

**A briefe description of the portes, creekes, bayes,  
and hauens, of the Weast India: translated out of  
the Castlin tongue by I.F. The originall whereof was  
directed to the mightie Prince Don Charles, King of  
Castile, &c.**

*Enciso, Martin Fernández de, d. 1525.*

1578

A BRIEF Description of the Portes, Creekes, Bayes, and Hauens, *of the Weast India*:  
Translated out of the Castlin *tongue* by *I. F.* The Originall whereof was *directed to the mightie*  
*Prince* Don Charles, King of *Castile, &c.*

Imprinted at London, by *Henry Bynneman*. Anno. 1578.

**To the right worshipfull Sir Humfrey Gilbert Knight.**

THere came to my hands of late (right vvoorshipfull) a notable peece of vvoorke, of the Portes, and of diuers rare things bothe of the Easte and VVeast *Indians*, vvritten by *Martin Fernandes Denciso*, aboute Anno. 1518. then Dedicated to *Don Charles* King of *Castile*, and after called in aboute tvventie yeares past, for that it reuealed secretes that the Spanish natiō vvas loth to haue knovven to the vvorlde. And finding in the same vvorke the Longitudes and Altitudes of many Ilandes, and of the Portes of the tracte of the firme lande of *America*, I thought good to trāslate out of Spanish into English some parte of the same Calling to minde, that your vvorship vvas the firste man of our nation that gaue light to our people for the finding out of the northvvest straight, and that novv you meane in proper person, and that at your ovvne charges, to take some noble voyage and discouerie in hande, to leaue behind you renovvne to your family, and honour and profite to your countrie: I coulde not but honour you in harte. And to make some shevv of my good vvill, I desired much to present some thing to you, and vvas sory that I had no notable vvorke of matter of Nauigation to Dedicate vnto you, meete for your so greate vvorthinesse. But yet such as this is, I dedicate it vnto you, besechyng you most humbly to take the same in good parte, and to vvay the good vvill of the giuer, as very greate persons of highe honour haue done, vvhen little trifels haue bene giuen them by others of lovv degree. And Sir, albeit this small gifte (in respect of ministring any knovvledge to you your self) may seeme nothing, in that you doe vnderstande the tongues, vvherein this and many other knovvledges of high value, lie hid from our Seamen, although not from you: yet this may for our meere English Seamen, Pilotes, Marriners, &c. not acquaynted vvith forrayne tongues, bring greate pleasure (if it fortune our Mariners or any other of our Nation, to be driuen by vvinde, tempeste, currents, or by other chaunce to any of the Ilandes, Portes, Hauens, Bayes or Forelandes mencioned in this Pamphlet,) and so it may also in the voyage, be a meane to keepe them the more frō idlenesse, the Nurce of villany, and to giue them also right good occasion by vvay of example, vpon any nevv Discouerie, to take the Altitude and Latitude, to set dovvn the tracte of the Ilandes, the natures of the soyles, and to note the qualitie of the ayre, the seuerall benefites that the Soyles and the Riuers yeelde, vvith all the discomodities and vvantes that the same places haue, and if our Countrie men fortune the rather to be avvaked out of their heauy sleepe vvherein they haue long lien, and the rather hereby be occasioned to shunne bestiall ignoraunce, and vvith other nations rather late than neuer to make thēselues shine vvith the brightnesse of knovvledge, let them giue Sir *Humfrey Gilbert* the thanks, for vvwhose sake I translated the same. And thus committing your vvorship to the greate Neptune, the greate God of the Christians that ruleth lande and Sea, I leaue you to your voyage, and to the gouernment of that mightie God, vvho neuer plāted in any man so hie courage, vvith so much

**A briefe description of the portes, creekes, bayes, and hauens, of the Weast India:  
translated out of the Castlin tongue by I.F. The originall whereof was directed to  
the mightie Prince Don Charles, King of Castile, &c.**

---

desire to greate attempts, but to some greate end, as heretofore in many hath bene seene, and  
as the sequele in your happie successes no doubt shall be founde, as England and the vvhole  
vvorld shall out of question vvitnesse. From London the xiiij. of May. 1578.

Your worships at commaundement *Iohn Frampton.*

---

## 1 A brief description of the Portes Creekes, Bayes, and Hauens of the Weast India.

FRom the Ilande called *Fierro*, vnto the Ilande of saint Nicholas, are twoo hundreth leagues: the Iland of saint Nicholas lieth South Southwest, and from thence to the Ilande called *Fuego* are .xl. leagues: that Iland lieth directly South, and from thence to the Cape of S. Iustin, whiche standeth in the other side of the Equinoctiall line, are foure hundred leagues. The cape of S. Austin lieth South Southwest, with the Iland called *Fuego*, & standeth in eight degrees on the other side of the Equinoctiall towards the South: and from the Cape of S. Austin vnto the gulfe & riuer of S. Francis are fortie fiue leagues, the coast lieth southwest: the riuer of saint Francis standeth in ten degrees towards the south: this is a good porte & it hath a good riuer. From that riuer vnto the Bay of all Sayntes are seuentie leagues: the Baye lieth Southwest, & by south, in .xiiij. degrees, and there remayneth in the middest porte Roiall, whiche is a good porte, and hath good riuers. The Bay of al Saints hath within it certain litle Ilandes, and within these are twoo good riuers. In the direction towards the coast, the lande lieth lowe, and the people are naked, & eate bread of rootes. It is a baren countrie. From the Bay of all Saintes to the porte called *Seguro* are .lxxx. leagues, the coast lying south & by weast. Porte *Seguro* standeth .m. xvij. degrees, this is a porte and a Riuer, and it is a good porte. From porte *Seguro* vnto the cape which is beyond *Golfo Formoso*, that is to say, the fayre gulfe, are one hundreth and ten leagues, and the coast lieth south southwest: and betweene these twoo are many dry and shallowe places, whiche lieth on sea borde .xx. and .xxx. leagues: and passing them, you shall finde neare the land barres, and sholdes, which haue vpō them three or foure fadome water of deapth, and neare towards the ende of the sholdes, standeth the gulfe of Saint Thome, whereunto adioyneth the gulfe of *Barrosas*.

