

(unknown project)

**A briefe description of the portes, creekes, bayes, and hauens, of the Weast India:  
translated out of the Castlin tongue by I.F. The originall whereof was directed to the  
mightie Prince Don Charles, King of Castile, &c. — Suma de geographia que trata de  
todas las particlas & provinces del mundo: en especial de las Indias. English**

Enciso, Martin Fernández de, d. 1525.

1578



[ Page ]

[ Page ]

A BRIEF Description of the Portes, Creekes, Bayes, and Hauens, *of the Weast India*: Tran#lated out of the Ca#tlin tongue by I. F. The Originall whereof was directed to the mightie Prince Don Charles, King of Castile, &c. Imprinted at London, by Henry Bynneman. Anno. 1578.

## To the right wor#hipfull Sir Humfrey Gilbert *Knight*.

[ Page ]

[ Page ]

**T**

Here came to my hands of late (right vvoor#hipfull) a notable peece of vvoorke, of the Portes, and of diuers rare things bothe of the Ea#te and VVea#t *Indians*, vvritten by *Martin Fernandes Denci#o*, aboute Anno. 1518. then Dedicated to *Don Charles* King of *Castile*, and after called in aboute tvventie yeares pa#t, for that it reuealed #ecretes that the Spani#h natio# vvas loth to haue knovven to the vvorlde. And finding in the #ame vvorke the Longitudes and Altitudes of many Ilandes, and of the Portes of the tracte of the firme lande of *America*, I thought good to tra##late out of Spani#h into Engli#h #ome parte of the #ame Calling to minde, that your vvor#hip vvas the fir#te man of our nation that gaue light to our people for the finding out of the northvve#t #traight, and that novv you meane in proper per#on, and that at your ovvne charges, to take #ome noble voyage and di#couerie in hande, to leaue behind you renovvne to your family, and honour and profite to your countrie: I coulde not but honour you in harte. And to make #ome #hev# of my good vvill, I de#ired much to pre#ent #ome thing to you, and vvas #ory that I had no notable vvorke of matter of Nauigation to Dedicate vnto you, meete for your #o greate vvorthine##e. But yet #uch as this is, I dedicate it vnto you, be#echyng you mo#t humbly

[ Page ]

to take the #ame in good parte, and to vvay the good vvill of the giuer, as very greate per#ons of highe honour haue done, vvhen little trifels haue bene giuen them by others of lov# degree. And Sir, albeit this #mall gifte (in re#pect of mini#tring any knovvledge to you your #elf) may #eeme nothing, in that you doe vnder#tande the tongues, vvherein this and many other knovvledges of high value, lie hid from our Seamen, although not from you: yet this may for our meere Engli#h Seamen, Pilotes, Marriners, &c. not acquaynted vvith forrayne tongues, bring greate plea#ure (if it fortune our Mariners or any other of our Nation, to be driuen by vvinde, tempe#te, currents, or by other chaunce to any of the Ilandes, Portes, Hauens, Bayes or Forelandes mencioned in this Pamphlet,) and #o it may al#o in the voyage, be a meane to keepe them the more fro# idlene##e, the Nurce of villany, and to giue them al#o right good occa#ion by vvay of example, vpon any nev# Di#couerie, to take the Altitude and Latitude, to #et dov#ne the tracte of the Ilandes, the natures of the #oyles, and to note the qualitie of the ayre, the #euerall benefites that the Soyles and the Riuers yeelde, vvith all the di#comodities and vvantes that the #ame places haue, and if our Countrie men fortune the rather to be avvaked out of their heauy #leepe vvherein they haue long lien, and the rather hereby be occa#ioned to #hunne be#tiall ignoraunce, and vvith other nations rather late than neuer to make the##elues #hine vvith the brightne##e of knovvledge, let them giue Sir *Humfrey Gilbert* the thankses, for vvho#e #ake I tran#lated the #ame.

[ Page ]

And thus committing your vvor#hip to the greate Neptune, the greate God of the Chri#tians that ruleth lande and Sea, I leaue you to your voyage, and to the gouernment of that mightie God, vvho neuer pla#ted in any man #o hie courage, vvith #o much de#ire to greate attempts, but to #ome greate end, as heretofore in many hath bene #eene, and as the #equele in your happie #ucce##es no doubt #hall be founde, as England and the vvhole vvorld #hall out of que#tion vvitne##e. From London the xiiij. of May. 1578.

Your wor#hips at commaundement *Iohn Frampton*.



# 1. A brief description of the Portes Creekes, Bayes, and Hauens of the Wea#t India.

[ Page ]

[ Page 1]

**F**rom the Ilande called *Fierro*, vnto the Ilande of #aint Nicholas, are twoo hundreth leagues: the Iland of #aint Nicholas lieth South Southwea#, and from thence to the Ilande called *Fuego* are .xl. leagues: that Iland lieth directly South, and from thence to the Cape of S. Iu#tin, whiche #tandeth in the other #ide of the Equinoctiall line, are foure hundred leagues. The cape of S. Au#tin lieth South Southwea#, with the [Note: The cape of #aynt Au#tin.] Iland called *Fuego*, & #tandeth in eight degrees on the other #ide of the Equinoctiall towards the South: and from the Cape of S. Au#tin vnto the gulfe & riuier of S. Francis are [Note: The riuier of #aynt Francis.] fortie fiue leagues, the coa#t lieth #outhwea#: the riuier of #aint Francis #tandeth in ten degrees towards the #outh: this is a good porte & it hath a good riuier. From that riuier vnto the [Note: The Bay.] Bay of all Sayntes are #euentie leagues: the Baye lieth Southwe#, & by #outh, in .xiiij. degrees, and there remayneth in the midde#t porte Roiall, whiche is a good porte, and hath good riuers. The Bay of al Saints hath within it certain litle Ilandes, and within the#e are twoo good riuers. In the direction towards the coa#, the lande lieth lowe, and the people are naked, & eate bread of rootes. It is a baren countrie. From the Bay of all Saintes to the porte called *Seguro* are .lxxx. leagues, the coa#t lying #outh & by wea#. Porte *Seguro* #tandeth .m. xvij. degrees, this is a porte and a Riuier, and it is a good porte. From porte *Seguro* vnto the cape which is beyond *Golfo Formo#o*, that is to #ay, the fayre gulfe, are one hundreth and ten leagues, and the coa#t lieth #outh #outhwea#: and betweene the#e twoo are many dry and #hallowe places, whiche

[ Page 2]

lieth on #ea borde .xx. and .xxx. leagues: and pa##ing them, you #hall finde neare the land barres, and #holdes, which haue vpo# them three or foure fadome water of deapth, and neare towards the ende of the #holdes, #tandeth the gulfe of Saint *Thome*, whereunto adioyneth the gulfe of *Barro#as*. [Note: Saynt Thome.]

And pa##ing tho#e #hallow places, there lieth cape *Formo#o*, that is to #ay, the fayre cape, in .xxij. degrees and a halfe: and beyng pa#te the fayre cape, there appeareth a gulfe betweene two landes, and it #eemeth to haue a league in breadth, and three or foure in length: and at the ende therof is the riuier called *Delgado*, this is a good porte, a good cou#trie, and good people, although that they be naked. From this gulfe to Cape *Frio*, that is to #ay, the colde cape, are .xvj. leagues: cape *Frio* #tandeth in .xxiiij. degrees and a halfe, this cape hath before it an Iland adioyning, and the fayre cape an other, & betwene the#e other litle Ilands. From the colde Cape the coa#t doth turne to the Northwea#t and by North .xxv. leagues, & from thence it turneth Northea#t other .xx. leagues, and maketh the Colde cape lyke to an Iland: and betweene him and the lande there is a good gulfe, with many #mall Ilandes in the [Note: Cold Cape.] midde#t: and fro# this gulfe vnto the gulfe of the *Manges* are xx. leagues. That of the *Manges* hath two Ilands at the end of it, and it is great, & hath .xx. leagues at the mouth. From this gulf vnto the riuier of S. Francis are .lxxv. leagues. And that of #aint Francis lieth Southwea#t in .xxv. degrees, and before that of #aynt Francis lieth the riuier of the *Cananca*, whiche is a good riuier, and in the midde#t of this coa#t lieth the cape of #aint Seba#tian, which entreth foure leagues into the #ea, and towards the Ea#te parte of it, #tandeth the porte of [Note: Saynt Seba#tian.] *Gregorio*: and to the wea#t parte lieth the porte of *Terrerias*, which is a good gulfe, and bath an Iland in the midde#t. All this coa#t hath many litle Ilands before it. From the porte of #aynt Francis vnto the riuier *Delas Bueltas*, that is to #ay, the croked riuier, are .lx. leagues, the coa#t lieth South, the croked riuier #tandeth in .xxix. degrees, and neare to the riuier of #aynt

