

since this period, a new and more vigorous activity of the mind and feelings, animated by bold aspirations and hopes which can scarcely be frustrated, has gradually penetrated through all grades of civil society; that the scanty population of one half of the globe, especially in the portions opposite to Europe, has favored the settlements of colonies, which have been converted by their extent and position into independent states, enjoying unlimited power in the choice of their mode of free government; and, finally, that religious reform—the precursor of great political revolutions—could not fail to pass through the different phases of its development in a portion of the earth which had become the asylum of all forms of faith, and of the most different views regarding divine things. The daring enterprise of the Genoese seaman is the first link in the immeasurable chain of these momentous events. Accident, and not fraud and dissensions, deprived the continent of America of the name of Columbus.* The New World continuously

* I have shown elsewhere how a knowledge of the period at which Vespucci was named royal chief pilot alone refutes the accusation first brought against him by the astronomer Schoner, of Nuremberg, in 1533, of having artfully inserted the words "*Terra di Amerigo*" in charts which he altered. The high esteem which the Spanish court paid to the hydrographical and astronomical knowledge of Amerigo Vespucci is clearly manifested in the instructions (*Real titulo con extensas facultades*) which were given to him when he was appointed *piloto mayor* on the 22d of March, 1508. (Navarrete, t. iii., p. 297-302.) He was placed at the head of a true *Deposito hydrografico*, and was to prepare for the *Casade Contratacion* in Seville (the central point of all oceanic expedition) a general description of coasts and account of positions (*Padron general*), in which all new discoveries were to be annually entered. But even as early as 1507 the name of "*Americi terra*" had been proposed for the New Continent by a person whose existence even was undoubtedly unknown to Vespucci, the geographer Waldseemüller (Martinus Hylacomylus) of Freiburg, in the Breisgau (the director of a printing establishment at St. Dié in Lorraine), in a small work entitled *Cosmographiæ Introductio, insuper quatuor Americi Vespucci Navigationes* (impr. in oppido S. Deodati, 1507). Ringmann, professor of cosmography at Basle (better known under the name of Philesius), Hylacomylus, and Father Gregorius Reisch, who edited the *Margarita Philosophica*, were intimate friends. In the last-named work we find a treatise written in 1509 by Hylacomylus on architecture and perspective. (*Examen Crit.*, t. iv., p. 112.) Laurentius Phrisius of Metz, a friend of Hylacomylus, and, like him, patronized by Duke René of Lorraine, who maintained a correspondence with Vespucci, in the Strasburg edition of Ptolemy, 1522, speaks of Hylacomylus as deceased. In the map of the New Continent contained in this edition, and drawn by Hylacomylus, the name of America occurs for the first time in the editions of Ptolemy's *Geography*. According to my investigations, a map of the world by Petrus Apianus, which was once included in Cramer's edition of Solinus, and a second time in the Va-