

the beauteous western world, with all its wonderful variety of scenery and climate. Land did indeed lie before them. "Land ! land !" was the joyful chorus on every tongue.

Brightly beamed the morning sun upon the wooded shores and flowery summits of that lovely island, which reposed in the solitude of the ocean, like a gem of variegated colors dropped from the hand of Omnipotence. The little ships anchored before it, while the joyful adventurers stepped gratefully on shore. Those ships transported, it may be, leaves from the Tree of Life, germs of future glory, which the All-Wise would spread over the western world, until, in ages to come, light and knowledge and truth should meet and embrace on the Pacific shore, and the east and west, the north and south, be illuminated with celestial light.

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It was a gala day in the Spanish capital. The church bells rung forth a merry peal, the streets were thronged with cheerful multitudes in their holiday garb, while the inspiring notes of martial music lent a bewitching loveliness to their steps. From balcony and tower and lordly castle, floated gay-colored flags and banners. The fair and beautiful crowded the windows and porticos, and eagerly tried to catch a glimpse of the splendid procession which was passing through the principal streets. Conspicuous in front rode Ferdinand, whose nodding plumes were lifted with profound gallantry to the ladies ; by his side rode the Queen of Castile, the idolised Isabella, her serene beauty partly concealed by a superb veil, which was fastened upon a jewelled tiara, and fell back in graceful folds round her royal person. As the cavalcade came in view, the crowd perceived the majestic form of Columbus, with a select retinue, near the king and queen, and bursting forth into ecstasy they raised the rejoicing shout, "Ferdinand and Isabella forever !"

It was a happy day to Isabella she regarded herself as a steward of Heaven's bounty, and felt that she ought to honor God with the most magnificent exhibitions of joy. It was a proud day to her, for she commemorated the discovery of a new world ! That morning the court celebrated high thanksgivings for the prosperity of the little armament that sailed away from Palos amid so many trials, and now the king and queen, with the nobility and principal inhabitants, were on their way to honor the event in feast and tournament. Many feats were performed by