

Columbus, on his return to Hispaniola, to his ^{1494.} inexpressible joy, met his brother Bartholomew at ^{Sept. 29.} Isabella, after a separation of thirteen years.* The ^{He finds} brother's arrival could not have been at a more ^{his brother} seasonable juncture. Columbus essentially needed ^{Bartholo-} his friendly counsels and aid ; for all things were ^{mew at Is-} in confusion, and the colony was in the utmost ^{abella.} danger of being destroyed. Four of the principal sovereigns of the island, provoked at the disorderly and outrageous conduct of the Spaniards, had united with their subjects to drive out their invaders.* Columbus, first marching against a cazique, who had killed sixteen Spaniards, easily subdued him ; and sent several of his subjects prisoners to Spain.*

Marches a-
gainst the
natives of
Hispaniola.

1 Herrera, i. 138. Bartholomew Columbus was so unfortunate, in his voyage to England, as to fall into the hands of pirates, who detained him a prisoner for several years. When he had, at length, made his escape, and arrived at London, so extreme was his indigence, that he was obliged to spend considerable time in drawing and selling maps, to procure money sufficient to purchase a decent dress, in which he might venture to appear at court. He then laid his brother's proposals before the king [Henry VII]; but with little effect. "This prince," it has been justly remarked, "was rather a prudent steward and manager of a kingdom, than a great king, and one of those defensive geniuses, who are the last in the world to relish a great but problematic design."* But, with all his excessive caution and parsimony, he received the overtures of Columbus with more approbation, than any monarch, to whom they had hitherto been communicated. When Bartholomew had finished his negotiation in England, he set out for Spain, by the way of France, and at Paris received information of his brother's extraordinary discoveries in his first voyage, and of his preparation for a second expedition. This intelligence hastened him on his journey ; but before he reached Spain, the Admiral had sailed for Hispaniola. He was received, however, with due respect by Ferdinand and Isabella, who persuaded him to take the command of three ships, which they had appointed to carry provisions to the colony at Isabella. Robertson, i. book ii.

* European Settlements, i. chap. i.

2 P. Martyr's account of the enormities of the Spaniards sufficiently shows, why the poor natives were at once united and desperate : "Ergens, quæ Præfectum in ea navigatione secuta fuerat majori ex parte indomita, vaga, cui nihil pensi esset, libertatem sibi, quoque modo posset, quaritans, ab injuriis minime se abstinere poterat, insularium fœminas, ante parentum, fratrum, et virorum oculos raptans, stupris rapinis que intentas, animos omnium incolarum perturbabat. Quamobrem pluribus in locis quotquot imparatos è nostris incolæ reperiebant, rapidè, et tanquam sacras offerentes Deo, trucidaverunt." De Nov. Orb. p. 39.

3 Life of Columbus, c. liv—lxi. Robertson, i. book ii. European Settlements, i. 24.