

acy and Spain's jealous dislike. Well was it for the future of our land that on the first voyage of Columbus the westerly course, which had been pursued from the start, was changed to a southwesterly direction when the little fleet was within a few hours of reaching the Florida or Carolina shores. A day or two further on their way due west, as Humboldt reminds us, and the potent influences of the Gulf Stream would have borne the ships up the Atlantic coast, and thus revealed to Columbus and his crews the southern territory of the United States. Strangely different would have been our civilization, our Christianity, our institutions, our history, our very features and our speech, had the standard of Castile and the Latin Cross been first planted on the North American mainland now in possession of the United States. God, we may well believe, in His wise Providence caused the deflection of the helms of the caravels of Columbus—the Santa Maria, the Pinta and the Nina, from their westward course that our discovery might be by other hands than those soon to be deeply imbrued in the blood of the gentle aborigines of the islands of the sea. God in His Providence willed that our civilization should be that of the robust Anglo-Saxon, the dauntless Briton, —rather than that of the effeminate Spanish type; that our faith should not be Roman, but primitive, Catholic, reformed;