

RIEN COMPANY. The failure of this scheme, and the petty jealousy which prevented its not being restored, may be justly considered as one of the grossest oversights in national policy which ever was committed. Of the birth of this gentleman, nothing is known; that he was a man of talents is evinced from the project which he formed, and the acceptable manner in which it was received. It is to be presumed he had received a liberal education, as appears from the stile and subject of his writings, and from his having been bred to the Church. Having a strong propensity to visit foreign countries, he made his appointment to the ministry subservient to his wishes in this respect, and, under pretence of converting the Indians, he left his native country and set out for America. On his arrival here, he became acquainted with Captain Dampier and a Mr. Wafer, both known to the public, the first as the publisher of his voyages, and the other of his travels in those regions where the separation between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans is the narrowest. In addition to the information he obtained from these gentlemen, he reaped much valuable knowledge of the country from the accounts he received from the untutored Indians in his intercourse with them; and it was to these last he was chiefly indebted for that knowledge of the country which enabled him to lay the foundation of enterprizes, and arrange plans for their accomplishment, which, if they had been effected, would have produced consequences of the greatest magnitude and importance to mankind in both hemispheres. He likewise drew part of his information from some of the old Buccaneers, with whom he became acquainted, who, after surviving their glories and their crimes, still, in the extremity of age and misfortune, recounted with transport the case with which they had passed and repassed, from one sea to the other, sometimes in hundreds together, and driving strings of mules before them, loaded with the plunder of friends and foes. Patterson, in addition to this mass of intelligence, examined the isthmus, and found it in possession of a tribe of Indians, who had hitherto maintained it by continual warfare against the Spaniards; and that it was not only the proper place for opening a communication between the seas, as being possessed by no European country, but was moreover better adapted for this by nature than any other spot in the Western Continent which had hitherto been discovered. "Gold was seen by him in some places of this isthmus, but this was an object he regarded not at the time, because far greater was in his eye the removing of distances, the drawing nations nearer to each other, the preservation of the valuable lives of seamen, and the saving of freight, so important to merchants, and of time, so important to them, and to an animal whose life is of so short duration as that of man." Having thus ascertained the practicability of effecting it, he formed the project of settling a great and powerful colony on this hitherto neglected spot; and that not by chance, as other colonies have been formed, but upon a regular system, and under the ample protection of whatever government should accept of the project. Every political and physical circumstance conspired to give a promise of easy accomplishment to his plan. The territory required could have been easily obtained from the Indians, who were ready to join with any