

brought nearer to Europe during the last half century, by means of commercial intercourse and the improvement of nav-

dian edition of Mela, and represented, like more modern Chinese maps, the Isthmus of Panama broken through, had appeared two years earlier. (*Examen Crit.*, t. iv., p. 99-124; t. v., p. 168-176.) It is a great error to regard the map of 1527, obtained from the Ebner library at Nuremberg, now in Weimar, and the map of 1529 of Diego Ribero, which differs from the former, and is engraved by Gussfeldt, as the oldest maps of the New Continent (op. cit., t. ii., p. 184; t. iii., p. 191). Vespucci had visited the coasts of South America in the expedition of Alonso de Hojeda, a year after the third voyage of Columbus, in 1499, in company with Juan de la Cosa, whose map, drawn at Puerto de Santa Maria in 1500, fully six years before Columbus's death, was first made known by myself. Vespucci could not have had any motive for feigning a voyage in the year 1497, for he, as well as Columbus, was firmly persuaded, until his death, that only parts of Eastern Asia had been reached. (Compare the letter of Columbus, February, 1502, to Pope Alexander VII., and another, July, 1506, to Queen Isabella, in Navarrete, t. i., p. 304; t. ii., p. 280; and Vespucci's letter to Pierfrancesco de' Medici, in Bandini's *Vita e Lettere di Amerigo Vespucci*, p. 66 and 83.) Pedro de Ledesma, the pilot of Columbus on his third voyage, says, even in 1513, in the lawsuit against the heirs, "that Paria is regarded as a part of Asia, *la tierra firme que dicese que es de Asia*."—Navarrete, t. iii., p. 539. The frequent periphrases, *Mundo nouvo*, *alter Orbis*, *Colonus novil Orbis repertor*, are not at variance with this, as they only denote regions not before seen, and are so used by Strabo, Mela, Tertullian, Isidore of Seville, and Cadamosto. (*Examen Crit.*, t. i., p. 118; t. v., p. 182-184.) For more than twenty years after the death of Vespucci, which occurred in 1512, and until the calumnious charges of Schoner, in the *Opusculum Geographicum*, 1533, and of Servet, in the Lyons edition of Ptolemy's *Geography* of 1535, we find no complaint against the Florentine navigator. Christopher Columbus, a year before his death, calls him *mucho hombre de bien*, a man of worth, "worthy of all confidence," and "always inclined to render him service." (*Carta a mi muy caro fijo D. Diego*, in Navarrete, t. i., p. 351.) Fernando Colon expresses the same good will toward Vespucci. He wrote the life of his father in 1535, in Seville, four years before his death, and with Juan Vespucci, a nephew of Amerigo's, attended the astronomical junta of Badajoz, and the proceedings respecting the possession of the Moluccas. Similar feelings were entertained by Petrus Martyr de Anghiera, the personal friend of the admiral, whose correspondence goes down to 1525; by Oviedo, who seeks for every thing which can lessen the fame of Columbus; by Ramusio; and by the great historian Guicciardini. If Amerigo had intentionally falsified the dates of his voyage, he would have brought them into agreement with each other, and not have made the first voyage terminate five months after the second began. The confusion of dates in the many different translations of his voyages is not to be attributed to him, as he did not himself publish any of these accounts. Such confusions of figures were, besides, very frequently to be met with in writings printed in the sixteenth century. Oviedo had been present, as one of the queen's pages, at the audience at which Ferdinand and Isabella, in 1493, received Columbus with much pomp on his return from his first voyage of discovery. Oviedo has three times stated in print that this