

but he is apparently mistaken, Flemings having been there even before that date. The Portuguese originally placed their first meridian at the two islands Flores and Corvo, which lie north and south, from their believing that they had observed that the needle did not vary in passing them. Other navigators declare the observation to be false. The Portuguese, we know certainly, afterwards fixed their meridian at Pico, and several nations followed their example. The French adopted Ile de Fer (Ferro), one of the Canaries. In the island of Corvo, at its discovery, an equestrian statue, of some material not recognized, was found, on a pedestal of the same, bearing characters which could not be deciphered, and which no one took pains to preserve. Early navigators paid little attention to monuments of this kind. The figure pointed with its right hand westward, as if to designate that there were lands in that direction. The Commander of Almouros began a settlement on the Azores.

Azores.

1449.

Discovery of the Cape Verde Islands, by Anthony Nolli, a Genoese, in the name of the infante Dom Henry, count of Visen. The first which he reached was called Isle of May, because he landed on May-day. At the same time, he discovered two others, to which he gave the names of St. James and St. Philip, whose festival was kept on that day. The others were not discovered till 1460, by the Portuguese, who then began to settle them all. Father du Jarrie is mistaken in saying that the Portuguese made this discovery in 1446 ; and Sanut is also, in attributing it to Louis de Cadamosto, a noble Venetian, sent, he says, by the infante of Portugal, to discover new lands, unless he means that Cadamosto commanded the squadron which, in 1460, discovered those islands not seen by Nolli. Some authors take these islands for the Gorgones of Pomponius Mela ; others for the Gorgades of Pliny ; others for the boasted Hesperides of the ancients ; others, in fine, for the Fortunate Isles. And these various opinions have some probability, but only that. I should rather incline to believe the Canaries to be the Hesperides, and the Cape Verde islands, the Fortunate Isles ; but the name Fortunate suits Cape Verde itself, better

Cape Verde
Islands.