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COLUMBUS.

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“CHANCES have laws as fixed as planets have,
And disappointment's dry and bitter root,
Envy's harsh berries, and the choking pool
Of the world's scorn, are the right mother-milk
To the tough hearts that pioneer their kind
And break a pathway to those unknown realms
That in the earth's broad shadow lie enthralled.
Endurance is the crowning quality,
And patience all the passion of great hearts.
These are their stay; and when the leaden world
Sets its hard face against their fateful thought,
And brute strength, like a scornful conqueror,
Bangs his huge mace down in the other scale,
The inspired soul but flings his patience in,
And slowly that outweighs the ponderous globe:
One faith against a whole world's unbelief—
One soul against the flesh of all mankind.”

The heroic life of Columbus is a striking commentary on these noble lines. The achievement by which he wreathed around his brow the laurel crown of earth's immortals was reached by endurance and patience such as even the bravest souls have rarely displayed, and amid contumely, scorn and disappointment such as furnished an ample supply of this strong “mother's milk” to his “tough heart.” When we turn the magic lantern of history on Columbus, the figure presented is grand and heroic in the highest degree. Still, we must beware of the tricks of fancy, when shaping our image of the hero. His great discovery and immense fame are apt to suggest to us the idea of a vast mind and iron will, driving right onward to a destined end, tossing obstacles aside as playthings, and making the powers of earth yield to his behests. Or perhaps we think of him as some immense, unapproachable phantom of the sea, playing fearlessly with “ocean's bristled neck,” holding a gigantic rudder, and ruling sublimely over the world of waters. The reality, however, shows us a man of “like passions with ourselves,” who was sorely tried at times with the folly and stupidity of those around him, and hindered by their selfishness and envy; stung often by the reptiles of society; fighting his way to success, inch by inch, amid disappointments and partial failures; benefiting the world, and reaping the world's ingratitude. The strong will that tramples down all opposition, and ever translates its thought into