

(deserving all praise), Volume 1 of Winsor's Critical History, has appeared enunciating entirely different views to those I then expressed. The views upheld by Prof. Jules Marcou, and which he has again laid before the French Academy of Sciences, are a pet theory of his, and an isolated one, to the effect that the name of "America" is derived from a native origin, a theory which has been rejected by all who have examined the subject critically, and, in my opinion, cannot hold good or stand deep investigation. It is an unquestioned fact, that the name "America" was first introduced in the geography you quote, which appeared in the year 1507, the authors of which were a combined coterie of philosophers and teachers who had a private press in the College of St. Die, a village in the Vosges Mountains of France, then in the Dukedom of Lorraine. This college had, as its immediate protector, the learned Duke Rene II.

The little Manual of Geography called "Cosmographie Introductio" was issued in Latin in May, 1507, without any name appearing as the author, for the reason that while it was written and compiled by Martin Waldseemüller, it was the joint production of the professors of the college, and being the property of the college, bore no individual name. It was a little quarto of 52 leaves, 27 lines to the full page. There were four editions issued in 1507 alone, the first of which appeared in May, and in it, for the first time, is suggested calling the name of our continent "America," after "Americus Vesputius," who was alleged to have been the discoverer. The words used are (translated): "And the fourth part of the world having been discovered by Americus, it may be called Amerige, that is, the land of Americus, or America. Now, truly, as these regions are more widely explored, and another fourth part is discovered, by Americus Vesputius, as may be learned from the following letters, I see no reason why it should not be justly called Amerigen, that is, the land of Americus or America, from Americus, its discoverer, a man of acute intellect, inasmuch as both Europe and Asia have chosen their names from the feminine form."

The Lenox Library of New York (founded by Mr. James Lenox, of that city, a wealthy and devoted Bibliophile, who left his library with ample funds to the city) has the proud distinction of owning the only perfect copy known to exist of the first edition of this little geography to which we owe so much. Duke Rene died in 1508, and this was the cause of breaking up the college, or at least the dispersion of the professors. Waldseemüller appears next at Strasbourg, where he issues another edition of the geography in 1509, and which this time bears his name as the author. The book is issued in Latin and his name appears greecized into "Hylacomylus." The name proposed was a euphonious one, and while naturally of slow growth, it soon took possession of the public, and was adopted gradually in other publications, and at last found itself placed on maps, first on the southern hemisphere in 1514-15, and in 1541 upon both. It was, nevertheless, not approved by all, and many writers of the sixteenth century condemned its acceptance, suggested other names, but it had taken root, and grew where the others withered. It is to be regretted, as it has no foundation for its *raison d'être*, and has no direct connection whatever with the continent, while we have a name which can be justified and recorried with our past history and which is equally as euphonious and which I hope to see adopted. It could well be instituted with consent of the nations at the coming quar-centenary celebration of

the Columbus re-discovery of America in 1892, especially when we remember to this day Spain has not adopted the name of America, but calls us in official documents the "new world." Marcou's theory is, that the origin of the name is from some South American natives, and he began the discussion in 1875. So far he has not succeeded in convincing the world that there is any foundation for it. Quite the contrary; it has been shown that these natives had various denominations for their own locations, and without any written language to justify them. Moreover none of the early writers, prior to the naming of the continent by Waldseemüller in 1507, gave currency to these names, and it was of a much later period before any such local names were asserted to exist. The professor begins his argument with the assertion that Vesputius's name being "Albericus," and not "Americus," the naming could not be after him; but while he is right in this respect, he has seemingly overlooked Waldseemüller's action in first suggesting the name in 1507, the reason for which is so distinctly given by him.

Vesputius had written an account of his third voyage to his friend, Lorenzo P. F. de Medici, in which he called his discoveries "Novum Mundum Appellare Licet." This is the Latin form, the original, if written in Italian, is lost. The earliest dated edition is printed at Augsburg in 1504, but one preceded this undated, and printed by Jehan Lambert, at Paris. Both are in the Lenox Library, New York.

In 1504 Vesputius returned from his last voyage and wrote an account of it and of his three previous ones to another friend in Florence. This MS. is also lost, but it is believed that editions were published both in Florence and Paris in Italian and French, from which latter the Latin translation was made by Jehan Basin, and adopted by Waldseemüller in 1507. The Italian and French editions have wholly disappeared, so that we have to accept the text as it appears in the St. Die edition. Thus no original in the language of Vesputius, either in writing or print, exists to verify his exact language and terms; but as there are no fewer than twenty editions in three years, of his third voyage, described as now existing by HARRISSE, with no doubt many others printed at the time, all which appeared during Vesputius's life time, and being undenied by him, they must be accepted as a fair translation of what he wrote. To us, therefore, their importance consists largely in the first name they give to Vesputius.

The title reads invariably, "Mundus Novus Albericus Vesputius Laurentio Petri de Medicis Salutem Plurimum Dicit" (The New World, Albericus Vesputius (translated Alfred Vespucci) presents his best wishes to Lawrence Peter de Medicis); but a more direct statement of name is to be found in the Dutch version printed by Doesborgh at Antwerp in 1503-5 (HARRISSE No. 15) which reads as follows: "Laurentius, good friend in the past days, I, Albericus, have written to you of my return." Some slight changes in the spelling of the family name occur, but absolutely none throughout the many editions in the Christian name. As I previously said, we have no other version of the four voyages than that of St. Die.

In these the title page reads: "Cosmographie Introductio cum Quibusdam Geometrie ac Astronomie Principiis ad eam rem Necessariis Insuper Quatuor Americi Vesputii Navigationes." (Introduction to Cosmography together with some principles of geometry and astronomy necessary to the purpose. Also four Navigations of Americus Vesputius.)