

Americus
Vesputius.

that he was the first of all Europeans to land on the continent of the New World, he ventured to assert that his voyage had lasted twenty-five months. Ojeda, interrogated juridically as to this fact, denied it ; but, as he had been at first believed on his word, people had become accustomed to give his name to the New World, and error prevailed over truth.

Salt-springs
of Ayola.

Towards the close of the same year Christopher Guerra and Pero Alonzo Niño, discovered the point of Ayola, which is north and south of the western point of Margarita, and found there very fine salt-springs.

1500.

Brazil.
Marañon.

Vincent Yañez Pinzon, a Spaniard, who had accompanied Columbus in his first voyage, having sailed from Spain in the latter part of December, 1499, discovered, on the 26th of January, a cape in Brazil, which he named Cape Consolation, and took possession of it in the name of the crown of Castile. The Portuguese afterwards called it St. Augustine. Pinzon then thought that he perceived the mouth of a great river, which he called Marañon ; it was subsequently found that it was only a bay, at the end of which there is an island, now bearing the name of Maranh, which it has given to a whole province in Brazil. Three fine rivers empty into the bay, but none of them bears the name of Marañon. Father Christopher d'Acuña, in his description of the Amazon River, pretends that a river, which he calls the Marañon, issues from this great river and empties into the bay just mentioned, but he is mistaken. Some French Capuchins had a mission in the island of Marañon, which they write *Maragnan*, following the Portuguese pronunciation, while the Spaniards write and pronounce it Marañon.

On the 8th, or, according to others, the 9th of March, in the same year, Dom Pero Alvarez Cabral sailed from Lisbon, on the second voyage to India. On Holy Saturday, after experiencing a terrible storm, which scattered a part of his fleet, and swallowed up some of his ships, he was cast with the rest on the coast of Brazil. He entered a port which he called Porto Securo : he then gave all the country the name of Holy Cross, and took possession in the name of the king of Portugal, his