

py the eastern shores of the Atlantic, the boundaries of which appear to be constantly brought nearer and nearer to one another.

blame are strangely mingled in it. We see that dislike and suspicion of fraud augmented in proportion as the fame of the Florentine navigator spread. In the preface (*Prolongo*) which was written first, Las Casas says, "Amerigo relates what he did in two voyages to our Indies, but he appears to have passed over many circumstances, whether designedly (*á saviendas*), or because he did not attend to them. This circumstance has led some to attribute to him that which is due to others, and which ought not to be taken from them." The judgment pronounced in the 1st book (chap. 140) is equally moderate: "Here I must speak of the injustice which Amerigo, or perhaps those who printed (*ó los que imprimieron*) the *Quatuor Navigationes*, appear to have committed toward the admiral. To Amerigo alone, without naming any other, the discovery of the continent is ascribed. He is also said to have placed the name of America in maps, thus sinfully failing toward the admiral. As Amerigo was learned, and had the power of writing eloquently (*era latino y eloquente*), he represented himself in the letter to King René as the leader of Hojeda's expedition; yet he was only one of the seamen, although experienced in seamanship and learned in cosmography (*hombre entendido en las cosas de la mar y docto en Cosmographia*). . . . In the world the belief prevails that he was the first to set foot on the main land. If he purposely gave currency to this belief, it was great wickedness; and if it was not done intentionally, it looks like it (*clara parece la falsedad: y si fué de industria hecha maldad grande fué; y ya que no lo fuese, al menos parezelo*). . . . Amerigo is represented as having sailed in the year 7 (1497): a statement that seems, indeed, to have been only an oversight in writing, and not an intentional false statement (*pareze aver avido yerro de pendola y no malicia*), because he is stated to have returned at the end of eighteen months. The foreign writers call the country America; it ought to be called Columba." This passage shows clearly that up to that time Las Casas had not accused Amerigo of having himself brought the name *America* into usage. He says, *an tomado los escriptores estrangeros de nombrar la nuestra Tierra firme America, como si Americo solo y no otro con él y antes que todos la oviera descubierto*. In lib. i., cap. 164-169, and in lib. ii., cap. 2, of the work, his hatred is fully expressed; nothing is now attributed to erroneous dates, or to the partiality of foreigners for Amerigo; all is intentional deceit, of which Amerigo himself is guilty (*de industria lo hizo . . . persisitó en el engaño . . . de falsedad está claramente convencido*). Bartholomé de las Casas takes pains, moreover, in two passages, to show especially that Amerigo, in his accounts, falsified the succession of the occurrences of his first two voyages, placing many things which belonged to the second voyage in the first, and *vice versa*. It seems very strange to me that the accuser does not appear to have felt how much the weight of his accusations is diminished by the circumstance that he himself speaks of the opposite opinion, and of the indifference of the person who would have been most interested in attacking Vespucci, if he had believed him guilty and hostilely disposed against his father and himself. "I can not but wonder," says Las Casas (cap. 164), "that Hernando Colon, a clear-sighted man, who, as I certainly know, had in his hands Amerigo's accounts of his travels, should not have remarked in them any deceit or injustice toward the admiral." As I had a fresh opportunity, a few months ago, of examining the