# RALIRICH RBIBGISMIRIB, <br> NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE, 

Vol. V.
stances made me liesitate in my propo-
sed undertaking; yet the subjeet wis sed undertaking; yet the subeet kind,
of so iuteresting and national a kind,
that I could not willingly abandon it. On considering the matter more maturely I perceived that allthough,
there. were many buoks, in sarious lanevages reltative to Cclumbus,
they all contained limited and incomplete accounts of his life and voyages;
while numerous valuable tacts snbiject existed only in manuscript, or
in the form of fetters, journals, and public monuments. It appeared to me that a history faitifully digested from
these various materials, was a desideratum in literature, and would be a and a more acceptable work to my
and country, than the translation I had con-
templated.
I was encuraged to undertake such
a work, by the great facilities which I Found within my reach at Mairid.
was under the roof of the Ainerican Consul, O. Rich, Esq. one of the most
indefatigable bibliographers in Europe who. for several years, had made par-
icular researclies after every document relative to the early history of America,
In his extensive and curious library, found one of the best cullections of Span ish colonial history containing many
documents for whict 1 might searcl lsewherc in vain. This he put at my and uneserve seldom to be met with among the possessors ond his library has
valuable works; and
been mv main resource throughout the been my main resource tronghout the 1 found also the Royal Library o Madrid, and the Library of the Jesuits extensive collec ons, open to access, crality. From Don Martin Ferdinan des de Navaretta, who communicated
various valuable and curious pieces o information, discavered in the courc
 rrom testifying my admiration of the
self-sustained zeal of that estimabl man, one of the last veterans of Span
ish Literature, who is almost alone, ye indefatigable in his labors, in a countr where, at present.
meets with but little excitement or $r$ ex

## ward. 1 must acknowielge. also, the libe

 rality of the Duke of Veragus, the peresent descendant and representativ sent descendant and representativ
of Columbus, who submitted the ar chives of his family to my inspection and thek a personal lastly must I omit my deep obligations
to my excellent friend Don Antonio de Ugina, treasurer of the Prince Francisco, a gentleman of talents and cru-
 dencies. To his unwearied investiga-
tions, and silent and unavowed contributions, the world is indebted for mucch
of the accurate information recently of the accurate infornation recently
imparted, on points of early colonial
bistory, In the poossession of this genhistory, In the posssession of this gen-
tlemail are most of the papers of his de-
ceased friend, the tate lisistorian Munos. who was cut off in the midst of his valuable laburs. These, and various other documients have been imparted to
by Dou Antonio, with a kindness an urbanity which greatly increased, yet lightened the obligation.
With these and onther aids incidentally afforded me by my local situation,
I have endeavored, to the best of my aI have endeavored, to the best of my a-
bilities, and making most of the tine which I could allow myself during a sejourn in a Coreign couniry, bo con-
struct this history. 1 thave diligently relative to my subject, in print and manuscript; comparing them as far as in
my poower, with original docuinents, ny proter, with original documents,
those sne tishits of historic research; endeavering io ascr. by occur. Where several prisons have
recorded the same facts, vewing theme
froun different points, and under the influmee of different interests and feet-
In the exccution of this sork, I have voided indulging in mere speculations and geveral reflections, exepring such
as pese taturally out of the sibiject, tantial narrative, omiting no pasticuar that apleared characieristic of the
persous, the events, or the fines ; and endeavoring to place crery fact in such a pint of vicw, that the nater might
perceive its merits, and draw his own As many points of the history requi-


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