

coasts of Africa, which, lying so near to Brasil, any strong easterly wind would have brought them on that coast, as was actually the case in the year 1500. There is also one part of our old continent which lies yet nearer to America than the most westerly part of Africa does to Brasil, viz. the north part of Norway-Lapland, opposite to New-Greenland, which is now known to be a part of the American continent; But the island of Iceland, known and peopled from Norway many centuries prior to the discovery in question, is yet nearer to another part of America.

Thus have we endeavoured, as briefly as consisted with perspicuity, to exhibit the original grounds and actual accomplishment of the discovery of America by Columbus.

1493.—Loaded with honours, titles, and applause, that now great man set out in the following year on his second voyage to Hispaniola, which continued to be the principal colony of Spain in America, until Cortes conquered the kingdom of Mexico in the year 1519. Thither Columbus now carried fifteen hundred men in seventeen ships, with provisions and ammunition in abundance, and also seeds of various kinds, horses, cows, hogs, &c. implements of husbandry, and tools for working silver and gold mines; commodities for barter, and many other necessary things. And as his forty-nine men, with their fort, were destroyed; he now built several new forts, and founded the present capital city of that island, which he named St. Domingo; but the numbers he brought with him now excited a jealousy in the minds of the Indian caciques or princes, which engaged him in a bloody war with the numerous natives, a third part of whom were, it seems, destroyed by the Spaniards in three or four years. By a tax of gold-dust, to be gathered by the natives out of their rivers and brooks, he amassed a good deal of treasure, which he sent home to his Catholic Majesty; and he returned home in 1496, to answer the accusations raised against him by the Spanish settlers at Hispaniola; which island, however, had not hitherto made Spain gainers upon the whole, by reason of the very expensive embarkations to it, and the maintenance of garrisons, &c. Pope Alexander VI, upon application from King Ferdinand the Catholic, granted him the sovereignty of this new world; and to prevent disputes between Spain and Portugal, he particularly confirmed to the Spanish crown all the countries which they already had, or which they afterward should discover, westward of a line drawn from pole to pole, at the distance of one hundred leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde isles; but the king of Portugal, objecting to that division, it was this same year agreed between the two crowns, that the line of division should (according to Herrera, &c.) be removed 270 leagues farther west; and that all that should be discovered east of it should belong to Portugal, and all west of it to Spain; those two nations thus modestly claiming an exclusive right to both the Indies, and thereby effectually barring the rest of Christendom from all