

1499. they equipped him with four ships, with which he sailed from St. Mary's in Spain on the twentieth of May. Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine gentleman, eminently skilful in all the sciences subservient to navigation, accompanied Ojeda in this voyage. Pursuing the course of the great navigator for the New World, they in twenty seven days discovered land in about five degrees north latitude, on the coast of Paria. Having traded here with the natives, they stood to the west, proceeded as far as Cape Vela, and ranged a considerable extent of coast beyond that, on which Columbus had touched. After ascertaining the truth of the opinion of Columbus, that this country was part of the continent, they sailed to Hispaniola, where they arrived on the fifth of September, and soon after returned to Spain. The country, of which Amerigo was erroneously supposed to be the discoverer, not long after unjustly obtained his name; and, by universal consent, this new quarter of the globe has ever since been called America.

He is accompanied by Amerigo Vespucci;

Who gives name to the New World.

Voyage of Alonso Nigno.

Another voyage of discovery was undertaken by Alonso Nigno, who had served under the admiral in his last voyage. Having fitted out a single ship, in conjunction with Christopher Guerra, a merchant of Seville, they both sailed to the coast of Paria. Though their discoveries were unimportant; yet they carried home such a quantity of

¹ Robertson, i. book ii. Prince Chron. *Introd.* 80. *Europ. Settlements*, i. 46. Belknap *Disc. on Discovery of America*, p. 115. This name is supposed to have been first given to the New World by the publication of Vespucci's account of his Voyage; but at what time is not certain. For a refutation of his claim to the honour of discovering the continent of the New World, see Robertson, i. Note xxii. Herrera and all the earliest and best Spanish historians uniformly ascribe this honour to Columbus. Herrera, i. 214. Herrera says, that Americus Vesputius (so the name is often written), "to make good his false and assumed claim to the discovery of the Continent, suppressed the name of Dragon's Mouth, which Columbus had given to the entrance into a bay near Trinidad"; and that he "confounded the passages of the two voyages," that, made before with Columbus, and this, made with Ojeda, "in order to conceal the Admiral's having discovered the continent." *Ibid.* 221, 223. But English

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