

This same year Hernan Cortez made himself master of Mexico, and the conquest of that capital put an end to the empire of the Mexicans.

Mexico.

1522.

Parillas, a soldier of the army of Hernan Cortez, discovers the province of Mechoacan. This discovery was followed the same year by several others in New Spain, and in particular by that of Nicaragua. Gil Gonzalez Davila entered it some time before through the province of Darien, and discovered the canton of Nicoya.

Mechoacan.
Nicaragua.

The same year the body of the apostle St. Thomas was found at Meliapore, and transported to Goa by order of Edward de Menesez, but this did not prevent the rebuilding of Meliapore, under the name of St. Thomé.

St. Thomé.

1523.

John Verazani, a Florentine, who had entered the service of Francis I., king of France, this year made a first voyage to North America. Few authors have spoken of this expedition, which is known only by a letter of Verazani himself to the king, dated Dieppe, July 8th, in which he supposes his majesty informed of the success of this first attempt. It may well be, however, that this was less an attempt to make discoveries than to make cruises against the Spaniards, for we know that he made more than one.

First voyage
of Verazani.

1524.

Verazani set out again the next year to begin or continue his discoveries. In the month of March he came in sight of the land of Florida. He then made fifty leagues south, and found himself at 34° N. He turned northward, and ranged the whole coast to an island discovered by the Bretons, and lying, according to him, at 50° N. If this was Cape Breton, now Isle Royale, he was mistaken in his estimate; but it may well be that he landed on Newfoundland, where the Bretons had been fishing for a number of years.

Second
voyage.

In the month of November, this year, Francisco Pizarro sailed from Panama to complete the discovery, and attempt the conquest of Peru.

Peru.