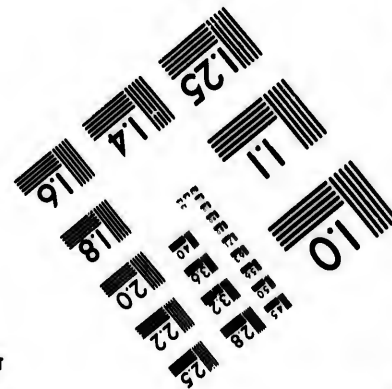
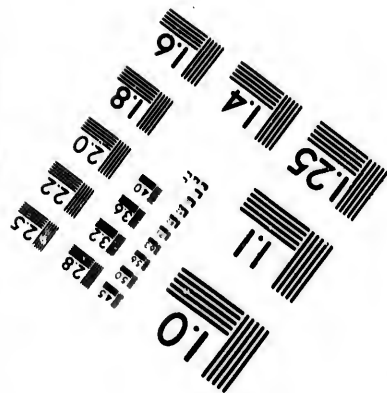
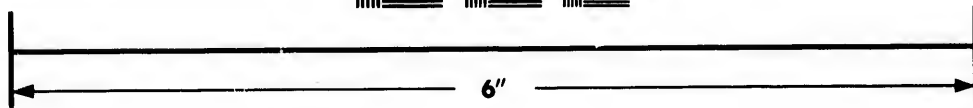
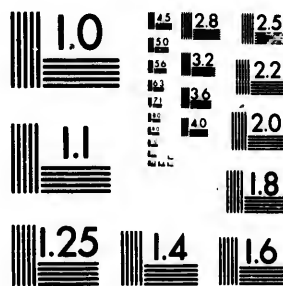


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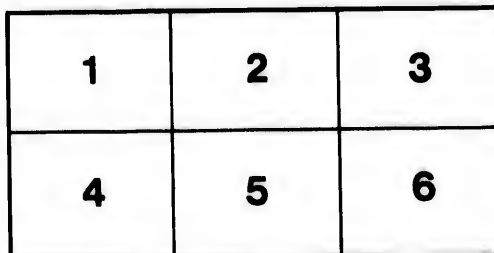
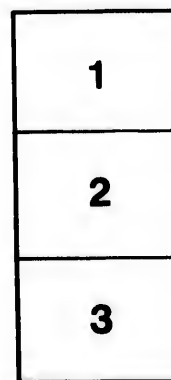
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COLUMBUS

THE NAVIGATOR

The Story of His Life and Work

TOGETHER WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PRE-COLUMBIAN DISCOVERY
OF AMERICA

BY

HENRY FREDERIC REDDALL

AUTHOR OF "FROM THE GOLDEN GATE TO THE GOLDEN HORN," "THE SUNNY SIDE OF
POLITICS," "FACT, FANCY, AND FABLE," ETC.

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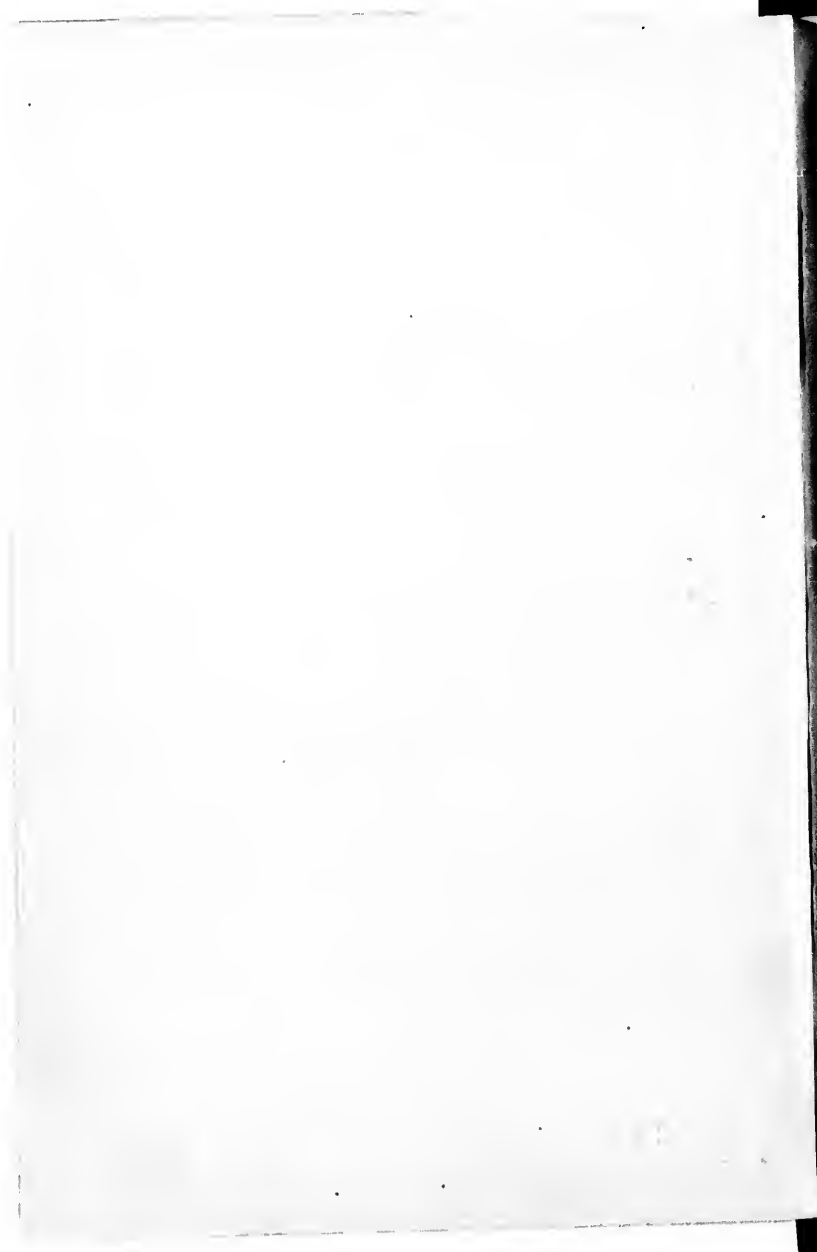
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COLUMBUS.

(AT HAVANA.)

"There, 'mid these paradises of the seas,
The roof beneath of this cathedral old,
That lifts its suppliant arms above the trees,
Each clasping in its hand a cross of gold,
Columbus sleeps—his crumbling tomb below!
By faith his soul rose eagle-winged and free,
And reached that power whose wisdom never falls.
Walked 'mid the kindled stars, and reverently
The light earth weighed in God's own golden scales
A man of passions like to men's was he.
He overcame them, and with hope and trust
Made strong his soul for higher destiny,
And, following Christ, he walked upon the sea;
The waves upheld him,—what is here is dust."

—Hezekiah Butterworth.



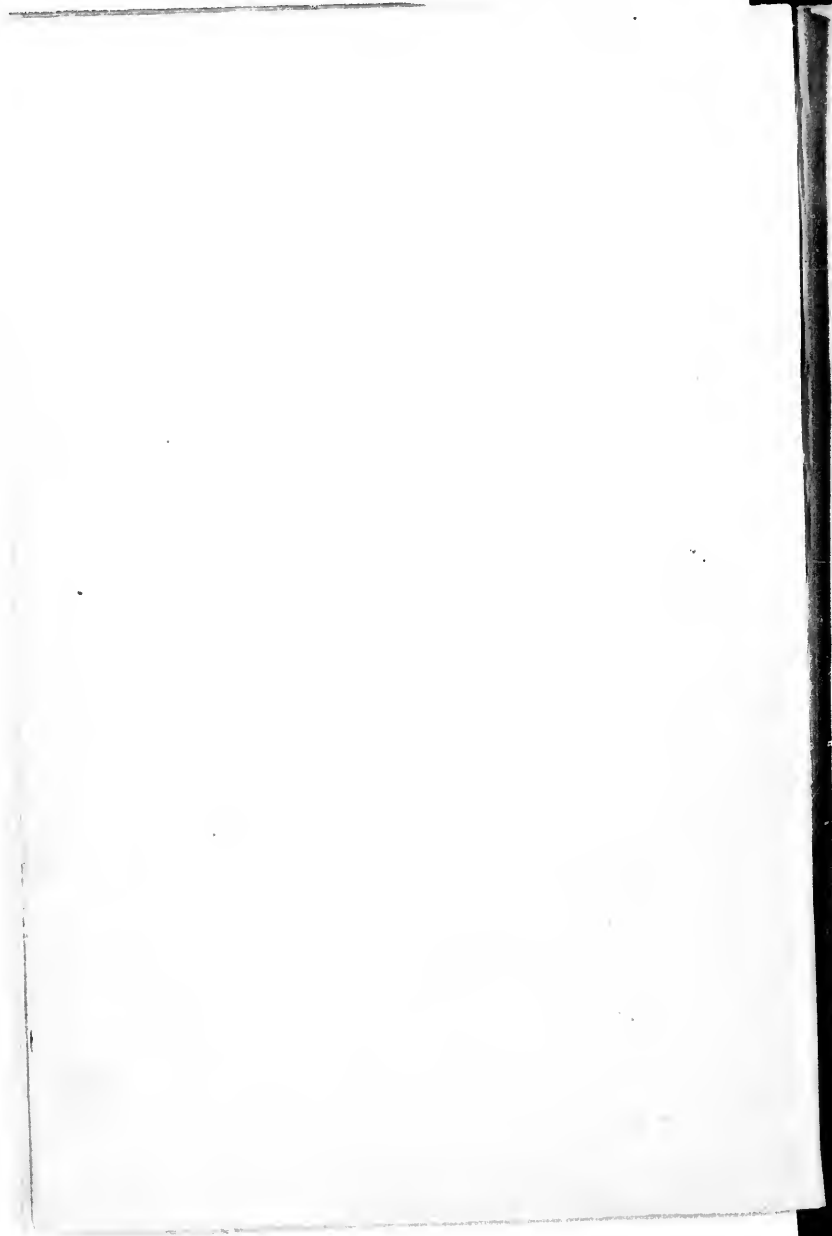
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PREFATORY NOTE.

PROBABLY none of the world's men of mark has been more frequently written about than Christopher Columbus, and it may be that there is nothing very new to be said concerning his career.

But it seemed to the author that at this juncture, with the four hundredth anniversary of the Columbian re-discovery of America at hand, there was room for a sketch which should present in brief form the life-story of the great explorer, and at the same time acquaint the reader with the facts concerning the pre-Columbian discoveries and voyages in the Western World by the Norsemen from Iceland and Greenland in the tenth and eleventh centuries of our era.

There are upward of a hundred notable books dealing with the discovery of America, dating from 1076 to 1892. Washington Irving's "Life"

can never be surpassed as a romance; he had access to materials and documents never before collated. Next in value stand Prescott's "Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella," and Sir Arthur Helps' brief biography of the great admiral, and his "History of the Spanish Conquest in America." Professor Tarducci published in 1891 an exceedingly able and painstaking life of the great pioneer, as did Mr. Justin Winsor, in 1892. These works practically exhaust the subject, though they are not much read by the masses, and they have been freely consulted in the preparation of the present book. To them and to Laing's "Heimskringla," Da Costa's "Pre-Columbian Discovery of America," Brinton's "Myths of the New World," Professor Rasmus B. Anderson's "America not Discovered by Columbus," Marie A. Brown's (Mrs. Shipley) "Icelandic Discoveries of America," Mr. J. B. Shipley's "English Re-Discovery and Colonization of America," Mrs. J. B. Shipley's "Leif Ericson and not Columbus the Discoverer of America," and her "Suppressed Historical Facts Concerning the Discovery of America," the reader is referred who desires to pursue this fascinating theme at greater length.

H. F. R.

NEW YORK, 1892.

COLUMBUS THE NAVIGATOR.

CHAPTER I.

THE NORSEMEN.

"Lightly the long-snake
Leaps after tempests,
Gaily the sun-gleam
Glowes after rain.
In labor and daring
Lies luck for all mortals."

Norse Saga.

Who first "discovered" America will probably never be known, but "discovered" it was many thousands of years prior to the fleeting visits of the Scandinavian vikings to the coasts of New England and Newfoundland. Far back in the childhood or the early manhood of the human race the great Western Continent was peopled, at least in part, either by migrations from the east

across the Atlantic or from the west across the Pacific. These primitive peoples were the first immigrants to America. But the links of communication with the continents on either hand—if such ever existed—were broken, and “this New World which is the Old” was unknown to Europe until the eighth or tenth century of our era. Even then the veil of obscurity was only lifted for a brief glimpse of the beyond, and then dropped while Europe slumbered in the apathy of the Dark Ages for another five hundred years.

It is a curious but none the less well-attested fact that among the mythical traditions of the pre-Columbian inhabitants of America—Mexicans, Peruvians, Aztecs, and Indians—was the belief that their national heroes, depicted as fair of skin and mighty in battle, should at some not distant day return and restore the race to its pristine power and influence. Always these mighty ones were to come from the east, whence they were named the “Dawn Heroes.” And

here, says Brinton, in his "Myths of the New World," "was one of those unconscious prophecies pointing to the advent of a white race from the east that wrote the doom of the red man in letters of fire. Historians have marveled at the instantaneous collapse of the empires of Mexico and Peru, the Mayas, and the Natchez, before a handful of Spanish filibusters. The fact was that wherever the whites appeared they were connected with these ancient predictions of the Spirit of the Dawn returning to claim his own. Obscure and ominous prophecies, 'texts of bodeful song,' rose in the memory of the natives and paralyzed their arms."

