

1493. The Portuguese, having previously explored the Azores and other islands, instantly claimed the newly discovered world, and contended for the exclusion of the Spaniards from the navigation of the western ocean.¹ Their competitors, however, were careful to obtain the highest confirmation possible of their own claim. While orders were given at Barcelona for the admiral's return to Hispaniola;² to strengthen the Spanish title to this island; and to other countries that were or should be discovered, their Catholic majesties,³ by the admiral's advice, applied to the Pope, to obtain his sanction of their claims, and his consent for the conquest of the West Indies. An ambassador was sent to Rome. The Pope, then in the chair, was Alexander VI, a Spaniard by birth, and a native of Valentia. Readily acceding to the proposal, he, on the third of May,⁴ adjudged the great process, and made the celebrated line of partition. He granted in full right to Ferdinand and Isabella, all the countries, inhabited by infidels, which they had discovered, or should discover, extending the assignment to their

Adjudication of the Pope, May 3.

the people of Europe to the country, and that of *Indians* to its inhabitants." Ibid.

1. Chalmers' Annals, i. 6.

2. The second commission to Columbus is dated May 28, 1493. It is inserted entire in Hazard's Collections, i. 6—9.

3. The king of Portugal, according to Peter Martyr, agreed with them in a reference of the dispute to the Pope of Rome; but it might be at a subsequent period. By this contemporary historian it appears, that the queen of Spain was a niece of the Portuguese king, and that this connexion facilitated an adjustment of the controversy. "Dum ita in confuso res tractaretur, pars utraque pacta est, ut a summo Pontifice decerneretur quid juris. Futuros se obtemperantes Pontificiæ sanctioni, fide jubent utrinque. Res Castellæ tunc regina illa magna Elizabetha cum viro regebat, quia dotalia ejus regna Castellæ sint. Erat regina Joanni regi Portugalliæ consobrina: propterea facilius res est composita. Ex utriusque partis igitur assensu, lineam ex plumbata bulla summus Pontifex Alexander sextus, &c." P. Martyr, p. 161.

4. One bull, granting their Catholic majesties "the sovereign dominion of the Indies, with supreme jurisdiction over all that hemisphere," was passed on the 2d of May. But the *Great Bull* (on every account entitled to that name) was issued on the day following. A copy of it in the original Latin, with an English translation, is preserved in Harris' Voyages, i; 6—8. It is also in Haz. Coll. i. 3—6. See Herrera, i. 96.

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1. Life of Columbus, i. 6. year. The subject from each line of partition seventy leagues fall to the Spaniards. This agreement Spain 2 July Herrera, i.

2. Robert Montesinos, i.