

Dying he left two Sons behind him, of which the youngest called *Ferdinand* died unmarried, the elder called *Diego*, succeeded his Father in the Admiralty of the *Indies*, and the Dukedom of *Vega*, and in his last will spent the greatest part of his Estate in founding the Library at *Sevil*, spoken of before, which he furnished with 12000 Volumes, and endowed with a liberal revenue to maintain the same. But though his Name be extinct, yet his Fame shall live, renowned to all posterities, as the first discoverer of this new world, and consequently the greatest and most fortunate advancer of the *Spanish* Monarchy, though in his lifetime so maligned by most part of the *Spaniards*, that *Bobadilla* being sent into those parts for redress of grievances, loaded him with Irons, and returned him prisoner into *Spain*. Nor did they onely stick after his death, to deprive him of the honour of this *Discovery* (attributing it to I know not what *Spaniard*, whose Cards and Descriptions he had seen) but in his life would often say that it was a matter of no such difficulty to have found these Countreys: and that if he had not done it when he did, some body else might have done it for him. Whose peevishness he confuted by this modest artifice, desiring some of them, who insolently enough had contended with him touching this *Discovery*, to make an Egg stand firmly upon one of its ends. Which when they could not do upon many Trials, he gently bruizing one end of it, made it stand upright: letting them see without any further reprehension, how easie it was to do that thing which they see another do before us.

But to proceed, *Columbus* having thus led the way, was seconded by *Americus Vesputius*, an adventurous *Florentine*, employed therein by *Emmanuel* King of *Portugal*, An. 1501. on a design of finding out a nearer way to the *Moluccas*, than by the *Cape of good Hope*, who though he passed not further than the *Cape of St. Augustines* in *Brasil*, without so much as having a sight of the great River *de la Plata*, which washeth the South-Parts of that Countrey; yet from him (to the great injury and neglect of the first Discoverer) the *Continent*, or main Land of this Countrey, hath the name of *America*: by which still known, and most commonly called. To him succeeded *John Cabot*, a *Venetian*, the Father of *Sebastian Cabot*, in behalf of *Henry* the seventh of *England*: who discovered all the North-East Coasts hereof, from the *Cape of Florida* in the South, to *New-found land*, and *Terra de Labrador* in the North, causing the *American* Royalties to turn Homagers to that King and the Crown of *England*. Followed herein by divers private Adventurers and undertakers, out of all parts of *Europe*, bordering on the Ocean. *Ferdinand Magellanus* was the first that compassed the whole world, and found the South passage, called *Fremum Magellanicum* to this day: followed herein by *Drake*, and *Cavendish*, of *England*. *Frobisher*, and *Darvis* attempted a *Discovery* of the North-west passage; *Willoughby* and *Burroughs* of the North-east. So that according to that elegant saying of the Learned *Verulam*, in his Advancement of learning, this great building the world, had never thorough lights made in it till these our dayes: by which as almost all parts of Learning, so in especial this of Navigation, and by consequence of *Cosmography* also, hath obtained an incredible proficiency in these later times.

For in the Infancy and first Ages of the world, (pardon me I beseech you this short, but not unprofitable digression) men lived at home, neither intent upon any Foreign Merchandise, nor inquisitive after the lives and Fortunes of their Neighbours: or in the language of the Poet,

*Nondum caesa suis peregrinum ut viseret Orbem,
Montibus, in liquidas Pinus descenderat undas.*

*The Pine left not the Hills on which it stood,
To seek strange Lands, or rove upon the Flood.*

But when the Providence of God had instructed *Noah* how to build the Ark, for the preservation of himself and his children from the general Deluge: the Posterity, which descended from him, had thereby a pattern for the making of Ships and other Vessels (perfected in more length of time) whereby to make the waters passable, and maintain a necessary intercourse betwixt Nation and Nation. 'Tis true, the Heathen Writers which knew not *Noah*, attribute the invention of shipping to sundry men, according to such informations or traditions, as they had received: *Strabo*, to *Minos* King of *Crete*; *Diodorus Siculus*, to *Neptune*, who was therefore called the God of the Seas; and *Tibullus*, to the people of *Tyre*, a Town indeed of great wealth and traffick, and the most famous Empory of the elder times; saying

Prima ratem ventis credere dedit Tyrus.

*The Tyrians first the Art did finde
To make Ships travell with the winde.*

And questionlesse the *Tyrians*, and the rest of the *Phoenicians*, enjoying a large Sea-coast, and many safe and capacious Havens, being in these times most strong at Sea, and making by many fortunate Navigations into most parts of the then known World; might give the Poet some good colour for his affirmation. From the *Phoenicians*, the *Egyptians* (their next neighbours) might derive the Art of Navigation; though being an ingenious people, they did add much to it. For whereas the first Vessels were either made of the body of some great Tree, made hollow by the Art of man; or else of divers boards fashioned into a Boat, and covered with the skins of Beast; (such as are still in use amongst these *Americians*;) the *Phenicians* brought them first into strength, and form; but the *Egyptians* added Decks

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