"For a very long time," said Montezuma, at his first interview with Cortes, "has it been handed down that we are not the original possessors of this land, but came hither from a distant region under the guidance of a ruler who afterward left us and never returned. We have ever believed that some day his descendants would come and

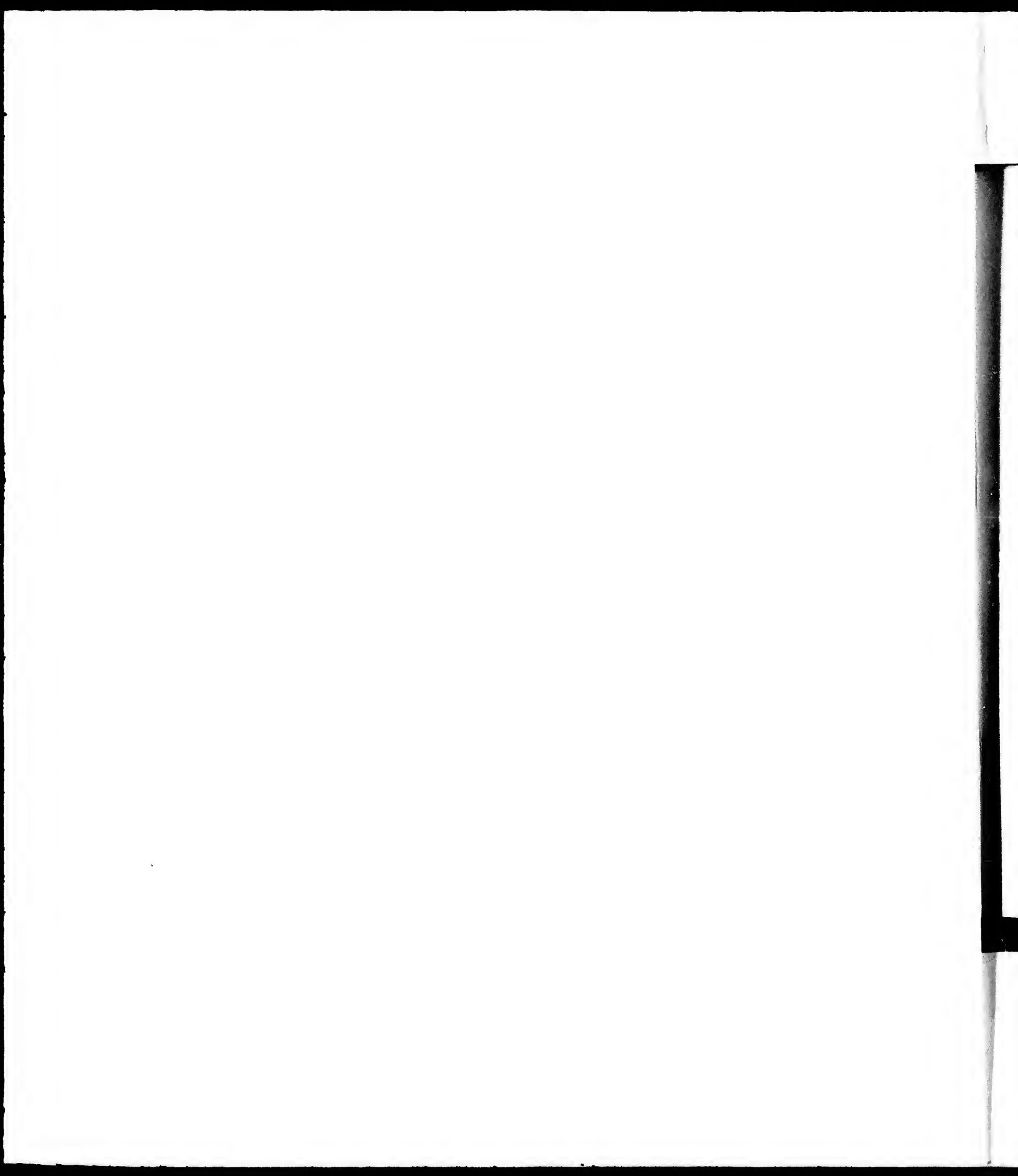


Seamen on the Coast of America.



Seamen on the Coast of America.





resume dominion over us. Inasmuch as you are from that direction, which is toward the rising of the sun, and serve so great a king as you describe, we believe that he is also our natural lord, and are ready to submit ourselves to him." The subjects of Montezuma believed that the day which saw the coming of fair and bearded strangers from the east would bring them freedom from slavery, and hence when they first set eyes on the white-skinned Spaniards "they rushed into the water to embrace the prows of their vessels, and dispatched messengers throughout the land, to proclaim the joyful tidings."

Brinton says that the natives of Haiti told Columbus of kindred prophecies which were in circulation long before his landing; the Maryland Indians said "the whites were an old generation revived, who had come back to kill their nation and usurp their places."

Probably there is nothing more in these traditions and their apparent fulfilment than a mere

coincidence. Certain it is, however, that if a distinctively white race were wanted to personate the "Dawn Heroes," a people from a colder and more northerly clime than Spain would have suited all the conditions far better than the swarthy Spaniards. And it is to such a white race that the honor of the first discovery of America by Europeans must be awarded—the flaxen-haired and fair-skinned Norsemen.

"At a moment," says a recent writer, "when the hardy and independent inhabitants of Iceland are once more deserting in large numbers their island homes for the purpose of seeking in Canada and in our north-western States a soil more generous and more grateful than that which so sparingly covers the barren and arid rock which figures as the outpost of Europe in the North Atlantic Ocean, it is worthy of being remembered that a similar migration of Icelanders to America took place nine hundred years ago. On that occasion they had no railroad trains and emigrant cars

to convey them into the interior, and therefore were content to settle down in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Nova Scotia, and Labrador, where numerous traces of their former presence remain to this day. They gave the name of 'Vinland' to their newly-discovered colony, established parishes and monasteries and churches that were placed under the supervision of the Bishops of Greenland, and dispatched Dame Gudrid, the wife of one of their principal leaders, on a mission or pilgrimage to Rome. While there she was received with much graciousness by Pope Urban, and was able to give both to him and to his court a full account of the Icelandic colony in America. The information which she furnished, together with the reports addressed to Rome by the Bishops of Greenland concerning their diocesan voyages to Vinland, renders it a matter of certainty that the Papacy at any rate was perfectly aware of the existence of America for at least a couple of hundred years prior to its alleged discovery by Columbus."

But, as Rudyard Kipling would say, "this is another story," and of these events we shall treat at greater length in a subsequent chapter.

It is only within the last few decades that the historic fact of the Norse discoveries and colonizations of Greenland and North-eastern America has been established beyond cavil. "Since 1838, when, through the efforts of Rafn and the Royal Society of Copenhagen, the Scandinavian sagas have been submitted to the critical judgment of Europe, all ground of doubt has been removed. It is now conceded that Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and perhaps the north-eastern parts of the United States, were visited and to a limited extent colonized before the Norman conquest of England."

The history of the Norwegians, or Norsemen, only becomes authentic with their conversion to Christianity, at the close of the tenth century; all records previous to this date consist in great part of a farrago of bombastic mythology and legend-

ary history. But enough is known of these hardy sea-kings to make it certain that they were the most intrepid voyagers of their day. "In the ninth and tenth centuries the beaks of their long ships were seen in every known port of Europe as far south and east as the Golden Horn; their armed aid could be secured by any ruler who could afford to pay for it." They were the wolves of the high-seas.

"The discovery of Greenland by the Icelanders about the year 981," says Laing, "and the establishment of considerable colonies on one or on both sides of that vast peninsula which terminates at Cape Farewell, are facts which no longer admit of any reasonable doubt." The chief documentary evidence in the case is the now famous "Heimskringla, or Chronicle of the Kings of Norway," otherwise known as the Sagas of Snorro Sturleson, a work which has been translated into various languages and commented on by many able writers.

Snorro Sturleson, or Snorri Sturlason, the Icelandic poet and historian, was born in 1178, at Hvami, in Iceland. He was the son of Sturla Thordsson, the founder of the powerful family named Sturlung. By his marriage, in 1199, with Herdys, and after her death, with Hallveg Ormsdatter, he gained great possessions, and he was in the habit of attending the Althing with a following of nearly a thousand retainers. In the year 1218 he traveled to Norway, where he spent two years. Returning to Iceland, he was, in 1237, obliged to exile himself to Norway on account of the hostility of his brother and nephew. Possessed of wonderful poetical powers, he helped his patron and protector, Skuli, in a war against King Hakon. In consequence, on his return to Iceland, he was, by order of Hakon, murdered by Ruykholt, on the 22d of September, 1241. Snorro Sturleson was the last and one of the greatest of the Northern scalds or bards. He was the author of a great number of scaldic

epics, and is usually regarded as the compiler of the "Younger Edda." His writings were regarded as being in the main faithful descriptions of actual occurrences, though interlarded with much that was mere romance.

According to geographers and historians, Greenland was discovered in the ninth century by an Icelander or Norwegian named Gumbiorn, son of Ulf Kraka. He was "driven by a storm to the west of Iceland, and discovered a great country, of which he brought the news to Iceland. Soon after, one Eric the Red was condemned at Thornaes Thing, in Iceland, to banishment for a murder he had committed. He fitted out a vessel, and told his friends he would go and find the land which Gumbiorn had seen, and come back and let them know what kind of a country it was. Eric sailed west from Iceland to the east coast of Greenland, and then followed the shore southward, looking for a convenient place in which to dwell. He passed the first

winter on an isle which from him was called Eric's Isle. After passing three years in examining the coast, he returned to Iceland, and gave such a fine account of the country that it was called Greenland; the following year, twenty-five vessels, with colonists, were sent out with him to dwell there, but only about one half reached their destination, some having turned back and some being lost in the ice. Many came over from Iceland from time to time, and the country was settled wherever it was habitable." In this account there is nothing incredible or inconsistent. Greenland was to Iceland what Iceland had been to Norway—a place of refuge for the surplus population, and for those who had no land or means of living. The extinction of such a colony, after existing for four hundred years, is certainly more extraordinary than its establishment, and almost justifies the doubt whether it ever existed. Several causes are given for this extraordinary circumstance. One is the accumu-

lation of ice on both sides of this vast peninsula ; another cause was probably the great pestilence, called the Black Death, which appeared in Europe about 1349, and which seems to have raged with singular virulence in the north. It is supposed by some that this pestilence either swept off the whole population of the colony, or weakened it so much that the survivors were at last cut off by the Esquimaux, with whom the colonists appeared to have been always at enmity."

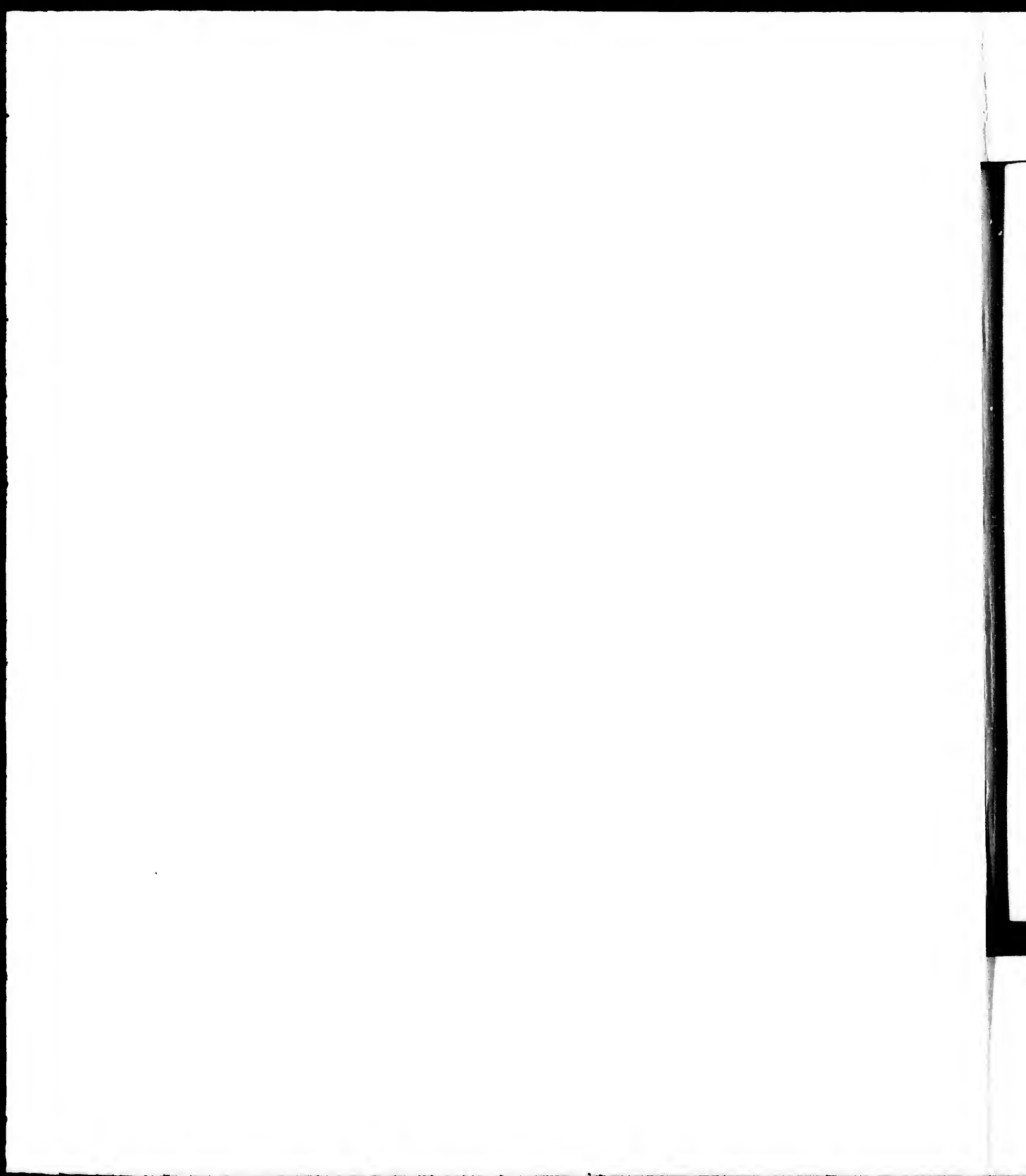
It is now the generally received opinion among historians and critics that the discovery of America, or Vinland, by Norse voyagers from Greenland or Iceland rests upon as satisfactory evidence as the colonization of Greenland by the same hands. The verdict of the modern world was in fact proclaimed when, in the city of Boston, in the year 1887, there was erected a statue to "Leif the Discoverer."

The story of these Norse voyages, as told in



Leif Ericson.





the Sagas of Snorro Sturleson is quite diffuse, being as usual mingled with and marred by many heroic and half-mythical details. The following abridgment is from Samuel Laing's translation of the "Heimskringla."

"Eric the Red, in the spring of 986, emigrated from Iceland to Greenland with Herjulf Bardson. He fixed his abode at Brattalid, in Ericsfjord; Herjulf settled at Herjulfssness. Biorne, the son of the latter, was absent in Norway at the time, and finding on his return that his father was gone, resolved to follow him, and put to sea. As winter was approaching, they had bad weather, northerly winds and fogs, and did not know where they were. When it cleared up they saw a land without mountains, but with many small hills, and covered with wood. This not answering the description of Greenland, they turned about, and after sailing two days they came to another land, flat and covered with wood. Then they stood out to sea with a southwest wind,

and sailing with fresh gales reached, in four days more, Herjulsness in Greenland, his father's abode. Some years after this, supposed to be about 994, Biorne was in Norway on a visit to Earl Eric, and was much blamed, when he told of his discovery, for not having examined the country he had seen more accurately. Leif, a son of Eric the Red, bought his ship, when Biorne returned to Greenland, and with a crew of thirty-five men set out to look for these lands. He came first to the land which Biorne had seen last, landed, found no grass, but vast icy mountains in the interior, and between them and the shore a plain of flat slaty stones, and hence called the country Hellaland. They put to sea, and came to another country, which was level, covered with woods, with many cliffs of white sand, and a low coast, which they named Markland ('outfield or woodland'). They again stood out to sea with a northeast wind, and after two days' sailing made land, and came

to an island eastward of the mainland, and entered into a channel between the island and a point projecting northeast from the mainland. They sailed eastward, saw much ground laid dry at ebb tide, and at last went on shore at a place where a river which came from a lake fell into the sea. They brought their vessel through the river, into the lake, and anchored. Here they put up some log huts ; but, after resolving to winter there, they constructed larger booths or houses. After lodging themselves, Leif divided his people into two companies, to be employed by turns in exploring the country and working. . . . One of the exploring party, a German by birth, called Tyrker, was one day missing. They went out to look for him, and soon met him, talking German, rolling his eyes, and beside himself. He at last told them in Norse, as they did not understand German, that he had been up the country, and had discovered vines and grapes ; adding, ' that he should know

what vines and grapes were, as he was born in a country in which they were in plenty.' They occupied themselves in hewing timber for loading the vessel, and in collecting grapes, with which they filled the ship's boat. Leif called the country Vinland. They sailed away in the spring, and returned to Greenland. . . . Leif's brother, Thorwald, set out, in the year 1002, to Vinland in Leif's vessel, and came to his booths or houses, and wintered there. In the spring Thorwald sent a party in the boat to explore the coast to the south. They found the country beautiful, well wooded, with but little space between the woods and the sea, and long stretches of white sand, and also many islands and shoals; and on one island found a corn barn, but no other traces of people. They returned in the autumn to Leif's booths. Next summer Thorwald sailed with the large vessel, first eastward, then northward, past a headland opposite to another head-

land, and forming a bay. They called the first headland Kialarness ('Keel Ness'). They then sailed into the nearest fiord, to a headland covered with wood. Thorwald went on shore, and was so pleased that he said 'he should like to stay here.' Next summer, viz., 1006, two ships from Iceland came to Greenland. From thence they sailed in a southerly direction to Hellaland, where they found many foxes. From thence, sailing two days to the south, they came to Markland, a wooded country stocked with animals. Then they sailed southwest for a long time until they came to Kialarness, where there were great deserts and long beaches and sands. When they had passed these, the land was found to be indented with inlets. They had two Scots with them, Hake and Hekla, whom Leif had formerly received from King Olaf Tryggvesson, and who were very swift of foot. They were put on shore to explore the country



