

# PEDRO FERNANDEZ DE QUIROS'

## V O Y A G E.

**T**HE *discovery* of the SOUTHERN CONTINENT, *whenever*, and by *whomsoever* it may be completely effected, is in *justice* due to this *immortal* name.

1606.

The voyages previous to *that* of PEDRO FERNANDEZ DE QUIROS, were not directed, at least immediately, to this great object; but QUIROS formed his plan on the observations he himself had made in MENDANA'S voyage, in 1595: and, reasoning from principles of science and deep reflexion, he asserted the *existence* of a SOUTHERN CONTINENT; and devoted, with unwearied, though contemned diligence, the *remainder* of his *life* to the prosecution of this *sublime* conception.

It does not appear that MAGALHANES had any idea of a continent in this quarter; nor have we any scientific arguments alleged in support of it, prior to the memorials which QUIROS presented to Don LOUIS DE VELASCO, after his return from MENDANA'S voyage.

Many maps represent a continent in this quarter, which they say was discovered by HERNAN GALLEGO, in 1576. It is necessary to take notice of *this* report, as it would lessen the character of QUIROS to suppose him *ignorant* of the discoveries made by this companion of MENDANA; or *worse* than *ignorant*, to endeavour by conjectures, however well grounded, to support the existence of *what* he knew had been actually discovered.

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