

points, he took possession of the country in the name of the king of Portugal. On the 20th of May, he arrived at Calicut. Barros says that he sailed from Mozambique on the 24th of August, and reached Calicut in twenty-two days. If this is so, he anchored before that town on the 16th, and not on the 20th. He is the first who reached India by that route.

De Gama takes possession of the country.

On the last day of July, in the same year, Christopher Columbus discovered Trinidad. Some say that he gave it this name because, at first, it seemed to have a mountain with three summits. Others pretend that he had made a vow to give this name to the first land he saw. On the 12th of August he landed, and was soon convinced that Trinidad was an island.

Trinidad.

On the 11th, he had seen another land, which also he, at first, took to be an island, and styled *Isla Santa*; but he soon found it to be the continent, and he gave the whole coast, which he ran along in full sight, the name of Paria, for he found that the people so called it. Some days after, having been in great danger, in one of the mouths of the Orinoco, he called it Boca del Dragon. Thence he passed to the Gulf of Pearls, and discovered three islands: he called the first Margarita, on account of the pearls found in this gulf; the other two were called Cochem and Cubagua; the latter, having the greatest pearl-fishery, has long borne the name of Isle of Pearls.

Discovery of the Continent of America. Paria. Orinoco. Isle of Pearls.

1499.

On the 16th of May, Alphonso de Ojeda, a Spanish gentleman, accompanied by Americus Vesputius, a Florentine, and Juan de la Cosa, the most able pilot then in Spain, landed on the continent of America, two hundred leagues east of the Orinoco; coasted along for two hundred leagues to a cape, which he called De la Vela; discovered the Gulf of Maracaibo, and gave the name of Venezuela—that is to say, Little Venice—to a town which he found, built on the water, somewhat like that great city. This name was subsequently extended to all the province. He finally explored all the coast of Cumana. Americus Vesputius, who was only a ship's husband on the squadron commanded by Ojeda, published an account of this discovery, of which he assumed all the honor; and to persuade the public

Cape de la Vela. Venezuela. Cumana.