

From San Salvador the vessels sailed to other islands of the West Indian group, and every place Columbus touched at he claimed for his sovereign. At length, bearing the joyful tidings of a new world, he set sail for Spain on the fourth of January. The winter storms were sweeping the Atlantic, but the vessels arrived safely on the fifteenth of March. On reaching Palos Columbus was given a royal welcome, and was for a time the hero of Spain. The strange men, the strange weapons, the strange objects of nature that he brought with him, filled all with amazement. The wonders of the new land started every mind, and rich and poor were eager to venture all on voyages of exploration.

Although the continent of America was not reached by Columbus on this voyage he deserves the honor of being its discoverer. Others only followed in his steps; and it was mere chance that kept him from touching on the mainland on his first voyage. The Cabots, father and son, were great men, but they were mere imitators. Columbus is truly the Father of America. He crossed four times in all and made important discoveries on each voyage, suffering much both by land and sea. His name is stained by his having taken part in the slave trade, but this was the sin of the age. Like every great man, he made enemies, and they so far succeeded against him, that on one occasion he crossed the Atlantic in chains. Poverty came upon him in later years, and at last he died poor and neglected, in 1506. His body lies in the cathedral of Havana, a fitting resting place for the man who gave a world to mankind.

CHAPTER II.

From "Story of Jacques Cartier," by Miss A. M. Machar.

"Francis I. sent out from the sea-port of St. Malo, the famous sea captain, Jacques Cartier"—*High School History, page 325.*

One bright spring morning two little ships glided slowly away from the harbour at St. Malo, bound on a long and adventurous voyage. They were manned by a hundred and twenty men, and their commander was Jacques Cartier, a captain specially chosen by King Francis.