[ Page 3]

Francis toward the land lieth an Iland, which hath in le#gth xxv. leagues, and towarde the lande he #eemeth in circle oblique: and rounde aboute the #ame is the Sea, and hath [illegible: blotted] leagues in breadth: and towards the [illegible: blotted]rme lande lieth the gulfe and riuier called *Reparo*, and the riuier of *Bayadas*. From the crooked riuier vnto the Cape #aint Mary are .lxxx. leagues. The cape #aynt Mary #tandeth in .xxxv. degrees, and a little pa#t this cape, entreth in a riuier more than twentie leagues of breadth, where be people that do eate mans fle#h. This coa#t is al full of #holdes. And before cape #aynt Mary are certaine #mall Ilandes. In all the#e coa#tes from cape #aynt Mary vnto cape #aint Au#tin groweth muche Bra#ill and little other thing of any profite in it.

And #eing that we haue #poken of the coa#t that lieth from the cape of #aynt Au#tin towards the pole Antartike: let vs returne to #peake of that whiche is towards the parte of the pole Artike, whiche is called the North pole. I #ay that from the cape of #aynt Au#tin vnto the riuier *Marauon* are three hundreth leagues: *Marauon* lieth wea#, in #euen degrees [Note: Marauon.] and a halfe, it is a greate riuier, and hath more than .xv. leagues in breadth, and rygth leagues within the land. It hath many Ilandes, and in this riuier within the lande .xl. leagues, there is neare to the #ayd riuier a Mountaine, wherevpon groweth trees of Incen#e, the trees be of a good height, & the bowes be like to Plum trees, & the Incen#e doth hang at them, as the yet doth at the tyles of a hou#e in the winter #ea#on when it dothe free#e. In this riuier were taken foure *Indians* in a #mall boate called in the *Indian* language a *Canoa*, that came downe by the riuier, and there was take# from them two #tones of Emeralds, the one of them being as great as a mans hand# They #ayde that #o many dayes journey goyng vpwarde by the riuier, they founde a rocke of

that #tone. In likewi#e there was take# from them two loa[illegible: blotted]s made of floure, whiche was like to cakes of Sope, and it #eemed that they were kne[illegible: blotted]ed with the licour of *Bal#amo*. All this coa#te

[ Page 4]

from the cape of #aynt Au#tin vnto *Maranon* is a cleare coa#t and deepe, but neare to the riuier are certaine #holdes towards the Ea#t parte. And by the wea#t part the riuier is deepe, and it hath a good entrie. From this riuier *Maranon*, vnto the riuier whiche is called the Sea of fre#h water, art .xxv. leagues: [Note: *The Sea of freshe vvater.*] this riuier hath .lx. leagues of breadth at the mouth, and carieth #uche great aboundance of water, that it entereth more than xx. leagues into the Sea, and mingleth not it #elfe with the #alte water: this breadth goeth .xxv. leagues within the land, and after it is deuided into partes, the one going towards the #outhea#t, and the other towards the #outhwe#t. That which goeth towards the #outhwea#t is very deepe and of much water, and hath a chanell half a league of breadth, that a Carrake may goe vp through it: and the tydes be #o #wifte, that the #hippes haue neede of good cabels. The ryuer of this porte is very good, and there haue bene #ome that haue entered fiftie leagues within it, and haue #eene no Mountaynes. The *Indians* of this countrey haue their lippes made full of #mall holes in foure partes, and through tho#e holes be put #mall rings, and likewi#e at their eares: and if any man a#ke of the# where they had their golde, they an#were, that goyng vp by the riuier #o many dayes iourney, they found certaine moun-taynes that had much of it, and from tho#e mountaynes they brought it when they would haue it, but they made no great acco#pt of it, for they neither buy nor #ell, and among#t them is nothing but chaunge. In this countrey they eate bread of rootes, and *Maiz*, and they eate certaine rootes whiche they call *Aies* and *Batatas*, but the *Batatas* be better than the other rootes, and beyng rawe they haue a #mell of Che#tnuts: they are to be eate# ro#ted. The#e

*Indians* do make wine of y<sup>e</sup> fruite of Date trees, which fruite is yellow in colour, & is as great as a litle Doues egge, and being in #ea#on is good to be eaten, and of him proceedeth good wine, and is pre#erued for a long time. The#e kinde of people doe make their hou#es with vpper rowmes, and they #leepe in them, as al#o all their habitation

[ Page 5]

is in the vpper rowmes, and that whiche is alowe, they leaue it open: and al#o they v#e certayne mantels of cotton wooll, and the#e they tie at the endes with ropes, and the one ende of the rope they make fa#t to one parte of the hou#e, and the other ende to the other parte of the hou#e: and in the#e they lie, and be their beddes, and the#e kinde of beddes be v#ed in all the Occidentall *India*, and there is not in any parte of *India* any chambers that the people do v#e to lodge in aloft from the ground, nor they make any high rowmes, but onely in this parte of *India*, and in all other places they make their hou#es without any loftes or chambers, and they couer their hou#es with the leaues of Date trees, and of gra#se. And from this fre#h water Sea vnto *Paria*, the coa#t lieth wea#t northwea#t, and all full of #holdes that the #hippes can not come neare to the land. There is from this riuier to *Paria* twoo hundreth and fiftie leagues. In this fre#he water #ea, the tydes doe ebbe and flowe as much as they do in Brytayne, and #tandeth in #ixe degrees and halfe. *Paria* #tandeth on the other #ide of the Equinoctiall towarde the North, in #euen degrees: In *Paria* [Note: *Paria.*] the #ea floweth but little, and from *Paria* towards the wea#t the #ea dothe not flowe. From the entery of the gulfe of *Paria* vnto the cape that littth towards the wea#t, are thirtie fiue leagues, & from thence the coa#t turneth towards the northea#t, other .xxxv. leagues, and from thence the coa#t turneth towards the wea#t. Before this gulfe #tandeth the Ilande [Note: *The Trinitie.*] of the Trinitie, and towards the wea#t dothe appeare the gulfe of *Paria* like to half a round Circle, after the fa#hion of a Diametre: and at the ende of this circle is the entery in of *Paria*, and at this entrie there is betweene the land and the Iland right leagues, & on the other #ide there is but little #pace betweene the Iland and the lande, but it is deepe, and hath a good entrie: this Ilande of the Trinitie hath in length .xxv. leagues, and as many in breadth, & #tandeth in. viij# degrees, and is inhabited of many people, and as yet not vnder #ubiectiion. Here the *Indians* do v#e to #hoote with bowes, and arrowes

