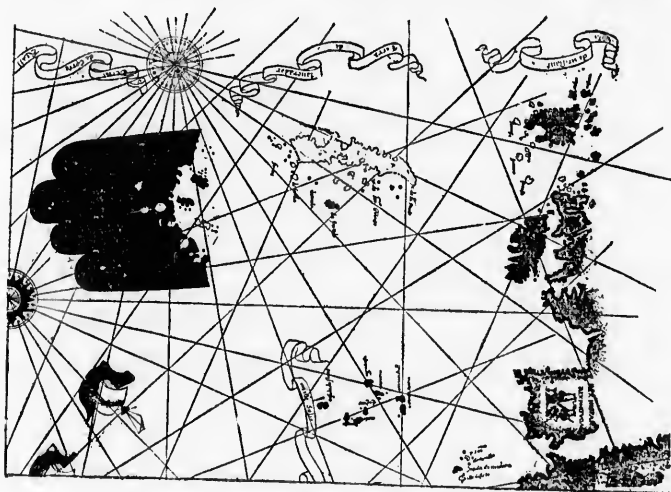


however remotely connected with the Orient of Marco Polo the new regions might prove to be. After the return of Columbus in 1493, it is apparent that Peter Martyr hesitated to believe that Asia had been reached. It was quite clear that Columbus, on his second voyage, himself felt uncertain of his proximity to Asia, since, to preserve his credit with the Spanish sovereigns, he forced his companions, against the will of more than half of them, and on penalty of personal violence if they recanted, to make oath that Cuba was an Asiatic peninsula. He even took steps later to prevent one of the recalcitrant victims going back to Spain, for fear his representations would unsettle the royal faith that the fabled Orient had been reached. When his pilot, Juan de la Cosa, who was one of those forced to perjure themselves, found himself free to make Cuba an island in his map of 1500, the fact that he put no Asiatic names on the coast of a continent west of Cuba has

A new world
suspected.



PART OF CHART NO. II. IN KUNSTMANN.
[Also in *Bull. de Géog. Hist. et Descriptive*, 1886, pl. iv.]

been held to show that the doubt of its being Asia had already possessed that seaman's mind. The makers of the Cantino and Cancrino maps in 1502 and 1503 respectively, in putting in a coast for Asia distinct from this continent which La Cosa had