*The cape of  
saynt Austin.*

*The riuer of  
saynt  
Francis.  
The Bay.*

*Saynt  
Thome.*

And passing those shallow places, there lieth cape *Formoso*, that is to say, the fayre cape, in .xxij. degrees and a halfe: and beyng paste the fayre cape, there appeareth a gulfe betweene two landes, and it seemeth to haue a league in breadth, and three or foure in length: and at the ende therof is the riuer called *Delgado*, this is a good porte, a good cōtrie, and good people, although that they be naked. From this gulfe to Cape *Frio*, that is to say, the colde cape, are .xvj. leagues: cape *Frio* standeth in .xxiiij. degrees and a halfe, this cape hath before it an Iland adioyning, and the fayre cape an other, & betwene these other litle Ilands. From the colde Cape the coast doth turne to the Northwest and by North .xxv. leagues, & from thence it turneth Northeast other .xx. leagues, and maketh the Colde cape lyke to an Iland: and betweene him and the lande there is a good gulfe, with many small Ilandes in the middest: and frō this gulfe vnto the gulfe of the *Mangues* are xx. leagues. That of the *Mangues* hath two Ilands at the end of it, and it is great, & hath .xx. leagues at the mouth. From this gulf vnto the riuer of S. Francis are .lxxv. leagues. And that of saint Francis lieth Southwest in .xxv. degrees, and before that of saynt Francis lieth the riuer of the *Cananca*, whiche is a good riuer, and in the middest of this coast lieth the cape of saint Sebastian, which entreth foure leagues into the sea, and towards the Easte parte of it, standeth the porte of *Gregorio*: and to the weast parte lieth the porte of *Terrerias*, which is a good gulfe, and bath an Iland in the middest. All this coast hath many litle Ilands before it. From the porte of saynt Francis vnto the riuer *Delas Bueltas*, that is to say, the croked riuer, are .lx. leagues, the coast lieth South, the croked riuer standeth in .xxix. degrees, and neare to the riuer of saynt Francis toward the land lieth an Iland, which hath in lēgth xxv. leagues, and towarde the lande he seemeth in circle oblique: and rounde aboute the same is the Sea, and hath [...] leagues in breadth: and towards the [...] ••rme lande lieth the gulfe and riuer called *Reparo*, and the riuer of *Bayadas*. From the crooked riuer vnto the Cape saint Mary are .lxxx. leagues. The cape saynt Mary standeth in .xxxv. degrees, and a little past this cape, entreth in a riuer more than twentie leagues of breadth, where be people that do eate mans flesh. This coast is al full of sholdes. And before cape saynt Mary are certaine small Ilandes. In all these coastes from cape saynt Mary vnto cape saint Austin groweth muche Brasill and little other thing of any profite in it.

*Cold Cape.*

*Saynt  
Sebastian.*

## 1 A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PORTES CREEKES, BAYES, AND HAUENS OF THE WEAST INDIA.

---

And seing that we haue spoken of the coast that lieth from the cape of saynt Austin towardes the pole Antartike: let vs returne to speake of that whiche is towardes the parte of the pole Artike, whiche is called the North pole. I say that from the cape of saynt Austin vnto the riuier

*Marauon.* *Marauon* are three hundreth leagues: *Marauon* lieth weast, in seuen degrees and a halfe, it is a greate riuier, and hath more than .xv. leagues in breadth, and ryght leagues within the land. It hath many Ilandes, and in this riuier within the lande .xl. leagues, there is neare to the sayd riuier a Mountaine, wherevpon groweth trees of Incense, the trees be of a good height, & the bowes be like to Plum trees, & the Incense doth hang at them, as the yet doth at the tyles of a house in the winter season when it dothe freese. In this riuier were taken foure *Indians* in a small boate called in the *Indian* language a *Canoa*, that came downe by the riuier, and there was takē from them two stones of Emeralds, the one of them being as great as a mans hand. They sayde that so many dayes iourney goyng vpwarde by the riuier, they founde a rocke of that stone. In likewise there was takē from them two loa[...] •s made of floure, whiche was like to cakes of Sope, and it seemed that they were kne[...] ••ed with the licour of *Balsamo*. All this coaste from the cape of saynt Austin vnto *Maranon* is a cleare coast and deepe, but neare to the riuier are certaine sholdes towards the East parte. And by the weast part the riuier is deepe, and it hath a good entrie. From this riuier *Maranon*, vnto the riuier whiche is called

*The Sea of freshe vwater.* the Sea of fresh water, art .xxv. leagues: this riuier hath .lx. leagues of breadth at the mouth, and carieth suche great aboundance of water, that it entereth more than xx. leagues into the Sea, and mingleth not it selfe with the salte water: this breadth goeth .xxv. leagues within the land, and after it is deuided into partes, the one going towards the southeast, and the other towardes the southwest. That which goeth towards the southwest is very deepe and of much water, and hath a chanell half a league of breadth, that a Carrake may goe vp through it: and the tydes be so swifte, that the shippes haue neede of good cabels. The ryuer of this porte is very good, and there haue bene some that haue entered fiftie leagues within it, and haue seene no Mountaynes. The *Indians* of this countrey haue their lippes made full of small holes in foure partes, and through those holes be put small rings, and likewise at their eares: and if any man aske of thē where they had their golde, they answere, that goyng vp by the riuier so many dayes iourney, they found certaine mountaynes that had much of it, and from those mountaynes they brought it when they would haue it, but they made no great accōpt of it, for they neither buy nor sell, and amongst them is nothing but chaunge. In this countrey they eate bread of rootes, and *Maiz*, and they eate certaine rootes whiche they call *Aies* and *Batatas*, but the *Batatas* be better than the other rootes, and beyng rawe they haue a smell of Chestnuts: they are to be eatē rosted. These *Indians* do make wine of y<sup>e</sup> fruite of Date trees, which fruite is yellow in colour, & is as great as a litle Doues egge, and being in season is good to be eaten, and of him proceedeth good wine, and is preserued for a long time. These kinde of people doe make their houses with vpper rowmes, and they sleepe in them, as also all their habitation is in the vpper rowmes, and that whiche is alowe, they leaue it open: and also they vse certayne mantels of cotton wooll, and these they tie at the endes with ropes, and the one ende of the rope they make fast to one parte of the house, and the other ende to the other parte of the house: and in these they lie, and be their beddes, and these kinde of beddes be vsed in all the Occidentall *India*, and there is not in any parte of *India* any chambers that the people do vse to lodge in aloft from the ground, nor they make any high rowmes, but onely in this parte of *India*, and in all other places they make their houses without any loftes or chambers, and they couer their houses with the leaues of Date trees, and of grasse. And from this fresh water Sea vnto *Paria*, the coast lieth weast northwest, and all full of sholdes that the shippes can not come neare to the land. There is from this riuier to *Paria* twoo hundreth and fiftie leagues. In this freshe water sea, the tydes doe ebbe and flowe as much as they do in Brytayne, and standeth in sixe degrees and halfe. *Paria* standeth on the other side of the Equinoctiall towarde the North,

*Paria.* in seuen degrees: In *Paria* the sea floweth but little, and from *Paria* towardes the weast the sea dothe not flowe. From the entery of the gulfes of *Paria* vnto the cape that litt towards

