The Discoveries of the World, from Their First Original Unto the Year of Our Lord 1555

Galvão António
THE

DISCOVERIES OF THE WORLD,

FROM THEIR FIRST ORIGINAL UNTO THE
YEAR OF OUR LORD 1555,

BY

- ANTONIO GALVANO.
GOVERNOR OF TERNATE.

CORRECTED, QUOTED, AND PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND,
BY RICHARD HAKLUYT, (1601).

NOW REPRINTED,

With the Original Portuguese Text:

AND EDITED BY

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PREFACE.

The English text was printed from a manuscript copied from Hakluyt's version published in 1601.

We learn from his "Epistle Dedicatorie," that "it was first done into our language by some honest and well affected merchant of our nation."

Hakluyt was not the man to be contented with a translation if better materials could be obtained, and he appears to have made diligent inquiry after the original, but without success.

More fortunate than he, the Hakluyt Society has been able to obtain sight of a copy of the original, published in 1563, and believed to be unique. This valuable work is the property of an American gentleman, Mr. John Carter Brown, of Providence, Rhode Island, who kindly permitted Mr. R. H. Major, of the British Museum, to have it copied; from this copy

1 The Biographie Universelle speaks of an edition in 12mo. printed in 1535.
the Portuguese text has been printed. The *Nouvelle Biographie Générale* calls this work "rarissime," but speaks of two copies, one in the National Library at Lisbon, the other in the Library of D. Francesco da Mello Manuel.

On comparing Hakluyt's version with the original, some omissions and additions have been noticed. It is not possible at this date to trace the causes of the former, probably they arose from inadvertence in the translator; they have been supplied within brackets: the latter are due to Hakluyt, who, failing to obtain the original work, supplied what he thought necessary from the "original histories," and to him also are probably due the marginal references.

Antonio Galvano was born at Lisbon in 1503. He embarked for India in 1527, where he soon distinguished himself.

He was selected by the Viceroy Don Nunho da Cunha, to reduce and govern the Moluccas. After a time he succeeded, as much by valour as by judicious conduct, in bringing these islands under Portuguese sway; and by exercising strict justice and kind dealing towards the natives, both rare in those days, he earned the title of the "father of the country."

But his deeds were not limited to earthly conquest. Galvano, so intrepid at the head of his troops,
might also be seen, with a crucifix in his hand, preaching the Gospel publicly, whereby he became known as the "Apostle" of the Moluccas.

Having spent many years and much treasure in benefiting the people committed to his charge, he was recalled to Europe. But calumny and envy appear to have been at work, and he was coldly received by his sovereign, John III. Finally, he was reduced to such a state of indigence, that he was fain to find refuge in the Royal Hospital at Lisbon, where he died in 1557.

Galvano was a man of rare talent, well versed in religious and secular knowledge, and also well instructed in warlike arts, both military and naval. Faria y Sousa sums up his high qualities in these words:—

"His fame will never perish so long as the world endures; for neither weak kings, nor wicked ministers, nor blind fortune, nor ages of ignorance, can damage a reputation so justly merited."

He spent the latter part of his life in compiling an account of all known voyages, and thus he may be styled the founder of historical geography. His papers were left at his death to his friend Don F. y Sousa Tavares, who published them.

1 Asia Portuguesa.
This short sketch of an illustrious and hardly used man is taken from the *Biographie Universelle Ancienne et Moderne*, 1816, and *Nouvelle Biographie Générale*, 1857.

The editor's labours have been confined to superintending the press, and he has been careful to retain the quaint language and spelling both in the original and translation. Perhaps an apology is due for his having undertaken this work, possessing only a slight and superficial knowledge of the Portuguese language. If excuse be necessary, he has to plead that the work was considered to possess great interest, and that no one else seemed inclined to undertake the labour. He has been relieved from some responsibility by the kindness of his Excellency the Count de Lavradio and the gentlemen of the Portuguese legation; but his special thanks are due to M. le Chevalier dos Santos, who kindly undertook to go over the proofs, and who thereby enabled him to supply many deficiencies and avoid many errors.