

## HISTORY OF BRAZIL.

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'The history of Brazil is less beautiful than that of the mother country, and less splendid than that of the Portugueze in Asia ; but it is not less important than either. Its materials differ from those of other histories : here are no tangles of crooked policy to unravel, no mysteries of state iniquity to elucidate, no revolutions to record, nor victories to celebrate, the fame of which remains among us long after their effects have past away. Discovered by chance, and long left to chance, it is by individual industry and enterprize, and by the operation of the common laws of nature and society, that this empire has risen and flourished, extensive as it now is, and mighty as it must one day become. In the course of its annals disgust and anger will oftener be felt than those exalted feelings which it is more grateful for the historian to excite. I have to speak of savages so barbarous that little sympathy can be felt for any sufferings which they endured, and of colonists in whose triumphs no joy will be taken, because they added avarice to barbarity ; . . . ignoble men, carrying on an obscure warfare, the consequences of which have been greater than were produced by the conquests of Alexander

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or Charlemagne, and will be far more lasting. Even the few higher characters which appear have obtained no fame beyond the limits of their own religion, scarcely beyond those of their language. Yet has the subject its advantages: the discovery of extensive regions; the manners and superstitions of uncivilized tribes; the efforts of missionaries, in whom zeal the most fanatical was directed by the coolest policy; the rise and the overthrow of the extraordinary dominion which they established; and the progress of Brazil from its feeble beginnings, to the importance which it now possesses, these are topics of no ordinary interest.

## CHAPTER I.

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*Vicente Yañez Pinzon discovers the Coast of Brazil and the River Maranham.—  
 Voyage of Cabral.—He names the country Santa Cruz.—Amerigo Vespucci sent  
 to survey the coast.—His second voyage.—The first settlement made by him.—  
 The country obtains the name of Brazil.*

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The first person who discovered the coast of Brazil was Vi- CHAP.  
 cente Yañez Pinzon, who had sailed with Columbus<sup>1</sup> on his

I.  
 1499.

*Voyage of  
 Pinzon.*

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<sup>1</sup> The Pinzons were natives of Palos, excellent seamen, and among the first people of the place. Vicente Yañez supplied an eighth of the expences of this expedition, in which two of his brothers embarked also, one as captain, the other as master of the *Pinta*. *Herrera*, l. 1. 10.

Oviedo knew Vicente Yañez well, and was in habits of friendship with him till his death, in 1514. This historian says that there were not wanting persons who affirmed that Columbus was disheartened on his first voyage, and would have turned back if it had not been for these brethren. Probably he heard this from his friend; . . . and by what he says this report seems to have occasioned some judicial proceedings. These are his words. “*Pero aveys de saber que por el contrario dizen algunos lo que aqui se ha dicho de la constancia de Colon; que aun afirman que el se tornara de su voluntad del camino, y no le concluyera, si estos hermanos Pinçones no le fizieran yr adelante: y dizen mas que por causa dellos se hizo el descubrimiento, y que Colon ya ciava y queria dar la buelta. Esto sera mejor remetirlo a un largo processo que ay entre el Almirante y el Fiscal, donde a pro y a contra ay muchas cosas alegadas; en lo qual yo no me entremeto, porque como sean cosas de justicia y por ella se ha de discidir, quedense para el fin que tuvieren; pero yo he dicho en lo uno y en lo otro ambas las opiniones; el lector tome la que mas le ditare su buen juyzio.*” L. 2. C. 5.

CHAP. first voyage, as commander and master of the Niña. Seven  
 I. years afterwards he and his nephew Arias obtained a commis-  
 1499. sion to go in search of new countries, and trade in any which  
 Columbus had not previously appropriated. The Pinzons were  
 wealthy men, and the former voyage had added to their wealth ;  
 they fitted out four caravels at their own cost, and set sail from  
 Palos in December, 1499, made the Cape de Verds, then  
 steered to the south west, and were the first Spaniards who  
 crost the line and lost sight of the north star. After suffering  
 intolerable heat, and storms which drove them on their way,  
 they saw land on January 26, 1500, in lat.  $8\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S. to which  
 Vicente gave the name of Cape Consolation ; . . but which is  
 now called Cape St. Augustines. They landed, cut the names of  
 the ships, and the date of the year and day upon the trees and  
 rocks, and took possession of the country for the crown of Castille.

