

AMERICA.



THE LANDING OF COLUMBUS AT SAN SALVADOR.

LESSON XVII.

THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

COMPRISING NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.

1. The **American Continent** was discovered by Christopher Columbus. He set sail from Palos on the 3rd of August, 1492, and on the 12th of the following October, arrived at one of the Bahama islands to which he gave the name of San Salvador.

2. *America* was so named after Americus Vesputius, it is often called the **New World**, on account of its recent discovery and to distinguish it from the Eastern Continent, or Old World, which was known long before the discovery of America.

3. The aborigines, or original inhabitants are called *Indians*. They inhabit the woods and subsist chiefly on fishing and hunting; their number is rapidly decreasing.

4. The arts and sciences are making rapid progress in the New World, particularly in North America where they are reaching nearly as high a degree of perfection as in the Old World.

LESSON XVIII.

EASTERN HEMISPHERE.

1. The Eastern Hemisphere comprises Europe, Asia, Africa, and part of Oceania.

2. *Europe*, although the smallest, is the most enlightened, most industrious, and comparatively, the most populous of the great divisions of the Globe. It was peopled by the descendants of Japhet, the third son of Noe.

3. *Asia* is noted for having been the cradle of the human race, and that of the Christian religion. It was peopled by the descendants of Sem, the eldest son of Noe.

4. *Africa* is the residence of the Black Race. It was peopled by the children of Cham, the second son of Noe. It is especially remarkable for the intense heat of its climate, and the barbarism of the greater number of its inhabitants.

5. *Oceania* comprises numerous islands in the Pacific Ocean, the principal of which are the largest of the globe. (Australia, the largest, is now generally known as the Australian Continent, on account of its size.)