

THE  
Author's PREFACE.

**B**eing come from the kingdom of Chile into Europe, I observed that there was so little known of the parts I came from, that in many places the very name of Chile had not been heard of.

This made me think my self obliged to satisfy, in some measure, the desire of many curious persons, who pressed me to communicate to the world a thing so worthy of its knowledge. But I found myself in great difficulty how to comply with their pressing instances, being destitute of all the materials requisite for such a work, and at such a distance from the place that could furnish them, that I despaired of giving a just satisfaction: however, in obedience to those whose commands I cannot but respect, I resolved to write this account, more to comply with my duty, and give some information of those remote regions, than to pretend to a perfect and exact history, which this relation, in all its parts, (I confess,) comes very short of. The reader then being thus prepared, will, I hope, have a regard to the little help I could have in this work, at such a distance as Rome and Chile are from one another; and by his prudence and goodness, excuse any thing that may seem less finished in this work; particularly since there is hopes of a general history of Chile, which cannot be long before it is finished.

It has not yet appeared in the world.

In the mean time, the first and second books of this relation will shew the natural state of the kingdom of Chile, both as to its climate and product; The third, will describe the qualities of its first inhabitants; The fourth and fifth, will describe the first entrance of the Spaniards into it, and the conquest of it by them; The sixth, will contain the various events of the war, caused by the noble resistance made by the Araucano's; The seventh, will shew the first means of peace attempted by father Lewis de Valdivia, of the company of Jesus, in order to facilitate the preaching of the holy gospel, and the glorious death of his holy companions; The last book, which is also the largest of all, will contain the first means of planting the christian faith, and its propagation among the Indians, which was particularly compassed, and is still carried on by the missions and ministry of our company; all which endeavours of theirs I explain and distinguish under six heads, shewing the necessity of the spiritual help that those new christians lie under, both as to preaching, and informing them in matters of the christian faith.

I must give here five advertisements: The first, That in what I have seen my self, I have not departed from the truth in any thing I have writ: as to what I relate by hearsay, or by authority from other wri-