

1492. peace the mariners, happily occurred. A light, seen by Columbus at ten in the night of the eleventh of October, was viewed as the harbinger of the wished for land; and early the next morning land was distinctly seen.¹ At sun rise, all the boats were manned and armed, and the adventurers rowed toward the shore, with warlike music, and other martial pomp. The coast, in the mean time, was covered with people,² who were attracted by the novelty of the spectacle, and whose attitudes and gestures strongly expressed their astonishment. Columbus, richly dressed, and holding a naked sword in his hand, went first on shore, and was followed by his men, who, kneeling down with him, kissed the ground with tears of joy, and returned thanks for the success of the voyage. The land was one of the islands of the New World, called by the natives, Guanahana.³ Columbus, assuming the title and authority of admiral, called it San Salvador; and, by setting up a cross, took possession of it for their Catholic majesties.⁴

Columbus
and his men
go on shore.

Many of the natives stood around, and gazed at the strange ceremony in silent admiration. Though shy at first through fear, they soon became familiar with the Spaniards. The admiral, perceiving that they were simple and inoffensive, gave them

¹ The voyage from Gomera was 35 days; a longer time than any man had ever been known to be from the sight of land.

² They "appeared in the simple innocence of nature, entirely naked." Robertson.

³ It is one of that cluster of the West India islands, called Bahamas, lying in the 25th. degree of north latitude, above 3000 miles to the west of Gomera. Robertson, i. book ii. Belknap Biog. i. 101. The authors of the Universal History [xli. 320, 331.] erroneously affirm this first discovered island to be the one, now called New Providence, which is another of the Bahama islands, in its neighbourhood. The island, discovered by Columbus, still retains its original Indian name, though it is also denominated in maps, Cat Island. It is remarkable for nothing, but the event that we have recited.

⁴ Life of Columbus, c. ii. xvi—xxi, xxiii. Peter Martyr, 2. Herrera, i. 47. Purchas, i. 729, 730. European Settlements in America, i. 5—11. Robertson, i. 119, 128.

hawks
which
them
their
confide
down
someth
the Sp
had, a
valuab
Colu
procee
him se
saw se
largest
Concep
twenty
of Cub
the Sp
Enterin
dron, h
the me
natives
of the c
yember
sixty m
better,
that, b
one vi
thousan
fifth of
island,
our of
he nam

1 —" C
2 Life
3 Robe
lived in a
4 "Ab
pera, i. 10