

knowing that he had found a new world. He simply supposed that he had discovered a westerly route to India and China, and that the islands he had visited lay off the coast of Asia. Hence these islands were afterwards named the West Indies, and the natives were called Indians.

**Western Europe astir.**—Tidings of Columbus's wonderful discovery soon set all Western Europe astir. Neither India, China, nor Japan had yet been reached, but they surely were not far away from the newly-discovered islands. So thought



COLUMBUS'S SHIP, THE "SANTA MARIA."  
(Photo from the model at Chicago Exhibition, 1893.)

Columbus, and the leading men of the time were of the same opinion. These eastern lands were supposed to possess unbounded wealth, and the navigator who should open up an easy route to them would be on the highroad to fortune.

**Henry VII. and the Cabots.**—Henry the Seventh of England, dazzled by the prospect of adding new lands to his dominion and more wealth to his treasury, was eager to send explorers across the western waters. He found suitable men to carry out his wishes in John Cabot and his son Sebastian.