the weast, are thirtie fiue leagues, & from thence the coast turneth towards the northeast, other .xxxv. leagues, and from thence the coast turneth towards the weast. Before this gulfe standeth the Ilande of the Trinitie, and towards the weast dothe appeare the gulfe of *Paria* like to half a round Circle, after the fashion of a Diametre: and at the ende of this circle is the entery in of *Paria*, and at this entrie there is betweene the land and the Iland right leagues, & on the other side there is but little space betweene the Iland and the lande, but it is deepe, and hath a good entrie: this Ilande of the Trinitie hath in length .xxv. leagues, and as many in breadth, & standeth in .viij. degrees, and is inhabited of many people, and as yet not vnder subiection. Here the *Indians* do vse to shoote with bowes, and arrowes whiche are of a fadom in length, made of reedes, which grow in that countrie, and at the ende of them is artificially wynded a peece of wood very strong, vnto the whiche peece of woodde at the ende of it, they put a bone of a fish, in place of an arrow head: these kinde of bones be harder than Diamōdes and euery one of them be three or foure fingers long, and they are taken out of a fish that hath three of these bones, one vpon the backe, and one vnder euery wing: but that which groweth vpon the backe is the strongest and the greatest. In this Iland the people sayeth that there groweth golde, and in this Ilande and in *Paria* groweth reedes so great, that they make stauess of thē, and carry of them into Spayne. Likewise there be Poppingayes very great and gentle, and some of them haue their foreheades yellowe, and this sorte doe quickly learne to speake, and speake muche. There be likewise in the gulfe of *Paria* pearles, although not many, but very good and greate. *Paria* hath many Ilandes towards the north parte of it, vntill you come to the Iland of saint *Christopher*, and frō saint *Christopher*, to the Iland called *Espanola*, be other Ilands that lieth towards the Northeast. The names of these Ilands are as foloweth: The firste and nearest Ilande to *Paria* is called the Iland of *Mayo*, this is but a small Ilande: there is a fruyte growing in it that the caske of it smelleth like to Beniamyn: likewise there is Rosine in certayne trees, whiche they vse for Incense, and Aimasticke. This Iland stādeth in ten degrees and a halfe: the Iland of *Tabaco* in ten: *Santa Lucia* and the *Assention* in xj. degrees and a halfe: the *Baruada* in .xij. degrees: *Martinino* in .xij. degrees and a halfe: the *Dominica* in .xiiij. and a halfe: *Gwadalupe* and the *Deceada* in xv. degrees: *Monserate* and the *Antigua* in .xvj. degrees: *Baruada* in .xviij. *Baruada* is compassed aboute with sholdes: the *Redonda* in .xv. degrees and a halfe: saint *Christopher* in xvij. degrees and a halfe: saynt *Bartolome* and saynt *Martin* in xvij. degrees and a halfe: *Sombrero* in xix. and a halfe: the *Anegada* in .xx. the *Virgines* in .xix. and .xx. *Sancta Crus* in xvij. and a halfe: saynt *Iohn* in .xix. and .xx. and in .xx. and a halfe. From the *Trinitie* to saynt *Iohn* be two hundereth and fortie leagues. All the other Ilandes whiche I haue named, be in the middest of these twoo, and be all *Cannibals*, a people which eateth mans flesh, and they go to the sea in small botes called *Canoas* to make warre, one of them with an other, and as many people as they take one of an other, they carry to their owne Ilandes, and if they be men they eate them, and if they be women they serue them as slaues: and if any of the men that they take one of an other be leane, they put them to fatte, and when they be fatte they eate them, and they say that whiche is sweetest to be eaten in a man is the fingers, and the thinnest of the belly: these do vse to shoote with bowes and arrowes, and if they go to make warre, and do vnderstand that such as they go vnto, be stronger than they, then they leaue that place and goe to another. In all these Ilandes they say there is golde: in that of *Gwadalupe* hath bene golde found and gathered, but by reason they be not in subiection, there is no certaintie of it. The Iland of saynt *Iohn* is a good Iland, and it hath two good portes: one of them standeth towards the north, whiche is called porte *Rico*, and the towne that is in it is of Christians, and it is a good towne, although that it is not great: and the other is called saynt *German*, in this Iland is gathered much golde, and all is fine golde: this Iland is xxx. leagues long and lieth East & Weast, and in breadth twentie. From this Ilande to the Ilande called *Espanola* are xvj. leagues, and the Ilande called the *Mona*, standeth well neare in the middest betweene bothe, whiche is a little Iland. At the beginning of the lande called *Espanola* is the Cape of *Higuei*, whiche standeth in .xx. degrees: from this cape

*The Trinitie.*

*The Ilande of Mayo.*

[...] •andes.

*Canibal[...]*  
••

*Saynt Iohn.*

*The Iland called Espanalo.*

# 1 A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PORTES CREEKES, BAYES, AND HAUENS OF THE WEAST INDIA.

---

of *Higuei*, vnto the cape of *Tiburon*, which is the cape and ende of the Iland, are one hundreth and sixtie leagues: they lie east and weast: from the cape of *Higuei* vnto the *Saona*, whiche is neare to the entring in at the porte of *Higuei*, are .xv. leagues. The *Saona* lieth southwest in. x[...] • x. degrees and a halfe. Saint *Catherine* standeth in as many. From the entry of the porte of *Higuei* vnto the entry of the porte of saynt *Domingo*, the coaste lyeth weast. and are .xxxv. leagues: and from saynt *Domingo* to *Acuia* are twentie: *Acuia* lieth weast. From *Acuia* to the *Beata* are twentie leagues. The *Beata* standeth from *Acuia* Southwest in xix. degrees. From the *Beata* to *Yaquimo* are fiue and twentie leagues. From *Yaquimo* to the *Cauana* are fourtie leagues. *Yaquimo* and the *Cauana* lieth in twentie degrees. From the *Cauana* lieth out a cape from the lande into the Sea towards the South, cyght leagues, and from thence the coast turneth Weast Northwest vnto cape *Tiburon*. There is from one cape to the other .xxv. leagues. Before the *Cauana* standeth an Iland which is called [...] and betweene it and the *Cauana* is sholde, and the chanell lieth neare to the lande, & an other lieth at the end of the Iland. From the cape of *Tiburon* the coast turneth towards the East vnto *Yaragua* three score and ten leagues, vntill it come neare to the Iland of *Guanabon*. In this three score and tenne leagues the Iland called *Espanola* hath not in breadth more than twentie or two and twentie leagues. From *Yaragua* the coast turneth towards the Northwest and by North, vnto the cape of saynt *Nicholas*. There is from *Yaragua* to the cape of saynt *Nicholas* fiftie and fiue leagues, and the cape of saint *Nicholas* beyng doubled, the coast turneth towards the east vnto porte Roiall: and from the cape of saint *Nicholas* to port Roiall be fifty leagues. This porte Roiall is the best porte of the Ilande sauynge that it is out of the way of all trade, and therefore they go not to it. From porte Roiall to the porte of *Plata*, are fiue and thirtie leagues: from the porte of *Plata* to the Cape de *Cierpe*, are fourtie leagues: the coaste lieth East Southeast. From the Cape of *Cierpe* vnto the cape of *Higuei* are eight and twentie leagues. And from the Cape of *Higuei* to the cape of *Tiburon* are one hundreth and eightie leagues, and that is the length of this Ilande. It hath in breadth from the *Beata* to porte Roiall ninetie leagues: the South parte of it standeth in .xix. and .xx. degrees: the North parte in .xxiiij. This Ilād is inhabited with Christiās. There is gathered in it much gold: there cōmeth euery yeare frō this Iland to *Castile*, 400000. *Castellanos* & more, euery *Castellano* is worth .vij. shillings of our money of Englād. It is a countrie of much fleshe, and also of much freshe fishe: the cattayle do multiply much, bycause there is no kinde of vermine that do hurt them. In al this Iland the Kine and Mares do bring forth yong ones, once euery yeare, and the yong Mares and yong Kine be with fole when they be but a yeare and a halfe olde. The grasse is alwayes greene and neuer waxeth drye: the trees be alwayes greene, with their leaues as they be here in the moneth of May and Iune. They eate bread of a roote which they call *Casauī*. There be other rootes like to Turneps, whiche be called *Aies*, and also *Batatas*, but the *Batatas* be better, and there be fieldes ful of them as be here of sown fieldes. There is also a fruyte which is called *Pinas*, whiche be of the making of a Pine apple, but they be greater: the trees that beareth them be lyke to the Canes or stockes of Lillies, and *Flure de Lucēs*. Whē they be in season they turne yellow like to waxe: the smell of it is so much & so sweete, y<sup>t</sup> it smelleth in all y<sup>e</sup> house where they be. It is of a maruelous goodly sauour although that the tast of it be somewhat egre. There is also an other fruit of trees which is called *Mameis*, which is as great, & like to a Doues egge, of a tawny colour, being within three kernels, the meate of it is like to a Peach, somewhat red. The people of this Ilande were Idolaters & naked, although that now they be turned Christians. The womē do weare a kind of apparel, which they call there *Naguas*, made in such sorte, that it couereth them from the waste to the knees: and they which be Virgines, go naked as they were borne: & when any woman hath loste hir Virginitie, immediately she doth couer hir self, and if she haue no *Naguas*, she putteth before hir a leafe tied on with threedes made of Cotton woll, wherwith she couereth hir Secretes, and that leafe they call there *Pampanillia*. and when any of these women are with childe, or giue sucke to any childe, there is no man that will company with hir for any thing in the worlde: they say it is sinne to company with hir at that time.

