

new hopes, and each night they were cast into despair : now a flock of birds ; again a cloud-bank ; to-day a pelican, usually seen at a comparatively short distance from land ; to-morrow a sea-weed island ;—seemed to show that the end of their journey was at hand.

Two months had passed since they left Palos, and they only seemed farther from the goal of their ambitions than when they started. The sailors were terrified, and crowded round Columbus beseeching him to return ; but he steeled his heart to their entreaties. He was attempting what man had never before attempted ; he was hazarding everything ; and with heroic energy he had determined to succeed or perish. At last, on the eleventh of October, signs of land that could not be mistaken came to them over the salt waters. A table board and a carved stick, evidently the work of man, were picked up, and shortly afterwards a haw-tree branch with the fruit on it was eagerly drawn on board. The olive leaf was not more welcome to Noah than this broken branch to the toiling, terrified crew. The horizon was carefully scanned, but not until ten o'clock at night did Columbus, who was anxiously watching from the high poop of the " Santa Maria," discern a light that could be neither star nor meteor. Soon all were on the alert, and e'er morning Rodrigo de Triana, a common sailor on the " Pinta " cried out triumphantly " land." No one went to rest, and with the first signs of daylight a fair island came into view, its beautiful green slopes bathed in the fresh morning sun, and its woods ringing with the songs of tropical birds. The sailors, wild with delight, rent the air with triumphant shouts, and their pent up, grateful hearts found vent in a *Te Deum*, while every eye filled with tears of joy.

Columbus had the boats manned, and he and his captains in complete armor were rowed ashore, and took possession in the name of Ferdinand and Isabella. He named the island San Salvador. His men stood by him and begged his forgiveness for the trouble they had caused him on the voyage. He was triumphant, and could readily pardon ; and all were as happy as only conquerors can be. The natives watched with awe and delight the figures clad in armor, particularly Columbus, who wore, as a mark of his position, a crimson scarf across his breast.