

ped a sea across her bows, but for the most part the ships were wafted along by halcyon breezes. For ten days there was no need to trim the sails. In his log, he writes that the early mornings on deck were a source of delight—the weather being like that of an Andalusian spring—the only thing wanting was the song of the nightingale.

On the 18th a great flock of birds went past. On the 20th “two or three land birds came singing to the ship, and disappeared before sunset.” On the 25th a cry was raised that land could be seen, and all grew glad, but the supposed coast line proved to be a low lying cloud. Four days later the entry runs “To God be many thanks given, the air being pleasant and temperate, with no weed (i e, in the sea) many sand-pipers and flying fish coming on the deck in numbers.”

The eleventh of October brought fresh signs of land being not far distant—a broken reed, a branch of a tree with ripe red berries, and, more significant than all, a wooden pole bearing traces of an iron tool. Columbus felt certain that he was nearing some coast. Sleep was out of the question and he passed much of the time below deck in prayer.

The *Pinta*, a faster sailor, was ahead of the *Santa Maria*. At two in the morning a glad cry rang out over the waters. Rodrigo de Trinana, a seaman perched in the tops of the vessel, had sighted several miles away, a low sandy beach on which the moon-light fell. Close upon the cry came the report of a gun. It was the captain of the *Pinta's* signal that the voyage was ended, the hope of a lifetime fulfilled. A few hours later, Columbus landed on one of the Islands off the coast of America, and took possession of it in the name of the crown of Spain. This re-discovered country was not then known to be separated from Asia by the great Pacific ocean, and it was not until Columbus's third voyage in 1498 that he saw the mainland of America. Such was the great voyage, and such was its ending. Only the fringes of the vast continent had as yet been touched. But a New World had again