

STORIES

FROM

CANADIAN HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

"Columbus is the *real* discoverer of America."—*High School History*, page 325.

Living in an age when the whole world has been traversed, when there is hardly an island of the sea but has known the foot of the white man, it is hard to realise what the inhabitants of Europe of the fifteenth century imagined about the unexplored parts of the earth. Europe and a part of Asia and Africa made up the then known world, and the superstitious men and women of the time believed the places beyond the explored territory to be inhabited by giants and pigmies, by sea-monsters and land monsters, by men of strange shape and stranger manners. Even our own Shakespeare makes Othello when relating his experience to Desdemona speak of

"The cannibals that each other eat,
The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders."

Henry IV. the large-minded and noble-hearted King of Portugal, did much to dispel this darkness. He sent voyager after voyager forth to examine the coast of Africa, and year by year new capes, new rivers, new peoples, were discovered, until at last Bartholemew Diaz reached the Cape of Good Hope, called by him Stormy Cape. It is a note-worthy fact that on this voyage he was accompanied by Bartholemew Columbus, brother of Christopher.

These discoveries excited the whole maritime world, and many sailors hoped to be the successful ones in the search for the wealth