

ing he was destined to perform. From his studies he arrived at the conclusion that the world was a sphere, but underestimated its size, while over-estimating the extent of Asia. He believed there was a western route to India, and determined to discover it. He first applied to the Senate of Genoa, his native city. His proposals were rejected. He next turned to John II of Portugal, but that monarch, through the advice of the Bishop of Ceuta, dealt treacherously with him. Upon discovering the dishonorable transaction, he secretly left Lisbon, and dispatched his brother, Bartholomew, to England with letters for Henry VII, to whom he had communicated his idea. He next proposed his plans to the Duke of Medina Sidonia, who deemed them impractical and visionary. He then presented his plans to the Duke of Medina Celi, who gave him great encouragement, entertained him for two years, and even determined to furnish him with three or four caravals; but was finally deterred through the belief that such an expedition should be under the patronage of a sovereign. He wrote to Isabella, and at her bidding Columbus repaired to the court at Cordova. Here he was kindly received, but neither Isabella nor Ferdinand had time to listen to him, owing to the struggle then going on with the Moors. He followed the court to Salamanca, and after surmounting many difficulties obtained an audience with the king. The matter was referred to Fernando de Talavera, who, in 1487, summoned a junta mostly composed of ecclesiastics, prejudiced and loth to abandon their pretensions to knowledge, which decided that his project was vain and impractical and that the sovereigns should abandon it. After encountering many other discouragements, an agreement was entered into with the Spanish sovereigns, which was signed on April 17, 1492.

In presenting his plans and arguments before the different courts and those high in authority, not once did he allude to the discovery of Leif Ericson. When before the junta, Columbus presented his arguments, and the ecclesiastics overwhelmed him with biblical texts, there was a great opportunity to present the conclusive evidence of Lief's discovery, and the fact that the pope of Rome had appointed a bishop for Vinland. Most certainly would Columbus have thus availed himself, had he possessed the knowledge. Again, the fact of his route across the Atlantic cannot be reconciled with a previous knowledge of the one from Greenland to Vinland. His route would have borne greatly to the northwest.

Much irrelevant matter has been dragged into the discussion by the Norse advocates. It should here be touched upon in order to show the true animus of these erratic theorists. It will be an illustration of their ability to weigh evidence in other matters as well as in that which they have particularly chosen.

The Norse character has been pompously set forth and its pagan ethics extolled. Great benefits would result in "accord-