

[Taken from a pamphlet, entitled "The Journal of a Two Months' Tour, with a View of promoting Religion, &c. &c." By CHARLES BEATTY, A. M. London. 1768.]

CONCLUSION.

THE reader has now before him all the information I have been able to collect on this curious and disputed subject; upon which I beg leave to offer a few remarks. It is difficult to suppose that historians and poets should have combined to impose on the world by a fabricated story of Madoc's emigration. It is admitted that the art of navigation was very imperfectly understood in the twelfth century; yet surely it is possible that the voyages here related, might be performed*. The idea of a western hemisphere might have

native of *He'ue*, in *Spain*, did before him find out these regions. He tells us, that *Sanchez*, using to trade in a small vessel to the *Canaries*, was driven by a furious and tedious tempest over unto these western countries; and at his return he gave to *Colum*, or *Columbus*, an account of what he had seen, but soon after died of a disease he had got on his dangerous voyage." He further adds, "Indeed the two *Cabots*, father and son, under the commission of our King *Henry VII.* entering upon their generous undertakings in the year 1497, made further discoveries of America than either *Columbus* or *Vesputius*. Yea, since the *Cabots* made a discovery of this Continent in 1497, and it was 1498 before *Columbus* discovered any part of the Continent, I know not why the *Spaniards* should go unrivalled in the claim of this new world."

* Since the above went to the press, the following communication has been received from a friend.

"It is much more improbable, that there should be no foundation for all the reports that have been made of Madoc's voyages, and the existence of Welch Indians in North America, than that an expedition should have been undertaken in the 12th century, similar to those which were repeatedly performed in the 15th. The mariner's compass was probably known at the former period; for it is described by a French poet, who wrote early in the 13th century: but the application of astronomy, which had been customary from remote antiquity, might have sufficed for a voyage to America with persons who had courage enough for the enterprise. Britain was at that time celebrated for its marine; and, indeed, had been so 600 years before. In the fleet which Richard I. equipped, in the year 1190, were more than 160 three-masted ships. Hence the expressions of Matthew, of Westminster, who wrote in the 14th century, need not be considered as very hyperbolic: "O England! thou wast lately equal to the ancient Chaldeans in power, prosperity, and glory. The ships of Tarshish could not be compared with thy ships, which brought thee spices, and every precious thing, from the four corners of the world." There were many sea-ports celebrated for commerce, and none more so than Bristol, at the period