

## Part First.

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### CHAPTER I.

AN ATALANTIS.—PORTUGAL.—COLUMBUS.—SPAIN.—SUCCESSFUL VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS.—SUBSEQUENT HUMILIATIONS, DEATH AND BURIAL.—MISTAKES OF THE AGE.—SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE CONQUESTS.—DISCOVERIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FRENCH.—CARTIER'S EXPEDITIONS.—ABANDONMENT OF CANADA.—DEATH OF THE FRENCH KING.

THERE is evidence that before the discovery of the New World by Columbus, the ancients and early navigators suspected the existence of land intervening between the western coast of Spain and the rich eastern country with which the civilized nations of Europe then held commercial intercourse; but they could have had no properly conceived ideas of its location, size or importance. The traditions of the Egyptians, Carthagenians, and some of the nations of northern Europe, all point to the fact that a numerous and powerful people inhabited a vast island to the