

V E R

in the world for trade, it being the natural center of the American treasure, and the magazine of all the merchandise sent from New Spain, or of that transported hither from Europe. It receives a prodigious quantity of East-India goods over land from Acapulco, being brought hither from the Philippine-isles. Upon the annual arrival of the Flota here from Old Spain, a fair is opened, which lasts many weeks, when this place may be said to be immensely rich. Its situation is unhealthy, from the rank bogs around it, and the barrenness of the soil. Vera Cruz having been taken and plundered several times by the Buccaneers, the Spaniards have built forts, and placed centinels along the coast, their ordinary garrison consisting only of 60 horse and two companies of foot. At the old town, 15 or 16 miles further west, Cortez landed on Good Friday 1518, when being determined to conquer Mexico or die, he sunk the ships that transported his handful of men hither. La Vera Cruz stands 215 miles south-east of the city of Mexico. Lat. 18. 41. N. long. 102. 15. W.

VERAGUA, by Ulloa made a province of Terra Firma, in South America, but others have it as a province of Guatemala and New Spain, in North America; joining on the west to Costa Rica; on the east to Panama; with the North sea on the north; and the South sea on the south. The coast was first discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1303, to whom it was granted, with the title of Duke, and his posterity still enjoy it. This province is very mountainous, woody, and barren; but has inexhaustible mines of silver, and some of gold, the dust