

contribution to history, and as furnishing to American readers a vast deal more accurate, reliable, and interesting information about Americus Vesputius, than had ever been given before.

*Cambridge, May 6th, 1850.*

GENTLEMEN:—I have read with much interest "The Life and Voyages of Americus Vesputius," as containing a spirited sketch of the events connected with the early discoveries in America, and especially as presenting a translation of the original letters of Vesputius, and other materials of much historical value drawn from original sources. I look upon it as a work filling an important space in the early history of the New World, as conveying to American readers a mass of curious facts, which could be obtained only from various books difficult to be procured, and in foreign languages.

Respectfully and truly yours,

JARED SPARKS.

The following, which is but one of numerous notices of this work in the leading journals of Europe, appeared in the "*Espero*," the chief literary authority of Genoa:

"We are glad to learn that a translation of this valuable historic work, written by Mr. Lester, who has for some years so ably and acceptably discharged the duties of the American Consulate in this city, is in course of preparation by experienced and accomplished hands. Our readers all know how much Italy has already been indebted to America for the illustration of some of the brightest passages in our history. Mr. Irving's book put us immediately into possession of all the authentic materials that had come to light, up to the period of its publication; and all Italy opened its heart to receive the '*Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus*.'

"The publication of Mr. Lester's '*Vesputius*,' has placed us under a new obligation, because, although the work is not so voluminous as Mr. Irving's, it is far more original, and has thrown great light upon a subject that had not attracted among Italian writers the attention which it deserved. It is singular that, with the exception of Bandini, who wrote a small work on the subject, nothing really of much value had been published in Italy on the subject of '*Vesputius*.' It was a new and invit-