

The Author's PREFACE.

ters, I report it with the same candor as I heard and read it, without adding or diminishing any thing of the truth; and though all those I cite in this work are worthy to be believed, yet the least to be suspected of partiality, are such foreign writers who extol and commend this kingdom of Chile with such repeated encomiums. My second advertisement is, That considering the Kingdom of Chile was the last part of South America that was discovered, and the nearest to the Antartick Pole, I could not treat of its discovery with good grounds, without touching a little upon the neighbouring kingdoms of Peru and Mexico, which were as a passage to it; and if I have enlarged now and then on the praises and description of those parts, it was, because I thought it might not be disagreeable to the reader; in which, if I am mistaken, he has only to skip some chapters of the fourth book, and go directly to those which treat of the first entrance of Don Diego de Almagro into Chile; Thirdly, I must take notice, that though I do sometimes, in speaking of the land of Chile, report some particularities which seem trifles, and not so proper for history, I do not relate them as singular and proper to that country alone, but rather to shew the uniformity both of nature and customs, as to life and religion, in all those parts; and some things are mentioned to encourage those new countries to drive on the advancement of religion, politeness, learning, and good morals.

Fourthly, I must take notice, That since I do not here make a general history of Chile, I have not had occasion to mention all the illustrious men, and noble commanders and soldiers, who have flourished in those parts from the beginning of the conquest: I only, therefore, take notice of such as I find named in the authors whom I cite; and they too not making it their business to write a distinct history of Chile, but only to relate some particular event, and so mention only some part of the government of some governors, or their wars, cannot be exact in the account of all those who have in different times and occasions acted in those wars; and by this salvo I cover the honour of all our gallant commanders and soldiers of Chile, whose actions I omit, though they are worthy to be graven in marble, or Bronze, only for this reason. And though I own, that I am not ignorant of many who have flourished in my time, and before it, yet I have not so distinct an information as would be necessary to give them their due commendations, and set their actions in that light which their valour deserves; therefore the general history of Chile will perform that part. Perhaps, even before that, this work of mine may excite some body to employ their talent in making a particular book of their elegiums and praises, which cannot fail of being well received in the world, since so many noble and illustrious families of Europe will be concerned in it.

Lastly, I advertise, That though the principal motive of my writing this relation, was to publish the spiritual ministry of our company in the conversion of souls in this kingdom of Chile, yet I could not but treat
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