

the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is situated in $12^{\circ} 45'$, and Loheia in $15^{\circ} 44'$ north latitude. The settlement of many Arabian colonies on the eastern coast of Africa, between the tropics, north and south of the equator, naturally led to a more special knowledge of the southern stars.

The western coasts of Africa beyond the line were first visited by some of the more cultivated European pilots (especially Catalanians and Portuguese). Undoubted documents, such as the Map of the World of Marino Sanuto Torsello, of the year 1306, the Genoese *Portulano Mediceo* (1351), the *Planisferio de la Palatina* (1417), and the *Mappa-mondo* di Fra Mauro Camaldolese (between 1457 and 1459), prove that the triangular configuration of the southern extremity of the African Continent was known 178 years before the so-called *first* discovery of the *Cabo Tormentoso* (Cape of Good Hope) by Bartholomæus Diaz, in the month of May, 1487.* The importance of such a commercial route, rapidly increasing from the time of Gama's expedition, was, on account of the common aim of all West-African voyages, the occasion of the two Southern Clouds being designated by the pilots *Cape Clouds*, as remarkable celestial phenomena seen during *voyages to the Cape*.

The constant endeavors made to advance along the eastern shores of America, beyond the equator, and even to the southern extremity of the continent, directed the attention of mariners uninterruptedly to the southern stars, from the period of Alonso de Hojeda's expedition, in which Amerigo Vespucci took part (in 1499), to that of Magellan and Sebastian del Cano in 1521, and of Garcia de Loaysa,† with Francisco de

* See my geographical investigations on the discovery of the southern extremity of Africa, and on the statements of Cardinal Zurla and Count Baldelli in the *Examen Crit. de l'Hist. de la Géographie aux quinzième et seizième siècles*, tom. i., p. 229-348. The discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, which Martin Behaim calls the *Terra Fragosa*, and not *Cabo Tormentosa*, was made, singularly enough, when Diaz came from the east (from the Bay of Algoa, $33^{\circ} 47'$ south latitude, and more than $7^{\circ} 18'$ east of Table Bay).—Lichtenstein, in *Das Vaterländische Museum*, Hamburgh, 1810, § 372-389.

† The merit of the discovery of the southernmost extremity of the new continent in 55° south latitude (whose importance has not been sufficiently estimated), is due to Francis de Hoces, who commanded one of the ships of the expedition of Loaysa in 1525. It is very characteristically described in Urdaneta's Journal by the words *acabamiento de tierra*, "the ceasing of land." De Hoces probably saw a portion of Terra del Fuego west of Staten Island, for Cape Horn is situated, according to Fitzroy, in $55^{\circ} 58' 41''$.—See Navarette, *Viages y descubrim. de los Españoles*, tom. v., p. 28, 404.