The manners  
of the Ilande  
called  
*Espanola*.

And when any woman is with childe, hir husband taketh an other vntill his wife be deliuered of hir childe, and as long as she giueth sucke: and when any man dieth that is of estimation, they did make a greate hole in the ground, where they vsed to put him in, and they put him in sitting: and put in also with him both meate and drynke, and they couer the hole with timber and with earthe, and lefte open a straight mouth, where a man mighte goe in: to these came their wiues, and such as loued them well, and went in to him, and put in meate, and after that they were entered in, the mouth was couered with timber and earth: and so they were lefte all within, and they sayde that they wente to beare him company to the other world, where they should haue better cheere and more pleasure. And now there is in this Iland many townes of Christians, the principall towne is *Sancto Domingo*, where is a good porte and ryuer: and likewise there is the best trade of all the Ilande: & this is towards the south parte: & at the north parte is the porte of *Plata*: but the towne is little, and the porte is not very good: and by this meanes the trade is litle. In this Iland be many mountaines of Salte, and rockes of Salte. From the cape of Saint *Nicholas* to the Iland of *Cuba* are. xiiij leagues: the Iland of *Cuba* lieth west, it hath in length two hundereth and twentie leagues: and in breadth by the cape *de Crus* fiftie leagues, and by the other partes by some wayes thirtie leagues, and other some twenty. It is a good Iland: and in it is much victuall, and much wilde foule, Pigeons, Geese and Partriche, and many Poppingayes. The countrey is full of Mountaynes, there is gathered in it much golde, although that it is not so fine as that of the Iland called *Espanola*. The people be idolaters, the one parte of it is inhabited with Christians. The ende of the land which standeth next to the cape of saynt *Nicholas* is in .xxiiij. degrees and a halfe, and that which lieth towards the weast, is in .xxvij. degrees. The poynt of the cape *de Crus* is .xxiiij. degrees. This Iland of *Cuba* hath at the north parte of it aboute two hundreth small Ilandes, and they be all inhabited with people, which people be not very blacke, & be of a good growth both the men and also the women: but there is no flesh to eate in these Ilandes: their meate is fishe, rootes, and bread made of rootes, and the blades of grasse: and if any of the people be caried to other places, if they doe giue them fleshe to eate, immediatly they die, if the flesh which they eate be not very litle in quantitie. Towarde the south parte of *Cuba*, is the Ilande called *Iamayca*, and this of *Iamayca*, lieth weast from the cape of *Tiburón*. There is from the cape of *Tiburón*, which is in the Iland of *Spanola* vnto *Iamaica*. xx. leagues, and in the middest betweene both lieth the *Nauaca*, whiche is a little small rocky Iland, beyng plaine and vnprofitable. *Iamaica* lieth East, and Weast, it hath in length fiftie leagues, and in breadth .xxv. it is a fruytefull Ilande, and hath muche corne growing in it, and hath all kinde of victuall, such as they vse to eate, whiche suffiseth their necessitie, and groweth vpon the same Ilande: there is much cattel, and many trees of cotton wooll: they gather much Cotton wool in it, wherof they make store of cloth, but there is no golde: there is also great aboundance of Fishe. And there be a certayne kinde of little beastes, that haue the snoute and taylor like to a Ratte, and the body like to a Coney, and these be called *Hutias*, whose fleshe is good to eate, and there are multitudes of them. From the ende of the Ilande of *Cuba* towards the Northweast, hath appeared a great countrey, it is thought to be a firme lande. And seyng that we haue spoken of the Ilandes, lette vs returne to the coast of *Paria*, where we began to speake of the Ilandes: I say, after that you goe from *Paria*, the coast of the lande turneth toward the Weast: there is from the mouth of the gulfe of *Paria* vnto the cape that standeth vpon the gulfe of *Aliosar* seuentie fiue leagues: the gulfe of *Aliosar* lieth Weast and by North, in nine degrees and a halfe, and there remayneth in the middest the gulfe of all Sayntes: neare to the gulfe of all Sayntes towards the weast there entereth a cape of a lande into the Sea three leagues: and neare to this Cape towards the North eight leagues into the sea, there be Ilandes and rockes called the *Friers*, which be a company of small Ilandes lyke to rockes. And towards the Weast parte from the *Friers* is the Ilande called *Margarita*, whiche is an Ilande that hath xx. leagues from the East to the Weast: and from the North to the South .xij. Round aboute al this Iland are fished fine pearles, in great quantitie. And in the gulfe of *Aliofar*, they fishe pearles also, but in this Ilande be more quantitie, and greater,

*Cuba.*

*Cape de  
Crus.*

*Small  
Ilandes.*

*Iamayca.*

*Paria.*

*Margarita  
pearles.*

## 1 A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PORTES CREEKES, BAYES, AND HAUENS OF THE WEAST INDIA.

---

and towards the South side are moste and greatest: and the Cape of *Aliofar* beyng doubled, a gulfe of Sea doth returne betweene twoo landes towards the East, more than fiue and twentie leagues of breadth: in this gulfe be fished many pearles, and muche *Aliofar*: the shelles wherein they breede be lyke to Cockle shelles, but they be greater and brighter within them, lyke to the selfe same pearles, but without they be of the colour of cockles: they fishe greate quantitie of them. From the ende of the gulfe *Aliofar* vnto the Cape whiche standeth vpon the porte *Flechado* called *Tucuraca*, he soure score leagues: *Tucuraca* standeth in nine degrees and a halfe, and there remayneth in the middest the cape of small Ilandes, and before it is the porte called *Solo*, and the porte called *Canafistola*, and after him is porte *Flechado*, and hath many Ilāds before him: al this coast is of much fishing, and in it are trees of *Canafistola*, which doth bring forth there Canes so great as a great Launce, and are very good. And as it hath aboundance of substaunce, it dothe putrifie sooner than that which we haue here. The portes *Flechado* and *Canafistola* standeth in eight degrees. This countrey hath much victuall: there is in it many Poppingayes, Pearles, & *Aliofar*. The *Indians* of this countrey do vse to shoote with bowes, & their arrowes be a fadom long: there are growyng great recdes as big as a good staffe. Frō *Tucuraca* to the cape of saynt *Roman* are xlv. leagues. The cape of Saint *Roman* standeth Southwest and by South, in .xj. degrees: the cape of saynt *Roman* entreth into the sea .xx. leagues, and the lande is not past three or foure leagues broade, and towarde the cast lieth the port of *Coriana*: and towards the weast porte of the *Pico*, they be good portes. There are from them to the cape twentie leagues, they are in ten degrees. From the cape of saynt *Roman* vnto the cape of *Coquibacoa* are three small Ilandes Trianglewyse, betweene these twoo capes is one gulfe of sea in shape foure square, and at the cape of *Coquibacoa* entereth in frō this gulfe an other little gulfe within the lande foure leagues, and at the ende of him neare to the lande there lieth a great rocke, which rocke is plaine vpon the toppe, and vpō it standeth a village of houses of *Indians* whiche is called *Veneciuela*, and it standeth in ten degrees. Betwene this gulfe of *Veneciuela* and the cape of *Coquibacoa*, the water turneth within the lande towards the Weast, and in this turne standeth *Coquibacoa*. Here hath bene founde wayght, and touche for golde, in the Towne, whiche is great: and the *Indians* doe say that they bryng the golde from within the lande, xxv. leagues, and when they goe thither they carry with them the waight & the touch, whereby they know what they bring. In all the Weast *India* hath not bene found waight, but in this place. The towne of *Coquibacoa* is greate, and a good towne, and of good peaceable people. In *Veneciuela* be people of a tall growth: and there are goodlier women than are in any other parte of that countrey. There are good Pearles, and well growen, although not so many as in the *Margarita*. Here the *Indians* do vse Laū ces of .xxv. foote long, and things to shoote withall like to dartes. From the Cape of *Coquibacoa*, vnto the cape *Dela Vela* are .xl. leagues. The cape *Dela vela* lieth weast northwest in xij. degrees & a halfe and neare to this cape *Dela vela* is a good port, with a little Iland before it, which lieth weast: & beyng past cape *Dela vela* the coast turneth south & by weast, & lieth lowe, and likewise all the land from the cape *Dela Vela* is low lande. From the cape *Dela Vela* to *Tucuraca* are .xxx. leagues: *Tucuraca* standeth in .xj. degrees and a halfe, & is a good porte. Frō *Tucuraca* to *Sancta Marta* are .xxv. leagues: *Sancta Marta* lieth weast in .xj. degrees and a halfe, and is a good porte: it hath a small Ilande before it, & is the best porte of all this coast. This countrey of *Sancta Marta* is a countrey that is watered by sluces, and the corne and things which they sowe and plant, they doe water, with their owne labour: it is an open grounde, and hath hight mountaynes, and without any thing growing in them. The sande of the riuers is altogether stony sande, of the colour of golde, and it sheweth as though that it were al gold. There are in this Ilande many Hogges, and much Deare. There is found in the powre of the *Indians*, much gold and coper, and also much gilt Coper. The *Indians* do say that they gilte the Coper with an hearbe that groweth in that countrey, whiche beyng stamped, and the iuyce taken out, and the Coper beyng washed therewith and put to the fire, it turneth to the colour of most fine gold, and it riseth more or lesse in colour, accordyng to the quātitie of the hearbe that is put to it. The



