

his brother Bartholomew into England to solicit the patronage of Henry VII, repaired to Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Spain. It was not till he had surmounted numerous obstacles, and spent seven years in painful solicitation, that he obtained what he sought. To the honour of Isabella, and of her sex, the scheme of Columbus was first countenanced by the queen. Through the influence of Juan Perez, a Spanish priest, and Lewis Santangel, an officer of the king's household, she was persuaded to listen to his request; and, after he had been twice repulsed, to recall him to court. She now offered to pledge her jewels, to defray the expense of the proposed equipment, amounting to no more than two thousand five hundred crowns¹; but this sum was advanced by Santangel, and the queen saved from so mortifying an expedient.²

On the seventeenth day of April, 1492, an agreement was made by Columbus with their Catholic majesties: That, if he should make any discoveries, he should sustain the office of viceroy by land, and admiral by sea, with the advantage of the tenth part of the profits, accruing from the productions and commerce of all the countries discovered; and these dignities and privileges were not to be limited to his own person, but to be hereditary in his family.³

¹ This denomination of money, used by most historians, may, without explanation, essentially mislead the reader. They were doubtless *gold* crowns. Vega [Commentaries of Peru, 423.] says, the expense was "six millions of maravadies, making the sum of 16000 ducats." A Spanish ducat of exchange is equal to 4s. 11d. 1-2, and lacks therefore but a half penny of being equal to an English crown. If the 16000 ducats of Vega be estimated as equal to so many English crowns, they make exactly £4000 sterling; and *this* is the very sum, which, Dr. Robertson says, the expense of the equipment "did not exceed."

² Life of Columbus, c. xi, xii, xv, with the principal authorities, cited under A. D. 1492.

³ Harris' Voyages, i. 5. The instrument, containing the terms of this agreement, is inserted entire in Hazard's Collections, i. 1-3; but it is there dated April 30, 1492. Though the name of Ferdinand appears connected with that of Isabella in this compact, he refused to take any part in the enterprise, as king of Arragon. The whole expense of the ex-

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