

C O N T E N T S.

dies by holding a westerly course—his system founded on the ideas of the ancients, and knowledge of their navigation—and on the discoveries of the Portuguese—His negotiations with different courts—Obstacles which he had to surmount in Spain—Voyage of discovery—difficulties—success—return to Spain—Astonishment of mankind on this discovery of a New World—Papal grant of it—Second voyage—Colony settled—Farther discoveries—War with the Indians—First tax imposed on them—Third voyage—He discovers the continent—State of the Spanish colony—Errors in first system of colonizing—Voyage of the Portuguese to the East Indies by Cape of Good Hope—Effects of this—Discoveries made by private adventurers in the New World—Name of America given to it—Machinations against Columbus—Disgraced and sent in chains to Europe—Fourth voyage of Columbus—His discoveries—distasters—death.

B O O K III.

State of the colony in Hispaniola—New war with the Indians—Cruelty of the Spaniards—Fatal regulations concerning the condition of the Indians—Diminution of that people—Discoveries and settlements—First colony planted on the continent—Conquest of Cuba—Discovery of Florida—of the South Sea—Great expectations raised by this—Causes of disappointment with respect to these for some time—Controversy concerning the treatment of the Indians—Contrary decisions—Zeal of the ecclesiastics, particularly of Las Casas—Singular proceedings of Ximenes—Negroes imported into America—Las Casas's idea of a new colony—permitted to attempt it—unsuccessful—Discoveries towards the West—Yucatan—Campeachy—New Spain—Preparations for invading it.