

Alaska to the most eastern point of Labrador, or even of Greenland, which would add more than a third part to the estimate. In British miles the length of America may be estimated at 8800; and supposing the breadth of North America 3840 g. miles, it will, in British miles, be about 4400.

The first discovery of America is generally ascribed to Christoval Colon, or as commonly called, from the first Latin writings on the subject, Christopher Columbus. But as it is now universally admitted that Greenland forms a part of America, the discovery must of course be traced to the first visitation of Greenland by the Norwegians, in the year 982; which was followed in the year 1003 by the discovery of Vinland, which seems to have been a part of Labrador, or of Newfoundland. The colony in Vinland was soon destroyed by intestine divisions; but that in Greenland continued to flourish till maritime intercourse was impeded by the encroaching shoals of arctic ice. Though the first European colony in America were thus lost, the Danes asserted their right by settlements on the western coast, called New Greenland, to distinguish it from the original colony on the eastern shores, or what is called old Greenland.*

Greenland continued to be well known; and as many English vessels sailed to Iceland in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, it is probable that this part of America was not wholly unvisited by them. If the voyage of Nicola Zeno, 1380, be not imaginary, he would also appear to have visited Vinland, but can have added nothing to the Norwegian discoveries.

A work not long since published at Venice, pretends to shew that the West Indies were known before the first voyage of Colon.' This po-

* In 1773 there was published at Boston in New England, a curious pamphlet by Mr. Mather, intitled "America known to the Ancients." The author mentions the ridiculous Welch tale of Madoc 1170, and the voyage of the Zeni in the fourteenth century. To the noted prophecy of Seneca he adds a passage of Nela relative to some Indians driven on the coast of Germany, who were probably Laplanders. The Atlantis of Plato forms another equally cogent argument: and the remainder of the pamphlet is occupied with extraneous matter.

Mr. Mather might have added the Spanish fable, that, A. D. 734, after Spain had been conquered by the Moors, the archbishop of Porto, six bishops, and a number of Christians, fled to the Isle of *Antilla*, also called *Septi Riadi*. See Mr. Murr's Dissertation on the globe of Behaim.

† Saggio sulla nautica antica dei Veneziani; di Vincenzo Formaleoni. Ven. 1783, 8vo.