

royal household, by order of Alphonso the fifth of Portugal, had explored the northern seas. In this voyage was discovered the *Terra de Baccalhuos*, or land of cod fish, (our Newfoundland.) Gaspar, the son of this John Cortereal, steering northward from the Azores, in the year 1500, discovered in 60° land—he gave it the name of *Terra Verde*, and supposes it the land formerly seen by the *Zeni* †—between west and northwest, he visited lands before unknown, surrounded by seas where mountains of ice floated, and in which snow storms were of frequent occurrence—he ran 800 miles along this coast. This new land was undoubtedly the present Labrador; its direction induced him to believe he had reached the north-western passage to India. The following year, high in hope, he sailed with a consort, as far as Greenland; their course was prosperous—there a storm separated the ships, one returned, that which carried Gaspar was never heard of after. This melancholy conclusion, to an adventure of such promise, might have checked further research, had not Gaspar left behind two brothers, united, it should seem to him, by ties of more than ordinary affection, Miguel Cortereal sailed in search of the missing vessel the following year, with three others. As the coast was much indented by rivers and inlets, they separated on their arrival to examine the whole more narrowly, appointing the 20th of August as the day of meeting. Three appeared at the rendezvous, but the fourth, that which bore Miguel, returned no more, nor were any tidings ever received of his fate. On the receipt of this sad intelligence, a third brother, Vasco Eanes, determined to unfold the mystery, but the King resolutely refused his consent, nor could he be persuaded to submit the life of the only remaining branch of the family to the perils of a career which had hitherto been so fatal to it.

We are great lovers of these old tales, so kindly, so naturally told. Among the early pilgrims of the deep, of many but slender notices remain; yet, how worthy were they of more than common comment;—their simple piety, their daring seamanship, their heroic endurance, lift us out of our earthly natures, and make us, as we rise from the perusal of their plain, unvarnished histories, not only wiser, but far better also for that pleasant labor. These voyages of the Cortereals, so unfavorable to themselves, were of immense advantage to Portugal,—extensive fisheries were established on the banks of Newfoundland by the merchants of that country, and prosecuted with much profit and success, until the absorption of that kingdom by the Spanish monarchy.

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† This voyage of the *Zeni*, has given rise to many conjectures; some have denied it altogether, others have on the contrary, not only admitted that it took place, but endeavored to show that Columbus himself received the idea of our continent from it.