

in latitude  $28^{\circ}$  north. From various causes, and among others a violent tempest, he made slow progress. His men were not free from the ignorance of the age, and a spirit of discontent arose among them which it required all his courage and prudence to restrain. Their terrors at last rose to the height of mutiny, and they talked of throwing their admiral overboard, so that he was compelled to compromise with them. He promised to abandon his enterprise and return home if they did not discover land within three days. He could now make this promise without much danger of frustrating his main object, for from the quantities of wood and weeds on the surface of the sea, from flocks of land birds, from a carved piece of wood that was picked up and from other appearances, he was assured that the shore was at hand.

On the night of the 23d of October a light was discovered from the mast head of the foremost vessel. The despondence of the crew was now changed to rapture. In the morning they landed at an island of surpassing beauty and abounding with inhabitants of a race wholly unknown to them. Both sexes went entirely naked, their manners were kind and gentle, and they received the Spaniards with joy and homage, taking them for celestial visitants. Alas! had they believed the white race fiends from hell, the treatment they afterwards received from them would almost have justified the supposition.

Columbus named the island San Salvador. It was one of the cluster since generally called the Bahamas, and is  $3^{\circ} 30'$  more southerly of Gommorra, that one of the Canaries at which he took leave of Europe. Columbus did not tarry long—he had not come in quest of islands, and he was not satisfied. His discovery only served to confirm him in his original opinion, and he firmly believed that the land before him was one of the East-India islands. Sailing southward, he soon discovered the islands of St. Mary of the conception, Ferdinand and Isabella. He next made out Cuba and another large island, which he called Espagnola, and it is still known as Hispaniola, St. Domingo and Hayti. Here he built a fort and left a small colony, after which he returned to Spain, taking with him several of the natives