A.D. 1500,  
 Jan. 26.

No natives were seen that day, but they perceived footsteps upon the shore. During the night they saw many fires, and in the morning sent forty well-armed men towards them to treat with the people. About an equal number of the natives advanced to meet them, armed with bows and lances ; it was in vain to make friendly gestures, and hold up bells, beads, and looking-glasses, the savages seemed determined to drive these strangers out of their country, and the Spaniards were intimidated at their appearance. They affirmed that they were taller than the tallest Germans, and not waiting to judge more accurately of their stature upon a nearer view, retired to their boats. The next day no natives were to be seen ; the Spaniards landed again, and convinced themselves that they had had good reason for their fear, by finding or fancying that they found the footstep of a giant, which was twice as long as would have been made by the foot of an ordinary man. They supposed these people to be a wandering race like the Scythians.

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From hence they coasted along toward the North till they came to the mouth of a great river: there was not sufficient depth of water for the ships to enter, so they sent four boats to land. A party of natives were assembled upon a hill near the shore, and one of the Spaniards who was well armed, advanced singly toward them. They came to meet him, suspecting and at the same time intending evil. The Spaniard made all the friendly signs he could devise, and threw to them a hawk's-bell, for which they threw down a piece of gold<sup>2</sup>; he stooped for it, and they sprang forward to seize him. This however was not so easy as they had expected; though neither large nor robust he defended himself with sword and shield to the admiration of his comrades, who hastened to his assistance, and succeeded in rescuing him, but with great loss. The savages with their deadly archery slew eight, wounded many more, and pursued them to their boats. Not satisfied with this success, they attacked the boats. It was then that, being naked, they felt the edge of European swords. But nothing deterred them; they rushed on like wild beasts, despising wounds and death; followed the boats even when they had put off, dived after them, and fairly won one, having slain its captain, and driven out the crew. Scarcely a man got off without a wound, and had the arrows of the natives been poisoned, scarcely one could have escaped.

Continuing to coast along after this unlucky action, they came to what they called a sea of fresh water, where they filled their casks. This they accounted for by supposing that the vehement course of many rivers, descending from the mountains,

*Discovery of  
the Maranham.*

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<sup>2</sup> *Una vara de dos palmos dorada*, Herrera says: and Gomara also says it was a gilt wand. A better bait could not have been thrown out; but it does not appear that the Brazilians made any use of gold, and still less is it likely that they should be acquainted with the art of gilding.

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CHAP. had freshened the sea : they were in the mouth of the great river  
 I. Maranham<sup>3</sup> as they afterwards discovered. Here they found  
 1500. many islands, which appeared to be fortunate and fruitful, and  
 the inhabitants received them hospitably and unsuspectingly, for  
 which Pinzon made a villainous return, . . . for finding no other  
 merchandize, he seized about thirty of these unoffending people,  
 and carried them away to sell for slaves<sup>4</sup>. His ships were once  
 in as much danger here as Columbus had endured in the Bocas  
 del Dragon. That phenomenon which in our Parret and Severn  
 is called the Bore or Hyger, is found off this part of the Brazilian

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<sup>3</sup> The origin of this name has given occasion to some discussion. P. Manuel Rodriguez (*L. 1. C. 5.*) supposes it was given in memory of the *marañas*, the villainies, committed there by Lope de Aguirre, . . . forgetting that the river was so called before that wretch had ever been heard of. Afterwards (*L. 2. C. 14.*) he sports an etymology with which no doubt he was better pleased. When the Israelites in the desert tasted the bitter waters, he says, they cried out *Mara*, because of the bitterness or saltiness, and the water retained that name. So when the sailors tasted the water of this great river, their companions asked if it were not salt, *Sunt mara*, or *maria*, . . . is it the sea? . . . to which they replied No, *non*, . . . and so *Mara-ñon* it was called.

