

east, and follow the equator to the west border of the hemisphere. Blacken all south and east of our lines to the margin of the hemisphere. You now observe that the whole of the land of the American continent has disappeared, together with the greater portion of the Atlantic ocean, and the whole of the Pacific ocean; about one-half of Africa is in mourning, together with Australia, and the islands to the east and north and to the south to the south pole. What remains unpainted upon the hemispheres is more of the earth's surface than with which Europeans were fairly acquainted. In all the historical works of Mr. John Fiske, he has done no better service to the present or for future generations than by his persistent insistence of the necessity of our first banishing from our minds our modern maps, as preliminary to a just understanding of the difficulties that beset the early theorists and navigators. An examination of the charts and maps made by them when they attempted to delineate their new discoveries and connect them to the Eastern and better known hemisphere, will show us at once the difficulties they encountered. At the date last above given, August 3d, 1492, there was a single grand geographical problem demanding solution; and that was, "Could Europeans travel to Eastern Asia by an all water or sailing route?" There was then two theories. The Portugese had an idea that it might be possible to sail around the south of Africa, and reach the Indian ocean, which was known washed the western shores of India and China. Her daring navigators were at that very date, with doubt and trepidation, slowly ploughing the water of the Atlantic southward on the western coast, to ascertain the southern point of Africa, if there was any. At this period Columbus had determined to anticipate the project of Portugal, by a voyage directly westward over the unknown and untraveled Atlantic, making a shorter journey than by the Portugese theory. Spain, at the moment, was witnessing his departure in her