

ness than those in *Africa*, are said to be of colour gray, and so nimble as to climb Trees; their Dogs snowed like *Foxes*, but deprived of that property which the *Logicians* call *Proprium quatuor modo*, for they could not bark: their Hogs with talons sharp as *Razors*, and the navel of their bodies on the Ridge of their backs: their *Stags*, and *Deer*, without *Horns*; their *Sheep* (they call them *Lamas*) not onely profitable as with us, for food and raiment, but accustomed to the carrying of burdens, some of 150 pound weight. Amongst such strange Beasts as this *old world* knew not, we may reckon that deformed one (whose name I finde not) whose forepart resembleth a *Fox*, the hinder part an *Ape*, except the Feet onely which are like a *Man*: beneath her belly a Receptacle like a Purse, where she keeps her young, till they be able to shift for themselves; never coming thence but when they suck, and then in again. The *Armadilla* is in form like a barbed Horse, seeming to be armed all over, and that with Artificiall (rather than natural) Plates, which do shut and open. The *Vicugna* resembleth a Goat, but greater and more profitable; of the *Fleece* whereof they make Rugs, Coverings, and Stuffs; and in the *Belly* finde the *Bezoar*, sometimes two or three, a sovereign *Antidote* against Poisons and venomous Distempers. A kinde of *Hare* resembling a *Wasp* in his feet, and a *Cat* in his tail: under whose chin nature hath fastned a little Bag, which she hath also taught him to use as a *Store house*: for in this, having filled his belly, he preserveth the remnant of his *Provision*. The *Pigritia*, a little Beast (not so named for slowness) which in fourteen days cannot go so far as a man may easily throw a stone. Then for their *Birds*, they have them there in such variety of colours; that the *Indians* will perfectly represent in Feathers whatsoever they see drawn with Pencils: insomuch as a *Figure* of *S. Francis* made of Feathers, was presented to Pope *Sixtus Quintus*, whose eye could not discern them to be natural colours, but thought them pencil-work, till he made tryal with his fingers. One called the *Tominejo*, of all colours, so little that it seems no bigger than a Bee or Butter-flie; the mouth thereof no bigger than the eye of a needle; yet yielding not to the *Nightingale* in the sweetness of its note and Musick: the Bird and Nest put into Gold Scales, not weighing above 24. grains, yet beautified with Feathers of so many colours, especially in the neck and breast; that the *Indians* make great use of them in their Feather-pictures. Others as big, as these are little. The *Condors* of such strength and greatness, that they will fall upon a *Sheep* or *Calf*, open it, and eat it. Like Miracles of nature have they in their *Fruits* and *Plants*, more proper unto *Natural History* than to this Discourse: and many medicinal Drugs of rare operation, which I leave to the consideration of the Learned *Herbalists*. I am too much a Fool to be a *Physician*, and therefore will not deal in such things as are out of my Element. Yet somewhat of this kinde we may chance to meet with, in the Description and Survey of the severall Provinces, into which this *new World* is divided.

The whole is naturally divided into two great *Peninsulas*; whereof that towards the North is called *Mexicana*, from *Mexico* the chief City and Province of it, supposed (for the most Northern parts of it are not yet discovered) to contain 13000 miles in compasse. That towards the South, hath the name of *Peruana*, from the great Countrey of *Peru*; the circumnavigation whereof is reckoned at 17000 *Italian* miles. The *Isthmus* which joyneth these two together, very long but narrow; in some places not above twelve miles from Sea to Sea; in many not above seventeen. By the *Spaniards* it is called the Streit of *Darien*, from a River of that name in *Peruana*, near unto the *Isthmus*: and is so small a Ligament for so great a Body, that some have thought of turning these two *Peninsulas* into perfect Islands. Certain it is, that many have motioned to the Council of *Spain*, the cutting of a navigable channel through this small *Isthmus*, so to shorten their common voyages to *China*, and the *Molucces*. But the *Kings of Spain* have not hitherto attempted it; partly because if he should employ the *Americans* in the work, he should lose those few of them, which his people have suffered to live; partly because the *Slaves* which they yearly buy out of *Africa*, do but suffice for the Mines and Sugar-houses; but principally, lest the passage by the *Cape of good hope*, being left, those Seas might become a receptacle of *Pirates*. Which doubtlesse was a very prudent and Politick consideration. Many times I have read of the like attempts begun, but never of any finished. *Sesostris* King of *Egypt*, *Darius* of *Persia*, one of the *Ptolomies*, and a late capricious *Portugal* had the like Plot, to make a passage from the *Red-Sea*, to the *Mediterranean*: so had *Cesar*, *Caligula*, and *Nero*, Emperours of *Rome*, upon the *Corinthian Isthmus*. Another of the same nature, had *Charls* the great, to let the *Rhene* into the *Danow*; the like had *Lucius Verus*, to joyn the *Rhene*, and the *Rosne*: all which, in their peculiar places, we have already touched. *Nicanor* also King of *Syria*, intended to have made a channel from the *Caspian* to the *Euxine* Sea; an infinite project. But neither he nor any of the rest could finish these works; God it seemeth, being not pleased at such proud and haughty enterprises. And yet perhaps the want of treasure hath not been the least cause, why the like projects have not proceeded: besides the dreadful Hoyses and apparitions, which (as we have already said) continually affrighted the workmen.

Not lesse observable than this great but unsuccessful design of cutting a passage thorow this *Isthmus*, from one Sea to the other: was that notable, but a like successlesse Attempt of *John Oxenham*, an adventurous *Englishman*, in a passage over it by Land. This man being one of the Followers of *Sir Francis Drake*, arriving in a small Bark with 70 of his Companions, a little above *Nembo di Deus*, the chiefest Town of all the *Isthmus*; drew his Ship on Land, covered it with boughs, and marched over the Land with his Company guided by *Negroes*, till he came to a River. There he cut down Wood, made him a Pinnace, entred the South Sea, went to the Isle of *Pearls*, where he stayed ten days; intercepted in two *Spanish* Ships (who feared no Enemy on that side) 60000 pound weight of Gold, 200000 pound weight in bars of silver, and returned in safety to the Land. And though by the multitude of some of his own Company, he neither returned into his Countrey, nor unto his Ship: yet is it