

INTRODUCTION.

IN the early periods of Navigation, it does not seem that the extension of *Commerce* was altogether the aim of the enterprizing Adventurer ; and though generally patronized by the reigning Powers, where these designs originated, yet, a thirst after glory, and a boundless ambition of adding to the strength and extent of territory, on one hand, or a rapacious desire of accumulating wealth, or, perhaps the fame of making discoveries, on the other, appear to have been the only objects in view.

There cannot be a greater proof of the truth of this position, than the uniform behaviour of the Spaniards, in the whole course of their almost unbounded acquisitions of discovery, conquest, and wealth. The shocking barbarities practised by them when they conquered what was then called the *New World*, cast such an indelible stain on that period of their annals, as *time* can never obliterate.

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