a lance, which terminated his life and exploits. Even his body was never recovered.

Some have maintained that he was dispatched by his own men, to whom his strict discipline had rendered him odious and intolerable. In former periods of the voyage, this might have been the case; but now having reached a land of plenty, and surmounted their principal difficulties, it can scarcely be believed, that the Spaniards would risk their own safety by violating his. Indeed, the most authentic accounts of this unfortunate transaction say, that his men were much disconcerted at his loss.

Though Magellan had not the honour of being the first circumnavigator of the globe, as he was cut off before the completion of his voyage, yet he shewed the practicability of the scheme; and those who followed him had no more claims to original discovery than the followers of Columbus; they, indeed, went farther; but they knew the track in which they were to go.

It is probable, however, that Magellan had very little idea of meeting with the straight that bears his name. His original thought was to coast along to the southward, as the land trended,