

vessels was one hundred and twenty. The story of the voyage is too well known to need repeating in detail. How the hearts of his men failed them almost from the first; how, when they were near the Canary Islands the men of the *Pinta* damaged her rudder beyond repair; how they were frightened by three Portuguese men-of-war off the island of Ferro; how the sailors broke into loud lamentations when they finally lost sight of the last known islands; how, at last, they threatened to throw their leader into the sea—these are some of the dangers and difficulties he encountered. On the 10th of October an open mutiny broke out, and Columbus began to fear the worst, when a branch of thorn, with berries on it, floated by, and soon after, a reed, a piece of board, and a carved stick were picked up. All rebellion was at once at an end. A suit of velvet, and a royal pension were promised to the man who first sighted land. About ten o'clock that night Columbus himself saw a light glimmering away in the distance, which reappeared at intervals until two in the morning, when a gun fired by the *Pinta* proclaimed that land had been seen.

13. When the morning of the 12th of October, 1492, dawned, the weary but joyful mariners saw stretched before them a beautiful island, several leagues in extent, covered with thick forest. Hundreds of natives rushed down to the beach to see these strange ships which they thought had come up out of the deep during the night. Columbus went ashore, fell upon his knees and, kissing the earth, returned thanks to God, and then raised the royal standard of Ferdinand and Isabella, and claimed the New World for Spain. It was with