

TERRA AUSTRALIS INCOGNITA

Terra Au-
stralis.

VWith better hopes we may go forwards on the next Discovery, and try what may be done on *TERRA AUSTRALIS*, or the Southern Continent, though hitherto *INCOGNITA* also, almost as much unknown as the *Arctic* Lands, which none but my good *Frier of Oxon* had the hap to meet with. A Continent conceived by our learned *Brewster*, to be as large as *Europe*, *Asia*, and *Africa*: and that upon such strength of Reasons, as cannot be easily over-born by any opposite. His arguments in brief are these, 1. That as touching *Latitude*, some parts thereof come very near to the *Aequator*, if they come not also on this side of it: and as for *Longitude*, it keepeth along, though at several distances, the whole continual course of the other Continents. 2. It is clearly known, that in the other two Continents, the Land which lyeth on the North-side of that Line, is four times at the least as large as that which lies South thereof; and therefore since the earth is equally poized on both sides of her Center; it must needs be that the Earth in answerable measure and proportion must advance it self in some places above the Sea, on the South-side of the Line, as it doth in others on the North. By consequence, what is wanting in the South-parts of the other two Continents, to countervail the North-parts of them, must of necessity be supplied in the Southern Continent.

The Country being so large, so free from the Incumbrances of Frosts and Ice, and endless Winters; I have oft mused with my self that no further progress hath been made in Discovery of it: considering chiefly by the size and position of the Country, especially in those parts which lye nearest *Asia*, that there is nothing to be looked for elsewhere, either of profit or of pleasures; but may there be found. Whether it be, that there is some *Nit ultra* put to humane endeavours; or that this people are not yet made ripe enough to receive the Gospel; or that the great Princes of the Earth think it no good Policy to engage themselves in *New Discoveries*, till the *Old* be thoroughly planted, and made sure unto them; or that the *Merchants*, who in matters of this nature hath a powerfull influence, thinks his hands full enough already; and being settled in so many and so wealthy *Factories*, will not adventure upon more. Which of all these, or whether all of these together be the cause of this stop, I am not able to determine. Certain it is that here is a large field enough for Covetousness, Ambition, or Desire of glory to spend themselves in; enough to satiate the greatest and most hungry appetite of Empire, Wealth, and Worldly pleasures; besides the *Gallantry* and merit of so brave an Action. Most which hath hitherto been done by it, hath been by the encouragements of the Vice Royes of *New Spain* and *Peru*; by the first of which we came acquainted with the Coasts of *Nova Guinea*; by the latter, with those Countries called the *Ilands of Solomon*, but whether Continents or Ilands, not yet fully known.

And yet we must not rob *Magellanus* of his part of the honor, who passing thorow the *Streights*, which now bear his name, discovered those parts of it which from the first thence seen he called *Terra del Fuego*, found by the *Hollanders* of late under *James le Maire* to be an Island. Nor do the *English* or the *Dutch* want their parts herein, though what they did, was rather *Accidental*, than upon Design. For in the year 1593, Sir *Richard Hawkins* being bound for the *Streights of Magellan*, was by a cross wind driven on to the parts of this Continent, to which he gave the name of *Hawkins* his *Mayden Land*; A Promontory of it shooting into the Sea with three points he called *Pont Tremontis*; and a pleasant Isle not far off, by the name of *Fair Island*. Sailing along these Coasts in the 50 Degree of Southern *Latitude*, for the space of 60 miles and upwards, he found the Country as he passed to be very pleasant; and by the fires which he saw in the night to be well inhabited. By the like accident, Anno 1599, *Sibald de Weert*, a *Hollander*, in his return from the *Streights of Magellan* fell upon some Ilands of this Southern Continent, in the *Latitude* of 50 Degrees and 40 Minutes, which he called to be called *Sibalds* Ilands. And besides these we owe to the *Portugals* the discovery of such parts hereof, as they fell on in their way to the *Eastern Indies*; of which we have little but the names, as *Piscatorum Terra*, so called from the abundance of *Parrats* which they saw on the Coasts, over against the *Cape of good Hope*. 2. *Beach*, a Region yielding Gold, and possessed by *Idolaters*; with the two Kingdomes of 3. *Lucach*, and 4. *Misaur*; all three against the Isles of *Java*, from which little distant.

But the greatest light we have to see by in this dark business, is by the Voyages and Adventures of the *Spaniards*, employed by the two Vice-Royes of *Peru* and *Mexico*, as before was said. For in the year 1543 the Governor of *New Spain* then being, sent *Villa Lobos* with a Fleet towards the *Moluccos*, who in that Voyage made a Discovery of a rich and flourishing Country which he named *Nova Guinea*, by others since his time called *Terra de Picinacoli*; and in the year 1563, *Castro* the *Licentiate*, then Vice-Roy of *Peru*, sent a Fleet from *Lima*, which under the conduct of *Lopez Garcia de Castro*, discovered the *Ilands of Solomon*. To which if we subjoin the success of the *Hollanders* in the Discovery of *Fransje le Maire*, and the Lands adjoining; The best Description we can make of this Southern Continent, must be in the Chorography and History of their Adventures; viz. 1. *Terra del Fogo*, 2. *Insula Solomoni*, 3. *Nova Guinea*: beginning first with *Terra del Fogo*, because nearest to us.

1. *TERRA DEL FUEGO*, lies on the other side of the *Streights of Magellane*, heretofore thought to be a part of *Terra Australis Incognita*, or the Southern Continent, but is now discovered to be an Island by one *Jacob Mayre of Amsterdam*, accompanied by *Cornelius Schouten of Horn*, both *Hollanders*. They began their Voyage on the 15 of June, Anno 1615. and on the 19 of January following they fell even with the *Streight of Magellan*. On the 24 of the same Month they had the sight of