[ Page 6]

whiche are of a fadom in length, made of reedes, which grow in that countrie, and at the ende of them is artificially wynded a peece of wood very #trong, vnto the whiche peece of woodde at the ende of it, they put a bone of a fi#h, in place of an arrow head: the#e kinde of bones be harder than Diamo#des and euery one of them be three or foure fingers long, and they are taken out of a fi#h that hath three of the#e bones, one vpon the backe, and one vnder euery wing: but that which groweth vpon the backe is the #tronge#t and the greate#t. In this Iland the people #ayeth that there groweth golde, and in this Ilande and in *Paria* groweth reedes #o great, that they make #taues of the#, and carry of them into Spayne. Likewi#e there be Popingayes very great and gentle, and #ome of them haue their foreheades yellowe, and this #orte doe quickly learne to #peake, and #peake muche. There be likewi#e in the gulfe of *Paria* pearles, although not many, but very good and greate. *Paria* hath many Ilandes towards the north parte of it, vntill you come to the Iland of #aint Christopher, and fro# #aint Chri#topher, to the Iland called *E#panola*, be other Ilands that lieth towards the Northea#t. The names of the#e Ilands are as foloweth: The fir#te and neare#t Ilande to *Paria* is called the Iland of *Mayo*, this is but a #mall Ilande: there is a fruyte growing in it that the ca#ke of it #melleth like to Beniamyn: [Note: *The Ilande of Mayo.*] likewi#e there is Ro#ine in certayne trees, whiche they v#e for Incen#e, and Aima#ticke. This Iland #ta#deth in ten degrees and a halfe: the Iland of *Tabaco* in ten: *Santa Lucia* and the *A#ention* in xj. degrees and a halfe: the *Baruada* in .xij. degrees: *Martinino* in .xij. degrees and a halfe: the *Dominica* in .xijj. and a halfe: *Gwadalupe* and the *Deceada* in xv. degrees: *Mon#erate* and the *Antigua* in .xvj. degrees: *Baruada* in .xvij. *Baruada* is compa#sed aboute with #holdes: [Note: *[illegible: blotted]andes.*] the *Redonda* in .xv. degrees and a halfe: #aint Christopher in xvij. degrees and a halfe: #aynt Bartolome and #aynt Martin in xvijj. degrees and a halfe: *Sombrero* in xix. and a halfe: the *Anegada* in .xx. the *Virgines* in .xix. and .xx. *Sancta Crus* in

[ Page 7]

xviij. and a halfe: #aynt *Iohn* in .xix. and xx. and in .xx. and a halfe. From the *Trinitie* to #aynt *Iohn* be two hundereth and fortie leagues. All the other Ilandes whiche I haue named, be in the midde#t of the#e twoo, and be all *Cannibals*, a people which eateth mans fle#h, and they go to the #ea in #mall botes [Note: *Canibal* [illegible: faint].] called *Canoas* to make warre, one of them with an other, and as many people as they take one of an other, they carry to their owne Ilandes, and if they be men they eate them, and if they be women they #erue them as #laues: and if any of the men that they take one of an other be leane, they put them to fatte, and when they be fatte they eate them, and they #ay that whiche is #weete#t to be eaten in a man is the fingers, and the thinne#t of the belly: the#e do v#e to #hooote with bowes and arrowes, and if they go to make warre, and do vnder#tand that #uch as they go vnto, be #tronger than they, then they leaue that place and goe to another. In all the#e Ilandes they #ay there is golde: in that of *Gwadalupe* hath bene golde found and gathered, but by rea#on they be not in #ubiectiion, there is no certaintie of it. The Iland of #aynt *Iohn* is a good Iland, and [Note: *Saynt Iohn*.] it hath two good portes: one of them #tandeth towards the north, whiche is called porte *Rico*, and the towne that is in it is of Chri#tians, and it is a good towne, although that it is not great: and the other is called #aynt *German*, in this Iland is gathered much golde, and all is fine golde: this Iland is xxx. leagues long and lieth Ea#t & Wea#t, and in breadth twentie. From this Ilande to the Ilande called *E#panola* are xvj. leagues, and the Ilande called the *Mona*, #tandeth well neare in the midde#t betweene bothe, whiche is a little Iland. [Note: *The Iland called E#panola*.] At the beginning of the lande called *E#panola* is the Cape of *Higui*, whiche #tandeth in .xx. degrees: from this cape of *Higui*, vnto the cape of *Tiburou*, which is the cape and ende of the Iland, are one hundreth and #ixtie leagues: they lie ea#t and wea#t: from the cape of *Higui* vnto the *Saona*, whiche is neare to the entring in at the porte of *Higui*, are .xv. leagues. [Note: *Higui*.] The *Saona* lieth #outhwea#t in. x [illegible: faint]x. degrees and a halfe.

[ Page 9]

Saint *Catherine* #tandeth in as many. From the entery of the porte of *Higui* vnto the entery of the porte of #aynt *Domingo*, the coa#te lyeth wea#t. and are .xxxv. leagues: and from #aynt *Domingo* to *Acuia* are twentie: *Acuia* lieth wea#t. From [Note: *Saynt Domingo*.] *Acuia* to the *Beata* are twentie leagues. The *Beata* #tandeth from *Acuia* Southwea#t in xix. degrees. From the *Beata* to *Yaquimo* are fiue and twentie leagues. From *Yaquimo* to the *Cauana* are fourtie leagues. *Yaquimo* and the *Cauana* lieth in twentie degrees. From the *Cauana* lieth out a cape from the lande into the Sea towards the South, cyght leagues, and from thence the coa#t turneth Wea#t Northwea#t vnto cape *Tiburou*. There is from one cape to the other .xxv. leagues. Before the *Cauana* #tandeth an Iland which is called [illegible: faint] and betweene it and the *Cauana* is #holde, and the chanell lieth neare to the lande, & an other lieth at the end of the Iland. From the cape of *Tiburou* the coa#t turneth towards the Ea#t vnto *Yaragua* three #core and ten leagues, vntill it come neare to the Iland of *Guanabon*. In this three #core and tenne leagues the Iland called *E#panola* hath not in breadth more than twentie or two and twentie leagues. From *Yaragua* the coa#t turneth towards the Northwea#t and by North, vnto the cape of #aynt *Nicholas*. There is from *Yaragua* to the cape of #aynt *Nicholas* fiftie and fiue leagues, and the cape of #aint *Nicholas* beyng doubled, the coa#t turneth towards the ea#t vnto porte Roiall: and from the cape of #aint *Nicholas* to port Roiall be fifty leagues. This porte Roiall is the be#t porte of the Ilande #auyng that it is out of the way of all trade, and therefore they go not to it. From porte Roiall to the porte of *Plata*, are fiue and thirtie leagues: from the porte of *Plata* to the Cape de *Cierpe*, are fourtie leagues: the coa#te lieth Ea#t Southea#t. From the Cape of *Cierpe* vnto the cape of *Higui* are eight and twentie leagues. And from the Cape of *Higui* to the cape of *Tiburou* are one hundreth and eightie leagues, and that is the length of this Iland. It hath in breadth from the *Beata* to porte Roiall ninetie leagues: the

[ Page 8]

South parte of it #tandeth in .xix. and .xx. degrees: the North parte in .xxiiij. This Ila#d is inhabited with Chri#tia#s. There is gathered in it much gold: there co#meth euery yeare fro# this Iland to *Castile*, 400000. *Castellanos* & more, euery *Castellano* is worth .vij. #hillings of our money of Engla#d. It is a countrie of much fle#he, and al#o of much fre#he fi#he: the cattayle do multiply much, bycau#e there is no kinde of vermine that do hurt them. In al this Iland the Kine and Mares do bring forth yong ones, once euery yeare, and the yong Mares and [Note: *The manners of the Ilande called E#panola*.] yong Kine be with fole when they be but a yeare and a halfe olde. The gra#e is alwayes greene and neuer waxeth drye: the trees be alwayes greene, with their leaues as they be here in the moneth of May and Iune. They eate bread of a roote which they call *Ca#au*. There be other rootes like to Turneps, whiche be called *Aies*, and al#o *Batatas*, but the *Batatas* be better, and there be fieldes ful of them as be here of #owen fieldes. There is al#o a fruyte which is called *Pinas*, whiche be of the makyng of a Pine apple, but they be greater: the trees that beareth them be lyke to the Canes or #tockes of Lillies, and *Flure de Lucas*. Whe# they be in #ea#on they turne yellow like to waxe: the #mell of it is #o much & #o #weete, y<sup>t</sup> it #melleth in all y<sup>e</sup> hou#e where they be. It is of a maruelous goodly #auour although that the ta#t of it be #omewhat egre. There is al#o an other fruit of trees which is called *Mameis*, which is as great, & like to a Doues egge, of a tawny colour, being within three kernels, the meate of it is like to a Peach, #omewhat red. The people of this Ilande were Idolaters & naked, although that now they be turned Chri#tians. The wome# do weare a kind of apparel, which they call there *Naguas*, made in #uch #orte, that it couereth them from the wa#te to the knees: and they which be Virgines, go naked as they were borne: & when any woman hath lo#te bir Virginitie, immediately #he doth couer hir #elf, and if #he haue no *Naguas*, #he putteth before hir a leafe tied on with threedes made of Cotton woll, wherwith #he couereth hir Secrete, and that leafe they call there *Pampanillia*.

