

east to northwest, in a course of more than ten thousand geographical miles, by a singular chance, before he discovered the Marianas (his *Islas de los Ladrones*, or *de las Velas Latinas*) and the Philippines, saw no other land but two small uninhabited islands (the *Desventuradas*, or unfortunate islands), one of which, if we may believe his journal and his ship's reckoning, lies east of the Low Islands, and the other somewhat to the southwest of the Archipelago of Mendaña.\* Sebastian de Elcano completed the first circumnavigation of the earth in the *Victoria* after Magellan's murder on the island of Zebu, and obtained as his armorial bearings a globe, with the glorious inscription, *Primus circumdedisti me*. He entered the harbor of San Lucar in the month of September, 1522, and scarcely had a year elapsed before the Emperor Charles, stimulated by the suggestions of cosmographers, urged, in a letter to Hernan Cortez, the discovery of a passage "by which the distance to the spice lands would be shortened by two thirds." The expedition of Alvaro de Saavedra was dispatched to the Moluccas from a port of the province Zacatula, on the western coast of Mexico. Hernan Cortez writes in 1527 from the recently-conquered Mexican capital, Tenochtitlan, "to the Kings of Zebu and Tidor in the Asiatic island world." So rapidly did the sphere of cosmical views enlarge, and with it the animation of general intercourse!

Subsequently, the conqueror of New Spain himself entering upon a course of discoveries in the Pacific, proceeded from thence in search of a northeast passage. Men could not habituate themselves to the idea that the continent extended uninterruptedly from such high southern to such high north-

\* On the geographical position of the *Desventuradas* (San Pablo, S. lat.  $16\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , long.  $135\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  west of Paris; Isla de Tiburones, S. lat.  $10\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , W. long.  $145^{\circ}$ ), see my *Examen Crit.*, t. i., p. 286, and Navarrete, t. iv., p. lix., 52, 218, and 267. The great period of geographical discoveries gave occasion to many illustrious heraldic bearings, similar to the one mentioned in the text as bestowed on Sebastian de Elcano and his descendants (the terrestrial globe, with the inscription "Primus circumdedisti me"). The arms which were given to Columbus as early as May, 1493, to honor his person, "para sublimarlo," with posterity, contain the first map of America—a range of islands in front of a gulf (Oviedo, *Hist. General de las Indias*, ed. de 1547, lib. ii., cap. 7, fol. 10 a.; Navarrete, t. ii., p. 37; *Examen Crit.*, t. iv., p. 236). The Emperor Charles V. gave to Diego de Ordaz, who boasted of having ascended the volcano of Orizaba, the drawing of that conical mountain; and to the historian Oviedo (who lived in tropical America uninterruptedly for thirty-four years, from 1513 to 1547), the four beautiful stars of the Southern Cross, as armorial bearings. (Oviedo, lib. ii., cap. 11, fol. 16, b.)