people be fearce and warlike, they vse bowes, and their arrowes be little bigger than quarrels, which they annoynt with an hearbe that is so full of poyson, that it is a great chaunce (when they hit any man) if he escape, beyng wounded with that hearbe: one of the things wherewith they make that hearb, are certaine apples which be in that cōutrey, & are of the greatnesse and colour of the wilde Apples of this cōutrie. The tree that doth carry them is like to a small Peare tree of this cōutrie. As sone as any mā hath eaten one of thē, immediatly it turneth to wormes within his body, whiche grow so great & eate so much of the bodie, that they kill him: this is knowen to be so by reason. I caused it to be experimented, in one that was giuen to a Dogge to eate, whiche within foure houres was turned all into wormes in the body, and so we found it when we caused the Dogge to be opened, for to see the effect of the Apple. And if any man do put himselfe vnder one of these trees in the shadowe, immediatly his head beginneth to ake: & if he do continue there long, his face beginneth to swell, & to trouble his sight: and if by chaunce he sleepe vnder the tree, immediatly he loseth his sight: all this I haue seene by experience. Before you come to *Sancta Marta* there is *Yaharo*, which is in the side of the snowie mountaynes. *Yaharo* as a good port and standeth in a good countrey: and there be Orchardes of trees of diuers sortes of fruytes to be eaten, & among them there is one like to Oringes, & when the fruite is in season to be eaten it turneth yellow, and the meate that is within it is like to butter: It hath a good sauour, and hath the tast so good & so soft, that it is maruelous. The moūtaines that lie full of Snow, beginne from *Sancta Marta*: and neare to *Yaharo* is the highest parte of them, and they shew vpon the toppes as white as if they were Snowe, and from thence they reache to *Veneciuela*, and so into the countrey within, it is not knowen how farre, for that the cōutrie is not yet in subiectiō, nor the *Indians* do giue any more reason of them, but that they reache very farre into the countrie. This Mountayne is vpō the toppe playne, and there be many townes of *Indians* vpō it, and many lakes of standing water. In *Sancta Marta* is gathered much Cotton wooll, and the *Indians* do make store of clothe of it, whiche is a thing to be seene, and they make it of many colours: they do make of Poppingayes fethers, Pecoocks and of other birdes which be in that countrey, certaine things like to Diademes, very great, that the gētlewomen do put on their heades, which things hang downe vpon their shoulders in one peece vnto their girdle: like to the ends of a bishops Mitre: & this is so well wrought, that it is maruell to see the diuersitie of the colours, and the worke, and the arte thereof: and as the colours be naturall and of themselues, they shewe so wel, that no artificiall worke of such as is wrought here, is so good nor so acceptable vnto the sight. From *Sancta Marta* the coast turneth south .xx. leagues: and in the turnyng cape of *Sancta Marta* standeth *Garia*, where be a naughty kinde of people: and righte before this wilde countrey entreth into a Riuer very greate, whiche goeth from the Mountaynes that lie full of Snowe: and he is so greate, that thys water entreth a greate way into the Sea without any minglyng of it selfe with the salte water: and from thence the coast lieth Weast, vnto the porte of *Zamba*. *Zamba* is a good porte, and standeth in eleuen degrees and a halfe. From *Sancta Marta* to *Zamba* be fiue and twentie leagues: the lande of this coaste is playne, and lowe without Mountaynes, and it is all very fayre medowe grounde, and a countrie well inhabited: the menne haue their heare cutte, the women goe couered from the waste downeward. They are good people and burte no bodie, but suche as doe hurte them firste. *Zamba* hath towardes the Weast parte of it foure Ilandes of sandes, whiche lyeth neare the lande, and rounde aboute them be sholdes: they reache tenne leagues into the Sea, but betweene them and the lande where the Cape *De Loyo delo gato* standeth, there may passe shippes from *Zamba* vnto the Cape of *Canoa* whiche is twoo leagues. From *Carta gena* be twenty leagues, and they be all sholdes of the Ilandes of sandes. Before the Cape of *Canoa* there is a rocke whiche ryseth a little aboue the water, whiche rocke they call *Canoa*, but by reason it is seene, it is not daungerous. And a little before aboute twoo leagues from thence, are the portes of *Carta gena*. The portes of *Carta gena* haue an Iland in the myddest, whiche standeth not out of the compasse of the other lande, and by the one and the other side of thys Ilande, there is a porte, but that of the Easte parte hath the better entrie, the Ilande

*Appels of  
poyson.*

*Yaharo.*

*Moūtayns  
with Snouue.*

*Garia.*

*Ilandes of  
Sandes.*

*The portes of  
Carta gena.*

# 1 A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PORTES CREEKES, BAYES, AND HAUENS OF THE WEAST INDIA.

---

is called *Gnodego*: hee hath twoo leagues in length, and halfe a league in breadth, and is well inhabited of *Indians* beyng fisher menne. The people of this Countrey be tall, but bothe menne and women goe all naked as they were borne: they are warrelyke people, and vse bowes and arrowes: they shoote all their artowes wyth a naughty hearbe, and the women doe lykewyse fighte as well as the menne. I had prysoner a gyrle of eyghten or twentie yeares of age, who dyd affirme that she had kylled eyght Christian menne before shee was taken prysoner. In this place groweth the hearbe *Iperboton*, wherewith they heale the woundes of the hearbe whiche is poyson, and with thys Hearbe they say that *Alexander* healed *Ptholome*. In this Countrey and towards the Weast partes the *Indians* doe eate breade of the grayne of *Maiz*, grounde: and they make of it good bread, whiche is of muche substaunce: and of the selfe same meale of *Maiz* beyng sodden in kettels and great tinages in muche water, they make wyne to drynke: and it is wyne o[...] • much substaunce, good, and of a good sauour. The *Indians* doe vse to drynke a greate cuppe full of it when they ryse in the mornyng without eatyng any thyng else with it, and therewith they goe to theyr dayly laboures, and be there labouryng the greatest parte of the day, without eatyng any other thyng. The Christians that are in that Countrey doe vse the lyke, and they say that it is there in that Countrey: and a manne endureth to laboure with it all one daye without eatyng any other thyng, if he drynke twoo tymes thereof.

