

declared Admiral perpetual and hereditary, in all the islands and lands which he might happen to discover, and Viceroy and governor of the same countries; and it was granted to him that he should receive the tenth part of all that he might acquire from the countries discovered, besides the reimbursement of the expences; the residue being for the use of the Sovereign, and that he might contribute the eighth part to the expences, and receive an adequate profit from it.

The third of August, 1492, was the memorable day when Columbus weighed anchor with three caravels from the port of Palos, on the grandest expedition that ever was attempted. I cannot minutely relate all the vicissitudes of such a voyage; and it is sufficient for me to mention the circumstances, which will point out the dexterity and courage of the Italian Hero. On the seventh of September they lost sight of land; and the appearance of the immense ocean began to disturb the minds of the inexperienced sailors. But when, after three other weeks sailing, they perceived no sign of new land, and moreover, suspected that they had not advanced much farther, their sedition rose to such a height, that some feared not to say, in a voice loud enough to be heard by Columbus, that they ought to throw into the sea that foreigner who had, from caprice, led them to so desperate a navigation. At the appearance of such terrible danger, Columbus did not shew himself the least alarmed; assuming a cheerful and resolute countenance, he knew so dexterously how to adapt menaces, promises, and hopes, that the mariners and passengers consented to go still forward for some days. Thus they continued to the eighth of October, when not even yet seeing land, the sedition became more furious than ever. No other safety remained for Columbus, than to make a promise, that if within three days they should not discover land, he would conduct them back to Spain. He from many signs had already perceived that he should not be mistaken. In fact, about midnight, on the eleventh, was discovered far off a light, which, being pointed out by Columbus to the mariners, changed their despondency into joy and triumph, and made them consider the Admiral no otherwise than as a prodigious man. The land first discovered by him was the island Guanahany, or, as he called it, of St. Salvadore, one of the islands called Lucayas, of which he took possession on the 12th of October, in the name of the Crown of Castile, which he likewise did respecting all the other countries he afterwards discovered. He then advanced on those seas, observing the different islands, the greatest of which were those of Cuba and Heyti, called afterwards the Island Hispaniola, or of St. Domingo. And after having observed every thing attentively, and taken with him divers merchandise, and particularly many plates of gold, and various birds, fishes, and other rarities of those islands, with some Indians, he set sail to return to Spain. Driven by winds to Lisbon, he was there received by that King with the highest honour; though at the same time he must have felt displeasure at not having accepted the offers formerly made to him. At Lisbon he wrote the account of his voyage, which, translated into Latin, has been published. On Columbus's arrival at the port of Palos, all the shops were shut without any order, and he was received with the rejoicing sound of bells, amidst an immense crowd of people to see so great a hero. But this was nothing in comparison of the reception which he met with in Barcelona, where