

and men of letters, enrolled in his service, stands the humbler name of a Florentine navigator, John Verrazzano.⁴

The wealth of the Indies was pouring into the coffers of Charles the Fifth,⁵ and the exploits of Cortés⁶ had given new luster to his crown. Francis the First begrudged his hated rival the glories and profits of the New World. He would fain have his share of the prize; and Verrazzano, with four ships, was despatched to seek out a passage westward to the rich kingdom of Cathay.⁷



Toward the end of the year 1523, his four ships sailed from Dieppe;⁸ but a storm fell upon him, and with two of the vessels he ran back in distress to a port of Brittany.⁹ What became of the other two does not appear. Neither is it clear why, after a preliminary cruise against the Spaniards, he pursued his voyage with one vessel alone, a caravel¹⁰ called the Dolphin. With her he made for Madeira,¹¹ and, on the seventeenth of January,

⁴ **Verrazzano** (*ver-rat-sah-no*)—Italian navigator, born about 1486. He is believed to have visited North America in 1508 or earlier.

⁵ **Charles V.** (1519–1556)—Emperor of Germany was one of the greatest monarchs of ancient or modern times. Francis I. was the great rival of Charles in the contest for Imperial honors, and kept up an almost incessant warfare with him. It is in his relations to the Reformation that the significant features of his life and work are to be found.

⁶ **Cortés, Hernando,** was born, in Spain, in 1485. Resolving to seek his fortune in the New World, he sailed to Hispaniola in 1504. He was appointed commander of an expedition against Mexico in 1518, and

conquered the country after many brilliant battles. The story of his wonderful exploits is told in Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico."

⁷ **Cathay**—ancient name of China, or Tartary.

⁸ **Dieppe**—a seaport town of France, on the English Channel.

⁹ **Brittany** (also Bretagne)—an old province in the N. W. of France, forming an extensive peninsula between the English Channel and the Atlantic Ocean.

¹⁰ **Caravel**—a kind of light, round, old-fashioned ship, formerly used by Spaniards and Portuguese.

¹¹ **Madeira**—an island in the Atlantic Ocean, 440 miles west of Morocco. It is 35 miles long and 12 miles broad.