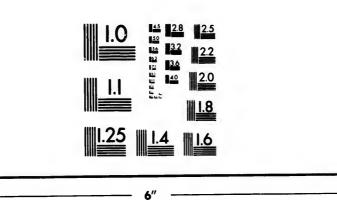


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SPANISH PRETENSIONS

FAIRLY DISCUSSED,

by Dalrymple.

Nequid falsi audeo dicere.

CICERO.

LONDON,

Printed by GEORGE BIGG, 1790, And Sold by P. ELMSLY, Strand; J. SEWELL Cornbill; and J. STOCKDALE, Piccadilly.

73 151 s

To the KING!

SOVEREIGN!

Ever zealous for the Honour and Welfare of my Country, I approach Your Majesty with This Discussion of The Spanish Pretensions.

That my Sovereign may long reign in the Hearts of a Free and HAPPY PEOPLE, is the fincere wish of

Your MAJESTY'S

Faithful Subject

11th May, 1790.

Dalrymple.



PREFACE.

No Man more devoutly wishes, that PEACE may spread forth her Olive Branch, in every Region of The Earth: and my individual Experience of the Liberality and Generofity of The Spaniards, convinces me, that the Good - Faith and Honour of the Spanish Nation, will incline them, on conviction, to make full fatisfaction, for the Indignity that has been offered to the Flag of Great Britain; and ample recompence for the Losses that Her Subjects have fustained. - But if the King of Spain, misled by Evil Counsellors, should persist in wrong! It must be remembered, that The ALMIGHTY hardened the Heart of Pharoah, to bring forth Israel FREE with a strong hand and an outstretched arm!

Inheriting

Inheriting, as I do, from illustrious ancestors,

Mens inimica Tyrannis,

I shall not despair, before the conclusion of the present Century, not only to see the Natives of Old Spain in full enjoyment of all their ancient rights! but to find the Standard of Freedom displayed, in every quarter of the New World!

redeunt Saturnia regna,

When Universal Commerce shall invigorate the hand of Industry, by supplying the mutual Wants, and maintaining the Common-Rights of ALL MARKIND; instead of the Lives and Property of the People being sported away; at the caprice of a Fool! or a Tyrant!



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imple.

HE fundamental Principles of the Law of Nations, are Justice and common Interest: In former times, when Ignorance prevailed, and narrow prejudices, ever consequent to Ignorance, the Law of Nations was not extended to Insidels or Pagans; who were then considered, by Christians, as free Objects of Injury and Oppression; but, in these enlightened Times, The Catholic King has no hesitation in concluding Treaties with Mahometans, with whom, by the absurd Oaths of ancient Bigotry, He was engaged to perpetual Warfare.

How far the Right of Discovery, without occupancy, can be construed to extend over uninkabited Countries, I shall not at present enquire; but Common Sense must evince that Europeans, visiting Countries already inhabited, can acquire no right in such Countries

Countries but from the good will of the Friendly Inhabitants, or by Conquest of Those who are Agressors in Asts of Injury: nor can the right of Conquest be justly extended, when Acts of Injury, in the Natives, can be construed to proceed from fear of the Strangers, or from mistake: In either case, Both Parties being equally culpable, though no criminality in Either; the European in not sufficiently explaining his peaceable intentions, and the Native in not radily apprehending those intentions.

The Spanish Claims are of Two Kinds:

—Of all the Magallanic Regions, and of all Parts on the NW Side of America.

In Disputes concerning Geographical Limits, The proper Authorities to consult are Geographers; for although a Map may not be considered as conclusive, it must be admitted as presumptive, testimony of a fact; especially

especially the Evidence of foreign Maps, wherein no obvious Interest, or Passion, can be supposed to deviate the Geographer from the Truth.

