

**THE LETTERS OF AMERIGO
VESPUCCI, AND OTHER
DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE
OF HIS CAREER**

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The Letters of Amerigo Vespucci, and Other Documents Illustrative of His Career by Clements R. Markham

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CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM

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OF
AMERIGO VESPUCCI.

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THE LETTERS
OF
AMERIGO VESPUCCI
AND
*OTHER DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF
HIS CAREER.*

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BY
CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM, C.B., F.R.S.,
PRESIDENT OF THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY.

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INTRODUCTION.



THE account of the alleged voyage of Amerigo Vespucci in 1497-98 was written for that worthy's own countrymen, and for foreigners who lived at a distance from the Peninsula. When, after some years, the story reached Spain in print, men were still alive who would have known whether any such voyage had ever been made. Among them was the able and impartial historian Las Casas, who considered that the story was false, and disproved it from internal evidence. The authority of Las Casas is alone conclusive. Modern investigators, such as Robertson, Muñoz, Navarrete, Humboldt, Washington Irving, and D'Avezac examined the question, and they all came to the same conclusion as Las Casas.

The matter appeared to be finally settled until 1865. In that year M. F. de Varnhagen, Baron of