Chart of Norse Voyages.

to the southwest, and in three days they returned with some grapes and some ears of wheat which grew wild in that country. They continued their course until they came to a fiord which penetrated far into the land. Off the mouth of it was an island with strong currents around it, and also up in the fiord. They found vast numbers of eider ducks on the island, so that they could scarcely walk without treading on their eggs. They called the island *Straumay* ('Stream Isle'), and the fiord *Straumfiord*. A party of eight men, commanded by *Thorwald*, left them here, and went north to seek *Vinland*. *Karlsefne* proceeded with *Snorro*, *Biorne*, and the rest, in all 151 men, southwards. Those who went northwards passed *Kialarness*; but were driven by westerly gales off the land, and to the coast of Ireland, where, it was afterwards reported, they were made slaves. *Karlsefne* and his men arrived at the place where a river issuing from a lake falls into the sea. Opposite to the

mouth of the river were large islands. On the low grounds they found fields of wheat growing wild, and on the rising ground vines. . . . Karlsefne went to Norway with a Vinland cargo in the summer of 1012, and it was considered very valuable. He even sold a piece of wood used for a door-bar or a broomstick to a Bremen merchant for half a mark of gold, for it was of massur-wood of Vinland. He returned and purchased land in Iceland, and many people of distinction are descended from him and his son Snorro, who was born in Vinland."

Commenting on the foregoing concise narrative, Mr. Laing observes that "all the geographical knowledge that can be drawn from the accounts of the natural products of Vinland in these chapters, points clearly to the Labrador coast, or Newfoundland, or some places north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The description of the land is unsatisfactory as a means of discovering the localities in Vinland they visited without more

precise data. A country of stony soil, with little vegetation among the slaty fragments that cover it, applies to all the country from Hudson's Bay to Newfoundland. Markland, so called because low or level and covered with thick forests, as a description, may be applied to any part of America as well as to Nova Scotia. An island with a sound between it and the main, or a low shore with remarkably white sand cliffs and shallow water, a fiord or inlet of the sea, a river running out of a lake, a bay between two headlands, one of them of a conspicuous figure, are good landmarks for identifying a country of which the position is known, but good for nothing as data for fixing that position itself; because these are features common to all sea-coasts, and, on a small or great scale, to be found within every hundred miles of a run along the seaboard of a country. . . . All the details seem merely the filling up of imagination, to make a story of a main fact, the discovery of Vinland by



The "Stone Mill," Newport.





certain personages, whose names, and the fact of their discovering unknown lands southwest of Greenland, are alone to be depended upon."

Not so very long ago archæologists who favored the story of Leif Ericson were wont to "point with pride" to two objects of interest on the coast of New England—the stone tower at Newport and Dighton Rock. But nowadays the evidence which would prove the one an erection of the Vikings and the hieroglyphics on the other to be the mystic record of their acts is too slight to be of value. The stone tower is an every-day mill with a modern pedigree; Dighton Rock was scratched by Indians if by anybody.

"It is not impossible," says John Clark Ridpath, "that, before the final relinquishment of America by the Norse adventurers, a sea-wanderer from rugged Wales had touched our eastern shores. It is claimed that the Welsh Prince Madoc was not less fortunate than Leif Ericson in finding the western shore of the Atlantic.

But the evidence of such an exploit is far less satisfactory than that by which the Icelandic discoveries have been authenticated. According to the legend which the Cambrian chroniclers with patriotic pride have preserved, and the poet Southey has transmitted, Madoc was the son of the Welsh king, Owen Gwynnedd, who flourished about the middle of the twelfth century. At this time a civil disturbance occurred in Wales, and Prince Madoc was obliged to save himself by flight. With a small fleet, he left the country in the year 1170, and, after sailing westward for several weeks, came to an unknown country, beautiful and wild, inhabited by a strange race of men, unlike the people of Europe. For some time the prince and his sailors tarried in the new land, delighted with its exuberance and with the salubrious climate. Then, all but twenty of the daring company set sail and returned to Wales. It was the intention of Madoc to make preparations and return again. Ten ships were accord-

ingly fitted out, and the leader and his adventurous crew a second time set their prows to the west. The vessels dropped out of sight one by one, but were never heard of more. The thing may have happened."

If any corroborative opinion be needed as to the verity of the Norse voyages to America, we have that of Humboldt, in his "Cosmos," wherein he says: "We are here on historical ground. The discovery of the northern part of America by the Norsemen cannot be disputed. The length of the voyage, the direction in which they sailed, the time of the sun's rising and setting, are accurately given. While the Caliphate of Bagdad was still flourishing, America was discovered about the year 1000 A. D. by Leif, the son of Eric the Red, at the latitude of forty-one and a half degrees north."

What were the results of these successive voyages to the rest of the world? Absolutely nothing. Europe was not yet awakened from her

mediæval slumbers, nor had that wild spirit of adventure which dominated the centuries from the fifteenth to the eighteenth yet appeared among the English, the Spanish, and the Dutch. The news of the exploits of Leif Ericson was confined to a few; it is not certain that the existing rude records thereof were penned until many years after.

As has been well said, the importance of any historical event is to be weighed by its consequences. The Norsemen sailed back and forth across the "roaring forties," but mankind was neither wiser, richer, nor better therefor.

One by one the colonies dissolved; there was no glory in fighting a few naked savages; and Vinland was once more left untrodden by the white man. It is said that a desultory communication was kept up with America during the 13th and 14th centuries, but of this there is no certainty. True it is, however, that the Norsemen had no conception that they had discovered

a new continent; they imagined that Vinland was but a continuation of the coast of Greenland trending south and west.

Leif and his sailors went to Valhalla; the name of Vinland was forgotten; the red man once more held undisturbed sway from the Hudson to the St. Lawrence; and the Western World lay hidden for more than four hundred years from the ken of Europeans.

CHAPTER II.

A NEW EUROPE.

"Westward the course of Empire takes its way."

IN penning the famous line which heads this chapter, Bishop Berkeley voiced the sentiment of the ages, from classic time to our own. Westward the hopes and aspirations of the race have ever turned. Ancient mythology always placed its Fortunate Islands, the "Dixie" of those days, in the track of the setting sun, beyond where foot of man or keel of ship had never passed. The Hesperides of the Blest were located on an island to the west of Mt. Atlas in Africa, somewhere in that unknown sea outside the Pillars of Hercules.*

* It would seem that the Canaries were known to the ancients, but that the knowledge became lost to the moderns, and they

By degrees, the Ultima Thule of the ancient world was shifted by successive generations from point to point, but always westward, until it rested on wave-buffeted Iceland, where it remained for many hundreds of years.

Despite its fear of the unknown, which is always terrible, the ancient world persisted with almost prophetic insight in imagining a vast extent of land somewhere to the westward of Spain—for so many centuries the occidental boundary of the ancient world. Nor is it even now measurably certain that these imaginings were entirely vain. The fabled Atlantis is a case in point, embodying as it does the pith of the legends of a pre-historic Atlantean continent.

Nine thousand years before Plato lived and wrote, there existed, he tells us in his "Timæus," in the ocean that separates the Old World from the New, an island larger than Asia Minor and

were re-discovered by an accident early in the 15th century. From them Ptolemy commenced to count the longitude.

Northern Africa combined, densely peopled by a powerful race. He locates it in what is now a watery waste, midway between the westward projection of the desert coast of Africa and the corresponding indentation by the Gulf of Mexico of the "Paradise of America." On its western shores were other and smaller islands by way of which access might be had to a vast continent beyond. Its civilization was as advanced as that of ancient Egypt. Its people were descended from Neptune and mortal women, and by force of arms their warriors penetrated into Africa as far eastward as Egypt, and into Europe as far as the shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea (the western coast of Italy). Their conquests were checked by the Greeks after the Atlantean sea-kings had attempted to subjugate Europe, Africa, and Asia, and the deed was accounted one of the glories of Athens. At length, however, the people became so desperately wicked that the island with all its inhabitants was swept away by a deluge. In a

day and a night Atlantis disappeared beneath the waves. Another account, slightly varied, says that after the defeat of the islanders, a terrific earthquake, attended by inundations of the sea, caused the island to sink, and for a long time thereafter the ocean was impassable by reason of the muddy shoals. Such is the substance of a legend, first communicated to Solon by an Egyptian priest, and perhaps founded on fact, that has existed from a very early date. On old Venetian maps Atlantis was placed to the westward of the Canaries and the Azores. To the ancients, the unknown was always gigantic or fearful; so they represented Atlantis as being larger than either Europe or Africa, though the great extent assigned to the island may have only signified one very large in proportion to the smaller isles of the Mediterranean—the only islands with which the ancients were familiar. Diodorus Siculus tells us that “over against Africa lies a very great island in the vast ocean,

many days' sail from Libya westward. The soil there is very fruitful, a great part whereof is mountainous, but much likewise champaign, which is the most sweet and pleasant part, for it is watered by several navigable streams, and beautiful with many gardens of pleasure, planted by divers sorts of trees and an abundance of orchards. The towns are adorned with stately buildings and banqueting-houses, pleasantly situated in their gardens and orchards." The inhabitants of Venezuela and of Guiana retained traditions of a convulsion "which swallowed up a vast country in the region now covered by the Atlantic Ocean."

The Toltecs, the ancient inhabitants of Central America, have a tradition of the "cataclysm of the Antilles;" among the Indians of North America there is a similar legend. The tribes located farther southward have a circumstantial narrative to the effect that the waves of the ocean were seen rolling in like mountains from

the east, and that of the millions of people who fled toward the hills for refuge, only one man (seven in other accounts) was saved, from whom descended the present Indian races. A religious festival was instituted to commemorate the dread event, and to beseech the Almighty not to revisit the earth with such terrors. In this catastrophe it is claimed that an area greater in extent than France was engulfed, embracing the peninsulas of Yucatan, Honduras, Guatemala, and the lesser Antilles, together with the magnificent cities of Palenque and Uxmal, with most of their inhabitants; and it is supposed that "the continent has since risen sufficiently to restore many of these ancient sites." The Greeks, the Egyptians, the Gauls, and the Romans, possessed traditions on this subject, and all the accounts substantially agree with each other. These traditions were collected by Timagenes, the Roman historian, who flourished in the century preceding the birth of Christ. He represents Gaul as having been

invaded from a distant island to the westward, by which many understand Atlantis to be meant. Another writer, Marcellus, mentions that the inhabitants of seven islands lying in the Atlantic Ocean, near the coast of Europe (probably the Canaries), kept alive the memory of a much greater island, named Atlantis, which terrorized over the smaller ones. At the date of the existence of Atlantis, according to Humboldt, what is now the Strait of Gibraltar was probably bridged by a solid isthmus at least as wide as that of Suez, thus closing the Mediterranean and making of it an inland sea. The same convulsion of nature which engulfed the island also established communication between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Charles Frederick Martins, the French botanist, says that "hydrography, geology, and botany agree in teaching us that the Azores, the Canaries, and Madeira are the remains of a great continent which formerly united Europe to North America."

The ancient writers found this a most captivating subject upon which to expand their conjectures, as is proved by the many comments upon Plato's narratives which have descended to us moderns. Nor have there been wanting scientists in our own day to view with favorable eyes the possibility of the existence, at a time now remote, of a mid-Atlantic island. Humboldt, Unger, and Goepfert, the Abbé Brasseur, Winchell, Foster, Wild, Heer, and others equally eminent, found nothing startling or improbable in the idea.

Recent ocean exploration has given to the world some interesting facts which substantiate the Atlantis theory in a remarkable degree. Sir Wyville Thompson, in the *Challenger*, in 1873, the expedition in the German frigate *Gazelle*, in 1874, and Commander Gorringe, in the United States sloop *Gettysburg*, in 1877, all made soundings off the coast of Africa in mid-Atlantic. The last named discovered a great bed of living pink coral, one hundred and fifty miles westward

from Gibraltar, only thirty-two fathoms beneath the surface. When tabulated, these various soundings indicate the existence of a great bank in comparatively shoal water, the highest points of which are the Canaries and the Madeiras. There is little doubt, among the advocates of the Atlantean theory, that this bank is the eastern end of the ancient island. It forms, so to speak, a mid-Atlantic mountain, the depth all around sinking rapidly to fifteen thousand fathoms. The early inhabitants of the Canaries, the Guanches, when they were "re-discovered" are said to have complained that "God placed them there and then forsook and forgot them."

Again, the sea-weed of the Sargasso Sea has no roots, and multiplies itself, not by fructification, but by division. At first sight this fact would seem to militate against the theory that a considerable body of land formerly existed in this vicinity. Humboldt was of opinion that the weed originated where it is found, but Robert Brown,

a specialist in this department of science, and on such a question perhaps a weightier authority than the great German naturalist, thought that the plant originated in large quantities on some neighboring coast, and was afterward permanently modified to suit the changed conditions it has occupied for ages.

One of the first things which will impress a person who examines a map of the world, with the foregoing statements in mind, is the conformation of the continents of Africa and America at the points before alluded to. It requires only a very slight effort to imagine that a great body of land might once have connected the Canaries and the Cape Verde Islands with the mainland of Africa on the east and with the islands in the Gulf of Mexico on the west. In fact, the outline of the land between Cape Blanco and the outlying islands of the West Indies almost suggests the theory propounded by some, that a huge slice of *terra firma* was washed out by the sudden rush of a

vast body of water from the north some time in the prehistoric ages.

The Gulf of Mexico is very shallow as compared with the depth of the neighboring ocean, and its bottom is very nearly level; which facts indicate a general sinking of the land here, also, perhaps by an inundation of waters from the valley of the Mississippi. The mountain summits of this long-forgotten land may still be viewed in the various groups of islands off the Atlantic coast of Europe, Africa, and America. The large continent lying beyond Atlantis, to which Plato refers, could have been none other than America. Indeed, the legend of Atlantis itself may be but a confused tradition of the existence of a great western continent.

There are other most interesting facts bearing upon this subject. Remains of a civilization at once extensive and of great antiquity exist in Central America. These relics long ante-date the Aztec rule, and cannot be associated with the

Phœnicians, whose voyages to America must be relegated to the region of fable. At most, these pioneers of antiquity sailed no further westward than Atlantis, and even that is doubtful. A French savant, M. Paul Gaffarel, has collected the information bearing upon this subject, and this is his conclusion: "Without affirming anything as yet, we may admit that the Phœnicians discovered a vast island beyond the Pillars of Hercules, many days' sail from the continent; that they made numerous voyages, and that they jealously preserved exclusive possession with a view to removing thence in case of necessity themselves, as the Dutch at one time contemplated removing to Batavia when the armies of Louis XIV. were menacing Amsterdam."

