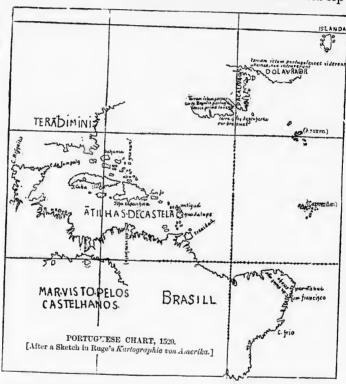
dians of the interior had long been used to resort to the shores of the gulf and its vicinity during the summer season; and it is not unlikely that by this habit, as well as by a common eustom of intertribal communication, the ways of Europeans were not unknown in the interior.

A belief in a comparatively short stretch of unknown sea sep-



arating the Azores from Cathay had been no small inducement to Columbus to make his hazardous voyage. Now that the land to the west had proved so far a barrier to a farther westward way, it was in turn no small inducement to those prompted to pieree this barrier to believe that the land which confronted them was even narrower than the

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