

This discovery was similar to the *Fabula Hieca*, the bass relief stucco, found in the ruins of the Via Appia, at Fratachio, in Spain, belonging to the Princess of Colona, which represented all the principal scenes in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

From this it is quite clear, says the editor of the Cabinet of Instruction and Literature, from which we have extracted this account, vol. 3, page 99, that the discovery of this monumental altar is proof that a cotemporary of Aristotle, one of the Greek philosophers, has dug up the soil of Brazil and La Plata, in South America.

It is conjectured that this Ptolemaios, mentioned on the stone, was the commander of Alexander's fleet, which is supposed to have been overtaken by a storm at sea, in the great ocean, (the Atlantic,) as the ancients called it, and were driven on to the coast of Brazil, or the South American coast, where they doubtless erected the above mentioned monument, to preserve the memory of the voyage to so distant a country ;" and that it might not be lost to the world, if any in after ages might chance to find it, as at last it was permitted to be in the progress of events.

The above conjecture, however, that Ptolemaios, a name found engraved on the stone slab which covered the mason work as before mentioned, was one of Alexander's *admirals*, is not well founded, as there is no mention of such an admiral in the employ of that emperor, found on the page of the history of those times.

But the names of Nearchus and Onesicritus, are mentioned as being admirals of the fleets of Alexander the Great ; and the name of Pytheas, who lived at the same time, is mentioned as being a Greek philosopher, geographer, and astronomer, as well as a voyager, if not an admiral, as he made several voyages into the great Atlantic ocean ; which are mentioned by Eratosthenes, a Greek philosopher, mathematician and historian, who flourished two hundred years before Christ.

Strabo, a celebrated geographer and voyager, who lived about the time of the commencement of the Christian era, speaks of the voyages of Pytheas, by way of admission ; and says that his knowledge of Spain, Gaul, Germany, and Britain, and all the countries of the north of Europe, was extremely limited. He had indeed voyaged along the coasts of those countries, but had obtained but an indistinct knowledge of their relative situations.