

first to go to the East-Indies, was looked upon as a new discovery ; it will not perhaps, therefore, be deemed amiss to give the belief of the 9th century on this subject.

“ In our time an entire new discovery has been made, which was wholly unknown to those who lived before us. No one thought, or even suspected, that the sea, which extends from India to China, had a communication with the Syrian sea. We have found, according to what I have learnt, in the sea Roum, or Mediterranean, the wreck of an Arabian vessel, shattered to pieces by the tempest, some of which were carried by the wind and waves to the Cozar sea, and from thence to the Mediterranean, and was at length thrown on the coast of Syria. This proves that the sea surrounds China and Cila, the extremity of Turqueston, and the country of the Cozars ; that it afterwards flows by the strait till it has washed the coast of Syria. The proof is drawn from the construction of the vessel ; for no other vessels but those of Siraf are built without nails, which, as was the wreck we speak of, are joined together in a particular manner, as if they were sewed. Those, of all the vessels of the Mediterranean and of the coast