[ Page 10]

and when any of the#e women are with childe, or giue #ucke to any childe, there is no man that will company with hir for any thing in the worlde: they #ay it is #inne to company with hir at that time. And when any woman is

with childe, hir husband taketh an other vntill his wife be deliuered of hir childe, and as long as he giueth hucke: and when any man dieth that is of estimation, they did make a greate hole in the ground, where they vved to put him in, and they put him in #itting: and put in al#o with him both meate and drynke, and they couer the hole with timber and with earthe, and lefte open a #traight mouth, where a man mighte goe in: to the#e came their wiues, and #uch as loued them well, and went in to him, and put in meate, and after that they were entered in, the mouth was couered with timber and earth: and #o they were lefte all within, and they #ayde that they wente to beare him company to the other world, where they #hould haue better cheere and more plea#ure. And now there is in this Iland many townes of Chri#tians, the principall towne is *Sancto Domingo*, where is a good porte and ryuer: and likewi#e there is the be#t trade of all the Ilande: & this is towards the #outh parte: & at the north parte is the porte of *Plata*: but the towne is little, and the porte is not very good: and by this meanes the trade is litle. In this Iland be many mou#taines of Salte, and rockes of Salte. From the cape of Saint *Nicholas* to the Iland of *Cuba* are. xiiij leagues: the Iland of *Cuba* lieth we#t, it hath in length two hundereth and twentie leagues: and in [Note: *Cuba*.] breadth by the cape *de Crus* fiftie leagues, and by the other partes by #ome wayes thirtie leagues, and other #ome twenty. It is a good Iland: and in it is much victuall, and much wilde foule, Pigeons, Gee#e and Partriche, and many Poppingayes. The countrey is full of Mountaynes, there is gathered in it much golde, although that it is not #o fine as that of the Iland called *E#panola*. The people be idolaters, the one parte of it is inhabited with Chri#tians. The ende of the land which #tandeth next to the cape of #aynt *Nicholas* is in .xxiiij.

[ Page 11]

degrees and a halfe, and that which lieth towards the wea#t, is in .xxvij. degrees. The poynt of the cape *de Crus* is .xxij. degrees. [Note: *Cape de Crus*.] This Iland of *Cuba* hath at the north parte of it aboute two hundreth #mall Ilandes, and they be all inhabited with [Note: *Small Ilandes*.] people, which people be not very blacke, & be of a good growth both the men and al#o the women: but there is no fle#h to eate in the#e Ilandes: their meate is fi#he, rootes, and bread made of rootes, and the blades of gra##e: and if any of the people be caried to other places, if they doe giue them fle#he to eate, immediatly they die, if the fle#h which they eate be not very litle in quantitie. Towarde the #outh parte of *Cuba*, is the Ilande called *Iamayca*, and this of *Iamayca*, lieth wea#t from the cape of *Tiburón*. There is from the cape of *Tiburón*, which is in the Iland of *Spanola* vnto *Iamaica*. xx. leagues, and in the midde#t [Note: *Iamayca*.] betweene both lieth the *Nauaca*, whiche is a little #mall rocky Iland, beyng plaine and vnprofitable. *Iamaica* lieth Ea#t, and Wea#t, it hath in length fiftie leagues, and in breadth .xxv. it is a fruytefull Ilande, and hath muche corne growing in it, and hath all kinde of victuall, #uch as they v#e to eate, whiche #uffi#eth their nece##itie, and groweth vpon the #ame Ilande: there is much cattel, and many trees of cotton wooll: they gather much Cotton wool in it, wherof they make #tore of cloth, but there is no golde: there is al#o great abundance of Fi#he. And there be a certayne kinde of little bea#tes, that haue the #noute and taylor like to a Ratte, and the body like to a Coney, and the#e be called *Hutias*, who#e fle#he is good to eate, and there are multitudes of them. From the ende of the Ilande of *Cuba* towards the Northwea#t, hath appeared a great countrey, it is thought to be a firme lande. And #eyng that we haue #poken of the Ilandes, lette vs returne to the coa#t of *Paria*, [Note: *Paria*.] where we began to #peake of the Ilandes: I #ay, after that you goe from *Paria*, the coa#t of the lande turneth toward the Wea#t: there is from the mouth of the gulfes of *Paria* vnto the cape that #tandeth vpon the gulfes of *Aliofar* #euentie fiue leagues: the gulfes of *Aliofar* lieth Wea#t and by North, in

[ Page 12]

nine degrees and a halfe, and there remayneth in the midde#t the gulfes of all Sayntes: neare to the gulfes of all Sayntes towards the wea#t there entereth a cape of a lande into the Sea three leagues: and neare to this Cape towards the North eight leagues into the #ea, there be Ilandes and rockes called the *Friers*, which be a company of #mall Ilandes lyke to rockes. And towards the Wea#t parte from the *Friers* is the Ilande called *Margarita*, whiche is an Ilande that hath xx. leagues from the Ea#t to the Wea#t: and from the North [Note: *Margarita pearles*.] to the South .xij. Round aboute al this Iland are fi#hed fine pearles, in great quantitie. And in the gulfes of *Aliofar*, they fi#he pearles al#o, but in this Ilande be more quantitie, and greater, and towards the South #ide are mo#te and greate#t: and the Cape of *Aliofar* beyng doubled, a gulfes of Sea doth returne betweene twoo landes towards the Ea#t, more than fiue and twentie leagues of breadth: in this gulfes be fi#hed many pearles, and muche *Aliofar*: the #helles wherein they breede be lyke to Cockle #helles, but they be greater and brighter within them, lyke to the #elfe #ame pearles, but without they be of the colour of cockles: they fi#he greate quantitie of them. From the ende of the gulfes *Aliofar* vnto the Cape whiche #tandeth vpon the porte *Flechado* called *Tucuraca*, he #oure #core leagues: *Tucuraca* #tandeth in nine degrees and a halfe, and there remayneth in the midde#t the cape of #mall Ilandes, and before it is the porte called *Solo*, and the porte called *Canafi#tola*, and after him is porte *Flechado*, and hath many Ila#ds before him: al this coa#t is of much fi#hing, and in it are trees of *Canafistola*, which doth bring forth there Canes #o great as a great Launce, and are very good. And as it hath abundance of #ub#taunce, it dothe putrifie #ooner than that which we haue here. The portes *Flechado* and *Canafi#tola* #tandeth in eight degrees. This countrey hath much victuall: [Note: *Cana fi#tola*.] there is in it many Poppingayes, Pearles, & *Aliofar*. The *Indians* of this countrey do v#e to #hoote with bowes, & their arrowes be a fadom long: there are growyng great recdes as

