

have seen in Person. Nevertheless, at the Time of the first Conquest of these Countries, there were found many and very large Emeralds in the Hands of the Natives, as appears by the Histories thereof.

C H A P. XVI.

Of other sorts of Stones.

IT doth very little import the Owners of Mines, for whose sake principally, by your Lordship's Command, I have written this Treatise, to discourse more particularly of other Stones, although the common sort of Stones, because they are so, are little inquir'd into or understood; and when in Mines they meet with some Stones of rare Colour and Transparency: Their Beauty would invite the Miners Esteem, if the Covetousness after Gold and Silver, which they seek for, did not blind their Eyes and Understandings, so that they cannot attend to look after them. But because I have given an Account of all Minerals together; and that Marbles are of next Estimation unto precious Stones: It is but Justice to treat a little of those Marbles we find in these Provinces, which I believe equal to any that we read of in Story.

The Province of *Acatama*, above all others, best deserves to be curiously enquir'd into, by able and experienced Artists; for it produces
Stones