

many, and it will be seen by the present one. He shall only write the Admiral, whatever titles the King may have conferred on him. This is to be understood, as respects his signature; but not the enumeration of his titles, which he can make at full length if agreeable; only the signature is to be the Admiral,"—*el almirante*. The signature thus specified, is the following:

.S. P. .S.
X M Y
X P FERENS

The Xpo signifies Christo, and FERENS, the bearer or bearing—Christ bearing. This signature exemplifies the peculiar character of Columbus, who considering himself selected and set apart from all others by the will of Providence for the accomplishment of a great purpose—great in a temporal, greater still in a spiritual point of view—adopted a corresponding formality and solemnity in all his actions. Named after St. Christopher whose legendary History is comprised in his name *Christophorus*—the bearer of Christ—being said to have carried the infant Saviour on his shoulders over an arm of the sea—Columbus felt that he, too, was destined to carry over the sea the glad tidings of the gospel, to nations dwelling in the darkness of paganism.

Spotorno commencing with the lower letter of this mysterious signature, and connecting them with those above, conjectures them to represent the words *Xristus Sancta Maria Josephus*. Captain Becher, however, has given a much simpler, and in all probability, the correct solution of the