[ Page 13]

big as a good #taffe. Fro# *Tucuraca* to the cape of #aynt *Roman* are xlv. leagues. The cape of Saint *Roman* #tandeth Southwea#t and by South, in .xj. degrees: the cape of #aynt *Roman* entreth into the #ea .xx. leagues, and the lande is not pa#t three or foure leagues broade, and towarde the ca#t lieth the port of *Coriana*: and towards the wea#t porte of the *Pico*, they be good portes. There are from them to the cape twentie leagues, they are in ten degrees. From the cape of #aynt *Roman* vnto the cape of *Coquibacoa* are three #mall Ilandes Trianglewy#e, betweene the#e



twoo capes is one gulfe of #ea in #hape foure #quare, and at the cape of *Coquibacoa* entereth in fro# this gulfe an other little gulfe within the lande foure leagues, and at the [Note: *Coquibacoa*.] ende of him neare to the lande there lieth a great rocke, which rocke is plaine vpon the toppe, and vpo# it #tandeth a village of hou#es of *Indians* whiche is called *Veneciuela*, and it #tandeth [Note: *Veneciuela*.] in ten degrees. Betwene this gulfe of *Veneciuela* and the cape of *Coquibacoa*, the water turneth within the lande towards the Wea#, and in this turne #tandeth *Coquibacoa*. Here hath bene founde wayght, and touche for golde, in the Towne, whiche is great: and the *Indians* doe #ay that they bryng the golde from within the lande, xxv. leagues, and when they goe thither they carry with them the waight & the touch, whereby they know what they bring. In all the Wea# *India* hath not bene found waight, but in this place. The towne of *Coquibacoa* is greate, and a good towne, and of good peaceable people. In *Veneciuela* be people of a tall growth: and there are goodlier women than are in any other parte of that countrey. There are good Pearles, and well growen, although not #o many as in the *Margarita*. Here the *Indians* do v#e Lau# ces of .xxv. foote long, and things to #hoote withall like to dartes. From the Cape of *Coquibacoa*, vnto the cape *Dela Vela* are .xl. leagues. The cape *Dela vela* lieth wea# northwe# in [Note: *Cape Dela vela*.] xij. degrees & a halfe and neare to this cape *Dela vela* is a good port, with a little Iland before it, which lieth wea#: & beyng pa#t cape *Dela vela* the coa#t turneth #outh & by wea#, & lieth

[ Page 14]

lowe, and likewi#e all the land from the cape *Dela Vela* is low lande. From the cape *Dela Vela* to *Tucuraca* are .xxx. leagues: *Tucuraca* #tandeth in .xj. degrees and a halfe, & is a good porte. Fro# *Tucuraca* to *Sancta Marta* are .xxv. leagues: *Sancta Marta* lieth wea# in .xj. degrees and a halfe, and is a good porte: [Note: *Tucuraca*.] it hath a #mall Ilande before it, & is the be#t porte of all this coa#. This countrey of *Sancta Marta* is a countrey that is watered by #lucis, and the corne and things which they #owe [Note: *Sancta Marta*.] and plant, they doe water, with their owne labour: it is an open ground, and hath high mountaynes, and without any thing growing in them. The #ande of the riuers is altogether #tony #ande, of the colour of golde, and it #heweth as though that it were al gold. There are in this Ilande many Hogges, and much Deare. There is found in the powre of the *Indians*, much gold and coper, and al#o much gilt Coper. The *Indians* do #ay that they gilte the Coper with an hearbe that groweth in that countrey, whiche beyng #tamped, and the iuyce taken out, and the Coper beyng wa#hed therewith and put to the fire, it turneth to the colour of mo#t fine gold, and it ri#eth more or le##e in colour, accordyng to the qua#titie of the hearbe that is put to it. The people be feare and warlike, they v#e bowes, and their arrowes be little bigger than quarrels, which they annoynt with an hearbe that is #o full of poy#on, that it is a great chaunce (when they hit any man) if he e#cape, beyng wounded with that hearbe: one of the things wherewith they make that hearb, are certaine apples which be in that cou#trey, [Note: *Appels of poy#on*.] & are of the greatne##e and colour of the wilde Apples of this cou#trie. The tree that doth carry them is like to a #mall Peare tree of this cou#trie. As #one as any ma# hath eaten one of the#, immediatly it turneth to wormes within his body, whiche grow #o great & eate #o muche of the bodie, that they kill him: this is knowen to be #o by rea#on. I cau#ed it to be experimented, in one that was giuen to a Dogge to eate, whiche within foure houres was turned all into wormes in the body, and #o we found it when we cau#ed the Dogge to be opened, for to

[ Page 15]

#ee the effect of the Apple. And if any man do put him#elfe vnder one of the#e trees in the #hadowe, immediatly his head beginneth to ake: & if he do continue there long, his face beginneth to #well, & to trouble his #ight: and if by chaunce he #leepe vnder the tree, immediatly he lo#eth his #ight: all this I haue #eene by experience. Before you come to *Sancta Marta* there is *Yaharo*, which is in the #ide of the #nowie mountaynes. *Yaharo* as a good port and #tandeth in a good countrey: and there [Note: *Yaharo*.] be Orchardes of trees of diuers #ortes of fruytes to be eaten, & among them there is one like to Oringes, & when the fruite is in #ea#on to be eaten it turneth yellow, and the meate that is within it is like to butter: It hath a good #auour, and hath the ta#t #o good & #o #oft, that it is maruelous. The mou#taines that lie full of Snow, beginne from *Sancta Marta*: and neare to *Yaharo* is the highe#t parte of them, and they #hew vpon the toppes as white as if they were Snowe, and from thence they reache to *Veneciuela*, and #o into the countrey within, it is not [Note: *Mou#tayns vvith Snovve*.] knowen how farre, for that the cou#trie is not yet in #ubiectio#, nor the *Indians* do giue any more rea#on of them, but that they reache very farre into the countrey. This Mountayne is vpo# the toppe playne, and there be many townes of *Indians* vpo# it, and many lakes of #tanding water. In *Sancta Marta* is gathered much Cotton wooll, and the *Indians* do make #tore of clothe of it, whiche is a thing to be #eene, and they make it of many colours: they do make of Poppingayes fethers, Pecoocks and of other birdes which be in that countrey, certaine things like to Diademes, very great, that the ge#tlewomen do put on their heades, which things hang downe vpon their #houlders in one peece vnto their girdle: like to the ends of a bi#hops Mitre: & this is #o well wrought, that it is maruell to #ee the diuer#itie of the colours, and the worke, and the arte thereof: and as the colours be naturall and of them#elues, they #hewe #o wel, that no artificiall worke of #uch as is wrought here, is #o good nor #o acceptable vnto the #ight. From *Sancta Marta* the coa#t turneth #outh .xx. leagues: and in the turnyng cape

[ Page 16]

of *Sancta Marta* #tandeth *Garia*, where be a naughty kinde of people: and righte before this wilde countrey entreth into [Note: *Garia*.] a Riuer very greate, whiche goeth from the Mountaynes that lie full of Snowe: and he is #o greate, that thys water entreth a greate way into the Sea without any minglyng of it #elfe with the #alte water: and from thence the coa#t lieth Wea#, vnto the porte of *Zamba*. *Zamba* is a good porte, and #tandeth in eleuen degrees and a halfe. From *Sancta Marta* to *Zamba* be fiue and twentie leagues: the lande of this coa#te is playne, and lowe without Mountaynes, and it is all very fayre medowe grounde, and a countrey well inhabited: the menne

haue their heare cutte, the women goe couered from the wa#te downward. They are good people and burte no bodie, but #uche as doe hurte them fir#te. *Zamba* hath towards the Wea#t parte of it foure Ilandes of #andes, whiche lyeth neare the lande, and rounde aboute them be #holdes: they reache tenne leagues into the [Note: Ilandes of Sandes.] Sea, but betweene them and the lande where the Cape *De Loyo delo gato* #tandeth, there may pa##e #hippes from *Zamba* vnto the Cape of *Canoa* whiche is twoo leagues. From *Carta gena* be twenty leagues, and they be all #holdes of the Ilandes of #andes. Before the Cape of *Canoa* there is a rocke whiche ry#eth a little aboue the water, whiche rocke they call *Canoa*, but by rea#on it is #eene, it is not daungerous. And a little before aboute twoo leagues from thence, are the portes of *Carta gena*. The portes of *Carta gena* haue an Iland [Note: The portes of *Carta gena*.] in the mydde#t, whiche #tandeth not out of the compa##e of the other lande, and by the one and the other #ide of thys Ilande, there is a porte, but that of the Ea#te parte hath the better entrie, the Ilande is called *Gnodego*: hee hath twoo leagues in length, and halfe a league in breadth, and is well inhabited of *Indians* beyng fi#her menne. The people of this Countrey be tall, but bothe menne and women goe all naked as they were borne: they are warrelke people, and v#e bowes and arrowes: they #hooote all their artowes

