

a sort of Babylonian or Egyptian city, to which he opposes the frugal life of the true Hellenic citizen." Bacon's well-known new Atlantis is based upon the same traditions. In this treatise, as Sir Walter Raleigh informs us, Bacon designed to exhibit a model or description of a college, instituted for the interpreting of nature, and the marvellous works for the benefit of man under the name of "Solomon's House, or the Knowledge of the Six Days' Works," and the innuendo is that England at large would profit greatly by adopting many of its supposed customs; and truth to say, not a few of them have actually been incorporated in English thought and usage since the days of Bacon. From the same source have sprung other works on ideal republics or states. As for example Sir Thomas More's "Utopia," Campanella's "City of the Sun," Hall's "Mundus Alter et Idem," also in more recent times, "The Speculations of Ignatius Donnelly" and "Colonel Le Plongeon."

At all events, whether by accident or otherwise, the prophecy put by Seneca into the mouths of the chorus in his *Medea* has been amply fulfilled. To adopt the language of mythology, Father Oceanus has loosened the chain with which he himself had confined the human view, and the vast predicted continent has come into sight across the western waves, and Tethys, his spouse, has revealed her countless Oceanids, her islands, in all directions, well fitted for the habitation of man. Thule has long since ceased to be the extreme limit of human operations, wherever that Thule may have been, whether in the far Scandinavian North, the Hebrides or Iceland, or farther south among the Canaries or the Azores.*

Our English "Land's End" and "Cape Finisterre" of Spain were earlier indications of limits to human enterprise in a westerly direction. *Plus ultra* is now, however, the inscription on the Pillars of Hercules.

We ourselves on this continent are in the act of celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of the unveiling of the land which is now our home; with what keen interest would Seneca have regarded the fact, could he have learned that his own native Corduba would in after ages be intimately associated with the name of the principal agent in the great discoveries which had been permitted to predict. All readers of Irving's Columbus will remember how frequently the name of Cordova, which is the ancient Corduba, occurs in the accounts of the great discoverer's early interviews with Ferdinand and Isabella.† What Seneca says by anticipation in one of his letters in regard to the whole earth is quite applicable to our special case on this continent.

"If a man had given thee a few acres of land," he remarks to a correspondent, "thou wouldst say that thou hadst received a benefit at his hands; and deniest thou that the immeasurable extent of the whole earth is no

* Black, in his "Princess of Thule," makes it Lewis in the Hebrides; the origin of all these references to conspicuous terminal objects on the earth's surface is probably to be sought for in the scripture expression "the ends of the earth," so familiar to us all.

† When Ben Jonson, in his celebrated lines to the memory of Shakespeare, prefixed to the folio edition of 1623, speaks of "Eschylus, Euripides, Sophocles, Paucivius, Accius, him of Cordova, dead" — the reference in the last expression is, of course, to Seneca, who was born at Cordova B. C. 3.