

O F E S T O T I L A N D.



ESTOTILAND, as under that name we comprehend those Regions of *Mexicana*, which lie most towards the North, and East; hath on the East, the main Ocean: on the South, *Canada*, or *Nova Francia*; on the West, some unknown Tract not yet discovered: and on the North, a Bay, or Inlet of the Sea, called *Hudsons Straits*, and called so from *Henry Hudson* an *Englishman*; who by this way endeavoured to finde out a more commodious and quick passage to *Cathay* and *China*, than had been formerly discovered. It comprehends.

1. *Esotiland* specially so called. 2. *Terra Cortrealis*. 3. *New-found-land*, and 4. the Isles of *Bacalos*.

1. And first *Esotiland*, specially so called, is the most Northern Region on the East-side of *America*, lying betwixt *Hudsons Straits* on the North, and *Terra Cortrealis*, on the South. The soyl sufficiently enriched with natural endowments, said to have in it Mines of Gold and other Metals; but I doubt it lieth too much North for Gold, whatsoever it may do for Brasse and Iron. The people rude and void of goodnesse; naked, notwithstanding the extreame cold of the Countrey; not having either the wit, or the care to cover their bodies with the skins of those Beasts, which they kill by hunting; though their belies teach them to keep life by the flesh thereof, Said by the first Discoverers to sow Corn, to make Beer, or Ale, and to have many Barks of their own with which they traded into *Green-land*; as also to have many Cities and Castles, some Temples consecrate to their Idols, where they first sacrificed men, and after eat them. The Language which they spake, expressed in Characters of their own; but some knowledge of the *Latine* tongue there had been amongst them, and *Latine* books in the Library of one of their Kings, understood by few.

Such were the Reports made of this Countrey by the first Discoverers, who were certain Fishermen of *Freezland*, cast by a Tempest on this Coast about the year 1350. Six of them only got on Land, where all died save one: who after a long wandering from one Princes Court to another, found means to return into his own Countrey: the King whereof called *Zichumi*, being a great Adventurer in the seats of Arms, prepared for the further Discovery and Conquest of it. Animated thereunto by the opportune coming of *Nicolo* and *Antonio Zeni*, two noble Gentlemen of *Venice*; who desiring to see the fashions of the World, furnished a ship at their own charges, and passing the Straits of *Gibraltar* held their course northward, with an intent to see *England* and *Flanders*. But driven by tempest on this island, *An. 1380.* they were kindly welcomed by the King, then newly prosperous in a War against those of *Norway*: who liked *Nicolo* so well, that he gave him a command in his Navie, and under his good conduct wooon many Ilands, discovered *Green-land*, and provided for the conquest of *Esotiland* also. But *Nicolo* in the mean time dying, the business was pursued by his brother *Antonio*, the King in person making one in the undertaking: who liked the Countrey so well, being once possessed of it, that he built a Citie in it; and there determining to spend the rest of his dayes, sent back *Antonio* unto *Freezland*, with the most of his people.

This is the substance of the story of the first Discovery, published long since by one *Francisco Marcellino*, out of the Letters of the *Zeni*: which had they been considered of as they might have been, we had not so long wanted the acquaintance of this part of the World. But whether it were that their reports were esteemed as fabulous by the States of *Europe*, or that the time was not yet ripe for this great Discovery; there was nothing done in pursuance of it: *Zichumi* never going back to his own Countrey, and *Freezland* not long after conquered by the Kings of *Norway*. So that the knowledge of it was quite lost again, till these later dayes. Said in the Letters of the *Zeni*, to be well stored with Fowl, and the Eggs of Birds, which they found there for their refreshing: the Haven where they landed, to be called *Cape Trin*; the people to be of small Stature, fearfull, and to hide themselves in Caves, at the sight of the *Freezlanders*: that there was a Mountain alwayes burning, or casting smoke; together with a certain Spring, whence issued a water as black as Pitch; but no such Cities, Forts, and Temples, as the Fishermen spake of. The Countrey West from *Freezland* 1000 miles.

To give you the face of it as it stands at the present, it is said to be well cultivated, fruitfull of all necessaries for the life of man, and rich in metals, but extreame cold: watered with four Rivers, which rising out of an high Mountain in the midst of the Countrey, disperse themselves over all parts of it. The people said to be more ingenious, of better judgements, and more skilled in most Mechanick Arts, than the rest of the *Americans* were at the first Discovery; which argueth some more civil people to have been formerly amongst them. Their Garments of the skins of beasts, or Sea-Calves: with which also they covered the out-side of their Boats, to keep out the water, and make them able to endure the Sea. What Towns they have, and whether the name of *Cape Trin* be still remaining, I am not able to discover; this Countrey lying still for the most part hidden in a Northern Mist. All we can say, is, that some *English* names have been imposed of late, on some Capes and Promontories, lying on the Northern shores hereof towards *Hudsons Straits*, by *Hudson* and such others of the *English* Nation who pursued that enterprise. Of which sort are *Prince Henrys Foreland*, towards the East, almost at the entries of those Straits; and then proceeding towards the West, *Cape Charles*, *Kings Foreland*, and last of all *Cape Walschenham*, at the end thereof, where these Straits open into a large and capacious Bay, called *Hudsons Bay*. But of these more particularly in another place; where we endeavour the Discovery of such parts of the world as are yet unknown, and so within the compasse of a *Terra incognita*.