Bernardo Pereira de Berredo (*L. 1. § 8—11.*) was satisfied with this quaint derivation, till he discovered *Marañon* to be an old Spanish name, and then he supposed the first person who discovered it on the side of Peru was so called. He afterward found authority for this in the *Relaçam Summaria* of Simam Estacio da Silveira, and in Fr. Christovam de Lisboa's manuscript History of Maranham and Para. Zarate (*L. 4. C. 4.*) who says the same, is earlier authority than either. But it is proof decisive against them, that the word is used by Pietro Martire, in the oldest account extant of Pinzon's voyage. Probably therefore it was named after some person in that expedition, . . . the man who first tasted its waters, . . . or who first ascertained that they were in a river.

<sup>4</sup> The name by which, as they understood, the natives called their own country, was *Mariatambal*; the country on the eastern side of the river they called *Camomorus*, and that on the western *Paricora*. They also understood that there was plenty of gold in the interior. *P. Martire.*

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coast. Twenty leagues off the entrance of the river Meary, the **CHAP.**  
**conflict** between its strong current and the sea occasions an up- **I.**  
 roar which may be heard for leagues around. The natives call it **1500.**  
*Pororoca*. When it subsides the tide rushes in, and in less than  
 fifteen minutes gives back as great a body of water as had been  
 nearly nine hours on the ebb: the flow continues about three  
 hours with almost inconceivable rapidity. Violent as the flux is,  
 there are parts of the river which are not affected by it; the Por-  
 tugueze call them *esperas*, or resting places: the boats which navi-  
 gate the Meary wait there till the force of the Hyger is past, and  
 are seldom endangered by it <sup>5</sup>. The Araguari is subject to the  
 same phenomenon in a still greater degree. It must have been  
 off the mouth of one of these rivers that Pinzon and his squa-  
 dron were endangered. Escaping however from thence, he  
 recrossed the line, and continuing his course till he came to the  
 Orinoco, then made for the islands, and sailed homeward, los-  
 ing two of his three ships by the way <sup>6</sup>. A river in Guiana is still  
 named after him <sup>7</sup>.

*Bernardo  
 Pereira de  
 Berredo* 1. §  
 30. 31.

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<sup>5</sup> Bernardo Pereira speaks from his own knowledge. He had crost the great river on an expedition against the Indians. 'Thomas, the Baptist missionary, describing the Hyger in Bengal says, 'There are places enough in the river where the bank is steep and the water deep; there you are safe.' He adds, with his characteristic vividness of mind, 'I have seen this bore coming along against a brisk wind with a fearful noise, and from its white frothy brow the wind blew a streamer that would be flying many yards long behind it.' *Periodical Accounts*. 1. 221.

<sup>6</sup> Herrera says that Diego de Lepe sailed after Pinzon in the same month, from the same port, and made the same land at the same place. This is not probable, . . . besides, he says that Lepe's men found a tree which sixteen men could not grasp; now P. Martire relates this of Pinzon's voyage, saying there were many such. An expedition, according to this earlier author, sailed upon Pinzon's return, and this is perhaps the one of which Herrera speaks.

<sup>7</sup> Lat. 1° 30' N. The Wiapoc of the French, . . . but Pinzon's name ought to

CHAP. I. 1500. Pinzon was convinced that the land which he had visited was not an island, . . he believed that it was India beyond the Ganges, and that he had sailed beyond the great city of Cathay. When these navigators were asked if they had seen the south pole, they answered that they saw no star like the north star, which could be discerned about the point; . . but that they saw another set of stars, and that a thick mist, rising from the horizontal line, greatly impeded their sight. They were of opinion that there was a great rising in the middle of the earth, and that till this was past the south pole could not be seen. He brought home specimens of cinnamon and ginger, not very good, but this was accounted for by supposing that they had been taken before they were fully seasoned with the heat of the sun: cassia-fistula, unripe, but thought to be of no less goodness than what was administered for ague; gum-anime, then held a precious medicine for rheums and heaviness of the head; stones which were thought to be topazes, sandal wood, and a large cargo of Brazil-wood from Paria<sup>s</sup>. An opossum which they had caught with her young died on board, but they brought the body home, and it excited the astonishment of all who beheld it<sup>9</sup>.

