

*Panuca, Azanaves, Abarduosia, Jognazia, Apalchia, Anthia, Samovia, Coles*; but they acquaint us neither with their site nor bounds: except it be that *Panuca* lyeth on the borders of *Hispania Nova*, beyond the large and spacious Bay of the *Holy Ghost*; and *Calor* near the Cape, called *Cape de Florida*. Others distinguish it by the names of the several Roitelets; which varying with the change of the person, makes that division to be very variable and uncertain also. But it is generally agreed that the *Peninsula*, which pointeth on the Isle of *Cuba*, hath the name of *Tegeffa*, or *Florida* specially so called; the name of *Florida* being first given by *John Ponce* unto this part onely, though afterwards communicated unto all the rest of this Countrey. A *Demy-Island* stretching in length from the South to the North, 100 leagues; in breadth where broadest 30 leagues, and in some places 20 onely. Well known by the Cape of *Martyn*, looking into the Isle of *Cuba*, the River of the *Holy Ghost*, and three goodly Bays; the chief whereof, that entituled to *S. Joseph*, all opening into the Gulf of *Mexico*, or the Bay of *New Spain*. The whole environed about, save where it is joynted unto the *Continent*, with Bars of Sands, and scattered Islands, which serve unto it as the *ent-work*, to some notable Fortresse.

Chief Towns hereof, 1. *S. Helens*, on, or near a *Promontory*, so named, where this Countrey bordereth on *Virginia*; once fortified and possessed by the *Spaniards*, but not long since abandoned. 2. *Fort de Charles*, *Arx Carolina* in the *Latine*, built by the *French* upon the Banks of the River *Matto*; and is called in honour of *Charles* the ninth, in whose time the conquest of this Countrey was undertaken: but ruined by the *Spaniards* in the War between them, 3. *Port Royal*, a well frequented Haven, on the mouth of the River of that name; but whether there be any Town now remaining, I am not able to say. More in the Land (for these lie all upon the Borders towards *Virginia*) *Apalche* supposed to be a place of great consideration, in regard of the opinion which was had of the wealth thereof (but found to be a small Town, of but 40 Cottages:) and therefore first attempted and took in by the *Spaniards*, in their invasion of this Countrey under *Pamphilus de Narvaez*, An. 1528. recovered by the Natives after his departure. 5. *Ante*, an open Burrough, nine dayes journey from *Apalche*, where the *Salvages* gave the *Spaniards* a sharp encounter, and slew many of them; but being vanquished at the last, they forsook the Town, of it self not tenable. 6. *Ocalis*, an unwall'd Town, but consisting of 600 Sheds (for I dare hardly call them Houses) the chief of the Kingdom of *Acuera*. 7. *Osachile*, the chief Seat of the King so called, and 8 *Vitacuchus*, a Burrough of 200 Cottages, the principal of the Kingdom of *Vitacuchus*, both taken by the *Spaniards* at the same time also. 9. *S. Matthews*, on the Eastern shore of the *Demi-Island* above mentioned, possessed and fortified by the *Spaniards*. 10. *S. Augustines* on the same shore, but more South than the other; situate at the mouth of a small River so named, fortified by the *Spaniards* with many a strong Castle: but for all that taken by Sir *Francis Drake*, An. 1485. there being found in the Fort of *S. John*, in which the strength of the Town consisted, 18 brasse pieces, and 20000 *Florents* in ready money, for the pay of the Garrison. Repaired afterwards more strongly than ever formerly. The *Spaniards* have also Garrisons in two other places of this Countrey, viz. *S. Philip*, and *S. Jago*; but I cannot say distinctly in what part they are.

The Government of this Countrey, is of one kinde onely, though managed by several persons: the Supream power residing in the *Chiefs* of their several *Tribes*; at such continual enmity with one another, that they very seldom joyn together in any Counsels, wherein the publick is concerned. So that the *Spaniards* may affirm of the present *Floridans*, as the *Romans* did of the ancient *Britans*; *Nec quicquam adversus validissimas gentes utilium nobis fuit, quam quod in commune non consulebant.* The not communicating of their Counsels, hastned on their bondage. Yet in the Government of these *Chiefs* there was somewhat of the *Parliamentary* way used with us in *Europe*. For as in all matters of concernment, those *Chiefs* advised with their *Council*: so if it were a businesse which concerned the publick, their *Priests* and others of most note for gravity and wisdom, were admitted to the *Consultation*. But being severally too weak for a strong Invader, and never joyned together to defend themselves, they made themselves an easie prey to the *French* and *Spaniards*. *Et sic dum singuli pugnabant, universi vincebantur*; by trusting to their single forces they were all subdued. For in the year 1512. *John Ponce* a Native of *Leon* in *Spain*, setting sayl with three ships from the Island of *Porto Rico*, on *Palm-sunday* fell on the *Peninsula* before described; & for that cause, or from the flourishing verdure of it, called it *Florida*; but did no more than scowre along upon the Coasts, and give new names to such of the *Promontories* and Rivers as he had discovered, and having onely a slight skirmish with some of the *Salvages*, returned back again. The businesse eight years after was again revived by *Vasques de Ayllen*, who setting sayl from the Haven of *Plata*, in *Hispaniola*, attained unto the North-East parts of this Continent, bordering on *Virginia*, where he left names unto the *Promontory* of *S. Helen*, and the River of *Jordan*: and having treacherously enslaved some of the *Natives* (whom he had invited to a Feast) prepared for *Spain*; where he obtained the Kings Patent for a new Plantation. But his perfidiousnesse could not prosper. For in the year 1524 coming with his ships upon this Coast, one of them perished on the Rocks; and 200 of his men being killed at their landing, he gave over the Enterprize: the *Spaniards* hitherto making no more use of these Discoveries, than wickedly to enrich themselves by stealing men, whom as wickedly they sold for Slaves. Nor had the voyage of *Pamphilus de Narvaez*, Anno 1528. any better end; though undertaken with a Band of 400 foot, and 80 horse. For having took possession of the Countrey, in the name of his Sovereign *Charles* the fifth, finding some hopes of great treasures to be had at *Apalche* (distant above a moneths journey from the place of his landing) he would needs march thither. In which action, though he got that and some other Towns, yet he lost himself; few of his men returning safe into their Countrey, and they not knowing what became of their General. As fruitlesse, but more famous was the enterprize of *Hernandes a Soto*, begun in the year 1538. and continued till 1543. who with a little Army of 350 Horse, and 90 Foot, overran a great part of the Countrey, and brought many of the *Petit*

Principes