

THE DESCRIPTION OF SPAIN.

IN our Division of *Europe*, we placed her Regions as they lay from the first *Meridian* of Longitude in the *Azores*, and so on towards *Asia* Eastward. We will not here vary the course which was there proposed, and that gave *Spain* the precedence, as lying most Westward into the *Atlantick* Ocean. And indeed she puts forward as well upon her terms of Antiquity, as order of place. For if her plea may be heard, she derives her Being from *Tubal*, the grand-child of *Noah*, and would be one of the first Nations of the second world. Likely enough those parts might be inhabited by his Progeny; but I doubt whether so soon after the flood, as himself lived, and as some would have it, who suppose that he then kept Cattel, and named the Province *Taracónensis*, from the Hebrew *Taraco*, a possession of Herds. This and other the like improbable Relations pass over her original. Which as we may not accept for truths, so we have no room here to confute them for lies. We must be content rather to omit those former ages, which give us no light but by Fables; and begin with the affairs of *Spain*, which come within the compass of our known and approved Stories. As for the exploits of *Hercules*, of *Geryon*, and *Cacus*, and the rest; questionless, they had some ground from truth it self, if we knew how to search it forth: and here was their residence, men twelve hundred years by compute before the *Romans* or *Carthaginians* enjoyed it. But by reason that the passage of those times, was delivered only in vain fictions, we can warrant nothing for certain till the *Syrians* there planted themselves in the Isle of *Gades*: and of them little, till the *Carthaginians* were called in to aid them against the disturbance of ill neighbours; when once they were mingled with so flourishing a Nation, they wanted not Writers to record their actions, and sundry turns of Fortune.

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