

as, with earnest and honest simplicity, the stranger discoursed of his designs and convictions, and announced the grounds on which his vast expectancy rested. The Prior was charmed, amazed, and finally convinced. He found his guest was no foolish dreamer, no sordid adventurer, and that his project had a solid foundation in fact and science. Then the rough mariner went on to tell the story of his life: how he had made the offer of discovering a new world to his native city, Genoa, and had met only scorn and ridicule; then how the treacherous John of Portugal had deceived him, and that now he was in search of a worthier employer. The good Prior was fairly won over, entered heartily into his enterprise, took charge of his son, and gave him an introduction at court to the reigning sovereigns, Ferdinand and Isabella. Honour to thee, Juan Perez! Thy clear-seeing eye and open, generous heart enabled thee to put aside the beggar's garb, and discover the noble spirit within. Thou didst nobly and disinterestedly reach the kind hand of help to genius in its sore struggles and disappointments! Thou didst believe in the hero when all else scoffed at him, and didst side with him and truth against the world: and therefore thy name shall go down to the latest posterity in connection with the discoverer of the New World.

“ Then to side with truth is noble when we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses, while the coward stands aside,
Doubting in his abject spirit, till his Lord is crucified,
And the multitude make virtue of the faith they have denied.”

The brief limits of this paper forbid our following the fortunes of our hero in detail. We cannot now tell how he spent six weary years at court, pressing his suit for leave to give new and boundless dominions to Spain, hope deferred making his heart sick; ignorance, stupidity and prejudice throwing obstructions in his way, and scoffing at his great hope. Nor can we describe the scene in the hall of the Dominican Convent at Salamanca, where a grand council of all the learned, reverend and distinguished men of the kingdom met to consider his design, and solemnly pronounced it visionary and presumptuous. How could these learned doctors and great and dignified men submit to be taught by this obscure navigator, the son of a Genoese wool-comber! After hovering for six years about the court of Ferdinand and Isabella, getting only vague promises, he at last turned away in disappointment, though not in despair, and resolved to set out for France. Once more he reached La Rabida, and the kind Prior listened patiently to his tale of grief and disappointment. He was deeply moved, and resolved to make one last effort by appealing in person to Isabella, whose confessor he had been, and in whose favour he stood high. The magnanimous heart of Isabella was profoundly moved when the great enterprise was fairly propounded to her. She entered heartily into it, and declared that, if needful, she would pledge her jewels to meet expenses. Once more Columbus returned to court, his heart now beating high with hope.

Now at length the prophet of the New World saw his star in the ascendant. After long years of struggle and waiting, his great scheme was to be fairly launched. It is once more a single man against the world; but on his side are truth and fact. The grandest scene in world-history is about to open. The man who is about to burst the gates of the Atlantic stands ready for his task; and the only souls that really believe in him and cheer him on, are the queenly Isabella and the kind-hearted Prior of La Rabida.

Friday, the 3rd August, 1492, is a memorable day in the annals of the world. On that day the little squadron of Columbus sailed from the port of