

three mariners of Palos, skilled, prudent, and renowned, who became his friends. Were these men inspired by the enthusiasm of Columbus? Nothing is less likely. Reflection, not passion; the knowledge of an earlier voyage, not blind confidence in a single man—decided these cool and cautious navigators. These men were three relatives, of the name of Pinzon: one of them was Alonzo, doubtless the old lieutenant of Cousin. . . . The conduct of Pinzon throughout seems to indicate previous acquaintance with the continent. Columbus's son confesses that his father always consulted Alonzo Pinzon in circumstances of difficulty. He held frequent and long consultations with the latter, both on board his own ship and on the *Pinta*, and decided nothing without having consulted him. At the trial of the suit between Diego Columbus and the Spanish Crown, ten witnesses deposed that the admiral asked of Pinzon if they were on the right course, and that Pinzon had always answered in the negative until the southwesterly direction was taken. Columbus proceeded like a man who only dreamed what he was executing, and Pinzon as though he sought a road formerly traversed by him. He was so convinced, so sure of himself, that Columbus ended by listening to him. Soon after, they touched at San Salvador.

The Journal of Columbus makes full admission of the part played by Pinzon: "Martin Alonzo Pinzon expressed the opinion that we should do better to sail in a southwesterly direction; before all else, it was necessary, he said, to reach the *terra firma* of Asia; we saw the islands soon after."

Pinzon also took a leading part at the discus-

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