[Page 17]

wyth a naughty hearbe, and the women doe lykewy#e fighte as well as the menne. I had pry#oner a gyrl of eyghten or twentie yeares of age, who dyd affirme that #he had kylled eyght Chri#tian menne before #hee was taken pry#oner. In this place groweth the hearbe *Iperboton*, [Note: *Iperboton*.] wherewith they heale the woundes of the hearbe whiche is poy#on, and with thys Hearbe they #ay that *Alexander* healed *Ptholome*. In this Countrey and towards the Wea#t partes the *Indians* doe eate breade of the grayne of *Maiz*, grounde: and they make of it good bread, whiche is of muche #ub#taunce: and of the #elfe #ame meale of *Maiz* beyng #odden in kettels and great tinages in muche water, they make wyne to drynke: and it is wyne o[illegible: faint] much #ub#taunce, good, and of a good #auour. The *Indians* doe v#e to drynke a greate cuppe full of it when they ry#e in the mornynge without eatyng any thyng el#e with it, and therewith they goe to theyr dayly laboures, and be there labouryng the greate#t parte of the day, without eatyng any other thyng. The Chri#tians that are in that Countrey doe v#e the lyke, and they #ay that it is there in that Countrey: and a manne endureth to laboure with it all one daye without eatyng any other thyng, if he drynke twoo tymes thereof.

The hearbe *Iperboton* wherewith they heale the hearbe that is poy#on, they #ay that the iuyce of hys toote is as good for the #ighte as for to heale the hearbe of poy#on, and that there is of it in *Carmania*, and in the Mountayne *Atalantes*, whiche are in the coa#te of *Getulia*. In this countrey of *Carta Gena* is in the power of the *Indians* muche Copper# and there is lykewi#e golde, but not muche: and they #ay that twentie leagues from that Countrey towards the Southwea#t is muche golde, and who#oeuer will may goe thither for it.

From *Carta gena* to the Ilandes of *Caramari* whiche lieth [Note: *Cara* [illegible: blotted].] Wea#t, are eyght leagues, the#e Ilandes be all lowe, and no #hippe can pa##e betweene them. From the Ilands of *Caramari*,

[Page 18]

vnto the Ilandes of *Baru* be ten leagues: betweene the#e of *Baru* and the land may pa##e #hippes if they be not very great, and beyng pa#te the#e Ilandes of *Baru*, more towards the Wea#t is the porte of *Cenu*, which is a great Baye, and hath his entry by the Ea#t part, and it is a good #ure porte. There is [Note: *Cenu*.] from *Carta gena*, to *Cenu*. xxv. leagues: *Carta gena* lieth Ea#t in ten degrees and a halfe, and *Cenu* towards the Wea#t in ix. degrees: in that of *Cenu* they make muche Salte: the people be #trong and warlike: they v#e bowes, and their arrowes be #et with poy#on. Ill men and wome# goe naked. When any man of great auctoritie dye, or any chylde of hys, they take their guttes out of their bodies, and wa#he them with certayne thyngs, and annoynt them, and vpon them they put Cotton wooll, died with diuers colours, whiche they put againe into the bodie, and beyng coloured therewith, they put them into a bedde made after the fa#hio# of the beddes of that countrey, and they hang him vp in the hou#e, neare to the place where they make their fire: and #o they keepe him. It happened to me, that I tooke a towne called *Catarapa*, where we founde more than xx. that were hanged after this #ort in the hou#es. In this cou#tre of *Cenu* is much golde in the power of the *Indians*, & very fine, and it is myngled and hath his foundation of Siluer, and there is no parte of it Copper, whiche the *Indians* doe #ay they bryng from certayne Mountaynes, from whence the ryuer of *Cenu* doth come forth, from certayne places that they call *Mocri*, and an other *Cubra*, and an other *Cud* [illegible: faint]: and the earth that they haue in tho#e places is #omewhat redde, and [Note: An earth of golde.] they gather it in riuers & valleys: and when it rayneth they ca#te nettes ouerthwart the riuers & valleys, and as the water increa#eth, it bringeth graynes of gold as great as an egge & they remayne in y<sup>e</sup> nets: & in this #orte they gather the greate#t graynes: & y<sup>t</sup> which they gather, they bring to the towne which is called *Cenu*, being .x. leagnes from the Sea vpo# the riuer, & there they worke it, and doe what they will with it. I toke an *Indian* Gentleman pri#oner, y<sup>t</sup> #ayd to me, that he had

[Page 19]

gone to this place three times, and had #eene it gathered after that #ort, and al#o that he him#elfe had gathered it. This countrey of *Cenu* hath great #tore of vittayle growen in the Countrey. Their bread and Wyne is made of the meale of *Maiz*, as it is in *Carta Gena*. Likewi#e there be rootes, whereof they make bread, as in the Iland of *Cuba*, and *Iamaica*, and the *E#panola*, but it is of another qualitie: for that of the Ilandes is naught, and if any do eate of it, he dyeth, as though he had eaten *Arnike*: and al#o if any bea#t eate of it, or drink of the water that commeth out of it, he dyeth. And to make bread of it, they grate it, and after they pre##e it, and when it remayneth as drye as powder, they make bread of it: and that which groweth in this Citie of *Cenu*, and in all y<sup>e</sup> Countrey heereabout, they eate them rawe, and ro#ted, for they are very good to be #o eaten, and of a good #auoure.

## 1.1. A Prote#tation.

I Did require two *Indian Gentleme#* of *Cenu*, in the behalfe of the King of *Ca#tile*, that they #houlde be #ubiect to the Kyng of *Ca#tile*, and that he woulde giue them to vnder#tande, that there was one God alone, whyche was three per#ons in one, and did require them, that they woulde leaue vnto him that Countrey, #eeyng that it did apperteyne to hym: and if they would liue in it as they were, that they #hould giue to him the obedience, as vnto their Lord, and al#o #houlde giue him in token of obedience, #ome thing euery yeare, euen #o much as they them#elues would name, and if they would this doe, the Kyng would giue them rewards and giftes, and helpe again#t theyr enimies, and would put among them learned men & Prie#tes, that #hould #hew them that which doth apperteyne to the faith of Chri#te: and if any of them woulde not turne Chri#tians, they #hould not be compelled by force, agayn#t their willes, but they might remayne as they were before, and they an#wered me to that I #ayde that there was but one God, and this God gouerned the Heauen and the Earth, and was Lorde of  
[ Page 20]

all. It lyked them very well, who #ayde, y<sup>t</sup> they thought it to be true: and they #ayd, that they were Lords of their owne Cou# trey, and had no neede of any other Lorde. Then I required the# agayne y<sup>t</sup> they #hould do it, & not doing it, I would make warre agayn#t them, & would take their Towne, & would kill as many as I tooke, or would keepe the# pri#oners, and #ell the# for #laues. They aun#wered me, that fir#t they would put my head vpo# a #affe, & they laboured to do it, but they coule not, for we tooke the towne by force, although they #hotte at vs an infinite nu#ber of arrowes, & al poy#oned w<sup>t</sup> hearbes, wherwith they wounded two of our men, and both dyed, although their wounds were but #mall. After I tooke pri#oner an *Indian Gentleman*, of tho#e w<sup>h</sup> [illegible: missing] I #pake of before, that had declared to me of the mines of *Vocri*, whome I founde to be a man of much truth, & kept his promi#e in all things. And after this #ort are all the warres of tho#e Countreys. Fro# this riuier of *Cenu*, vnto the Gulfe of *Vraba*, are. xxv leagues. The gulfe of *Vraba* lieth towards the Wea#t in .viij. degrees. Al this Countrey is full of Mountaynes, & a naughtye kinde of people: they are all *Canibals*, & eate mans fle#h. They v#e to #hoote with bowes and arrowes which are poy#oned. Fiue leagues from the Riuier of [Note: *Canibals*.] *Cenu* towards the We#t, is an Iland called the #tro#ng Iland, welnecre a league fro# the lande. In this Iland is muche #alte made, and neerer the Gulfe is another, called the *Tortuga*. The Gulfe of *Vraba* hath. xiiij leagues of length within the land, & [Note: *The Gulfe of Vraba*] of breadth in the mouth an entrie .vj. or .vij. leagues, farther in fiue, and neere the cape foure. At the entrie toward the Ea#t he hathe certaine #holdes, which entreth in more tha# two leagues into the Sea athwart of the mouth & entrie, and they goe welneere ouer the one halfe of the entrie towards the Wea#t part of the Gulfe. And there is fiue leagues within the Gulfe, the *Darien*, whych is inhabited with Chri#tia#s, and there they gather fyne golde in a Riuier that de#cendeth from certaine high Mountaynes. In the#e Mountaynes be many Tigres & Lyons, and diuers other bea#tes, and Cattes with lo#g tayles, and  
[ Page 21]