*Pietro Martire: Dec. 1.  
 L. 9.  
 Grynæus.  
 p. 104.  
 Gomara.  
 Hist. de las  
 Ind. c. 85.  
 Herrera. D.  
 1. L. 4. c. 6.*

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be preserved. This was the original boundary between the Spanish and Portuguese; and Charles V. ordered a pillar to be erected beside it. After the French settled in Guiana this pillar was known only by tradition; but in 1723, an officer of the garrison of Para discovered it. *Berredo. 1. § 13. 14.*

Gomara adds to this list, *muchos juncos de los preciados*. I know not what species of rush is meant.

\*The description of this opossum is quite in the manner of old travellers. Both Pietro Martire, who had seen and handled it when dead, and the writer of the narrative which Grynæus has printed, describe it, as having the fore part of a



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The coast which Pinzon had discovered lay within the Portuguese limits of demarcation, and before he reached Europe it had been taken possession of by the nation to whom it was allotted.

CHAP.  
 I.  
 1500.

As soon as Vasco da Gama had returned from the discovery of India, King Emanuel fitted out a second and far more powerful expedition, to the command of which he appointed, the fidalgo Pedro Alvarez Cabral. Sunday the 8th of March was fixed for the day of their departure. On that morning mass was performed at Rastello, in the Chapel which the Infante Don Henrique had built, and dedicated to our Lady of Bethlehem, endowing it for certain brethren from the Convent of Thomar, who should administer to mariners the sacraments of the church, especially on such occasions as this<sup>10</sup>. The King himself attended, and to do honour to the Commander made him sit with him within the curtain. The Bishop of Ceuta preached a sermon of which the main theme was the praise of Cabral for having accepted so great and weighty a charge. Having concluded, he took the banner from the altar, whereon it had been planted during service, and blest it, and gave it to the king, who with his own hands delivered it to Cabral, and placed upon his head a barret-cap which had received the Pope's benediction. The banner was then raised, and they proceeded in solemn procession with crosses and re-

*Voyage of  
 Cabral.*

*Barrus 1  
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fox, the hind parts of a monkey, the feet of an ape, or like human hands, and the ears of a bat. It was sent to Seville, and then to Granada, that the King and Queen might see it.

<sup>10</sup> These forms of religion were afterwards insisted on when Loaysa's expedition was preparing for the Moluccas. Part of his instructions were, that every man should confess and communicate before they set sail, and no man suffered to sail who neglected it. *Herrera. 3. 7. 5.*

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**CHAP. I.** licks to the shore. The Tagus was covered with boats, carrying persons to and from the fleet, or assembled to behold it; “these,” 1500. says Barros, who was probably himself a spectator, “made the river with their liveries and blazonry, as gay as a spring garden in full flower. And what of all,” he adds, “was most spirit-stirring, was to hear drums, trumpets, tambours and tambourines, the flute and the shepherds pipe, which hitherto had been heard only afield with the flocks, now for the first time going upon the salt waters of the ocean; and from that time forward they were taken in every fleet, that the men in so long a voyage might want no solace which could lighten the wearisomeness of the sea.” Emanuel accompanied the Commander to the water’s edge, and when he had given the officers God’s blessing and his own, they kissed his hand and embarked, the whole fleet saluting them with a general discharge. Vasco da Gama himself had not taken a more solemn departure; and it is extraordinary that this second expedition to India should accidentally have procured for Portugal a wider and more important empire than the first.

*Castanheda.*  
*l. 1. c. 30.*  
*Barros l.*  
*5. 2*

*Cabral driven to the coast of Brazil*

The fleet could not leave the Tagus that day because the wind was against them: on the following they sailed. They made for the Cape de Verd Islands, to water there, then stood to the westward to avoid those calms which Diaz and Gama had met with, thinking thus to double the Cape of Good Hope more easily. They experienced however a continuance of bad weather which drove them still farther west, and on the 24th of April fell in with land. America was now no longer to be concealed from Europe, and its discovery would thus have been effected by the agency of the elements, if Columbus had not secured that glory for human intellect.

It was at this time universally believed that no continent