

where the Court then was, and where he arrived about the middle of April, 1493. The historians I have already quoted knew not how to express its magnificence and pomp better, than by recalling to mind the idea of the ancient triumphs. But that of Columbus was far more glorious, as it was not attended with the slaughter or hurt of any human being. The honours conferred on Columbus were worthy of the magnificence of the august Sovereigns. He, however, did not suffer himself to be so flattered by them, as not to think of speedily putting again to sea, for new discoveries.

Seventeen vessels were destined for this second voyage, freighted with every thing that could be necessary for the new colonies; and on the 25th of September, of the same year 1493, Columbus sailed a second time; and keeping more to the south, on the 3d of November, he discovered the first of the islands called Antilles, which was named Dominica. After having seen and examined the others, he turned to the island Hispaniola, where, though he had the mortification to find murdered all those he left there, he had at the same time the pleasure to discover some gold mines, and therefore hastened to dispatch back to Spain the fleet, in order to carry the good news of it to the Court. In the mean while, Columbus continued his discoveries; and in the year 1494, besides many other islands, he took possession of Jamaica. To the pleasure of progressions so propitious, that of unexpectedly seeing his brother Bartholomew was added; who, having gone from England into France, and there hearing of the glorious success of Christopher, went to the Court of Spain; and being highly honoured by those Sovereigns, he was dispatched by them with other ships and provisions to the new islands. But, in the mean time, whilst Columbus was using sometimes his courage, at other times his skill, in order to restrain those very turbulent islanders, the scarcity of provisions, with which the Spaniards were sometimes distressed, the rigour that he was constrained to exercise against some of them, for the example of others, and that envy which is usually inseparable from extraordinary honours, excited against him the hatred & rage of many; and two amongst them, one of whom, on account of his profession and character ought, more than all the rest, to have abhorred so unworthy a proceeding, secretly sailed for Spain; and, being arrived at the Court, represented Columbus as a rogue and impostor: who, under pretext of imaginary advantages to the Crown, aspired to nothing more but to gratify his ambition, and vent his cruelty. Such accusation raised some suspicion in the breasts of the Sovereigns; and therefore a Spanish commissioner was appointed, who, sailing to the islands of Columbus, was to examine the state they were in. They designed, for this purpose, to make choice of a wise and impartial judge; but the issue did not correspond to their intentions: The commissioner being arrived there, seemed more desirous to humble Columbus, and gain the favour of the malcontents, than to promote the advantages of the public and the Court. Christopher shewed, in this perilous trial, a firmness and moderation which filled even his very enemies with astonishment. The commissioner, having taken his informations, sailed back to Spain; Columbus determined to follow him; and in the month of June, 1496, he arrived at Burgos, where Ferdinand and Isabella then resided. On no occasion was there ever seen more clearly the power of the presence of a man, whose magnanimous enterprises have obtained him the veneration and the esteem of all the world. Columbus presented