

array of clerical and collegiate sagacity, maintaining his theory with natural eloquence, and, as it were, pleading the cause of the new world. We are told when he began to state the grounds of his theory, the friars of S^t Stephen alone paid attention to him. The others appeared to have entrenched themselves behind one dogged position, ^{namely} that, after so many profound philosophers had ~~occupied~~ so many profound philosophers had occupied themselves in geographical investigations, and so many able navigators had been voyaging about the world for ages, it was a great presumption in an ordinary man to suppose that there remained such a vast discovery for him to make.

Several of the objections opposed by this learned body have been handed down to us, and have provoked many a quarrel at the expense of the university of Salamanca; but they ^{are} proofs rather of the imperfect state of science at the time, and of the manner in which knowledge, though rapidly ^{advancing} extending, was still impeded in its progress by monastic bigotry. Thus at

