

presented himself to the King and Queen, and they received him with the highest honour; and it seemed as if they did not dare to mention to him the accusations against him, which had reached their throne. He also waved them. He explained the state of the colonies, requested necessary provisions, obtained whatsoever he asked, and then prepared himself for a third navigation: leaving his enemies, I know not whether more mortified for the ill success of their conspiracies, or astonished at the greatness of mind in Columbus, who, having forgot their injuries, seemed likewise to have forgot even their very names; nor did he demand of the Court any satisfaction for the insults he had received.

Having surmounted many obstacles, which the envy and rancour of his enemies never ceased to thwart him with, he at last departed on his third voyage the 30th of May, 1498. In this he advanced even farther than before towards the south; and, after having discovered the island of Trinity, and many others, he again reached *terra firma*, or the provinces of Caracas, Comana, and Paria, though for some time he believed it to be an island. The first of August, of the same year, was the day when he discovered it. Having afterwards observed the country round about, he went again to see his brother and his people at St. Domingo.

But though he was received there with joyful acclamations, he notwithstanding found affairs in a very deplorable state. The malecontents did not cease to excite seditions, and even turn their arms against the Columbi; and at the same time it was necessary to quell their rebellion, and curb the barbarians, ever ready to revolt. In the mean while they did not cease to assail the ears of Ferdinand and Isabella with accusations and calumnies against the said Columbi; and at last they succeeded in awakening new suspicion in the minds of those Sovereigns. The first consequence which resulted was, the commission given to Alphonso d'Ojeda to go and make further discovery of the continent, which was already commenced by Columbus; in which voyage Amerigo Vespucci likewise embarked, of whom we shall speak by and by. But this was not sufficient to satisfy those who wished to see the Columbi completely humbled, which they finally obtained; and in the month of June, 1500, Queen Isabella, who 'till then could not persuade herself to go so far, signed letters, by which Christopher was divested of the dignity of Viceroy and Governor of the East Indies; and Francis de Bovadilla was appointed Governor General; nor could there have possibly been chosen a man more proper to make Columbus feel all the weight of his misfortune. Being arrived at St. Domingo, he completed the exasperation of the minds of every one against the Admiral; and this great man, who a few years before had been received in Spain with solemn triumph, was then seen loaded with chains, and put on shipboard, to be conducted to give an account of himself to the Court. Ferdinand and Isabella heard with disdain, that a man, to whom they were all convinced they were so much indebted, had been so unworthily treated. Scarcely was he arrived in Spain, than they immediately ordered that he should be set at liberty; and, as an alleviation for the outrages he had endured, they ordered him a thousand crowns of gold. They afterwards graciously received him, annulled all that had been done against him, and promised him due satisfaction; and Isabella truly reassumed her former sentiments of esteem for the Admiral. But he perceived that the King was not equally favourable towards him;