be like to Apes, but that they haue great tayles. There are al#o Swyne, & many great bea#tes as great as kyne, fatte, whiche be of a grey couloure, and haue their feete like to kyne, the head like to a Moyle, with long eares, their fle#h being good to eate. There be al#o many other bea#tes. I toke that Towne, which was the fir#t that was taken in that Countrey, and I #aw all the#e bea#ts, and it was told me, that they had #ene Ownees. I #aw none, but I #aw a riuier y<sup>t</sup> pa##eth by the towne of *Darien*, wherein were many Lызards that were great, & #o gro#e in the body as a Calfe: and if they #ee any man, dogge, or pigge neere the water, they come out of it, and fall vpon him, and if they cathe him, they carrie him into the water, & eate him. I happened to kill y<sup>e</sup> fir#t that was killed, & I #aw ca#t at hym more than tenne Launces, and as they #trake vpo# him, they rebounded, as though they had #tricken vpo# a Rocke. And after that, a #eruant of mine went athwart of hym, and thru#t him at one blowe into the midde#t of his body, and then we killed hym, and being dead and taken on lande, we found that he had vpon his backe from his necke to the tayle a #hell that couered hym all, whiche was #o #trong, that no Launce coulede pa##e it: and vnder that from the middle of the body downewarde neere to the guttes, he was as other Lызards are, and by that parte of his body he was thru#t in with the Launce. His mouth was three #pannes long from the #noute to the lower end of y<sup>e</sup> teeth: he had in a #ide two rewes of teeth, the mo#t fierce that I haue #eene, or had bin #eene by any of them that were with me. He was fleyne & his fle#h was eate#, it was white & good, & #melled like to mu#ke, and good in eating. I #aw al#o y<sup>e</sup> fle#h of Tigres & of Lions. I #aw certayne me# kil Lyons alone by the##elues. [Note: *Lyons*.] The Tygres are greater of bodye than the Lyons are, and [Note: *Tygres*.] their feete are verye #trong, and of greate force, but they are heaueie, for they runne #lowly & are of little courage. It hapned y<sup>t</sup> a Tygre we#t after a ma# a league, vntil he came to a towne, & the ma# neuer we#t but his accu#tomed pace, & the Tygre after him .iiij. or .iiij. #peares le#gth bebind, & in a league y<sup>t</sup> they we#t  
[ Page 22]

together, he dur#t not to fa#ten with the man. The Lызards in [Note: *Lызards*.] the moneth of Ianuary and February do breede in this order fellowyng When the Sunne is hote#t in the day, they come for the of the water into the #andes, and with their foure feete they make a hole, and there lay theyr egges, and after they bee layd, they couer them with the #and, and with the heate of the Sunne. The Lызards be ingendred in tho#e egges, and after they make a hole in them, and they come forth of the egges into the #andes, and #o they goe into the water. The egges be as

greate as a Goose egge, and greater. They haue no helles, but certayne kynnes. They be good to eate, and of a good auoure, & euery Lizard doth lay at one tyme lx. or lxx. egges. Lykewise there be others called *Yaguanas*, whiche be great, and lyke [Note: *Yaguanas*.] to Lizards, and the haue round heads, and from the forepart of the head to the tayle, he caryeth bristles of heare, tanding vp very fierce. They be of a russet coloure, and somewhat in coloures: the goe into the Mountaines. The sight of them is fearefull, but they hurt no body, by reason they take them aliue, and kill them with staves. The are good meate, & theyr flesh is much esteemed in that country. Their egges be of a good taste. In the Countreys is much wilde foule of dyuers sorts, which are good flesh. There are abundance of greene Poppingeys, and some greate ones of many coloures, red, blew, blacke, and greene, whiche are faire to beholde. Their flesh is good and sweete: and others that are as little as grey Sparrowes, which be greene and faire. In this country are greate fowls of good flesh: and also there be Date trees that do carry frute as greate as a Doves egge, some yellow, and other of the Rose coloure, but they haue greate tones: their taste is somewhat sharp. In this Country are little beastes like to Piggies of a month olde, the haue their feete and heads lyke to a little Horse, with little eares, and they be all couered with a shew from the eares to the tayle, and be like to a Horse couered. They are faire to behold. They feede like to Horse. In this country are Conies and Partriches, and many goodly birds.

[ Page 23]

And the bread and Wine of this Country is made of *Maiz*, (as it is called:) The people are tall of growth, and Idolaters. There are some of them that beleue, that there is no other thing, but to be borne and to die. There be among them Lords, whome they honoure much. And he that is a great Lord, they call *Tiba*, and others that be not so great, *Quin* [illegible: faint]s. Before this Riuer of *Darien*, enteth in another Riuer very greate in this gulfe of *Vraba*, and he enteth in by nine or ten monethes, [Note: A greate Riuer.] although they be but holde, and no shippe can enter in at the, if they be greater than small boates: but within the mouth he is greate, and fifteene and twenty fadome deepe, and a myle broade, & hath abundance of water, by reason that xl. leagues within the land there ioyneth with him greate riuers, whiche commeth from the East parte of the Mountaynes, where the Riuer of *Cenu* springeth: and the first riuer that ioyneth wyth him, is that of *Dabayne*. In the springs of this Riuer, and of another whiche is before this, they say that there are greate mines, but the truth is not knowen, but the Indians doe say it. And there hath bin taken in the power of *Indians*, peeces of fine golde, that wayed ten and eyght hundred weight. In the little riuers of this great riuer, are many places drowned vp, and in them are many *Indians*, and haue their houses and habitations vpon trees, for that vnder them is all water, and they liue by fishing. This gulfe of *Vraba* hath on the other parte of the Mountaine of *Darien* towards the South, another gulfe, called the gulfe

of *Saint Michael*, and there is from the one to the other xxv. leagues & more. There is this difference betwene the: [Note: The Gulfe of S. Michael.] in the gulfe of *Darien* and *Vraba*, the Sea dothe not flowe one palme, and in that of *Saint Michael*, it floweth as much as in *Britaine*. And of this coast of the gulfe of *Saint Michael* I wil speake hereafter. And now I do returne to the gulfe *Vraba*, and do say, that from the entrie in of the gulfe of *Vraba*, vnto the port *De Careta*, are fifteene leagues. *Careta* lieth Northweat, [Note: *Careta. Nombre de Dios*.] in nine decrees and halfe. From the Port *Perdido*, to *Nombre de Dios*, the coast lyeth West North West. *Nombre de Dios*