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The Spaniards have not even the pretence of first Discovery to the Magallanic Regions; for Magallan first came upon this Coast in 1520, and the Map of the discovered parts of the New World, in the Rome Edition of Ptolemy 1508, expressly says, Portuguese had then traced the Coast to 50? South without reaching Its Southern Extremity; and this Book, coming into the World with the Licence of Pope Julius II., under date 28th July 1506, must be admitted, by His Catholic Majesty, as infallible Authority: Herrera, the Spanish Historian,* acknowledges, that the Extremity of Terra del Fuego had been discovered, by the English, to

^{*} Descripcion de las Indias, P. 77, Edit. 1601.

to be Islands in an open Sea: This Discovery of Sir Francis Drake, 1578, is clearly marked in a Map of the World, by I. le Clerc, 1602, engraved by I. Hondius; long before the Voyage of Le Maire and Schouten round Cape Horn. The late Spanish Voyage, to the Strait of Magallan, has indeed alledged, that this Discovery was made by the Spaniards in 1526; One of Loysa's Squadron, without the Strait, having been carried by a strong wind as far South as 55° South Latitude, on rejoining their conforts, faid "That there appeared to be " the end of the Land." Admitting this Affertion without limitation, it must be obvious, it can have no relation to the Southern Extremity, which Drake called Queen Elizabeth's Island, and which is commonly known by the appellation of Cape Horn, because Cape Horn is in 55? 58' South Latitude, and therefore had the Spaniards gone down the East Coast of Terra del Fuego

as far as 55. South Latitude, they could not have seen the Land terminate there: In all probability the Spaniards were off the Eastern part of Staten Land, where, in Latitude 55. South, the Land would seem to terminate; or, if they had passed (which is not probable) through Strait Le Maire, the Land, of Terra del Fuego, adjacent to Successible, would have had the same appearance, though it was not actually the Extremity.

The only Discovery then, which the Spaniards can claim here, is the Discovery of the Strait of Magallan, the Portuguese having discovered the East Coast of Patagonia, long before Magallan's Voyage, and the English, having compleated the Discovery! consequently, as much exclusive right to That Navigation, must belong to the English, as the Spaniards can pretend to, from their having gone beyond the Portuguese; but a Pretension of the English to

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Spaniards del Fuego an exclusive Right of navigating on the South of Cape Horn, could They be so absurd to make it! would be laughed at, by all The World, as too ridiculous to merit serious attention.

It appears that the Spaniards fettled, in 1740, a Line of Limit with the Indians of Patagonia, whereby they renounced every pretention beyond that Limit, which was a little to the Southward of Buenos Ayres.

Having, I conceive, fully refuted every Claim, the Spaniards can alledge to an exclusive possession of the Magallanic Regions; Their pretensions on the North are now to be considered.

How far the Spaniards, before Sir Francis
Drake, in 1579, had gone on the West
Ccast of America? may be difficult exactly
to ascertain, because the Arcano del Mare,
published

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published at Florence in 1661, says, that some Maps had mifrepresented Cape Mendocino to be in 50° North Latitude, which the Spanish Pilots and Sir Francis Drake concurred in placing in the Latitude of 40° North; and therefore a question may arise, whether the Spaniards ever reached the Latitude of 44? North? beyond which, it does not appear, from Herrera, they had pretended ever to have navigated. Abraham Ortelius, the King of Spain's Geographer, in the Map of America 1574, declares these Regions to be unknown; the last Place, marked in this Map, is Tuchano in Quivira about 45. North Latitude. But Quivira was a Land Discovery, and consequently ill-determined. Sir Francis Drake discovered this Coast in 1579* to the Latitude of 48° North, at least, and not only the Arcano del Mare, and Le Clerc's

^{*} World Encompassed, 4º Edit. 1628, P. 64. Ortelius in his later Maps carries Cape Mendocino above 50º North, but the Modern Spanish Chart has brought it back into 40º North.

Clere's Map 1602, but almost all Maps, particularly the Maps of the French Geographers, M. De Liste 1700, and M. Robert de Vaugondy 1750, name this part New Albion, from Sir Francis Drake's Discovery. But Discovery without occupancy does not merit much attention, whether the Discoverers were English or Spaniards: Nor is even the honour of Discovery due from the Publick, where the Voyages have been kept secret; for Latent Surveys, do not merit the name of Discovery! which, by the very word, implies Notoriety! Whereas what is not communicated to the World at large, for Publick Benefit, ought rather to be an Object of condemnation than of honour and advantage.

