

It is scarcely possible to prove a *negative*; and it may be alleged that ARIAS mentions a discovery of MENDANA in 1575, and therefore GALLEGO's discovery may have been made in the return from this voyage. The general silence of the Spanish writers is to me sufficient reason to disbelieve the discovery ascribed to GALLEGO, particularly when it is considered, that although the existence of such a land was the point QUIROS wanted to prove, he takes not the least notice of it; and it seems to me impossible that this companion of MENDANA could be ignorant of a discovery so important, which must be well known to all PERU, had it only happened twenty years before; particularly as it must have been in a public voyage, although it is not wonderful that QUIROS should be ignorant of the *accidental* discovery made by JUAN FERNANDEZ, which ARIAS informs us was purposely concealed till the death of JUAN FERNANDEZ, which probably happened many years before QUIROS' first voyage.

Upon the whole, till some *express* evidence is produced of this SOUTHERN LAND of GALLEGO, I think it must be considered as one of those blunders which geographers are continually propagating, by abridging and abstracting each other, instead of consulting the original authors.

To clear up the difficulties which occur on the subject of QUIROS' discoveries, I propose to give a sketch of the life of this eminent person: the authorities I have for this, besides MENDANA's voyage already recited, are chiefly PENELO, TORQUEMADA, ARIAS, and QUIROS' memorials.

The assertion of some, that QUIROS was a Portuguese, is *doubtful*; though some critics think they can distinguish the Portuguese idiom in his writings. There appears to be as little foundation in what others alledge, of *two* persons similar in name, QUIROS, a Spaniard, and GIROS, a Portuguese. There