The style of architecture of the Central American remains reminds us of ancient Egyptian and Asiatic forms; religious symbols exist which undoubtedly carry us back to the phallic rites of antiquity; the lotus flower, the sacred emblem of

India, may be seen upon its chiseled monuments; and the pyramid is native to Mexico and Egypt alike.

How were these resemblances in architecture and religion transplanted from the Orient to the Occident? The origin of the civilization of the Aztecs and Peruvians has for many years been the subject of curious speculation.

There is a theory, having the sanction of such names as those of Humboldt, Boudinot, Squier, and Daniel Wilson, that America was peopled from Asia *viâ* the Pacific; that a continent formerly existed between Asia and America in the region now known as Polynesia, the islands of the present day having formerly done service as mountain ranges and table-lands. There is said to be a close affinity between the ancient pottery found in Peru on the west coast of South America, and Egyptian and Grecian ceramics; and Dr. Stephen Bowers states that in Southern California he has found stone implements almost identical

with those found at Mycenæ by Dr. Schliemann. What is the explanation of this strange similarity?

If Humboldt's speculation be correct, and an island of continental proportions once filled a large part of the space now covered by the Pacific Ocean, an easy route would have been thereby provided for the sturdy explorers of the ancient world—who, of course, would bring their pottery with them—and thus our question would find a ready answer.

But if, as Winchell believes, the ocean has always surged between Asia and America, and our continent was first peopled by Mongols chiefly by way of the Aleutian Islands and Behring's Strait, our archæological riddle is still unsolved, and we are forced to look elsewhere for a highway from the Old World to the New. The aboriginal inhabitants of the Canaries and of the Atlantic coast of Africa, the Guanches, now extinct, are regarded by Retzius as being nearly related to the native peoples on the shores of the

Caribbean Sea on the opposite coast. He says: "The color of the skin on both sides of the Atlantic is represented in all these populations as being of a reddish brown; the hair is the same; the features of the face and build of the frame, as I am led to believe, presenting the same analogy." The same writer maintains that the races on the western shores of America closely resemble the Mongols of Asia, which opinion was shared by Humboldt.

Admitting that Atlantis existed in the ocean which bears its name, it needs but a step further to imagine that the Azores, the Madeiras, the Canaries, and the Cape Verde Islands were at one time either parts of it, or else were only separated from it and from each other by narrow channels. The same may be assumed of the Bermudas and the outlying West India Islands.

Bearing in mind, also, that the Atlantic Ocean at the point indicated grows rapidly narrower, and that the slice of land engulfed would not be

so large as at other points, the supposition is not so startling that at some period the two continents were, if not entirely connected, at least separated only by very narrow passages of water, which would offer no obstacle to the migration of peoples, and the dispersion of customs, and would account for much that has puzzled the ethnologist on this continent. Remains of extinct animals on the American mainland have led such investigators as Marsh, Cope, and Leidy to infer that an ancient connection existed between Europe and America.

Although modern learning has, in some quarters, ridiculed the notion of the former existence of a large island where now the Atlantic surges roll, yet, as we have seen, science itself may be made to give plausible testimony to the truth of the legend. Underneath the chalk and green sand formation of England there is a strata called the wealden, which has been ascertained to extend about two hundred miles in either direction, and

which is some two thousand feet in thickness. For reasons which it is needless to recount here, this demonstrates that there was, for a very long period, a constant supply of fresh water, such as would result from the drainage of a large extent of mountainous or hilly land. "If geology can furnish us with such facts as these," says Prof. Anthon, "it may surely be pardonable in us to linger with something of fond belief around the legend of Atlantis—a legend that could hardly be the offspring of a poetic imagination, but must have had some foundation in truth."

'Twere hard to leave this fascinating subject without a glance at the flora which such a land as Atlantis must have possessed, supposing its existence to have been a reality. Looking at the Canaries, which we have supposed to be the remains of its eastern end, the observer is impressed with the richness of their almost tropical verdure. In these "Happy Isles" the generous grape is indigenous; the more homely cereals abundantly

flourish ; and fruits of all kinds burden the air with their mellow fragrance.

In the Bermudas, the opposite extremity of this supposititious continent, nature awaits us with still greater prodigality. Man's natural wants are bountifully supplied without the laborious machinery so needful in our northern climate, which dooms the majority of our population to a ceaseless drudgery for their daily bread. Fruits fit for the palate of Epicurus hang in clusters, and man has but to raise his hand to pluck them.

What possibilities were there not contained in a land which swept from the Canaries and the West Indies to the Bahamas and Newfoundland ? It must have been indeed a " land flowing with milk and honey ; " a region in which every variety of climate was enjoyed, from the breezy vigor of its wind-swept mountain ranges to the dreamy, sensuous luxuriance of its tropical valleys.

But did it really exist ? We cannot say ; but whether or no, only its phantom is left, and to us

it is indeed a lost Atlantis, and an indication of the world's faith in the existence of a continental mass of land to the westward of Europe.

We refer to the Atlantean myth—if such it be—at some length because of its intimate association with the dreams of many of the explorers of Columbus's day. It should be borne in mind, however, that the Genoese set out, not to discover a new world, but to reach an old-world country by a fresh route. He essayed to sail to the land of Kublai Khan and of Prester John by water and to the westward; whereas a land route, to the east, had been hitherto the only means of approach to the Cathay of Marco Polo.

In order the better to appreciate the full significance of such an event as the discovery of a new continent, it may profit us to glance at the condition of Europe in the fifteenth century. And first let us see how large was the known world Anno Domini 1400.

Take an ordinary flat projection of a map of

the world; blot out the whole of the Western continent; blot out all the bleak lands to the north of the North Cape in Norway; blot out all of Africa save a crescent-shaped strip of coast-line from Alexandria to Cape Nun, together with the Cape Verde Islands; blot out the whole of Australia and the Pacific archipelago; blot out Japan and the extreme north-eastern part of Asia. When we look at what is left we are surprised and amused at the conceit of the Romans, who claimed that their empire filled all the world. "When that empire fell into the hands of a single person," says Gibbon, "the world became a safe and dreary prison for his enemies; the slave of imperial despotism, whether he was condemned to drag the gilded chain in Rome, or to wear out a life of exile on the barren rocks of Seriphus or the frozen banks of the Danube, expected his fate in silent despair; to resist was fatal, and it was impossible to fly; on every side he was encompassed with a vast extent of sea and land, which

he could never hope to traverse without being discovered, seized, and restored to his irritated master." At the commencement of the Renaissance in Europe the territorial conditions were not greatly enlarged beyond those existing in the days of Julius Cæsar.

But more than this, the terrors of men had clothed the unknown beyond with named and nameless horrors. Certain death in various repulsive and terrible forms awaited those who, afoot or afloat, pushed out into the unknown. The maxim of the map-makers of the time was, "Where you know nothing place terrors," and Jonathan Swift's well-known lines expressed "a condition, not a theory":

" So geographers in Afric maps
With savage pictures fill their gaps,
And o'er unhabitable downs
Place elephants for want of towns."

Any old map will illustrate this. One before

us as we write depicts the southern part of Africa being ravened by an impossible beast like to that portrayed in Stockton's quaint story of "The Griffin and the Minor Canon;" the whole of the north-eastern coast of Asia is occupied with a creature half-bear, half-boar, with an appendage like the trunk of an elephant for a tail; while a gigantic serpent reclines at ease where now the waters of the Pacific wash the shores of China and Japan. This alarming practice on the part of these ignorant but well-meaning gentry is referred to by Plutarch, where he says that "geographers crowd into the edges of their maps parts of the world which they do not know about, adding notes in the margin to the effect that beyond this lies nothing but sandy deserts full of wild beasts and unapproachable bogs." Even in our own day a vast area of the United States, long labeled "The Great American Desert" has been proved to be in large part a veritable garden of loveliness. Nor were the travellers themselves one whit behind

the geographers in ascribing hideous dangers to the regions beyond which they had ventured. For a long time Cape Bojador was the extreme southern limit of discovery. This cape was formidable in itself, being terminated by a ridge of rocks, with fierce currents surging round them, but was much more formidable from the fancies which the mariners had formed of the sea and land beyond it. "It is clear," they were wont to say, "that beyond this cape there are no people whatever; the land is bare—no water, no trees, no grass upon it; the sea so shallow that at a league from the land it is only a fathom deep; the currents so fierce that the ship which passes that cape will never return."

It is scarcely possible for us to put ourselves in the place of the men of the fifteenth century. "Geographical knowledge," says Sir Arthur Helps, the writer just quoted, "was but just awakening after ages of slumber; and throughout those ages the wildest dreams had mingled

fiction with fact. Legends telling of monsters of the deep, jealous of invasion of their territory; of rocks of lodestone, powerful enough to extract every particle of iron from a passing ship; of stagnant seas and fiery skies; of wandering saints and flying islands; all combined to invest the unknown with the terrors of the supernatural and to deter the explorer of the great ocean. The half-decked vessels that crept along the Mediterranean shores were but ill-fitted to bear the brunt of the furious waves of the Atlantic. The now indispensable sextant was but clumsily anticipated by the newly invented astrolabe. The use of the compass had scarcely become familiar to navigators, who indeed but imperfectly understood its properties. And who could tell, it was objected, that a ship which might succeed in sailing down the waste of waters would ever be able to return, for would not the voyage home be a perpetual journey up a mountain of sea?"

The truth of the proposition that the earth

was a sphere as yet found but few acceptors. Many of these shared the above belief as to the fate awaiting the ship which should tempt fate by sailing too far down the incline ; those who clung to the more orthodox idea that the earth was a flat plane enjoyed an equally comforting opinion that he who ventured to the edge thereof would fall off into space.

Columbus, of course, in common with the other master minds of his time, believed in the sphericity of the earth, but he and they were not the first to entertain that belief. Writing in 1356, a hundred and thirty-six years before the re-discovery of America, staunch old Sir John Mandeville, the great traveller, put forth the following logical argument in favor of a round world :

“ In that land and in others beyond no man may see the fixed star of the North which we call Lode Star. But there men see another star called the Antarctic, opposite to the star of the North. And just as mariners in this hemisphere take their

reckoning and govern their course by the North Star, so do the mariners of the South by the Antarctic. But the star of the North appears not to the people of the South. Wherefore men may easily perceive that *the land and the sea are of round shape and figure*. For that part of the firmament which is seen in one country is not seen in another. And men may prove both by experience and sound reasoning that if a man, having passage by ship, should go to search the world, *he might with his vessel sail around the world, both above and under it*. This proposition I prove as follows: I have myself in Prussia seen the North Star by the astrolabe fifty-three degrees above the horizon. Further on in Bohemia it rises to the height of fifty-eight degrees. And still farther northward it is sixty-two degrees and some minutes high. I myself have so measured it. Now the South Pole Star, is, as I have said, opposite the North Pole Star. And about these poles the whole celestial sphere

revolves like a wheel about the axle; and the firmament is thus divided into two equal parts. From the North I have turned southward, passed the equator, and found that in Lybia the Antarctic Star first appears above the horizon. Farther on in those lands that star rises higher, until in southern Lybia it reaches the height of eighteen degrees and certain minutes, sixty minutes making a degree. After going by sea and by land towards that country (Australia perhaps) of which I have spoken, I have found the Antarctic Star more than thirty-three degrees above the horizon. *And if I had had company and shipping to go still farther, I know of a certainty that I should have seen the whole circumference of the heavens.* And I repeat that men may environ the whole world, as well under as above, and return to their own country, if they had company, and ships, and conduct. And always, as well as in their own land, shall they find inhabited continents and islands. For know you

well, that they who dwell in the southern hemisphere are feet against feet of them who dwell in the northern hemisphere, *just as we and they that dwell under us are feet to feet.* For every part of the sea and the land hath its antipode. Moreover, when men go on a journey toward India and the foreign islands, they do, on the whole route, circle the circumference of the earth, even to those countries which are under us. And therefore hath that same thing, which I heard recited when I was young, happened many times. Howbeit, upon a time, a worthy man departed from our country to explore the world. And so he passed India and the islands beyond India—more than five thousand in number—and so long he went by sea and land, environing the world for many seasons, that he found an island where he heard them speaking his own language, hallooing at the oxen in the plow with the identical words spoken to beasts in his own country. Forsooth, he was astonished; for he knew not

how the thing might happen. But I assure you that he had gone so far by land and sea that he had actually gone round the world and was come again through the long circuit to his own district. It only remained for him to go forth and find his particular neighborhood. Unfortunately he turned from the coast which he had reached, and thereby lost all his painful labor, as he himself afterwards acknowledged when he returned home. For it happened by and by that he went into Norway, being driven thither by a storm; and there he recognized an island as being the same in which he had heard men calling the oxen in his own tongue; and that was a possible thing. And yet it seemeth to simple, unlearned rustics that men may not go around the world, and if they did *they would fall off!* But that absurd thing never could happen unless we ourselves from where we are should fall toward heaven! For upon what part soever of the earth men dwell, whether above or under, it always seemeth

to them that they walk more perpendicularly than other folks! And just as it seemeth to us that our antipodes are under us head downwards, just so it seemeth to them that we are under them head downwards. If a man might fall from the earth towards heaven, by much more reason the earth itself, being so heavy, should fall to heaven—an impossible thing. Perhaps of a thousand men who should go round the world, not one might succeed in returning to his own particular neighborhood. For the earth is indeed a body of great size, its circumference being—according to the old wise astronomers—twenty thousand four hundred and twenty-five miles. And I do not reject their estimates; but according to my judgment, saving their reverence, the circumference of the earth *is somewhat more than that*. And in order to have a clearer understanding of the matter, I use the following demonstration. Let there be imagined a great sphere, and about the point called the center an-

other smaller sphere. Then from different parts of the great sphere let lines be drawn meeting at the center. It is clear that by this means the two spheres will be divided into an equal number of parts having the same relation to each other; but between the divisions on the smaller sphere the absolute space will be less. Now the great sphere represents the heavens and the smaller sphere the earth. But the firmament is divided by astronomers into twelve Signs, and each Sign into thirty degrees, making three hundred and sixty degrees in all. On the surface of the earth there will be, of course, divisions exactly corresponding to those of the celestial sphere, every line, degree, and zone of the latter answering to a line, degree, or zone of the former. And now know well that *according to the authors of astronomy* seven hundred furlongs, or eighty-seven miles and four furlongs, answer to a degree of the firmament. Multiplying eighty-seven and a half miles by three hundred and sixty—the number of degrees in the

firmament—we have thirty-one thousand five hundred English miles. And this according to my belief and demonstration is the true measurement of the circumference of the earth." If the astronomers and geographers of the day had given Sir John the correct measurement of a degree of latitude he would not have mis-stated the circumference of our globe by as much as ten miles!

But Europe was now at the dawning of a new day. With a mighty hand, as when the skies clear after storm, the clouds of ignorance and superstition were about to be swept away.

For historical purposes what is known as the Dark Ages comprise the thousand years from the invasion of France by Clovis in 486 to that of Naples by Charles VIII. in 1495, or from the date of the transfer of the imperial dignity from Rome to Constantinople in 476 down to the invention of printing 1438-42. Although the period covered by the term "Dark Ages" is at

best an arbitrary one, the latter event would seem to signalize more fittingly the conclusion of the period of ignorance and bigotry, and to usher in the centuries which should be dominated by a New Europe. The weary old world was ripe for something new.

