

1492.
Dec. 24.
One of the
ships lost.

On the shoals of this island, through the carelessness of his sailors, he lost one of his ships. The Indian cazique,¹ or prince, Guacanahari, receiving intelligence of this loss, expressed much grief, and sent all his people with their canoes, to save what they could from the wreck. "We lost not the value of a pin," says the admiral, "for he caused all our clothes to be laid together near his palace, where he kept them till the houses, which he had appointed for us, were emptied. He placed armed men, to keep them, who stood there all day and all night; and all the people lamented, as if our loss had concerned them much."

Columbus
builds a
fort.

The port, where this misfortune happened, Columbus called Navidad [the Nativity], because he entered it on Christmas day. Resolving to leave a colony here, he obtained liberty of the cazique to erect a fort, which he accordingly built with the timber of the ship, that was wrecked; and, leaving it in the hands of three officers and thirty eight men, prepared to return to Spain.²

1493.

Jan. 16.
Columbus
returns to
Spain.

Columbus, having taken every precaution for the security of his colony, left Navidad on the fourth of January; and, after discovering and naming most of the harbours on the northern coast of His-

¹ This title, which signifies *lord* or *prince*, is rightly applied to the princes of Hayti; for, according to Clavigero, "it is derived from the Haitin tongue, which was spoken in the island of Hispaniola." But it was afterwards inaccurately applied to the nobles of Mexico, who, though divided into several classes, with appropriate titles to each, "were confounded together by the Spaniards under the general name of *caziques*." Hist. Mexico, i. 346.

² Life of Columbus, c. xxvii, xxx, xxxiii, xxxvi, xxxv. Herrera, i. 51-75, 78. Purchas, i. 730. Univ. Hist. xli. 487. Robertson, i. book ii. In the Life of Columbus, the *port* is said to be named Navidad; but Herrera, and Robertson after him, say, that this name was given to the fort. This fortification was finished in ten days; the poor natives unwarily helping it forward; "that simple race of men," to use the words of Dr. Robertson, "labouring with inconsiderate assiduity in erecting this first monument of their own servitude."

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