[ Page 24]

tandeth in tenne degrees and halfe, and there are in the middle *Conogie*, *Pocuroa*, and the baye of *Saint Blas*. There are from the port *Perdido* to *Conogie* ten leagues. From *Conogie* to *Pocuroa* tenne. From *Pocuroa* to the baye of *Saint Blas*, fyue. From the baye to *Nombre de Dios* nine. In all this country [Note: *Pocuroa*.] they call men *Omes*, and the women *Irass*. The men goe naked, and they vse to bring tyed at their middle with a small cord certayne Snayles helles of the Sea, and into the helles they put their members, and some doe carrie a thing like to a fonnell of golde, wherein they put their members. The Women goe all couered from the waist downewarde with waist coates of cotten woll, and weare rings put through their eares, and many other things, and cheynes of gold. There hath bin found among the *Indians* much golde, although that much of it is coured, and in valewe of tenne and twelue kyllats and lewes, and they call this *Giamin*. In the South part of this country is found golde in the Riuers, and as it hath not bin much sought till now, it hath not bin knowen. I haue seene a graine gathered in a Riuer, whiche wayed ten Ducates. From *Nombre de Dios* to *Veragua*, are fyue and thirtie leagues. *Veragua* is [Note: *Veragua*.] towards the West in tenne degrees. And neere to *Nombre de Dios* is Port *Bello*, which is a good Port. It hath to the entrie of it a little llande, and in the middle another. The Country of this coast is full of sharpe Mountaynes, and barren. From *Veragua* the coast turneth North to the cape of *Gracias Adios*, three core leagues. The cape of *Gracias* [Note: The cape of *Gracias Adios*.] *Adios* tandeth in foureteene degrees. And neere to *Veragua* is the *Furmia*, and after *Corobora*, and after that certayne llandes, compassed aboute with holdes: and from the cape of *Gracias Adios* the coast turneth West to the cape of *Caxines*, where is an llande, and is thirtie leagues distant. And from the cape of *Caxines* the coast turneth towards the North three core and fifteene leagues, vnto the cape of *Lagar*, and all the three core and fifteene leagues be holdes, and enteth into [Note: *Sholde* [illegible: blotted].] the Sea towards the East three core leagues: and from

[ Page 25]

this cape to the cape of the lland of *Cuba*, are one hundred and twenty leagues. The cape of *Cuba* lieth North. From the cape of *Lagar*, vnto the cape of *Fondura*, are fyue and thirtie leagues. The coast lieth West. The cape of *Lagar*, and that of [Note: The cape *Lagar*.] *Fondura*, tandeth in .xvj. degrees, and being past the cape of *Fondura*, is a Gulfe that enteth .xv. leagues within the lande, and in the entrie it hath .xviij. leagues of length, and farther in xxv. From this cape, to the bay of *S. Thome*, are .lx. leagues, and the coast lieth West. And neere to the bay enteth one end of [Note: The bay of *S. Thome*.] the land into the sea .xx. leagues towards the Northweat, and at the end of

the land is the entrie of the baye of *S. Thome*, and y<sup>e</sup> bay doth returne vpon the cape Southea#t .xlv. leagues, and carieth in length and breadth .xv. leagues. And at the entrie in of this gulfe towards the Wea#t, appeareth another little rou#d gulfe full of #mall Ilands. From the mouth of this gulfe, to the Port of the *Figueras*, are .xxx. leagues. The coa#t lieth Northwea#t, and it is all #holdes. The entrie of the Gulfe of *S. Thome* #tandeth in .xix. degrees and halfe. It entreth in at the Ea#t part, for by the Wea#t part it is all #holdes. The cape of the *Figueras* #tandeth in .xxj. degrees, and from this place the di#couerers [Note: The cape of the *Figueras*.] returned, and pa#t no farther: & they found in this Cou#trei trees of oke, with acornes like to oures, and many birdes different from tho#e of this Countrey: and hennes as greate as Gee#e: and they found tokens & #hewes of much golde, for they found great peeces of golde in the power of *Indians*. And now I do returne to the Gulfe of *S. Michael*, & to the coa#t of y<sup>e</sup> other [Note: The Gulfe# of Saint Michael.] #ide towards the South. The Gulfe of *S. Michael* lieth Northea#t & Southwea#t, with y<sup>t</sup> of *Vraba*, there are .xxv. leagues of land betweene the one and the other. That of *S. Michael* is towards y<sup>e</sup> Southwea#t, & it hath at the entrie in .x. leagues, & of length .xxv. And towards the Southwea#t lieth the Ilande of *Perles*. There is from the Gulfe to the Ilande tenne leagues. [Note: An Ilande of Pearles.] This Ila#d is plentiful of vittaile. There is in it many birds, & #o many conyes, that they enter into the hou#es to breede. And round about it on euery #ide, is much fi#hing of great Pearles,

[ Page 26]

and very fyne. I #awe one of the fa#hion of a little peare, the be#t and greate#t that I haue #eene. The entrie of the Gulfe of *Saint Michael*, #tandeth in #ixe degrees. From the entrie of the Gulfe of *Saint Michael*, the coa#t lieth We#t, #eauen leagues vnto the Cacike *Tamao*. The coa#t lyeth .xxvij. leagues toward the Northwea#t, and by Wea#t, to the Riuer of *Tubanama*. [Note: *Tamao*.] This Riuer of *Tubanama* hath at the entrie an Ilande [Note: *Tubanama*] in triangle, whiche cau#eth him to haue two mouthes: it is a good Riuer, and a good Countrey, well inhabited, and of much vittayle, and great fi#hing: there is in it much golde. In this coa#t the Sea doth ebbe and flowe much. From this Riuer to *Panama* are twenty leagues, and the coa#t lieth Wea#t, and there is in the midde#t the Riuer called *Chapanere*, and the [Note: *Panama*.] Riuer *Pacora*, whiche are in a good countrey, and where as is [Note: *Pacora*.] gold, and the people are good. *Panama* hath an Iland towards the Sea neere y<sup>e</sup> land. Fro# *Panama* to the cape of *Chiru* are .xx. leagues, and the coa#t lyeth Wea#t and by South, & there is [Note: *Chiru*.] in y<sup>e</sup> midde#t *Perequete* and *Tabora*. From *Chiru* towards the We#t appeareth a gulfe oblique, in the midde#t whereof dwelleth the Cacike *Paris*, an *Indian* Gentleman of greate power, and the riche#t in that coa#t: and there remayneth in the mydde#t [Note: *Paris*.] *Nathan* and *E#tora*, which are good townes. All this coa#t fro# the Gulfe of *Saint Michael* to *Chiru* and *Paris*, be from #ixe to #eauen degrees. The countrey is playne and good, and of much vittayle of all #ortes, and in all that countrey is much golde. From *Paris* lyeth a poynt of the land into the Sea twe#tie leagues, and being pa#t the poynt, the coa#t turneth to the Northea#t, vntill it come hard to the cape of *Gracias a Dios*, and all the Countrey is frutefull, and a rich Countrey of gold, whereas are many good townes. In this Countrey they doe compa#se about the townes with timber, for feare of Tygres, and Lions, that they come not by night into the hou#es. From the Gulfe of *Vraba* & *Saint Michael*, to the end of the cape of *Gracias Adies*, are two hundred leagues: and all this Countrey hath not in breadth more than thirtie, and where it is

[ Page 27]

mo#t fourtie leagues, and all are good people and riche, and a fruyteful cou#trei. There they v#e no bowes, nor hearbe of poy#on, but Launces and Darts. And there are in this Sea towards the Southe many Ilandes, where is as much golde and Pearles, as the *Indians* doe #ay. And they #ay that there is a countrey where the people that doe inhabite it, haue bookes, and do wryte and reade as we doe.

Now #eyng that we haue #poken of that part that is from the Ilande of *Fierro*, towards the Wea#t, and Northwea#t, lette vs #peake of one peece of lande whiche is in this #econde parte towards the North, whiche lande is called the lande of *Labrador*. This lande of *Labrador* #tandeth in .lvij. degrees: it #tandeth Northwea#t from *Calizia*, and Ea#t and Wea#t with Scotlande. This lande of *Labrador* hath towards the Wea#t parte of it the countrey of *Bacallaos*, whiche is a countrie of much fi#hyng, and a great countrey: and the *Bocallaos* #tandeth Wea#t from *Galizia*, and parte of them Wea#t and by Northe, and this countrey hath many portes, and good: Muche of the countrey is inhabited, and there are many Ilandes before it, all inhabited. They #ay there is in it greate quantitie of Fures, and very fine. The lande of *Labrador* is towards the North from the *Acores*. There is from the *Acores* to the lande of *Labrador* three hundreth leagues, and from *Galizia* to the lande *Labrador* three hundreth and fiftie. And there is from *Galizia* to the lande of *Cauallaos* fiue hundreth and thirtie leagues. The lande of *Cauallaos* #tandeth in fourtie nine, and in fiftie degrees.

FINIS.