

paniola, set sail, on the sixteenth, for Spain, taking with him six of the natives.¹ On the fourteenth of February, he was overtaken by a violent tempest, and, in the extremity of danger, united with the mariners in imploring the aid of Almighty God, mingled with supplications to the Virgin Mary, and accompanied by vows of pilgrimage. That his discoveries, in case of shipwreck, might not be lost, he wrote an account of them on parchment, wrapped it in a piece of oiled cloth, and inclosed it in a cake of wax, which he put into a tight cask, and threw into the sea. Another parchment, secured in a similar manner, he placed on the stern, that, if the ship should sink, the cask might float, and one or the other might possibly be found. But his precaution, though prudent, was fruitless; for he was providentially saved from the expected destruction, and, on the fourth of March, arrived safely at Lisbon. On his arrival at Palos on the fifteenth, he was received with the highest tokens of honour, by the king and queen,² who now constituted him admiral of Spain.³ 1493-

Columbus adhering to his opinion, that the countries, which he had discovered, were a part of those vast regions of Asia, comprehended under the name of India, and this opinion being adopted in Europe, Ferdinand and Isabella gave them the name of Indies.⁴

1 Purchas, i, 730. Two of these natives died on their passage to Spain; the other four were presented to his Catholic majesty by Columbus, together with a quantity of gold, which had been given to him by the cacique at Hispaniola. Univ. Hist. xli. 487.

2 "Sedere illum coram se publicè, quod est maximum apud reges Hispanos amoris et gratitudinis, supremique obsequii signum, fecerunt." P. Martyr, p. 8.

3 Robertson, i, book ii. Harris' Voyages, i, 6. Herrera, i, 84, 86, 93. Belknap Biog. i. 102.

4 Robertson, i. Book ii. Names, however improperly applied, are apt to be permanent. "Even after the error, which gave rise to this opinion, was detected, and the true position of the New World was ascertained, the name has remained, and the appellation of *West Indies* is given by all