*Iperboton*

The hearbe *Iperboton* wherewith they heale the hearbe that is poyson, they say that the iuyce of hys toote is as good for the sighte as for to heale the hearbe of poyson, and that there is of it in *Carmania*, and in the Mountayne *Atalantes*, whiche are in the coaste of *Getulia*. In this countrey of *Carta Gena* is in the power of the *Indians* muche Copper and there is lykewise golde, but not muche: and they say that twentie leagues from that Countrey towards the Southwest is muche golde, and whosoeuer will may goe thither for it.

*Cara[...]*

• • • • •

From *Carta gena* to the Ilandes of *Caramari* whiche lieth Weast, are eyght leagues, these Ilandes be all lowe, and no shippe can passe betwene them. From the Ilands of *Caramari*, vnto the Ilandes of *Baru* be ten leagues: betwene these of *Baru* and the land may passe shippes if they be not very great, and beyng paste these Ilandes of *Baru*, more towards the Weast is the porte of *Cenu*, which is a great Baye, and hath his entry by the East part, and it is a good sure porte. There is from *Carta gena*, to *Cenu*. xxv. leagues: *Carta gena* lieth East in ten degrees and a halfe, and *Cenu* towards the Weast in ix. degrees: in that of *Cenu* they make muche Salte: the people be strong and warlike: they vse bowes, and their arrowes be set with poyson. Ill men and womē goe naked. When any man of great auctoritie dye, or any chylde of hys, they take their guttes out of their bodies, and washe them with certayne thyngs, and annoynt them, and vpon them they put Cotton wooll, died with diuers colours, whiche they put againe into the bodie, and beyng coloured therewith, they put them into a bedde made after the fashiō of the beddes of that countrey, and they hang him vp in the house, neare to the place where they make their fire: and so they keepe him It happened to me, that I tooke a towne called *Catarapa*, where we founde more than xx. that were hanged after this sort in the houses. In this coū trey of *Cenu* is much golde in the power of the *Indians*, & very fine, and it is myngled and hath his foundation of Siluer, and there is no parte of it Copper, whiche the *Indians* doe say they bryng from certayne Mountaynes, from whence the ryuer of *Cenu* doth come forth, from certayne places that they call *Mocri*, and an other *Cubra*, and an other *Cud[...]* •: and the earth that

*Cenu.*

*An earth of golde.*

they haue in those places is somewhat redde, and they gather it in riuers & valleys: and when it rayneth they caste nettes ouerthwart the riuers & valleys, and as the water increaseth, it bringeth graynes of gold as great as an egge & they remayne in y<sup>e</sup> nets: & in this sorte they gather the greatest graynes: & y<sup>t</sup> which they gather, they bring to the towne which is called *Cenu*, being .x. leagnes from the Sea vpō the riuier, & there they worke it, and doe what they will with it. I toke an *Indian* Gentleman prisoner, y<sup>t</sup> sayd to me, that he had gone to this place three times, and had seene it gathered after that sort, and also that he himselfe had gathered it. This countrey of *Cenu* hath great store of vittayle growen in the Countrey. Their bread and Wyne is made of the meale of *Maiz*, as it is in *Carta Gena*. Likewise there be rootes, whereof

they make bread, as in the Iland of *Cuba*, and *Iamaica*, and the *Espanola*, but it is of another qualitie: for that of the Ilandes is naught, and if any do eate of it, he dyeth, as though he had eaten *Arnike*: and also if any beast eate of it, or drink of the water that commeth out of it, he dyeth. And to make bread of it, they grate it, and after they presse it, and when it remayneth as drye as powder, they make bread of it: and that which groweth in this Citie of *Cenu*, and in all y<sup>e</sup> Countrey heereabout, they eate them rawe, and rosted, for they are very good to be so eaten, and of a good sauoure.

## 1.1 A Protestation.

I Did require two *Indian* Gentlemē of *Cenu*, in the behalfe of the King of *Castile*, that they shoulde be subiect to the Kyng of *Castile*, and that he woulde giue them to vnderstande, that there was one God alone, whyche was three persons in one, and did require them, that they woulde leaue vnto him that Countrey, seeyng that it did apperteyne to hym: and if they would liue in it as they were, that they should giue to him the obedience, as vnto their Lord, and also shoulde giue him in token of obedience, some thing euery yeare, euen so much as they themselues would name, and if they would this doe, the Kyng would giue them rewards and giftes, and helpe against theyr enimies, and would put among them learned men & Priestes, that should shew them that which doth apperteyne to the faith of Christe: and if any of them woulde not turne Christians, they should not be compelled by force, agaynst their willes, but they might remayne as they were before, and they answered me to that I sayde that there was but one God, and this God gouerned the Heauen and the Earth, and was Lorde of all. It lyked them very well, who sayde, y<sup>t</sup> they thought it to be true: and they sayd, that they were Lords of their owne Coū trey, and had no neede of any other Lorde. Then I required thē agayne y<sup>t</sup> they should do it, & not doing it, I would make warre agaynst them, & would take their Towne, & would kill as many as I tooke, or would keepe thē prisoners, and sell thē for slaues. They aunswered me, that first they would put my head vpō a staffe, & they laboured to do it, but they coulde not, for we tooke the towne by force, although they shotte at vs an infinite nūber of arrowes, & al poysoned w<sup>t</sup> hearbes, wherwith they wounded two of our men, and both dyed, although their wounds were but small. After I tooke prisoner an *Indian* Gentleman, of those w[...] •ich I spake of before, that had declared to me of the mines of *Vocri*, whome I founde to be a man of much truth, & kept his promise in al things. And after this sort are all the warres of those Countreys. Frō this riuer of *Cenu*, vnto the Gulfe of *Vraba*, are. xxv leagues. The gulfe of *Vraba* lieth towards the Weast in .viij. degrees. Al this Countrey is full of Mountaynes, & a naughtye kinde of people: they are all *Canibals*, & eate mans flesh. They vse to shoote with bowes and arrowes which are poysoned. Fiue leagues from the Riuer of *Cenu* towards the West, is an Iland called the strōng Iland, welnecre a league frō the lande. In this Iland is mucche salte made, and neerer the Gulfe is another, called the *Tortuga*. The Gulfe of *Vraba* hath. xiiij leagues of length within the land, & of breadth in the mouth an entrie .vj. or .vij. leagues, farther in fiue, and neere the cape foure. At the entrie toward the East he hathe certaine sholdes, which entreth in more thā two leagues into the Sea athwart of the mouth & entrie, and they goe welneere ouer the one halfe of the entrie towards the Weast part of the Gulfe. And there is fiue leagues within the Gulfe, the *Darien*, whych is inhabited with Christiās, and there they gather fyne golde in a Riuer that descendeth from certaine high Mountaynes. In these Mountaynes be many Tigres & Lyons, and diuers other beastes, and Cattes with lōg tayles, and be like to Apes, but that they haue great tayles. There are also Swyne, & many great beastes as great as kyne, fatte, whiche be of a grey couloure, and haue their feete like to kyne, the head like to a Moyle, with long eares, their flesh being good to eate. There be also many other beastes. I toke that Towne, which was the first that was taken in that Countrey, and I saw all these beasts, and it was told me, that they had sene Ownees. I saw none, but I saw a riuer y<sup>t</sup> passeth by the towne of *Darien*, wherein were many Lyzards that were great, & so grose in the body as a Calfe: and if they see any man, dogge, or pigge neere the water, they come out of it, and fall

