

MEMORIALS OF COLUMBUS.



HISTORY tells us that Columbus died in Valladolid, Spain, on Ascension Day, the 20th of May, 1506; that his body was deposited in the Convent of San Francisco, and his obsequies celebrated with funeral pomp in that city. His remains were afterwards transported, in 1513, to the Carthusian Monastery of Seville, known as "Las Cuevas," where they erected a handsome monument to him, by command of Ferdinand and Isabella, with the simple inscription, borne upon his shield, of

"A CASTILE Y LEON.

Nuevo Mundo dio Colon."

In the year 1536 his body, and that of his son Diego were removed to the City of St. Domingo, in the Island of Hayti, and interred in the principal chapel. But they were not permitted to rest even there, for on the 15th of January, 1796, they were brought to Havana and interred in their present tomb, amid grand and imposing ceremonies, participated in by the army, navy, and Church officials, and an immense concourse of spectators. To use the words of a Spanish author: "Havana wept with joy, admiration and gratitude at seeing enter within its precincts, in order to guard them forever, the ashes of Christobal Colon,"

The ashes, it is understood were deposited in an urn, which was placed in a niche in the wall, at the entrance and to the left of the chancel of the cathedral. Over this has been placed a slab of stone, elaborately carved, in a stone frame, and representing the dress of Columbus in the costume of the time, a wreath of laurel around his head, and symbolical emblems at the foot of the medallion, upon which is inscribed in Castilian:

"Oh, rest thou, image of the great Colon.

Thousands centuries remain guarded in the urn

And in the remembrance of our nation."