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THE

SPANISH PRETENSIONS

FAIRLY DISCUSSED,

by

Dalrymple.

Nequid falsi audeo dicere.

CICERO.

LONDON,

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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 sincere 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 Reality and Generosity of The Spanish, convinces me, that the Good - Faith and Honour of the Spanish Nation, will induce them, in conviction, to make full satisfaction, for the Indignity that has been offered to the Flag of Great Britain; and ample recompence for the Losses that Her Subjects have suffered. — But if the King of Spain, misled by Bad Counsellors, thinks proper to wage war, it must be remembered, that The ALMIGHTY hardened the Heart of Pharaoh, to bring forth great Evils, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm!

Ad-[illegible]

11th May, 1790.

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 Generoſity of The Spaniards, convinces me, that the Good-Faith and Honour of the Spaniſh Nation, will incline them, on conviction, to make full ſatisfaction, for the Indignity that has been offered to the Flag of Great Britain; and ample recompence for the Loſſes that Her Subjects have ſuſtained. — 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 MANKIND; inſtead of the *Lives* and *Property* of the PEOPLE being ſported away; at the caprice of a Fool! or a Tyrant!

Dalrymple.

7th May, 1790.

THE 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 *Infidels* 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 *uninhabited 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 Acts* 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 readily 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.

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, The 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 consorts, said "That there appeared to be "the end of the Land." Admitting this *Assertion* 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

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 *Succeſs Bay*, 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

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 settled, in 1740, a Line of Limit with the Indians of Patagonia, whereby they renounced every pretension 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 Coast of America? may be difficult exactly to ascertain, because the *Arcano del Mare*, published

published at *Florence* in 1661, says, that some Maps had misrepresented *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*

* [illegible] World Enc[illegible]ished, 4° Edit. 1628, P. 64. *Ortelius* in his later Maps carries *Cape Mendocino* above 50° North, but the Modern Spanish Chart has brought it back into 40° North.

Clerc's Map 1602, but almoſt *all Maps*, particularly the Maps of the French Geographers, M. *De Liſle* 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

1775, in which they examined ſeveral Harbours in Latitude 55° to 58° North, but they viſited no part of the Coaſt, between 48° North and 55° North Latitude, ſo that the firſt Publick and Authentic Deſcription of *Nootka*, or *King George's Sound*, in 49° ½ North Latitude, and the parts adjacent, was given to The World in Captain Cook's laſt Voyage 1778.

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 *ſuch Voyages* poſſitively *denied*: * So that *if true* (as I am diſpoſed to think they are, however vaguely and imperfectly 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 dissertation 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 si me creo obligado por quantas
" razones honestas pueden concurrir en mi,
" a decir, y publicar los fundamentos, que
" prueban, que hay poco que fiar de
" semejante 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*,

 " *Rio*

" *Rio de Martin de Aguilar, Rio Colorado,*
" *Moqui, y Nueve-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 se ha averiguado por el lado de
" nuestro Mar Atlantico, y de lo poco,
" que nos han certificado las Navegaciones
" Rusianas por el lado del Mar del Sùr,
" respondo facilmente en una palabra, la
" qual, si para otros es de mucho rubor,
" à mi 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,

"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 the Russian "Navigations have ascertained to us on "the side of the South Sea? I answer "readily in one word, *Ignoro*. *Nescio*. "I *know not!*"

FINIS.

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