“While the sun of chivalry set and the expiring energies of feudalism ebbed away; while the elder Capets gave place to the Houses of Valois and Orleans in France; and while the bloody wars of Lancaster and York made England desolate and barren, the mystery of the Atlantic still lay unsolved under the shadows of the West. At last Louis XI. rose above the ruins of feudal France, and Henry VII. over the fragments of broken England. In Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella, expelling both the Jew and the Mohamadan, consolidated the kingdom and prepared the way for the Spanish ascendancy in the time of their grandeur.”

At this juncture there appeared—a Man—

Prince Henry of Portugal, who boasted one of the most enlightened minds of his time.

“This prince was born in 1394. He was the third son of John the First of Portugal and Philippa, the daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. That good Plantagenet blood on the mother's side was, doubtless, not without avail to a man whose life was to be spent in continuous and insatiate efforts to work out a great idea. Prince Henry was with his father at the memorable capture of Ceuta, the ancient Sep-tem, in the year 1415. This town, which lies opposite to Gibraltar, was of great magnificence, and one of the principal marts in that age for the productions of the eastern world. It was here that the Portuguese first planted a firm foot in Africa; and the date of this town's capture may, perhaps, be taken as that from which Prince Henry began to meditate further and far greater conquests. His aims, however, were directed to a point long beyond the range

of the mere conquering soldier. He was especially learned for that age of the world, being skilled in mathematical and geographical knowledge. He eagerly acquired from the Moors of Fez and Morocco such scanty information as could be gathered concerning the remote districts of Africa. The shrewd conjectures of learned men, the confused records of Arabic geographers, the fables of chivalry were not without their influence upon an enthusiastic mind. The especial reason which impelled the prince to take the burden of discovery on himself was that neither mariner nor merchant would be likely to adopt an enterprise in which there was no clear hope of profit.

“It belonged, therefore, to great men and princes; and among such he knew of no one but himself who was inclined to it. This is not an uncommon motive. A man sees something that ought to be done, knows of no one that will do it but himself, and so is driven to the enterprise even should it be repugnant to him:

“Prince Henry, then, having once the well-grounded idea in his mind that Africa did not end, according to the common belief, at Cape Nun, but that there was a region beyond that forbidding negative, seems never to have rested until he had made known that quarter of the world to his own.”

It is not unworthy of a few moments' digression to remark that when, in 1486, the Portuguese navigator, Bartholomew de Diaz, re-discovered the southern promontory of the African continent, and named it “Cabo Tormentoso,” “Cape of Storms,” he did but revive the old appellation by which, entirely unknown to him, of course, the Cape of Good Hope had been known to the maritime adventurers of nearly two thousand years before.

“Re-discovered” we say advisedly and with ample authority. There is every reason to believe that, long before our records of modern

discovery commence, the circumnavigation of Africa was accomplished.

About 600 years before Christ there reigned on the throne of Egypt, Necho, the king who commenced the famous canal between the Nile and the Arabian Gulf, which enterprise, by the way, was abandoned after costing the lives of 120,000 men.

At this time, and in fact throughout the ancient world, Africa was believed to be surrounded by water on all sides, except at the narrow neck now traversed by the Suez Canal. But the precise conformation of the southern part was an unsolved problem, and was deemed to be "an undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returned." In that age of superstition and idolatry the most fabulous stories were current about what was unknown. So that it is not strange that exaggerated representations of the dangers to be encountered, of the frightful coasts, and of the stormy and boundless ocean

supposed to stretch to the confines of earth's surface, were rife, and were recounted again, and yet again, in the hearing of the credulous mariners whose only experience of Neptune's fury was within the narrow limits of the "Magna Mare" of the Romans.

The Phœnicians were at that date the mariners *par excellence* of the whole known world; their enterprise and adventurous spirits led them far past the Pillars of Hercules, those grim guardians on the threshold of the Atlantic, even to the shores of Britain. Their high-sterned, single-masted craft were to be seen in the waters of every sea then known; they enrolled themselves under the banner of any monarch or kingdom who would make it sufficiently to their interest, and among those whom they served was the before-mentioned Necho, King of Egypt. Herodotus, whose writings cover such an important era in the world's history, viz., the centuries preceding the Nativity at Bethlehem, gives a

most interesting account of what was undoubtedly a great feat, and from it and other sources we learn that when Necho at last desisted from opening a canal from the Nile to the Red Sea, he cast about him for some other kingly enterprise. Accordingly "he sent certain Phœnicians in ships with orders to pass by the Columns of Hercules into the sea that lies to the north of Africa, and thus return to Egypt. These Phœnicians thereupon set sail from the Red Sea and entered into the Southern Ocean. They sailed south for many months. On the approach of autumn they landed in Africa, and planted some grain in the quarter to which they had come; when this was ripe and they had cut it down, they put to sea again. Having spent two years in this way, they in the third passed the Columns of Hercules and returned to Egypt." Now comes what is to us the strange part of the narrative of Herodotus, but at the same time the best confirmation we could wish that he was not

relating a mere "sailor's yarn," as he himself evidently believes. He goes on to say: "Their relations may obtain credit with some, but to me it seems impossible of belief; for they affirmed that, as they sailed around the coast of Africa, they had the sun on their right hand!" But to us who bask in the revelations of modern science, the report which Herodotus thought so fabulous as to throw discredit upon the entire narrative, namely, that in passing round Africa they found the sun on their right, affords to us the strongest presumption in favor of its truth. Such a statement as this could never have been imagined in an age when the science of astronomy was in its infancy—when the earth was believed to be a flat plane and the center of the universe. Of course, after having passed the Cape of Good Hope, and turning their prows northward, the Phœnicians must have found the sun on their right hand. In addition they brought back the most fabulous stories of what they saw; for some

of which we are undoubtedly indebted to their imagination.

It is true that many writers have labored to prove that the voyage in all probability never took place, urging as their chief objections that the time occupied was too short in that age of slow and cautious sailing, when it was customary to sail only by day, and to anchor at night; and also that the undertaking was one for which the Phœnician galleys of the time were entirely unfitted. On the other hand, some of the best authorities are agreed that such a feat was not only possible, but that it actually took place, else how could the voyagers have returned to their starting-point from an opposite direction to that in which they set out, and how did they come to observe the sun on their right hand? It is sufficient to say that these questions have never been answered.

After diligent study of the writings of the ancients, Prince Henry came to the conclusion that

the continent of Africa could be circumnavigated to the southward. It is true that "the possibility of circumnavigating Africa, after being for a long time admitted by geographers, was denied by Hipparchus, who considered each sea shut up and land-bound in its peculiar basin ; and that Africa was a continent continuing onward to the south pole, and surrounding the Indian sea, so as to join Asia beyond the Ganges. This opinion had been adopted by Ptolemy, whose works, in the time of Prince Henry, were the highest authority in geography. The prince, however, clung to the ancient belief, that Africa was circumnavigable, and found his opinion sanctioned by various learned men of more modern date. To settle this question, and achieve the circumnavigation of Africa, was an object worthy the ambition of a prince, and his mind was fired with the idea of the vast benefits that would arise to his country should it be accomplished by Portuguese enterprise."

"The discovery of America by Columbus," says

Professor John Fiske, "was due to the shifting of the lines of Asiatic trade on account of the encroachment of the Turks. Ever since the Crusades the routes by way of the Mediterranean Sea as well as the overland paths for caravans, had been much traveled. In 1453 the Mussulmans captured the seat of the Eastern Empire and thus the sultan's sway became wider. The avenues of trade were closed, although the volume of commerce in this direction was swelling. The merchants of Genoa, Pisa, Florence, and other places were compelled to seek new routes. At this time two opposite views as to the shape of the earth were current. That of Pomponius Mela affirmed that land to the southward ceased with the Sahara Desert, while Claudius Ptolemy held that the earth extended to the south pole; thus denying that Africa was circumnavigable. It was natural for the Portuguese to start the movement toward finding new passages, as they were the first people after the Northmen to engage in distant commerce."

For over a century the Lombards had monopolized the overland trade with Africa; the republics of Venice and Genoa owed their wealth and importance to this trade; and while very profitable to these merchants, the heavy cost of land carriage greatly enhanced the value of the articles brought from India and the East. "It was the grand idea of Prince Henry, by circumnavigating Africa, to open a direct and easy route to the source of this commerce; to turn it in a golden tide upon his country. He was, however, before the age in thought, and had to counteract ignorance and prejudice, and to endure the delays to which vivid and penetrating minds are subjected from the tardy co-operation of the dull and the doubtful. The navigation of the Atlantic was yet in its infancy. Mariners looked with distrust upon a boisterous expanse, which appeared to have no opposite shore, and feared to venture out of sight of the landmarks. Every bold headland and far-stretching promontory was a wall to bar their

progress. They crept timorously along the Barbary shores, and thought they had accomplished a wonderful expedition when they had ventured a few degrees beyond the Straits of Gibraltar. Cape Nun was long the limit of their daring; they hesitated to double its rocky point, beaten by winds and threatening to thrust them forth upon the raging deep.

“Independent of these vague fears, they had others, sanctioned by philosophy itself. They still thought that the earth at the equator was girdled by a torrid zone, over which the sun held his vertical and fiery course, separating the hemispheres by a region of impassive heat. They fancied Cape Bojador the utmost boundary of secure enterprise, and fostered a superstitious belief that whoever doubled it would never return. They looked with dismay upon the rapid currents of its neighborhood, and the furious surf which beat upon its arid coast. They imagined that beyond it lay the frightful region of the torrid

zone, scorched by a blazing sun ; a region of fire, where the very waves, which beat upon the shores, boiled under the intolerable fervor of the heavens.

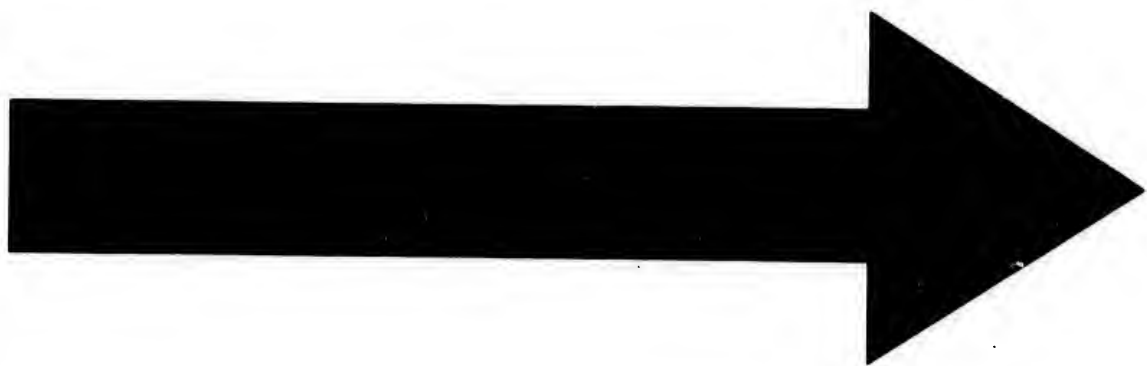
“ To dispel these errors, and to give a scope to navigation equal to the grandeur of his designs, Prince Henry established a naval college, and erected an observatory at Sagres, and he invited thither the most eminent professors of the nautical sciences ; appointing as president James of Mallorca, a man learned in navigation, and skillful in making charts and instruments.

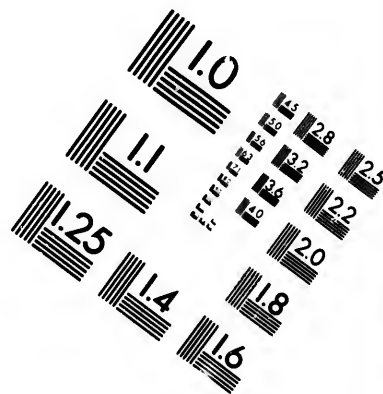
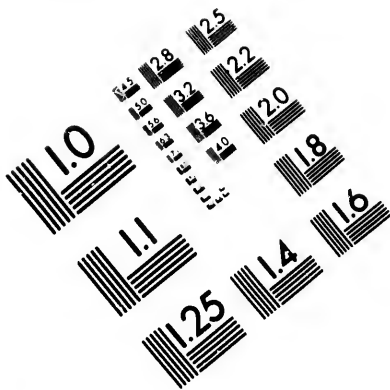
“ The effects of this establishment were soon apparent. All that was known relative to geography and navigation was gathered together and reduced to system. A vast improvement took place in maps. The compass was also brought into more general use, especially among the Portuguese, rendering the mariner more bold and venturesome, by enabling him to navigate in the most gloomy day and in the darkest night. Encouraged by these advantages, and stimulated by the

munificence of Prince Henry, the Portuguese marine became signalized for the hardihood of its enterprises and the extent of its discoveries. Cape Bojador was doubled; the region of the tropics penetrated, and divested of its fancied terrors; the greater part of the African coast, from Cape Blanco to Cape de Verde, explored; and the Cape de Verde and Azores Islands, which lay three hundred leagues distant from the continent, were rescued from the oblivious empire of the ocean. To secure the quiet-prosecution and full enjoyment of his discoveries, Henry obtained the protection of a papal bull, granting to the crown of Portugal sovereign authority over all the lands it might discover in the Atlantic, to India inclusive, with plenary indulgence to all who should die in these expeditions; at the same time menacing with the terrors of the Church all who should interfere in these Christian conquests.

