

Insula
Solomon.

another *Straight*, which seemed to separate this *Terra del Fuego* from the rest of the *Southern Continent*; and on the 25 they entered into it. That part of the Land which (being entered into the *Straight*) they had on the West, they called *Terra Mauriti de Nassau*; that on the East, *Statenland*; the *Straight* it self, *Fretum la Maire*. The entrance into the *Straight* they found to be in 55 degrees of Southern *Latitude*, and 50 Minutes; the Waters running into the North-Sea with so violent an *Eddie*, *Its adversum maris aestum difficulter superare possumus*, saith he, who in the way of *Journal* or *Ephemerides*, hath described the whole course of this Voyage. In the whole course whereof nothing so much observable (besides this Discovery) as that they found that at their coming home they had lost a day (as mult needs happen unto such, as in so tedious a voyage had travelled Westward) that being *Saturday* to them which was *Sunday* to the *Hollanders*, and the rest of *Europe*; though they had calculated the days since their going out with all exactness. So that if there were any such *Morality* in the *Sabbath*, as some men pretend, these men must either keep their Sabbath on a different day from the rest of their Countrymen, or otherwise to comply with them, must be guilty of the breach of the *Sabbath* all the rest of their lives. But of this more at large elsewhere. To return therefore to this *Straight*, it is said to be seven *Dutch* miles, or 28 of ours in length, and of a fair and equal breadth; plentifull of good fish; especially of Sea-Calves and Whales. About the entering of which *Straight* into the third Edition of my *Microcosm*, I received a Letter at such time as the Parliament was held in *Oxon*, *An. 1625* subscribed *G. B.* and a little under that, *Sub grando floridus*: which whether it were the Gentlemans *Motto*, or the *Anagram* of his name, I am not able to say, having never heard more of him from that time forwards, though his desires were satisfied in the next Edition of that work. "For my encouragement wherein he gave me this direction following, The News (saith he) of this *New Straight* coming in to Spain, it pleased that King in the year 1618. to send and teach whether the truth were answerable unto the Report. And finding it to be much broader than the other, and not above seven *Dutch* miles long; decreed, that being the more easie and compendious way for Navigators, and less subject to dangers; his Auxiliary Forces should be sent that way into the *East-Indies*, to defend to *Philippine* and *Molucco* Islands, and the way by the *Cape of good Hope* to be left. In regard that every such voyage, requireth twice as much time: besides the variety of winds, and often change of the Air, not only trouble some, but full of diseases, consumeth the one half of the men before they return. Whereas this way gaineth time (and if need be, they may dispatch business in the *West* as they travel into the *East*) without any extraordinary danger or losse of men. So far the very words of my letter. The intelligence given me in this Letter, I find confirm'd in a Relation of the Voyage made by Captain *Don Juan de Moxe*, Anno 1618, at the command and charge of the King of Spain, who presently arriv'd and furnish'd eight tall ships to send this new way unto his *Philippines* and *Moluccos*; under the conduct of *Petrus Michaelis de Cordoelin*. Since it hath been found by experience, that even from our parts to the *Moluccos*, through this *Fretum de Mayre*, is but a passage of eight moneths: *Sine ulla insigni navigantium clade*, saith the *Narrator*. But of this *Straight* enough, to satisfy my unknown well-wishers request, and enform my Reader: extremely sorry that the Gentleman was not pleased to impart his name, that to his memory might have lived in these Papers, if they themselves be destinate to a longer life.

Now for the nature of the soil, it is said to be very full of Mountains; but those Hills apparelled with woods, intermixt with Vallies; the Vallies for the most part full of little Brooks which fall down from the Mountains, and afford good pasturage; the Sea-coasts well provided of Bays and Roads, not unsafe for shipping: though the Air every where, but chiefly near the Sea, be much subject to Tempests. As for the People, they are said to be of a white complexion; but their Face, Arms, and Thighs, coloured with a kind of *Oker*: of full stature and well-proportioned, their hair black, which they wear long to seem more terrible. The men most generally naked, the women only shaded on their secret parts, with a piece of Leather.

Towns they have none, nor any Habitations which deserve the name of houses; so that the most which we can doe is to Coast the Island. In which we find towards *Mare del Noori*, 1. A large Arm of the Sea, called *Enrudo de S. Sebastian*. 2. The Cape of *S. Ives*. 3. *Mauritius* land. 4. *Promontorio de Buen Suceso*, or the Cape of Good Success. Opposite whereunto in another Island is the Cape of *S. Bartholomew*; and betwixt them the *Straight* called *Fretum la Maire*. Then in the *New South Sea*, as they call it, there are 5. *Barnvelis* Island. 6. The Islands of *S. Idelfonso*. 7. Cape Horn on a fair Promontory, in the South-west *Ande*: which doubled, the Country goes along with a strait shore, on which I find some Bays and Capes, but no names unto them; till we come to the Western entrances of the *Straight* of *Magellan*; opposite unto Cape *Victoria*, so often mentioned.

2. *INSULAE SOLOMONIS*, or the Islands of *Solomon*, are situate on the West of *Terra del Fogo*, 11 degrees on the South of the *Equinoctial*. Discovered in the year 1567. by *Lopes Garcia de Castro*, sent by the Vice-Roy of *Peru* to find out new Countries. By whom thus named, in hope that men would be rather induced to inhabit in them; imagining that *Solomon* had his Gold from these Lands of *Ophir*.

In number they are many, but 18 the principal: Some of which 300 miles in compass, others 200, and others of them less, till we come to fifty, and beneath that, none. All liberally furnished with Dogs, Hogs, Hens, Cloves, Ginger, Cinamon, and some veins of Gold. The chief of these eighteen are, 1. *Gnadalcanal*, supposed to be the greatest of them; upon the coast whereof the Spaniards sailed 150 Leagues, where they found a Town which they burned and sacked, because the People of it in a sudden surprize, had killed fourteen of their men. 2. *S. Isabella* 150 leagues in length, and