

therefore possibly never extant but in some mens fancies. *5ly.* That *Aristotle* in the book de *Mundo* (it that book be his) speaks of an Island very fruitfull, and full of navigable Rivers; discovered by the *Carthaginians*, and by them forbidden to be planted upon pain of death. Which Island being affirmed by that Author, to be *Multorum dierum itinere à Gradibus remota*, hath made some men conceive it to be this *America*, or some of the great Islands of it. As if it might not be as well one of the *Azores*, or perhaps *Aladera*; or some other of the Islands in the Road of *Hannor* voyage. Certain I am, that one of the best friends the *Phœnicians* have, who would not gladly lose such an opportunity of enabling their performances in *Navigation*, (could any thing be built upon it) doth wave the whole Relation as of doubtfull credit; and knoweth of no such place as is there described by that Author, whosoever he were. *5ly.* Some have produced these Verses of *Seneca*, to inferre a knowledge of this Country amongst the ancients, viz.

*Veniens annis secula feris,
Quibus Oceanus vincula rerum
Laxat, & ingens patet tellus,
Novæque Typhus detegat Urbes,
Nec sit Terræ ultima Thule*

Which may be *Englished* in these words:

*In the last dayes an age shall come,
Wherein the all-devouring Foe
Shall lose its former bounds, and strew
Another Continent to view.
New-worlds, which Night doth now conceal,
A second Typhis shall reveal;
And frozen Thule shall no more
Be of the Earth the furthest Shore.*

But this Argument can bring no necessary, nor so much as a probable inference, of any such Continent as this, then known to *Seneca*: the Poet in that *Chorus* shewing as well the continual dangers, as the possible effects of Navigation; that there might be, not that there were more Lands discovered, than those formerly known. *6ly.* Some hold this Country to be the Land of *Ophir*, to which *Solomon* is said in the holy Scriptures to have sent for Gold. But *Ezion-Giber*, which is there also said to be the station where his Navy lay, was situate in the bottom of the *Red-Sea*, or Bay of *Arabia*: whereas if he had sent this way, his shipping must have lain at *Joppa*, or some other Port of the *Mediterranean*, and from thence set forwards through the Straits of *Gibraltar*, and so plainly Westward. *7ly.* Finally, in the History of *Wales* writ by *David Powel*, it is reported that *Madoc* the son of *Owen Gwinedd* Prince of *Wales*, of purpose to decline engaging in a Civil war raised in that Estate, in the year 1170, put himself to Sea; and after a long course of Navigation, came into this Country: where after he had left his men, and fortified some places of advantage in it, he returned home for more supplies, which he carried with him in ten Barks; but neither he nor they looked after by the rest of that Nation. To which some add, that here is still some smattering of the *Welsh*, or *British* tongue, to be found amongst them; as that a Bird with a white head is called *Penguin*, and the like; in which regard, some sorry Statesmen went about to entitle Queen *Elizabeth* unto the Sovereignty of these Countreys; Others more wise, dissuaded from that vain Ambition, considering that *Welsh-men*, as well as others, might be call upon those parts by force of Tempest; and easily implant some few words of their own among the people there inhabiting. And though I needs must say for the honour of *Wales*, that they have more grounds for what they say, than those which look for this new World in the *Atlantis* of *Plato*, the *Atlantick* Islands of *Aristotle* and *Plutarch*, or the Discoveries of *Hanno* the *Carthaginian*: yet am I not so far convinced of the truth thereof, the use of the Mariners *Compass* being not so ancient (without which such a voyage could not be performed;) but that I may conclude with more satisfaction, that this Country was unknown to the former ages.

But now, as *Mela* the Geographer said once of *Britain*, then newly conquered by the *Romans*; *Britannia qualis sit, qualesque progenet, mox certiora & magis explorata dicuntur; quippe jam diu clausam aperit ecce Principum maximus* (he means *Claudius Cæsar*) *nec indomitarum modo sed & incognitarum ante se Gentium Vitor*: so may we say of *America*, on these late discoveries. What kinde of Country it is, and what men it produceth, we do, and shall know more certainly than in former time: since those puissant Kings of *Spain* have laid open all the parts thereof, inhabited not only by unvanquished, but even unknown Nations. For God remembering the promise of his Son, that his Gospel before the end of the World should be preached to all Nations; stirred up one *Christopher Colon*, or *Columbus*, born at *Verrey*, in the Signeury of *Genoa*, to be the instrument for finding out those parts of the World, to which the sound of the Gospel had not yet arrived. Who being a man of great abilities, and born to undertake great matters, could not persuade himself (the motion of the Sun considered;) but that there was another World to which that glorious Planet did impart both his light and heat, when he went from us. This World he purposed to seek after, and opening his Design to the State of *Genoa*, An. 1486. was by them rejected. On this repulse, he sent his brother *Bartholomew* to King *Henry* the seventh of *England*; who in his way hapned unfortunately into the hands of Pirates, by whom detained a long while, but