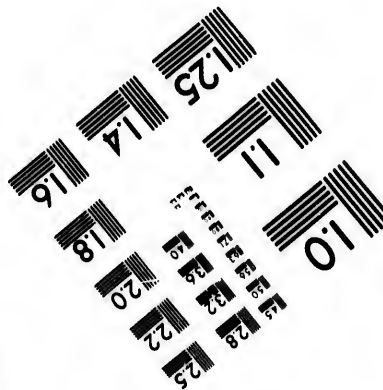
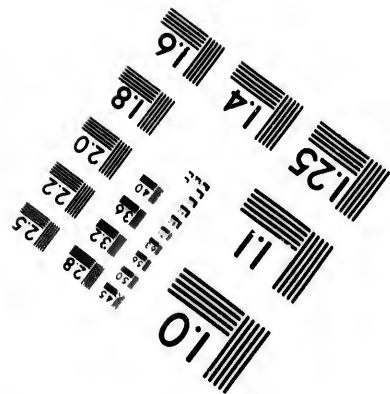
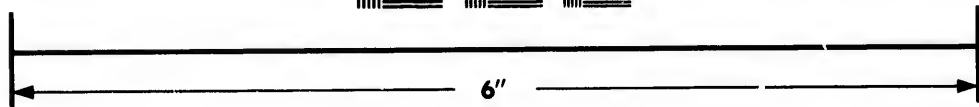
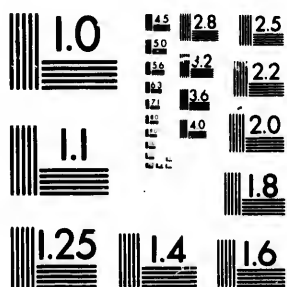
“ Henry died on the 13th of November, 1473, without accomplishing the great object of his

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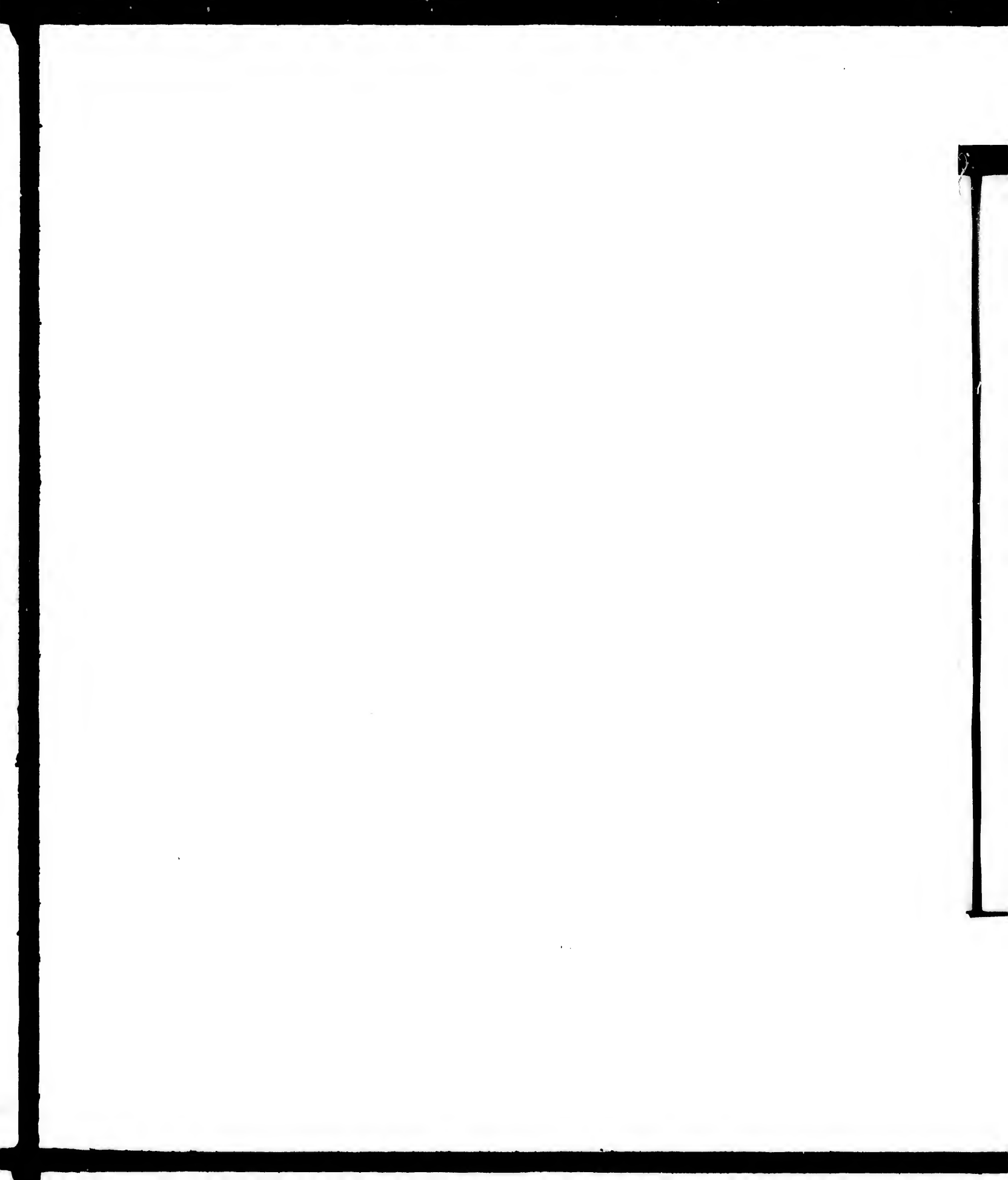
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ambition. It was not until many years afterwards, that Vasco da Gama, pursuing with a Portuguese fleet the track he had pointed out, realized his anticipations by doubling the Cape of Good Hope, sailing along the southern coast of India, and thus opening a highway for commerce to the opulent regions of the East. Henry, however, lived long enough to reap some of the richest rewards of a great and good mind. He beheld, through his means, his native country in a grand and active career of prosperity. The discoveries of the Portuguese were the wonder and admiration of the fifteenth century, and Portugal, from being one of the least among nations, suddenly rose to be one of the most important. All this was effected, not by arms, but by arts ; not by the stratagems of a cabinet, but by the wisdom of a college. It was the great achievement of a prince who has well been described as ' full of thoughts of lofty enterprise, and acts of generous spirit : ' one who bore for his device the magnanimous

motto, 'The talent to do good,' the only talent worthy the ambition of princes.

“Henry, at his death, left it in charge to his country to prosecute the route to India. He had formed companies and associations, by which commercial zeal was enlisted in the cause, and it was made a matter of interest and competition to enterprising individuals. From time to time Lisbon was thrown into a tumult of excitement by the launching forth of some new expedition, or the return of a squadron with accounts of new tracts explored and new kingdoms visited. Everything was confident promise and sanguine anticipation. The miserable hordes of the African coast were magnified into powerful nations, and the voyagers continually heard of opulent countries farther on. It was as yet the twilight of geographic knowledge; imagination went hand in hand with discovery, and as the latter groped its slow and cautious way, the former peopled all beyond with wonders. The fame of the Portu-

gnese discoveries, and of the expeditions continually setting out, drew the attention of the world. Strangers from all parts, the learned, the curious, and the adventurous, resorted to Lisbon to inquire into the particulars or to participate in the advantages of these enterprises. Among these was Christopher Columbus."

CHAPTER III.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

"Honor and shame from no condition rise,—
Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

WE have seen that the world was ripe for a great discovery, or a series of great discoveries. Not alone in the realm of action and enterprise, pioneered by the Portuguese, were new vistas opening up, but the whole field of intellectual speculation and deduction was in a ferment, and men's minds as well as men's bodies imperatively demanded new worlds to conquer. What wonder, then, that the Western riddle should be chosen as one of the first for solution! All that was wanted was the Man, and he now appeared.

“ Whether in old times, beyond the reach of history or tradition, and in some remote period of civilization, when, as some imagine, the arts may have flourished to a degree unknown to those whom we term the Ancients, there existed an intercourse between the opposite shores of the Atlantic; whether the Egyptian legend, narrated by Plato, respecting the island of Atlantis was indeed no fable, but the obscure tradition of some vast country, engulfed by one of those mighty convulsions of our globe, which have left traces of the ocean on the summits of lofty mountains, must ever remain matters of vague and visionary speculation. As far as authenticated history extends, nothing was known of terra firma and the islands of the Western hemisphere until their discovery towards the close of the fifteenth century. A wandering bark may occasionally have lost sight of the landmarks of the old continents, and been driven by tempest across the wilderness of waters long before the invention of the compass, but

never returned to reveal the secrets of the ocean. And though, from time to time, some strange flotsam came to the shores of the old world, giving to its wondering inhabitants evidences of land far beyond their watery horizon, yet no one ventured to spread a sail, and seek that land enveloped in mystery and peril. The Scandinavian voyagers had but transient glimpses of the new world, leading to no certain or permanent knowledge, and in a little time lost again to mankind. Certain it is that at the beginning of the fifteenth century, when the most intelligent minds were seeking in every direction for the scattered lights of geographical knowledge, a profound ignorance prevailed among the learned as to the western regions of the Atlantic; its vast waters were regarded with awe and wonder, seeming to bound the world as with a chaos, into which conjecture could not penetrate and enterprise feared to adventure. We need no greater proofs of this than the description given of the Atlantic by

Xerif al Edrisi, surnamed The Nubian, an eminent Arabian writer, whose countrymen were the boldest navigators of the middle ages, and possessed all that was then known of geography. The 'ocean' he observes, 'encircles the ultimate bounds of the inhabited earth, and all beyond it is unknown. No one has been able to verify anything concerning it, on account of its difficult and perilous navigation, its great obscurity, its profound depth, and frequent tempests; through fear of its mighty fishes and its haughty winds; yet there are many islands in it,—some peopled, others uninhabited. There is no mariner who dares to enter into its deep waters; or, if any have done so, they have merely kept along its coasts fearful of departing from them. The waves of this ocean, although they roll as high as mountains, yet maintain themselves without breaking; for if they broke, it would be impossible for a ship to plough them.'

The foregoing paragraph contains the opening

words of Irving's noble biography of the mariner of Genoa, and they aptly describe the atmosphere of doubt in which the age was enveloped concerning the Great Unknown across the Western Ocean.

It might be said of Columbus, as was said of Homer, that "seven rival cities claim his birth." Upward of "fifteen towns and villages claim to be the birthplace of the renowned discoverer of the New World," says a recent reviewer. Ten or more of them are on the Ligurian coast; but beyond the Apennines are Casserea, Cuzzare in the Montferrat, Pradello near Piacenza, and there is also Calvi in Corsica. Spotorno argued that no place outside the Genoese territory deserved consideration, and the upshot of Tarducci's researches is that he was born in the city of Genoa itself. Yet the Abbé Casanova, a Corsican archaeologist, has discovered archives which are thought to show that Columbus was born in Calvi and emigrated to Genoa; and it is said that an inscription has been

put on a house in the former city as his birthplace. Henry Harrisse has been able to count up eighteen Italian towns claiming to be the birthplace of Columbus, and has amusingly discussed their pretensions. But the claim of Savona, not far from Genoa, seemed to him worthy of erudite refutation, which he has been able to furnish from documents preserved at Savona and relating to the business of Christopher's father. Of course, the well-known will of Columbus would seem to settle the whole question in two of its phrases: "I, being born in Genoa," and "since I came from and was born in it." But the authenticity of the document was disputed until Navarette came to Genoa's aid with proofs of its genuineness. Still, Calvi or any other claimant may say that Columbus was in error, and Americans will recall that so illustrious a man as the late General Sheridan had always supposed his birthplace to be in a little Ohio town, up to a year or two before his death, when he unexpectedly learned that he first saw the

light in Albany, in New York State. The date of the great sailor's birth is no less widely disputed than the place. The difference of opinion on this point covers the full quarter of a century between 1430 and 1456, while between 1435 and 1449 every year has had its advocate. Prof. Tarducci thinks the three dates of greatest probability are 1436, 1446, and 1456, and of these prefers the first, because it rests on the authority of Bernaldez, who had Columbus as a guest, and mentions that at his death, which occurred in 1506, he was verging on his 70th year. And yet still later than this conclusion of Tarducci we find HARRISSE, in the *Revue Historique*, quoting from a manuscript, dated Oct. 30, 1470, recently discovered in the Genoa archives, this memorandum: "Christofferus de Columbo, filius Dominici, major annis decem-novem." Putting this with sundry other facts HARRISSE regards it as certain that Columbus could not have been born before 1446 nor after 1451, with the probability that his birth took place

between March 25, 1446, and March 20, 1447.

“ Another disputed point concerns the early life and education of Columbus. Three of his fellow-countrymen and contemporaries, Galli Giustiniani, and Senarega, agree that he was taught only the elementary branches, and Galli says that he worked at the trade of his father, Domenico, who was a wool carder. But Fernandè, the younger son of the great Admiral, who wrote a history of his father, which was marred by efforts to shed lustre on his obscure origin, says he studied at Pavia. From that single guarded phrase has sprung the theory that he was a student at the university, and this institution put up a monument to its putative pupil. But Tarducci, resting on the fact that he certainly went to sea at the age of 14, and probably worked in his father's shop before that time, rejects the whole myth of a university education. Indeed, Domenico and Susanna Colombo, who had three other sons to provide for, Bartholomew, Pellegrino and Diego, and

a daughter who married Bavarello, the cheesemonger, had not means enough to support a son at the famous Lombard university. But, admitting his lack of scholastic education, it is all the greater proof of the genius of Columbus, that, busy mariner as he was from his boyhood, he became not only one of the best cosmographers of his day, but a man versed in ecclesiastical literature and in general science. Of his acquired learning we get incontrovertible proof in his journals kept aboard ship, where, without books to aid him, he repeatedly cited authors and passages to support his theories."

Christopher Columbus, or Cristoforo Colombo, as the name is written in Italian, was, then, a Genoese. Although his father was a woolcomber, some of his ancestors had been navigators in the service of Genoa and France. But this relationship is allowed to have been a rather remote one, and, as his son and biographer remarks, the glory of the greatest admiral of them all "is

quite enough without there being any necessity to borrow any from his forebears."

"At a very early age he became a student at the University of Pavia, where he laid the foundations of that knowledge of mathematics and natural science which stood him in good stead throughout his life. At Genoa he would naturally regard the sea as the great field of enterprise which produced harvests of rich wares and spoils of glorious victories; and he may have heard, now and then, news of the latest conclusions of the Arabic geographers at Sennaar, and rumors of explorations down the African coast, which would be sure to excite interest among the maritime population of his birthplace. It is not wonderful that, exposed to such influences, he preferred a life of adventure on the sea to the drudgery of his father's trade in Genoa. Accordingly, after a few irksome months as a carder of wool (*tector panni*), he entered on his nautical career before he was fifteen years old.

“Of his many voyages, which of them took place before, and which after, his coming to Portugal, we have no distinct record; but are sure that he traversed a large part of the known world, that he visited England, that he made his way to Iceland and Friesland, that he had been at El Mina, on the coast of Guinea, and that he had seen the Islands of the Grecian Archipelago. ‘I have been seeking out the secrets of nature for forty years,’ he says, ‘and wherever ship has sailed, there I have voyaged.’ But beyond a few vague allusions of this kind, we know scarcely anything of these early voyages. However, he mentions particularly his having been employed by King René of Provence to intercept a Venetian galliot. And this exploit furnishes illustrations both of his boldness and his tact. During the voyage the news was brought that the galliot was convoyed by three other vessels. Thereupon the crew were unwilling to hazard an engagement, and insisted that Columbus should return to Mar-

seilles for reinforcement. Columbus made a feint of acquiescence, but craftily arranged the compass so that it appeared that they were returning, while they were really steering their original course, and so arrived at Carthagena the next morning, thinking all the while that they were in full sail for Marseilles."

