

happiness, seventeen years after the death of her husband, of seeing Augustine reconciled to God and commencing that life which was to place him foremost in the army of the saints and the Church's champions. Now Monica's life-work was over, and she was soon called to receive her eternal reward. Oh, you, who sorrow over the errors and excesses of a dearly-loved husband or child, remember that God can refuse nothing to patient, persevering prayer! Pray in silence and perseverance until God rewards you as he rewarded Monica!

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

III.

HOME AGAIN: MORE VOYAGES.

WHILE the ceremonies of the solemn taking possession were going on, a crowd of natives gathered on the shore, hesitating between fear and curiosity to approach. They gazed in silent wonder at actions and persons so strange. The ships especially, which they took for huge swans that had come from the sky and lighted on the water, excited their admiration. Columbus did his utmost to inspire them with confidence; he gave them beads and trinkets and other articles which they valued.

He continued his stay a few months, exploring the islands. He had the misfortune to lose his flagship, the *Santa Maria*, which ran aground, whilst the *Pinta*, with her crew, had forsaken him, to rejoin him again on the return voyage. Everywhere he landed he erected the cross, and taught the natives to reverence it.