

with great zeal. Columbus had not been long in Lisbon when he married Donna Felipa, the daughter of Bartolomeo Palestrello, who had been a distinguished sea-captain employed in exploring the coast of Africa. The advantages which resulted to him from this alliance were peculiarly great; from his wife's mother he obtained possession of all the charts and manuscripts of her deceased husband, together with all such information concerning his voyages as she herself could supply. Columbus thus became acquainted with the plans of the Portuguese; and the knowledge which he acquired contributed not a little to increase his love for a sea life. He made occasional voyages to the coast of Guinea, employing the intervals of his time in the construction of maps and charts. The income he derived from this source was small, yet a portion of it was set apart for the education of his younger brothers, and the support of his aged father.

We must now pass over that space of time which was occupied by Columbus in theorizing upon the existence of a western passage to India by sea, for it must be borne in mind that the continent of which we now live upon (America) was then totally unknown. The grounds on which he formed his theory mainly rested upon the testimony of old mariners; particularly that of a pilot in the service of the King of Portugal, who told Columbus, that after sailing, 1350 miles to the west of Cape St. Vincent, he had taken from the water a piece of carved wood, which seemed to have been fashioned by other than iron instruments, and to have been wafted by the wind from the west. From another source he ascertained that after a course of westerly winds at the Azores, trunks of huge pine trees, such as did not grow upon the islands had been often driven thither; and that on one occasion the dead bodies of two men whose features were of a kind unknown, had been cast upon the shores of that group.

Columbus having formed his theory, it became fixed in his mind with singular firmness, and influenced his entire character and conduct. He never spoke in doubt or hesitation, but with as much certainty as if his eyes had beheld the promised land. No trial or disappointment could afterwards divert him from the steady pursuit of his object. A deep religious sentiment mingled with his meditations; the ends of the earth were to be brought together, and all nations, and tongues, and languages, united under the banners of the Redeemer.

We will pass over those sad years of painful suspense, during which this truly great man suffered neglect, ridicule, and even insult, from those who ought to have strenuously supported him in his praiseworthy endeavours. They tried only to lower him in the eyes of the world, and scouted his ideas as those emanating from a distempered brain. Against all this ignorance he struggled, and his indomitable perseverance alone at last cast away all clouds of doubt, and the sun of success burst forth, to illuminate with its gladdening rays not only the mind of poor Columbus, but all nations of the earth, by the glorious result of his wonderful discoveries.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

A clergyman, one Sunday, at the close of his sermon, gave notice to the congregation that in the course of the week he expected to go on a mission to the heathen. One of his parishioners exclaimed, "Why, my dear sir, you have never told us one word of this before. What shall we do?" "Oh! brother," said the minister, "I don't expect to go out of town."