

rity of both.¹ He had been chosen the leader of a considerable number of the Spaniards, whom he had excited to mutiny; and, taking arms, had seized the king's magazine of provisions, and endeavoured to surprise the fort at St. Domingo.² It required all the address and vigour of Columbus, to subdue this faction. He at length succeeded; and in November articles of agreement were made between him and Roldan, with his insurgents.³

Roldan's
mutiny:

1499.

Columbus, accompanied by his brother the lieutenant, having set out in February to pass through the island of Hispaniola, came in March to Isabel-la, and in April to the Conception. It was his intention to go early the next year to St. Domingo, to make preparation for his return to Spain, to give their Catholic majesties an account of all transactions.⁴

The spirit of discovery beginning to spread itself widely, private adventurers in Spain and Portugal, stimulated by the gold remitted to Europe by Columbus, made equipments at their own expense. Among the earliest of these adventurers was Alonso de Ojeda, a gallant and active officer, who had accompanied Columbus in his first voyage. Aided by the patronage of the bishop of Badajos, he obtained the royal licence for the enterprise; the bishop, at the same time, communicating to him the admiral's journal of his last voyage, and his charts of the countries, which he had discovered. Such was Ojeda's credit with the merchants of Seville, that

Ojeda's
voyage.

1 P. Martyr, 67. Purchas, i. 731.

2 Robertson, i. book ii.

3 Life of Columbus, c. lxxxi. By this agreement, the mutineers were to have two ships, with provisions, to carry them to Spain, and each of them might take a slave with him. Herrera, i. 210.

4 Life of Columbus, c. lxxiv.