

the attainment of his long desired plan of sailing in search of unknown western lands.

It appears that one of the great obstacles of his success in gaining the consent of the Court of Spain, was the nature of his demands; his principal stipulation being, that he should be appointed admiral or viceroy in all the lands which he should discover, and receive one-tenth of all gains arising therefrom. When it was objected that in case of failure he would lose nothing, he offered to advance one-eighth of the sum required for the execution of his enterprise, on condition that he should be entitled to one-eighth of his profits. He made no stipulation for any reward or emolument whatever, in the event of failure. But his terms were rejected by those who treated with him. The actual expense, it was said, would be certainly great; the honours and emoluments claimed by Columbus would be exorbitant, even should he perform the uttermost of what he promised; and if all his sanguine hopes should prove illusive, such vast concessions to an adventurer would be deemed not only inconsiderate, but ridiculous, and hereafter be cited in proof of the gross credulity of the Spanish monarchs.

Under these circumstances, Columbus determined to abandon Spain and endeavour to seek from other nations the support which the country of Ferdinand and Isabella had refused him. In the beginning of February, 1492, he quitted Santa Fé, and took the way to Cordova, whence he intended to repair to France. His departure was a source of deep regret to those friends who had embraced his views; and to none more so than to his old patron Alopzo de Quintanilla, comptroller of the finances of Castile, and to Louis de St. Angel, receiver of the ecclesiastical revenues of Arragon. Anxious, if possible, to avert the irreparable loss which Spain would in their minds sustain, if Columbus were allowed to depart and carry his project into another country, they hastened to the Queen and addressed her with the eloquence of honest zeal. Moved by their forcible arguments, Isabella at last consented to the terms proposed by Columbus, and after a slight hesitation occasioned by the coldness of Ferdinand, and the empty state of the royal treasury, she declared her resolution to undertake the enterprise for her own crown of Castile, and to pledge her jewels to raise the necessary funds. St. Angel relieved her from this mortifying expedient by engaging to advance the required sum as a loan from the treasury of Arragon. Columbus was overtaken at a distance of two leagues from Grenada by a messenger of the Queen, who bore a request for his immediate return to Santa Fé; he obeyed after giving way to a momentary feeling of distrust, excited by a recollection of the frequent bitter disappointments which he had already undergone. On his arrival he was cordially received by Isabella; and the assent of Ferdinand having at length been obtained, the negotiations were quickly brought to a favourable close. On the 17th April, 1492, articles of agreement were signed at Santa Fé by Ferdinand and Isabella, to the following effect:—

1. That Columbus should have, for himself during his life, and his heirs and successors for ever, the office of admiral in all the lands and continents which he might discover or acquire in the ocean, with similar honours and prerogatives to those enjoyed by the high admiral of Castile, in his district.
2. That he should be viceroy, and governor-general over all the said lands and continents; with the privileges of nominating three candidates for the