

1495.

March 24.

War with
the natives
continued.Indian at-
tention and
tribute.The disco-
veries of
Columbus
excite at-
tention in
England.

The unsubdued caziques of Hispaniola still showing a determination to destroy, if possible, the Spanish colony, Columbus set out from Isabella, to carry on the war against them. His army consisted of no more than "200 Christians, 20 horses, and as many dogs;" but the Indians are said to have raised already 100,000 men. The Spaniards soon routed the Indians, and obtained a complete victory. The admiral spent a year in ranging the island; and, in this time, reduced it under such obedience, that all the natives from fourteen years of age and upward, inhabiting the province of Cibao, where are gold mines, promised to pay as a tribute to their Catholic majesties, every three months, a hawk's bell full of gold dust; and every other inhabitant of the island, twenty five pounds of cotton.*

The tranquillity of England, at this period, being propitious to the increase of its commerce and manufactures, London now contained merchants from all parts of Europe. The Lombards and Venetians, in particular, were remarkably numerous. Among these foreigners, John Cabot, a Venetian, and his three sons, Lewis, Sebastian, and Sanctus, were living in London. The father, perfectly skilled in all the sciences requisite to form an accomplished mariner, was led by his knowledge of the globe to suppose, that a shorter way from England to India might be found by the northwest. The famous discovery of the New World caused great astonishment and much conversation in the court of Henry VII, of England, and among the Eng-

* Life of Columbus, c. lxi. Herrera, i. 145. The measure, said by Herrera to be "a small hawk's bell," is wrought up, unmercifully, by some historians, into "a large horse bell." It was, in truth, a little bell, worn by the hawk in the sport of a falconer. Herrera [i. 145.] says, that "only king Manicatem gave, every month, half a gourd full of gold, being worth 150 pesos or pieces of eight."

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