

*The Family Extinct.*—It is a singular fact that there are no known descendants of Christopher Columbus. He had two sons, one of whom, Don Diego, rose to the distinction of an Admiral, and the other, Fernando, was a great traveller. He not only thrice visited America, but subsequently traversed the whole of Europe and every accessible portion of Asia and Africa. He appears to have been a profound scholar and a thoroughly good man. In his will he stipulated that his library, containing twenty thousand volumes, which he gave to the Cathedral of Seville, should be free to the people, and it is free to this day. From books in this collection the late Washington Irving obtained a considerable portion of the information on which his "Life of Columbus" was founded. The following quaint epitaph, almost obliterated by time, appears on the tablet which marks the site of his tomb: "What doth it profit to have sprinkled the whole world with my sweat; to have three times crossed to the New World discovered by my father; to have embellished the shores of the tranquil Gaudalquiver, and preferred simple tastes rather than riches, or that I have assembled around the divinities from the source of Castalia, and offer to thee the riches gathered by Ptolemy, if passing in silence over this stone thou should'st fail to address a single salutation to my father's memory."

*Autograph of Columbus*—The precise meaning of the curious form of signature adopted by the great navigator is still a subject for doubtful speculation. That he himself considered it to be of weighty consequence, is evident from the following injunction in his will: "Don Diego, my son, or any other, who may inherit this estate, on coming into possession of the inheritance, shall sign with the signature which I now make use of; which is an S, with an X under it, and an M with a Roman A over it, and over that an S, and a great Y with an S over it, with its lines and points as is my custom, as may be seen by my signature, of which there are