

its realization. With marvellous penetration he foresaw that the most effectual way in which he could labor for the end in view was by giving himself up to the work of dispelling the erroneous notions which dominated the minds of the learned and the ignorant and barred the road to progress. He founded a college and observatory at Sagres, and there gathered about him men skilled in all the sciences appertaining to navigation. The wisdom which is born of the deliberations of the wise was here brought forth, and spread thence over all the country, driving forth, like exorcised spirits, distorted views and opinions. While peacefully pursuing the paths of knowledge Henry munificently encouraged those who went on voyages of discovery, and he obtained from the Pope a bull conferring on Portugal sovereignty over all lands discovered by Portuguese mariners, granting a plenary indulgence to all who might meet their death in the expeditions, and threatening with the terrors of the church all who interfered with them. The results of Prince Henry's work were soon evident. The tropics were penetrated, and the Azores were made known to Europe. He died in November 1473, some years before his great design was realized in the doubling of the Cape of Good Hope; but he lived long enough to clear the way for that achievement, to make it impossible for reasonable men longer to cling to the views of Hipparchus, and to rid the sea of most of the enormous terrors with which fancy had filled it.

Like all great work, Henry's labors blessed other countries in blessing his own. The light from Sagres fell upon Palos. At what other port in Spain than that historic harbor on the Andalusian coast would a ship have been volunteered for the venture of Columbus? At Palos lived Spain's most daring and enlightened

mariners—enlightened by the knowledge which was shed from the school of Prince Henry, and made hardy by frequent voyages to the far away islands that the Portuguese, led by the lamp he had lighted, had discovered off the African coast. If there had been no school at Sagres, would there have been well-informed and enterprising Pinsons at Palos? There would, indeed, have been a kind old monk ready to give food and shelter to the stranger who knocked at the convent gate and begged a little bread and water; but would there have been a prior at La Rabida so learned in the nautical sciences as to have faith in the wondrous dream of that stranger? And could Juan Perez, if Prince Henry had not forsaken the court and the camp for books and for study, have called about him in the common room of that convent a council destined to outshine that which met to try the same issue in famed Salamanca? If such an impetus had not been given by Henry's labors to Portuguese discovery that the voyages of his countrymen excited the wonder and the envy of the world, would Luis de St. Angel have been able to plead so forcibly and eloquently with Isabella? If there had been no Prince Henry, Isabella might never have exclaimed in a moment of glorious enthusiasm, "I will pledge my jewels to raise the necessary funds," and Columbus might have passed uninterrupted over the bridge of Pinos and spent his remaining days in seeking in other lands what he had solicited for eighteen years in Spain—aid to rescue a world from oblivion.

Let us give to the Prince, too, his due measure of honor; and mark that what he achieved "was effected, not by arms, but by arts—not by the stratagems of a cabinet, but by the wisdom of a college."

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