From the time of Sir Francis Drake, no circumstantial and authentic documents, have been laid before the Publick, of Voyages on this Coast, till that of the Spaniards in

in which they examined feveral Maps, Harbours in Latitude 55° to 58° North, but French they visited no part of the Coast, between o, and 48? North and 55? North Latitude, fo that this part the first Publick and Authentic Description discovery. of Nootka, or King George's Sound, in ot merit 40° 1 North Latitude, and the parts adjacent, ers were was given to The World in Captain Cook's ven the Publick. last Voyage 1778. cret; for name of implies

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I have not mentioned the Discoveries, attributed to John de Fuca in 1592, nor Those, to Bartholomew De Fonta 1640, because they are disclaimed by the Spaniards, and the reality of fuch Voyages possitively denied: So that if true (as I am disposed to think they are, however vaguely and impersectly recited)

They

^{*} Noticia de California, dedicated to the King of Spain, and published with the approbation of the Council of the Indies, and with all formal Licences, Madrid, 4° 1757, Vol. 3, P. 436.

They must be considered as Discoveries, outcast and abandoned by Spain! and are, by adoption, become English, in which Language only (or in translations from It) They have been communicated to The World, and in Communication alone! the true Right of Discovery must be grounded.

Amongst Nations, ignorant of Letters and the Diplomatic Rules of Europe, Treaties of Amity cannot be executed according to European Forms; but the Natural and Expressive Form, is by exchange of Names; and, in this manner, The English have the strongest Alliances, with the Natives in that part of The World.

Dalrymple.

P. S.

P. S.

The Renunciation of the Spaniards to the Discoveries of De Fonta, &c. are so strong in the last page of the Noticia de California, that I cannot omit an Extract: The Author, after a long differtation to prove De Fonta's Discoveries to be spurious, and declaring that he was not at all interested whether they were true or not, concludes,

- " Solo sì me creo obligado por quantas
- " razones honestas pueden concurrir en mi,
- " à decir, y publicar los fundamentos, que
- " prueban, que hay poco que fiar de
- " femejante Relacion, y descubrimientos.
- "Y bien? Segun esto, (dira alguno) què
- "Mares, què Costas, què Rios, Lagos,
- " Provincias, Naciones, y gentes se hallan
- " en la America Septentrional, desde el
- " ultimo termino de la California, Cabo Blanco,

C "Rio

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P. S.

- "Rio de Martin de Aguilar, Rio Colorado,
- " Moqui, y Nuevo-Mexico hasta el Norte,
- " por espacio de cinquenta grados? Es
- " decir en todo el grande espacio de America,
- " que en nuestro Mapa encerramos con
- " una linea de puntos? A excepcion de
- " lo que fe ha averiguado por el lado de
- " nuestro Mar Atlantico, y de lo poco,
- " que nos han certificado las Navegaciones
- " Russianas por el lado del Mar del Sùr,
- " respondo facilmente en una palabra, la
- " qual, si para otros es de mucho rubor,
- " à mì no me cuesta dificultad; y
- " creo, que tampoco la debe costar à
- " ningun hombre de bien. Ignoro. Nescio.
- " Yo no lo sè."

TRANSLATION.

To the question, "What Seas, what

- " Coasts, what Rivers, Lakes, Provinces,
- "Nations, and People are there in North "America,

Colorado,
Norte,
os? Es
America,
nos con
cion de
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lado de
poco,
gaciones
del Sùr,
ibra, la
rubor,
tad; y
coltar à

"America, from the farthest Extremity
"of California, &c. to the North, for a
"space of fifty degrees? i. e. in all the
"great space of America, which in our
"Map we enclose with a dotted line?
(beginning on the West Coast, about the
Latitude of 43? North) "except what is
"known on the side of our Atlantic Ocean,
"and the little which the Russian
"Navigations have ascertained to us on
"the side of the South Sea? I answer
"readily in one word, Ignoro. Nescio.
"I known not!"

FINIS.

what ovinces,

North merica,

Nescio.

