

cond falsehood is, that at his first coming into Castile, their catholic majesties, Ferdinand and Isabel, or Elizabeth, accepted of his proposal, after it had been seven years bandied about and rejected by all men. The third, that he set out to discover with two ships, which is not true, for he had three caravals. The fourth, that his first discovery was Hispaniola, and it was Guaranani, which the admiral called S. Salvador, or S. Saviour. The fifth, that the said island Hispaniola was inhabited by cannibals, that eat men's flesh; and the truth is, the inhabitants of it were the best people, and most civilized of any in those parts. The sixth, that he took by force of arms the canoe, or Indian boat, he saw; whereas it appears that he had no war that first voyage with any Indian, and continued in peace and amity with them till the day of his departure from Hispaniola. The seventh, that he returned by way of the Canary Islands, which is not the proper way for those vessels to return. The eighth, that from the said island he dispatched a messenger to their majesties aforesaid; whereas it is certain, that he was not first at that island, as was observed, and he himself was the messenger. The ninth, that the second voyage he returned with twelve ships; and it is manifest he had seventeen. The tenth, that he arrived at Hispaniola in twenty days, which is a very short time to reach the nearest islands, and he performed it not in two months, and went to others much farther distant. The eleventh, that he presently made from Hispaniola with two ships, and it is known there were three he took to go from Hispaniola to Cuba. Justiniani's twelfth falsehood is, that Hispaniola is four hours distant from Spain, and the admiral reckons it above five. And farther, to add a thirteenth to the dozen, he says, the western point of Cuba is six hours distant from Hispaniola, making it further from Hispaniola to Cuba than from Spain to Hispaniola. So that by his negligence and heedlessness in being well informed and writing the truth of these particulars, which are so plain, we may plainly discern what inquiry he made into that which was so obscure, wherein he contradicts himself, as has been made appear. But laying aside this controversy, wherewith I believe I have by this time tired the reader, we will only add, that considering the many mistakes and falsehoods found in the said Justiniani's history and psalter, the senate of Genoa has laid a penalty upon any person that shall read or keep it; and has caused it to be carefully sought out in all places it has been sent to, that it may by public decree be destroyed and utterly extinguished. I will return to our main design, concluding with this assertion, that the admiral was a man of learning and great experience; that he did not employ his time in handicraft or mechanic exercises, but in such as became the grandeur and renown of his wonderful exploits; and will conclude this chapter with some words taken out of a letter he writ himself to prince John of Castile's nurse, which are these.

"I am not the first admiral of my family, let them give me what name they please; for when all is done, David, that most prudent King, was first a shepherd, and afterwards chosen King of Jerusalem, and I am servant to that same Lord who raised him to such dignity."

CHAP. III. — *Of the Admiral's Person, and what Sciences he learned.*

THE admiral was well shaped, and of a more than middling stature, long visaged, his cheeks somewhat full, yet neither fat nor lean; he had a hawk nose, his eyes white, his complexion white, with a lovely red; in his youth his hair was fair, but when he came to thirty years of age, it all turned grey. He was always modest and sparing in his eating, drinking, and his dress. Among strangers he was affable, and pleasant among his domestics, yet with modesty and an easy gravity.

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