

darkened by the bigotry of the age. He evidently concurred in the opinion, that *all nations which did not acknowledge* the Christian faith were *destitute* of natural rights; that the sternest measures might be used for their conversion, and the severest punishments *inflicted upon their obstinacy* in unbelief. In this spirit of bigotry he considered himself *justified* in making captives of the Indians, and transporting them to Spain to have them taught the doctrines of Christianity, and in selling them for slaves if they *pretended* to resist his invasions. In so doing he sinned against the natural goodness of his character, and against the feelings which he had originally entertained and expressed towards this gentle and hospitable people; but he was goaded on by the mercenary impatience of the crown and by the sneers of his enemies at the unprofitable result of his enterprises. It is but justice to his character to observe, that the enslavement of the Indians *thus taken in battle* was at first openly *countenanced* by the crown and that when the question of right came to be discussed at the entreaty of the queen, several of the most distinguished jurists and theologians advocated the practice; so that the question was finally settled in favour of the Indians solely by the humanity of Isabella. As the venerable Bishop Las Casas observes, where *the most learned men* have doubted, it is not surprising that an unlearned mariner should err.

These remarks in palliation of the conduct of Columbus, are required by candour. It is *proper* to show him in connection with the age in which he lived, lest the errors of *the times* should be considered as his individual faults. It is not the intention of the author, however, to justify Columbus on a point where it is inexcusable to err. Let *it* remain a blot on his illustrious name and let others *derive* a lesson from it.

1. What is the main theme and the topic sentence of each of these paragraphs? How is the relation of each paragraph to what has gone before shown? What is gained by making two paragraphs here?

2. Examine the first paragraph showing

the main theme, the nature and intention of each sentence and its relation to the main theme. Point out also the various means employed to maintain explicit reference.

3. Briefly examine each sentence in the first paragraph as to the merits of the direct and indirect order employed, and as to the use or omission of connectives.

4. Criticize and explain the use of the pronoun "it," wherever used throughout both paragraphs, and rewrite each clause containing it, without using this pronoun.

5. Discuss the correctness of the italicized passages, correcting where you think a change advisable, giving your reasons.

B.

Columbus was a man of quick sensibility, liable to great excitement, to sudden and strong impressions and powerful impulses. He was naturally irritable and impetuous, and keenly sensible to injury and injustice; yet the quickness of his temper was counteracted by the benevolence and generosity of his heart. The magnanimity of his nature shone forth through all the troubles of his stormy career. Though continually outraged in his dignity, and braved in the exercise of his command; though foiled in his plans, and endangered in his person by the seditions of turbulent and worthless men, and that too at times when suffering under anxiety of mind and anguish of body sufficient to exasperate the most patient, yet he restrained his valiant and indignant spirit by the strong powers of his mind, and brought himself to forbear, and reason, and even to supplicate.

6. Point out briefly the peculiarities of style in the foregoing sentences.

7. Rewrite the passage, substituting English words or phrases for those of Latin origin.

8. Distinguish impetuous and impulsive; sensible and sensitive; irritable and excitable; benevolence and generosity; continually and continuously; exasperate and aggravate; suffering and anguish; restrained and restricted; valiant and brave; sufficient and enough.