There are no very good or authentic portraits of Columbus extant, as might perhaps be expected. This much, however, seems to be certain—that he was tall of stature and dignified in bearing, with a long oval countenance, an aquiline nose, and expressive light gray eyes. His hair and complexion were fair; the former turned white while he was yet in the prime of life. His manners were grave, courteous, and winning. He was at once resolute and humane; courageous and compassionate. He was simple, unaffected, and deeply religious. To his superiors he was unflinchingly honest and loyal, and he endeavored to command a like obedience in turn from those placed under

his command. There are dark and dubious facts and passages in his life ; he has been called pirate, buccaneer, and slave-driver. But he lived in a period of storm and stress ; his faults were those of his time and of those whom he served. In saying that he was brave, steadfast, with the rough honor of a bluff old sea-dog, we complete the portrait outlines of a veritable Bayard of the Seas ; and if his enthusiasm for his own beliefs sometimes deafened and blinded him to more prudent counsels, he remained in adversity, and in prosperity, and in adversity again, a knight without fear and without reproach.*

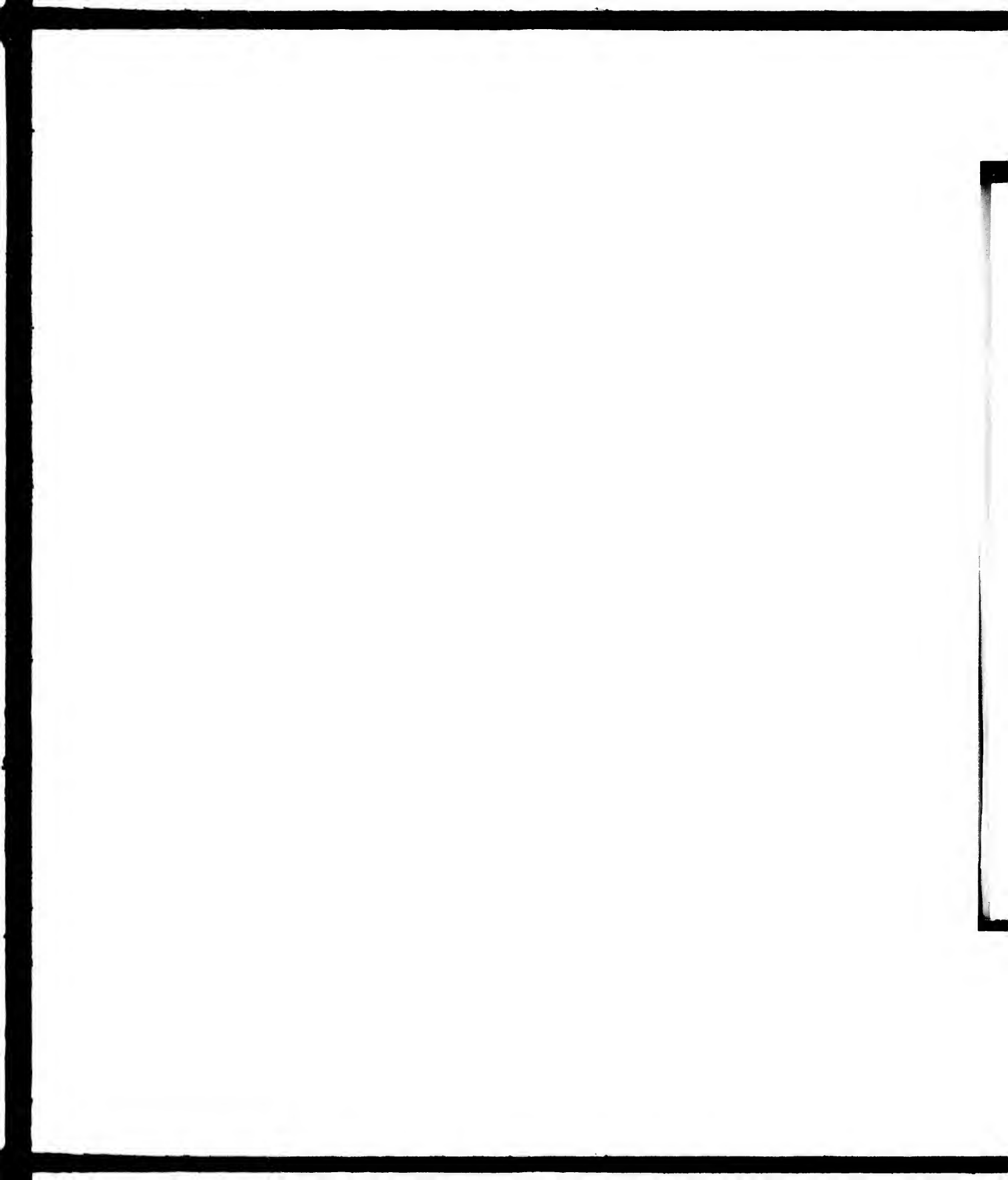
* In answering the query " Was Columbus a Jew ? " the *Jewish World* says: " Jews figure prominently in the history of the discovery of America. The plans and calculations of Columbus' expedition were largely the work of two Hebrew astronomers and mathematicians. Two Jews were also employed as interpreters by Columbus, and one of them, Luiz de Torres, was the first European to set foot in the New World. When Columbus sighted the island of San Salvador he sent Torres, who was engaged for his knowledge of the Arabic, ashore to make inquiries of the natives. It was probably this Torres who was the Madrid Jew to whom Columbus bequeathed half a mark of silver in his will.

" Another curious fact is that it has been curiously suggested—by Franz Delitzsch, we believe—that Columbus himself was a Jew

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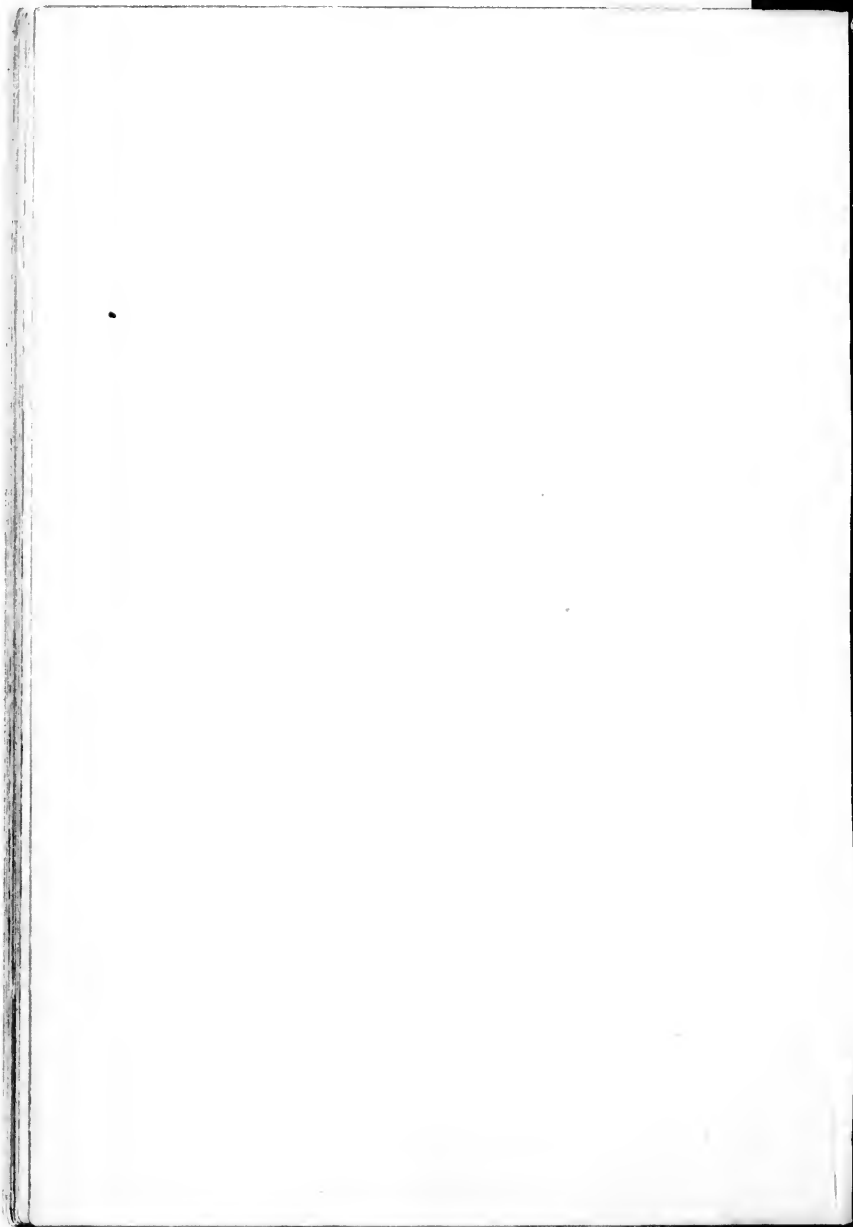
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The Year. Portrait of Christopher Columbus.



The portrait which precedes this page has a curious and interesting history. In 1763, a portrait of Columbus, with those of Cortez, Lope, and Quevedo, was purchased by the Spanish Government from N. Yanez, who had brought it from Granada. No trace of any such picture having been at an earlier period in the Royal Picture Gallery has been detected, so long was the revealer of the Western Hemisphere unappreciated in Castile and Leon. This Yanez likeness was hung in the National Library (Biblioteca Nacional) and soon confessed by art critics to resemble closely in features that in the Florentine Uffizi—the oldest of known date, and that from which Jefferson's

or of Jewish birth. The name of Christopher was frequently adopted by converts, while the surname, Colon, belonged to a distinguished family of Jewish scholars. Christopher's father, Diego, bore originally the Jewish name Jacob, which sounds surprisingly like *Shem Kadosh*. Perhaps, during the coming celebrations, some Jewish scholars in Italy will make inquiry into the validity of this daring suggestion.'

But we think there is no valid ground for such a supposition regarding the faith of Columbus. Jew by descent he may have been, but he was a devout and loyal son of Mother Church, and died in the full odor of sanctity.

copy had been taken. It was highly praised by Navarrete, in his grand work, which is a nobler monument to Columbus than the labor of an age in piled stones.

But Spanish artists were long ago satisfied that the Yanez portrait had been tampered with by some audacious restorer, and they at length obtained permission to test it with chemicals. From side to side of the upper margin of the picture there ran the legend "Christof. Columbus *novi* (sic) *orbis inventor.*" These words were first subjected to the artist's test, and as they vanished, quite another inscription came out beneath them, namely, these words, "Colomb. Lygur. *novi orbis reptor*" (sic). The variations not only proved that the likeness had been repainted, but that the second painter was inferior to the first, since *reptor* means to find by seeking, which *inventor* does not. The testers had no hesitation about proceeding further. The flowing robe with a heavy fur collar, as they said, "more befitting a

Muscovite than a mariner," vanished, while a simple garb, only a closely fitting tunic, and a mantle folded across the breast, rose to view. The eyes, nose, lower lip, facial oval, all assumed a new expression. The air of monastic sadness vanished. Señor Cubello and his assistants, who had begun this work nervously, finished it with glad surprise when they beheld the great discoverer throwing off the disguises that had been thrust upon him; and, as it were, emancipated from the chains with which he was bound in his lifetime, and which were buried in his coffin.

"As if he whom the asp
In its marble grasp,
Kept close and for ages strangled,
Got loose from the hold
Of each serpent fold,
And exulted disentangled."

Carderara, the great Spanish authority on Columbian portraits, regrets that, while sojourning at the Lake of Como, he had neglected to search in all highways and byways for the likeness that

stood in the Museum of Gioio there, and which may be still lurking in some unsuspected corner.

But some Spanish investigators hold that labors in this direction are needless. Señor Rios y Rios, in a recent Bulletin of the Madrid Academy, maintains that the long-lost and much desiderated Gioian portrait—the prototype of which all Columbian likenesses of any value are copies—has been found already. He holds that the Yanez portrait is nothing less than that Gioian jewel. He adduces many circumstances which serve to thicken other proofs of his position. Let us trust that this discovery of the great discoverer, which was as unlooked for as his discovery of America, may prove as indubitable.

“Columbus,” says Irving, “commenced his nautical career when about fourteen years of age. His first voyages were made with a distant relative named Colombo, a hardy veteran of the seas, who had risen to some distinction by his bravery, and is occasionally mentioned in old chronicles ; some-

times as commanding a squadron of his own, sometimes as an admiral in the Genoese service. He appears to have been bold and adventurous; ready to fight in any cause, and to seek quarrel wherever it might lawfully be found. The seafaring life of the Mediterranean, in those days, was hazardous and daring. A commercial expedition resembled a warlike cruise, and the maritime merchant had often to fight his way from port to port. Piracy was almost legalized. The frequent feuds between the Italian states; the cruisings of the Catalonians; the armadas fitted out by private noblemen, who exercised a kind of sovereignty in their own domains, and kept petty armies and navies in their pay; the roving ships and squadrons of private adventurers, a kind of naval Condottieri, sometimes employed by hostile governments, sometimes scouring the seas in search of lawless booty; these, with the holy wars waged against the Mohammedan powers, rendered the narrow seas, to which navigation was

principally confined, scenes of hardy encounters and trying reverses.

“Such was the rugged school in which Columbus was reared, and it would have been deeply interesting to have marked the early development of his genius amidst its stern adversities. All this instructive era of his history, however, is covered with darkness. His son Fernando, who could have best elucidated it, has left it in obscurity, or has now and then perplexed us with cross lights; perhaps unwilling, from a principle of mistaken pride, to reveal the indigence and obscurity from which his father so gloriously emerged. The first voyage in which we have any account of his being engaged was a naval expedition, fitted out in Genoa in 1459 by John of Anjou, Duke of Calabria, to make a descent upon Naples, in the hope of recovering that kingdom for his father, King Reinier, or Ranato, otherwise called René, Count of Provence. The republic of Genoa aided him with ships and money. The

brilliant nature of the enterprise attracted the attention of daring and restless spirits. The chivalrous nobleman, the soldier of fortune, the hardy corsair, the desperate adventurer, the mercenary partisan, all hastened to enlist under the banner of Anjou. The veteran Colombo took a part in this expedition, either with galleys of his own, or as a commander of the Genoese squadron, and with him embarked his youthful relative, the future discoverer. The struggle of John of Anjou for the crown of Naples lasted about four years, with varied fortune, but was finally unsuccessful. The naval part of the expedition, in which Columbus was engaged, signalized itself by acts of intrepidity; and at one time, when the Duke was reduced to take refuge in the island of Ischia, a handful of galleys scoured and controlled the bay of Naples.

“In the course of this gallant but ill-fated enterprise, Columbus was detached on a perilous cruise, to cut out a galley from the harbor of

Tunis. This is incidentally mentioned by himself in a letter written many years afterwards. 'It happened to me,' he says, 'that King Reinier (whom God has taken to himself) sent me to Tunis, to capture the galley *Fernandina*, and when I arrived off the island of *St. Pedro*, in *Sardinia*, I was informed that there were two ships and a car-rack with the galley; by which intelligence my crew were so troubled that they determined to proceed no further, but to return to *Marseilles* for another vessel and more people; as I could not by any means compel them, I assented apparently to their wishes, altering the point of the compass and spreading all sail. It was then evening, and next morning we were within the *Cape of Carthagen*a, while all were firmly of opinion that they were sailing towards *Marseilles*.' We have no further record of this bold cruise into the harbor of *Tunis*; but in the foregoing particulars we behold early indications of that resolute and persevering spirit which insured him success in

his more important undertakings. His expedient to beguile a discontented crew into a continuation of the enterprise, by deceiving them with respect to the ship's course, will be found in unison with a stratagem of altering the reckoning, to which he had recourse in his first voyage of discovery."

We have no record of the precise period when the thought of his great discovery first entered the mind of Columbus. Doubtless it was not of sudden birth, but a slow growth, arriving at maturity after patient inquiry and research. That he made himself thoroughly familiar with the scanty literature, the abundant tradition, and the foolish fears surrounding the subject of a westward voyage, we have ample evidence. "It may be a question," says Sir Arthur Helps, "whether this impulse soon brought him to his utmost height of survey, and that he then only applied to learning to confirm his first views; or whether the impulse merely carried him along with growing perception of the great truth he was to prove,

into deep thinking upon cosmographical studies, the recent Portuguese discoveries, the dreams of learned men, the labors of former geographers, the dim prophetic notices of great unknown lands, and vague reports amongst mariners of driftwood seen on the seas. But at any rate we know that he arrived at a fixed conclusion that there was a way by the west to the Indies; that he could discover this way, and so come to Cipango, Cathay, the Grand Khan, and all he had met with in the gorgeous descriptions of Marco Polo and other ancient authorities. We may not pretend to lay down the exact chronological order of the formation of the idea in his mind, in fact, to know more about it than he would probably have been able to tell us himself. And it must not be forgotten that his enterprise, as compared with that of the Portuguese along the coast of Africa, was as an invention compared to an improvement. Each new discovery, then, was but a step beyond that which had preceded it; Columbus was the first

to steer boldly from shore into the waste of waters, —an originator, not a mere improver. Fernando Columbus divides into three classes the grounds on which his father's theory was based; namely, reasons from nature, the authority of writers, and the testimony of sailors. (He believed the world to be a sphere; he under-estimated its size; he over-estimated the size of the Asiatic continent. The farther that continent extended to the eastward the nearer it came round towards Spain. And this, in greater or less degree, had been the opinion of the ancient geographers. Both Aristotle and Seneca thought that a ship might sail "in a few days" from Cadiz to India. Strabo, too, believed that it might be possible to navigate on the same parallel of latitude, due west from the coast of Africa or Spain to that of India. The accounts given by Marco Polo and Sir John Mandeville of their explorations towards China confirmed the exaggerated idea of the extent of Eastern Asia.

