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Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1 37073 Göttingen Germany Email: gdz@sub.uni-goettingen.de met with so many difficulties and disasters as rendered all their designs abortive. The Portuguese have some small fettlements on that part of the coast which lies betwixt Cape North and the mouth of the river Amazon; but this excepted, the natives are in the sole possession of all the country.

PATAGONIA,

S a tract of country, 7 or 800 miles long, and 2 or 300 broad, at the fouthern extremity of the American continent.

Climate, Soil and Productions.] This country is full of high mountains, which are covered with snow most of the year. The storms of wind, rain and snow here are terrible. The soil is very barren, and has never been cultivated.

Inhabitants, Character, &c.] The natives live in thatched huts, and wear no clothes, notwithstanding the rigour of the climate. They live chiefly on fish and game, and what the earth spontaneously produces. They are of a tawny complexion, have black hair, and are a gigantick, brave, hardy, active race. Their arms are bows and arrows headed with slints. We know nothing of their government or religion.

History.] Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese, in the service of Spain, first discovered this country; at least he was the first that sailed through the straits called by his name. Magellan passed these straits in the year 1519. The continent is often called Terra Magellanica; and the largest of the neighbouring isles, from a volcano in it, is called Terra del Fuego, the most

foutherly point of which is called Cape Horn.

Upon the first discovery of the Straits of Magellan, the Spaniards built forts, and sent some colonies thither; but most of the people perished with cold and hunger; since which time no settlements have been

attempted here by any Europeans.