

NOTE

TO

THE FOURTH EDITION.

THIS work, which has now passed to a Fourth edition, has been recently revised by Mr. LESTER, and it goes out with new claims to the confidence of the Public. The circumstances under which it first appeared, prevented it for some time from getting into general circulation. Nothing else could even temporarily have kept the book from wide popularity—for it contained within itself the most essential elements of success.

In "The Life and Voyages of Americus Vesputius," are given to us, for the first time in the English Language, the original writings of Vesputius himself. Here a signal service was rendered to History, and to American Literature. It seems hardly credible that those Journals of the Great Navigator should have so long escaped the notice of American Scholars. No little attention had been bestowed upon Columbus, and various biographies and records of that extraordinary man had appeared