*Canibals.*

*The Gulfe of Vraba*

## 1 A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PORTES CREEKES, BAYES, AND HAUENS OF THE WEAST INDIA.

---

vpon him, and if they catche him, they carrie him into the water, & eate him. I happened to kill y<sup>e</sup> first that was killed, & I saw cast at hym more than tenne Launces, and as they strake vpō him, they rebounded, as though they had stricken vpō a Rocke. And after that, a seruant of mine went athwart of hym, and thrust him at one blowe into the middest of his body, and then we killed hym, and being dead and taken on lande, we found that he had vpon his backe from his necke to the tayle a shell that couered hym all, whiche was so strong, that no Launce coulde passe it: and vnder that from the middle of the body downewarde neere to the guttes, he was as other Lyzards are, and by that parte of his body he was thrust in with the Launce. His mouth was three spannes long from the snoute to the lower end of y<sup>e</sup> teeth: he had in a side two rewes of teeth, the most fierce that I haue seene, or had bin seene by any of them that were with me. He was fleyne & his flesh was eatē, it was white & good, & smelled like to muske, and good in eating. I saw also y<sup>e</sup> flesh of Tigres & of Lions. I saw certayne mē kil

*Tygns.* Lyons alone by thēselues. The Tygres are greater of bodye than the Lyons are, and their feete are verye strong, and of greate force, but they are heauie, for they runne slowly & are of little courage. It hapned y<sup>t</sup> a Tygre wēt after a mā a league, vntil he came to a towne, & the mā neuer wēt but his accustomed pace, & the Tygre after him .iij. or .iiij. speares lēghth bebind,

*Lizards.* & in a league y<sup>t</sup> they wēt together, he durst not to fasten with the man. The Lizardes in the moneth of Ianuary and February do breede in this order fellowyng When the Sunne is hotest in the day, they come for the of the water into the sandes, and with their foure feete they make a hole, and there lay theyr egges, and after they bee layd, they couer them with the sand, and with the heate of the Sunne. The Lizardes be ingendred in those egges, and after they make a hole in them, and they come forth of the egges into the sandes, and so they goe into the water. The egges be as greate as a Goose egge, and greater. They haue no shelles, but certayne skynnes. They be good to eate, and of a good sauoure, & euery Lizard doth lay at one tyme lx.

*Yaguanas.* or lxx. egges. Lykewise there be others called *Yaguanas*, whiche be great, and lyke to Lizards, and these haue round heads, and from the forepart of the head to the tayle, he caryeth Brustels of heare, standyng vp verye fierce. They be of a russet coloure, and somewhat in coloures: these goe into the Mountaines. The sight of them is fearefull, but they hurt no body, by reason they take them aliue, and kill them with staues. These are good meate, & theyr fleshe is muche esteemed in that countrey. Their egges be of a good tast. In these Countreys is muche wilde foule of dyuers sorts, which are good flesh. There are abūdance of greene Poppingeys, and some greate ones of many coloures, red, blewe, blacke, and greene, whiche are faire to beholde. Their fleshe is good and sweete: and others that are as little as grey Sparrowes, which be greene and faire. In this countrey are greate fishings of good fish: and also there be Date trees that do carry frute as greate as a Doues egge, some yellow, and other of the Rose coloure, but they haue greate stones: their tast is somewhat sharp. In this Countrey are little beastes like to Pigges of a month olde, these haue their feete and heads lyke to a little Horse, with little eares, and they be all couered with a shell from the eares to the tayle, and be like to a Horse couered. They are faire to behold. They feede like to Horse. In this countrey are Conies and Partriches, and many goodly birds. And the bread and Wine of this Countrey is made of *Maiz*, (as it is saide:) The people are tall of growth, and Idolaters. There are some of them that beleue, that there is no other thing, but to be borne and to die. There be amōg them Lords, whome they honoure much. And he that is a great Lord, they call *Tiba*, and others that be not so great, *Quin*[...] • s. Before thys Riuer of *Darien*, entreth in another Riuer verye greate in thys gulfe of *Vraba*, and he entreth in by sixe or seauen monthes, although they be but sholde, and no shippe can enter in at thē, if they be greater than small boates: but within the mouth he is greate, and fifteene and twenty fadome deepe, and a myle broad, & hath abundance of water, by reason that xl. leagues within the land there ioyneth with him greate riuers, whiche commeth from the East parte of the Mountaynes, where the Riuer of *Cenu* springeth: and the first riuer that ioyneth wyth him, is that of *Dabayne*. In the springs of this Riuer, and of another whiche is before this, they saye that there are greate mines, but the truth is not knowen, but the *Indians* doe say it.

