

bold Cavaliers, anxious to gain a glance of approbation from the fair beholders ; many a lance had been broken, and many a rider unhorsed in the broad arena where they fought mimic battles. On a raised platform, the queen reclined, beneath a gorgeous canopy, surrounded by her ladies. A young man, of interesting appearance, advanced and knelt reverently at her feet, while a noble and beautiful lady threw over his shoulders an embroidered scarf, and presented to him a sealed packet. Henri, for it was he, gracefully kissed her hand, while he poured forth his thanks for the gift bestowed.

Columbus had represented Henri's constancy and services during the voyage, his resolute adherence to the squadron when one of the vessels deserted, and his subsequent bravery when another was wrecked. Isabella was so pleased with this history, that she resolved to signalise the day by conferring upon him the honor of knighthood, and presenting him with a small estate, which had just reverted to the crown, by the death of the last heir. He had realised a large share in the golden favors of the savage chieftain on the Island of Hispaniola, a sufficiency to enable him to improve this estate, which was situated in the fertile province of Valencia, not far from the sea. He was not destined, however, to attain the summit of happiness at once, or even to revisit at this time his Irene. His country had claims upon his devotion and energy, in prosecuting the series of discoveries that promised to open to Spain the wealth of the Indies, and an empire whose greatness should overshadow all other European powers. So, repressing his ardor, he despatched a letter to the lady Irene, detailing his fortunes, and remained with the courtly circles of Barcelona, while the monarchs matured their negociations with Portugal, and arranged the outfit for a second voyage of discovery. Longingly as he turned his eyes toward his home, he felt that it did not become the patriot to falter in the service of such sovereigns, or the Christian to seek his own ease, when such men as Columbus called upon him to aid in spreading the light of the gospel among the heathen ; for the great aim, the great motive that sustained Columbus, was the hope of being the means of illuminating the pagan multitudes that he should find peopling the vast regions of the Western World. Still there were times, when the irrepressible longings of the heart, the desire for companionship, would assert their sway, when the beauty and