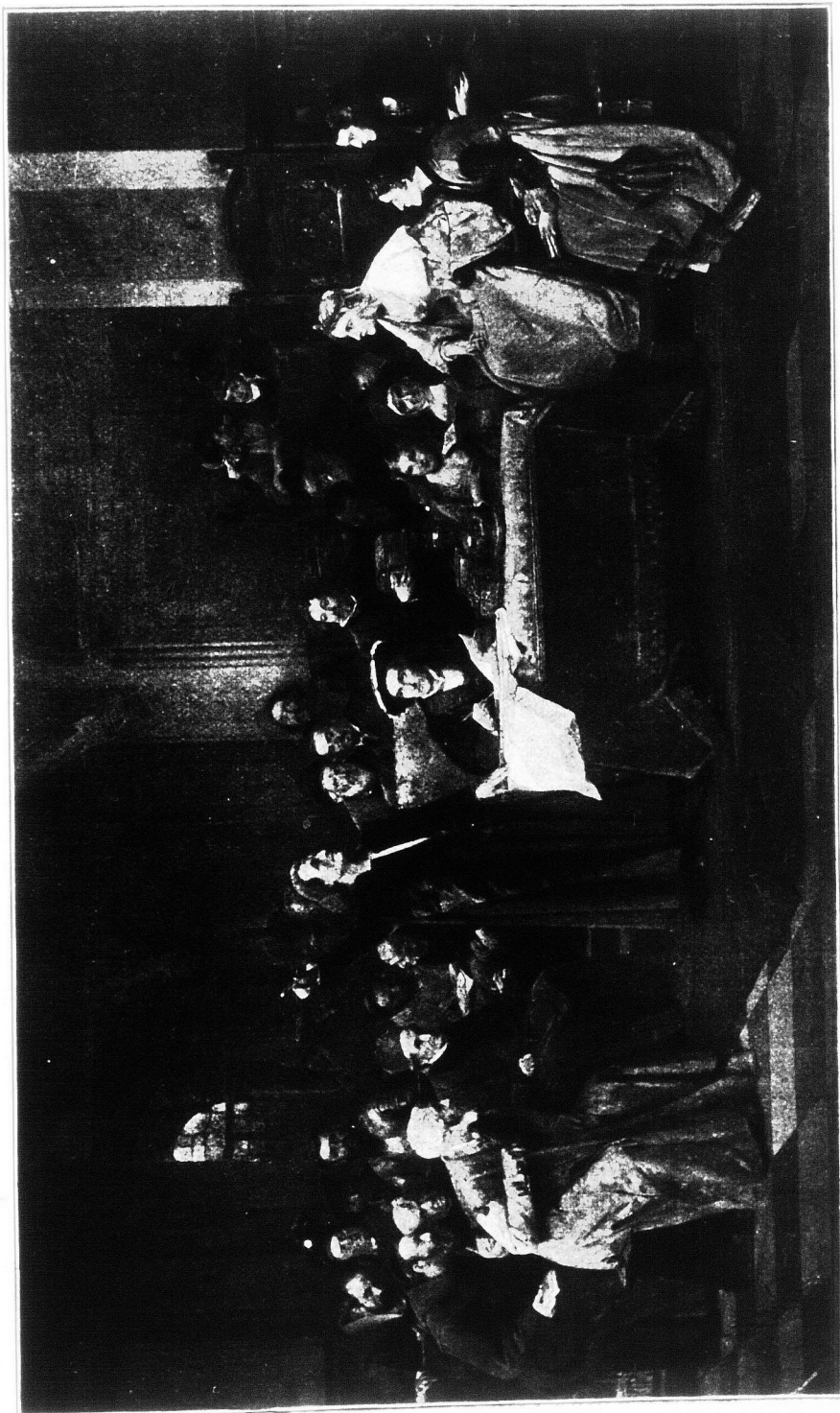




COLUMBUS BEFORE THE COURT OF FERINAND AND ISABELLA.

Columbus, after long waiting and bitter disappointments at the Court of Spain, decided to betake himself to France for assistance to fit out a fleet. Travelling as a mendicant, footsore and weary, he presented himself at a monastery and begged for a crust of bread. The kind-hearted abbot listened to his story, and, having some influence at court, persuaded Columbus to return and renew his plea. He did so. Spreading out his maps before the court he told his story, which was eagerly listened to. His eloquence and the enthusiasm of Queen Isabella overcame all opposition, and three ships were fitted out for his voyage of discovery.