And there hathe bin takē in the power of *Indiās*, peeces of fine golde, that wayed seauen and eyght hundred waight. In the little riuers of this great riuier, are many places drowned vp, and in them are many *Indians*, and haue their houses and habitations vpon trees, for that vnder them is al water, and they liue by fishing. This gulfe of *Vraba* hath on the other parte of the Mountaine of *Darien* towards the South, another gulfe, called the gulfe of *Saint Michael*, and there is frō the one to y<sup>e</sup> other xxv. leagues & more. There is this differēce betwene thē: in the gulfe of *Darien* and *Vraba*, the Sea dothe not flowe one palme, and in that of *Saint Michael*, it floweth as much as in *Britaine*. And of this coast of the gulfe of *Saint Michael* I wil speake hereafter. And now I do returne to the gulfe *Vraba*, and do saye, that from the entrie in of the gulfe of *Vraba*, vnto the port *De Careta*, are fiftene leagues. *Careta* lieth Northweast, in nine decrees and halfe. From the Port *Perdido*, to *Nombre de Dios*, the coast lyeth West North West. *Nombre de Dios* standeth in tenne degrees and halfe, and there are in the middest *Conegie*, *Pocurosa*, and the baye of *Saint Blase*. There are from the port *Perdido* to *Conogie* seauen leagues. From *Conogie* to *Pocurosa* tenne. From *Pocurosa* to the baye of *Saint Blase*, fyue. From the baye to *Nombre de Dios* sixe. In all this countrey they call men *Omes*, and the women *Iras*. The men goe naked, and they vse to bring tyed at their middle with a small cord certayne Snayles shelles of the Sea, and into these shels they put their members, and some doe carrie a thing like to a fonnell of golde, wherein they put their members. The Women goe all couered from the wast downewarde with wast coates of cotten woll, and weare rings put through their eares, and many other things, and cheynes of gold. There hathe bin found amongst the *Indians* much golde, although that mucche of it is course, and in valewe of tenne and twelue kuyllats and lesse, and they call this *Giamin*. In y<sup>e</sup> South part of this countrey is found golde in the Riuers, and as it hath not bin much sought till now, it hath not bin knowen. I haue seene a graine gathered in a Riuier, whiche wayed seauen Ducates. From *Nombre de Dios* to *Veragua*, are fyue and thirtie leagues. *Veragua* is towards the Weast in tenne degrees. And neere to *Nombre de Dios* is Port *Bello*, which is a good Port. It hathe at the entrie of it a little Ilande, and in the middest another. The Countrey of this coast is full of sharpe Mountaynes, and barren. From *Veragua* the coast turneth North to the cape of *Gracias Adios*, threescore leagues. The cape of *Gracias Adios* standeth in foureteene degrees. And neere to *Veragua* is the *Furmia*, and after *Corobora*, and after that certayne Ilandes, compassed aboute with sholdes: and from the cape of *Gracias Adios* the coast turneth Weast to the cape of *Caxines*, where is an Ilande, and is thirtie leagues distante. And from the cape of *Caxines* the coast turneth towards the North threescore and fiftene leagues, vnto the cape *de Lagar*, and all these threescore and fiftene leagues be sholdes, and entreth into the Sea towards the East threescore leagues: and from this cape to the cape of the Iland of *Cuba*, are one hundred and twenty leagues. The cape of *Cuba* lieth North. From the cape of *Lagar*, vnto the cape of *Fondura*, are fyue and thirtie leagues. The coast lieth West. The cape of *Lagar*, and that of *Fondura*, standeth in .xvj. degrees, and being past the cape of *Fondura*, is a Gulfe that entreth .xv. leagues within the lande, and in the entrie it hath .xviij. leagues of length, and farther in xxv. From this cape, to the bay of *S. Thome*, are .lx. leagues, and the coast lieth Weast. And neere to the bay entreth one end of the lād into the sea .xx. leagues towards the Northweast, and at the end of the land is the entrie of the baye of *S. Thome*, and y<sup>e</sup> bay doth returne vpon the cape Southeast .xlv. leagues, and carieth in length and breadth .xv. leagues. And at the entrie in of this gulfe towards the Weast, appeareth another little rōūd gulfe full of small Ilands. From the mouth of this gulfe, to the Port of the *Figueras*, are .xxx. leagues. The coast lieth Northweast, and it is all sholdes. The entrie of the Gulfe of *S. Thome* standeth in .xix. degrees and halfe. It entreth in at the East part, for by the Weast part it is all sholdes. The cape of the *Figueras* standeth in .xxj. degrees, and from this place the discouerers returned, and past no farther: & they found in this Coū trey trees of oke, with acornes like to oures, and many birdes different from those of this Countrey: and hennes as greate as Geese: and they found tokens & shewes of much golde, for they found great peeces of golde in the power of *Indians*. And now I do returne to the Gulfe of *S Michael*,

*The Gulfe of S. Michael.*

*Careta. Nombre de Dios.*

*Pocurosa.*

*Veragua.*

*The cape of Gracias Adios.*

*Sholde[...]*  
•

*The cape Lagar.*

*The bay of S. Thome.*

*The cape of the Figueras.*

# 1 A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PORTES CREEKES, BAYES, AND HAUENS OF THE WEAST INDIA.

---

*The Gulfe of Saint Michael.* & to the coast of y<sup>e</sup> other side towards the South. The Gulfe of *S. Michael* lieth Northeast & Southwest, with y<sup>t</sup> of *Vraba*, there are .xxv. leagues of land betweene the one and the other. That of *S. Michael* is towards y<sup>e</sup> Southwest, & it hath at the entrie in .x. leagues, & of length .xxv. And towards the Southwest lieth the Ilande of *Perles*. There is from the Gulfe to the

*An Ilande of Pearles.* Ilande tenne leagues. This Ilād is plentiful of vittaile. There is in it many birds, & so many conyes, that they enter into the houses to breede. And round about it on euery side, is much fishing of great Pearles, and very fyne. I sawe one of the fashion of a little peare, the best and greatest that I haue seene. The entrie of the Gulfe of *Saint Michael*, standeth in sixe degrees. From the entrie of the Gulfe of *Saint Michael*, the coast lieth West, seauen leagues vnto the Cacike *Tamao*. The coast lyeth .xxviiij. leagues toward the Northwest, and by Weast, to the

*Tubanama.* Riuer of *Tubanama*. This Riuer of *Tubanama* hath at the entrie an Ilande in triangle, whiche causeth him to haue two mouthes: it is a good Riuer, and a good Countrey, well inhabited, and of much vittayle, and great fishing: there is in it much golde. In this coast the Sea doth ebbe and flowe much. From this Riuer to *Panama* are twenty leagues, and the coast lieth Weast, and there is in the midst the Riuer called *Chapanere*, and the Riuer *Pacora*, whiche are in a good countrey, and where as is gold, and the people are good. *Panama* hath an Iland towards the Sea neere y<sup>e</sup> land. Frō *Panama* to the cape of *Chiru* are .xx. leagues, and the coast lyeth

*Panama.* Weast and by South, & there is in y<sup>e</sup> midst *Perequete* and *Tabora*. From *Chiru* towards the

*Pacora.* West appeareth a gulfe oblique, in the midst whereof dwelleth the Cacike *Paris*, an *Indian* Gentleman of greate power, and the richest in that coast: and there remayneth in the myddest

*Chiru.* *Nathan* and *Estora*, which are good townes. All this coast frō the Gulfe of *Saint Michael* to

*Paris.* *Chiru* and *Paris*, be from sixe to seauen degrees. The countrey is playne and good, and of much vittayle of all sortes, and in all that countrey is mucche golde. From *Paris* lyeth a poynt of the land into the Sea twē tie leagues, and being past the poynt, the coast turneth to the Northeast, vntill it come hard to the cape of *Gracias a Dios*, and all the Countrey is frutefull, and a rich Countrey of gold, whereas are many good townes. In this Countrey they doe compasse about the townes with timber, for feare of Tygres, and Lions, that they come not by night into the houses. From the Gulfe of *Vraba* & *Saint Michael*, to the end of the cape of *Gracias Adies*, are two hundred leagues: and all this Countrey hath not in breadth more than thirtie, and where it is most fourtie leagues, and all are good people and riche, and a fruyteful cōtrey. There they vse no bowes, nor hearbe of poyson, but Launces and Dartes. And there are in this Sea towards the Southe many Ilandes, where is as mucche golde and Pearles, as the *Indians* doe say. And they say that there is a countrey where the people that doe inhabite it, haue bookes, and do wryte and reade as we doe.

Now seyng that we haue spoken of that part that is from the Ilande of *Fierro*, towards the Weast, and Northwest, lette vs speake of one peece of lande whiche is in this seconde parte towards the North, whiche lande is called the lande of *Labrador*. This lande of *Labrador* standeth in .lvij. degrees: it standeth Northwest from *Calizia*, and East and Weast with Scotlande. This lande of *Labrador* hath towards the Weast parte of it the countrey of *Bacallaos*, whiche is a countrie of mucche fishyng, and a great countrey: and the *Bocallaos* standeth Weast from *Galizia*, and parte of them Weast and by Northe, and this countrey hath many portes, and good: Mucche of the countrey is inhabited, and there are many Ilandes before it, all inhabited. They say there is in it greate quantitie of Fures, and very fine. The lande of *Labrador* is towards the North from the *Acores*. There is from the *Acores* to the lande of *Labrador* three hundreth leagues, and from *Galizia* to the lande *Labrador* three hundreth and fiftie. And there is from *Galizia* to the lande of *Cauallaos* fiue hundreth and thirtie leagues. The lande of *Cauallaos* standeth in fourtie nine, and in fiftie degrees.

FINIS.