“It appears,” says Laing, “from the Memoir of Columbus by his son Fernando, that in February, 1477, his father visited Tyle (Thule) or Friesland, ‘an island as large as England, with which the English, especially those of Bristol, drive a great trade.’ It is a curious coincidence that he mentions he came to the island without meeting any ice, and the sea was not frozen; and in an authentic document of March in the same year, 1477, it is mentioned as a kind of testimony of the act of which the document is the protocol, that there was no snow whatever upon the ground at the date it was executed,—a rare circumstance, by which it would be held in remembrance. In the year 1477, Magnus Eyolfson was bishop of Skalholt; he had been abbot of the monastery at Helgafel, where the old accounts concerning Vinland and Greenland were, it is supposed, originally written and preserved, and the discoverers were people originally from that neighborhood. Columbus came in

spring to the south end of Iceland, where Whalefiord was the usual harbor; and it is known that Bishop Magnus, exactly in the spring of that year, was on a visitation in that part of his see, and it is to be presumed Columbus must have met and conversed with him. These are curious coincidences of small circumstances, which have their weight."

As there were certainly Europeans in America before the time of Columbus, which we think has been proved in an earlier chapter, we may pause here to ask how far Columbus or his companions profited by the knowledge of these past events which undoubtedly existed.

"More than eight hundred years ago, and consequently nearly six hundred years before the Puritan Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock, the Catholic Church had a bishop there, and a martyr, too, for the saintly prelate fell a victim to zeal and charity beneath the deadly arrows of those for whom he was endeavoring to

open the gates of heaven. The first birth from Catholic parents, and therefore the first baptism in America, was that of Snorre, who was born in 1009, of Thorfinn and Gudrida, on the western shore of Mt. Hope Bay, in Bristol County, Rhode Island. His family returned to Iceland, and thence, after the death of her son, Gudrida went on a pilgrimage to Rome, and gave the then Pope tidings of his people in far-off America. A historian, who records the fact, writes: 'Rome lent a ready ear to accounts of geographical discoveries, and collected facts and narratives. Every discovery seemed an extension of Papal dominion and a new field for the preaching of the gospel.'

In a recent magazine article, entitled "America Discovered and Christianized by the Northmen," by R. H. Clarke, the author discusses at length this interesting theme, from which we condense as follows:

"The Northmen, wandering fragments of

Asiatic tribes, after traversing Europe, found a home and founded a nation in Norway only when the sea arrested their progress. Here they achieved a permanent conquest and founded the mother country, from whose sea-indented shores proceeded so many expeditions pregnant with the fate of nations. In 860, Naddod, a Norwegian pirate, on his voyage to the Faroes, was carried far out of his course by a tempest, and this accident led to his discovery of Iceland, the 'Ultima Thule' of the ancients. This ice-clad island became a colony of the mother country. About the year 900, Rollo made the conquest of Normandy. In 1060 we find a Norman prince established in Apulia. In 1066 William the Conqueror becomes the master and king of England, and founds the present dynasty of Great Britain. It will thus be seen that the Northmen were at the height of their power and activity when they discovered and colonized portions of the western continent in the tenth century. The learned

geographers and skillful critics, who have reviewed all these circumstances, have decided that the first land discovered was Nantucket, one degree south of Boston; the second Nova Scotia; the third Newfoundland. The observations made of the country and climate accord with wonderful accuracy in locating Vinland the Good, or the Northmen, in the region near Newport, Rhode Island. This expedition of Leif Ericson was regarded as the most fortunate of all, for he had discovered Vinland the Good, had rescued five of his countrymen from death at sea, and had introduced Christianity into Greenland. The ecclesiastics who accompanied the expedition were the first Christian priests in that early age that visited America. They were also the pastors of the church of Greenland, which flourished for several centuries. The remains of the temples are now visited by adventurous tourists and are familiar to the Moravian missionaries of Greenland. ✓ Leif Ericson was thus the first discoverer

of our country. There are a number of circumstances strongly tending to show that Columbus knew something of these events. His long and thorough study of the subject in all its aspects must have guided his mind to this information. The absolute certainty he professed to have that he could discover land in the West could not have rested upon theory alone; it must have been based upon information of facts also. He himself says that he based his certainty upon the authority of learned writers. The visit of Columbus to Iceland, brought him into immediate contact with the traditions and written accounts in relation to the Norse discoveries in the Western continent. He is believed to have conversed with the bishop and other learned men of Iceland, and as his visit there was fifteen years before he discovered America, and less than two centuries after the last Norse expedition to the lands in the Western ocean, he must have met Icelanders whose grandfathers lived in the time of that ex-

pedition, and perhaps were members of it. It is unlikely that Columbus could have been so active in his researches for geographical and nautical information as all his biographers represent, and yet have been in the midst of so much information on these subjects without coming in contact with it. Rome was represented in the Western hemisphere by a succession of seventeen bishops, and one of them, Bishop Eric Upsi, became the apostle of Vinland in the twelfth century, a fact which indicates a permanent settlement of Northmen in Rhode Island. Columbus never divulged to the public the extent of his knowledge of facts pointing to lands in the Western ocean. At Rome also he must have heard of the Norse expeditions to Greenland and Vinland. It is also argued that, as Pope Paschal II., in the year 1121, appointed Eric Upsi bishop of Garda in Greenland, and the bishop visited Vinland, as part of his spiritual domain, Columbus, in search of such knowledge, must have found it where it

was most accessible, namely, in the Papal archives. There is also some ground for believing, though the fact is not established, that a map of Vinland was preserved in the Vatican, and that a copy of it was furnished to the Pinzons. Facts such as these must have formed a considerable part of the knowledge acquired by Columbus in his many years of study."

But, as Mr. Justin Winsor points out, in his recent life of Columbus, the Norsemen regarded Vinland as simply a continuation of Greenland; they had not the faintest conception that it was part of a new continent; and he further urges that had Columbus proposed to profit by the Norse discoveries, or had he supposed Vinland to be Cathay, he would scarcely have steered southwest across the Atlantic. Some say that he was sent to Iceland by the Holy See.

"It has been sufficiently demonstrated," says Mrs. Shipley, "that the heads of the Church in Rome knew of the Icelandic discovery of America

at the time, the date of the discovery, the year 1000, having been the exact date of the conversion of the entire Scandinavian north to Christianity, and that the Catholic Church, the *only* Church then, was quick to profit by this discovery and establish its own institutions in the new colonies across the ocean. Rome being possessed of these facts, Columbus, a devoted son of the Church, could not have failed to be acquainted with them also."

The famous French geographer, Malte-Brun, states in his "History of Geography" that "Columbus, when in Italy, had heard of the Norse discoveries beyond Iceland, for Rome was then the world's center, and all information of importance was sent there."

It may be asked, Why did not the Church at once turn this discovery to account, instead of keeping the knowledge secret for so many hundred years? This query has been aptly answered by Mr. Addison Child, in an article in the Boston

Transcript, wherein he says that "the reason that these and probably earlier discoveries were not more noticed and utilized was that the need of another continent to conquer and colonize had not arisen and did not arise until nearly the end of the fifteenth century," when Lutheranism and the Reformation bade fair to jeopardize the sway of Rome in Europe, and made the Papacy look with longing eyes toward the virgin continent lying beyond the veil of the forgetfulness of mankind.

Religious enthusiasm, as we shall see, had a large share in Columbus's gigantic scheme, and it is extremely probable, as has been pointed out, that his motive and "the motive of all his ecclesiastical patrons, Juan Perez, Deza, the Cardinal Mendoza, Luis de St. Angel, and Ferdinand and Isabella, was simply and solely Papal aggrandizement, the gaining of vast new territory for proselyting purposes."

It is even possible that the continent of America

were seen four years before Columbus sailed from Palos. Says Mr. J. B. Shipley, in a recent pamphlet :

“Jean Cousin, in 1488, sailed from Dieppe, then the great commercial and naval port of France, and bore out to sea, to avoid the storms so prevalent in the Bay of Biscay. Arrived at the latitude of the Azores, he was carried westward by a current and came to an unknown country, near the mouth of an immense river. He took possession of the continent, but as he had not a sufficient crew nor material resources adequate for founding a settlement, he re-embarked. Instead of returning directly to Dieppe he took a southeasterly direction—that is, toward South Africa—discovered the cape which has since retained the name of Cape Agulhas, the southern point of Africa, went north by the Congo and Guinea, and returned to Dieppe in 1489. Cousin’s lieutenant was a Castilian, Pinzon by name, who was jealous of his captain, and

caused him considerable trouble on the Gold Coast. On Cousin's complaint, the Admiralty declared him unfit to serve in the marine of Dieppe. Pinzon then retired to Genoa, and afterward to Castile. Every circumstance tends toward the belief that this is the same Pinzon to whom Columbus afterward intrusted the command of the *Pinta*," and who, as we shall see, deserted his commander to go off on an independent chase after the wealth of the "Indies."

Not without reason, then, has it been urged that the proposed Columbian Exhibition of 1892 or 1893, can in no sense commemorate the *discovery* of America, but only the splendid personal achievement of Columbus in so far as he was the fitting hero chosen to restore to the world the jewel that had been lost or forgotten. It would seem that this country, a century hence, in 1985, will have a far grander event to commemorate, namely, the one thousandth anniversary of the

discovery of North America by Leif Ericson! But it should be noted that, even if Columbus was familiar with the misty accounts of the Norse voyages to the North, he showed his independence thereof by marking out a course due west and far to the southward.

Columbus arrived at Lisbon about the year 1470, and found the kingdom in full ferment over the maritime discoveries of Prince John. There he was married to Donna Felipa Perestrella, a daughter of one of Prince Henry's sea-captains, the governor of the Island of Porto Santo, and who was the mother of his son, Diego.

On the island above mentioned Columbus settled down after his marriage, earning his living as a map-maker. He was thus directly in the marine road to the Guinea Coast, and in constant communication with the hardy explorers of the coasts of the great southern continent.

The first inkling we get of his great design is through an abortive attempt to get the Senate of

Genoa to listen to his scheme. He seems to have felt that from Portugal he need expect no aid. She was not only embroiled in costly foreign wars, but had already marked out for her navigators a route and an empire to the eastward which she would have been very foolish to abandon. But Columbus did not neglect to lay his plans before King John. The monarch seems to have listened with thoughtful attention, gave a cautious promise of support, but first referred the matter to a committee, whose report was flatly adverse. The king, however, was not quite satisfied at their decision, and one of his advisers, the Bishop of Ceuta, suggesting that a caravel be stealthily equipped and sent out with orders based on the scheme submitted by Columbus, the king gave his consent, "and this piece of episcopal bad faith was actually perpetrated. The caravel, however, returned without having accomplished anything, the sailors not having had heart to adventure far enough westward. It was not an enterprise to be

carried out successfully by men who had only stolen the idea of it."

Enraged at this piece of trickery, Columbus quitted Portugal with his little son Diego, Donna Felipa having died a few years before. This was in 1485. Entering Spain he laid his project before two grandees, the Duke of Medina-Sidonia and the Duke of Medina-Celi. Both seem to have been dazzled by the enthusiast's arguments, and the latter maintained him for two years in his palace, but neither of them was sufficiently powerful to undertake so weighty an undertaking without royal sanction. So, two years having been frittered away, Medina-Celi addressed a letter to the Spanish queen, which Columbus carried to the court in person.

And now ensued a weary time of waiting for the man whose heart and head were bursting with desire to put this great idea to the test. "The juncture was singularly inopportune for the consideration of any peaceful project. The war

with the Moors was raging more and more furiously, as they were driven back, contesting every inch of ground, farther and farther from the heart of the kingdom. The Spanish court was at Cordova, actively preparing for the campaign which was to result in that subjugation of the Crescent to the Cross throughout the Peninsula, which was completed by the conquest of Granada some six years later. Amid the clang of arms and the bustle of warlike preparation Columbus was not likely to obtain more than a slight and superficial attention to a matter which must have seemed remote and uncertain. Indeed, when it is considered that the most pressing internal affairs of kingdoms are neglected by the wisest rulers in times of war, it is wonderful that he succeeded in obtaining any audience at all. However, he was fortunate enough to find at once a friend in the treasurer of the household, Alonso de Quintanilla, a man who, like himself, 'took delight in great things,' and who obtained a hearing for him from the

Spanish monarchs. Ferdinand and Isabella did not dismiss him abruptly. On the contrary, it is said, they listened kindly; and the conference ended by their referring the business to the queen's Confessor, Fra Hernando de Talavera, who was afterwards Archbishop of Granada. This important functionary summoned a junta of cosmographers (not a promising assemblage!) to consult about the affair, and this junta was convened at Salamanca, in the summer of the year 1487. Here was a step gained; the cosmographers were to consider his scheme, and not merely to consider whether it was worth taking into consideration. But it was impossible for the jury to be unprejudiced. All inventors, to a certain extent, insult their contemporaries by accusing them of stupidity and of ignorance. And these cosmographical pedants, accustomed to beaten tracks, resented the insult by which this adventurer was attempting to overthrow the belief of centuries. They thought that so many persons wise in nautical

matters as had preceded the Genoese mariner never could have overlooked such an idea as this which had presented itself to his mind. Moreover, as the learning of the Middle Ages resided for the most part in the cloister, the members of the junta were principally clerical, and combined to crush Columbus with theological objections. Texts of Scripture were adduced to refute his theory of the spherical shape of the earth, and the weighty authority of the Fathers of the Church was added to overthrow the 'foolish idea of the existence of antipodes; of people who walk, opposite to us, with their heels upward and their heads hanging down; where everything is topsyturvy, where the trees grow with their branches downward, and where it rains, hails, and snows upward.' King David, St. Paul, St. Augustine, Lactantius, and a host of other theological authorities were all put in evidence against the Genoese mariner; he was confronted by the 'conservatism of lawyers united to the bigotry of

priests.' Las Casas displays his usual acuteness when he says that the great difficulty of Columbus was, not that of teaching, but that of unteaching; not of promulgating his own theory, but of eradicating the erroneous convictions of the judges before whom he had to plead his cause. In fine, the junta decided that the project was 'vain and impossible, and that it did not belong to the majesty of such great princes to determine anything upon such weak grounds of information.' Ferdinand and Isabella seem not to have taken the extremely unfavorable view of the matter entertained by the junta of cosmographers, or at least to have been willing to dismiss Columbus gently, for they merely said that, with the wars at present on their hands, and especially that of Granada, they could not undertake any new expenses, but when that war was ended, they would examine his plan more carefully.

"Thus terminated a solicitation at the court of Ferdinand and Isabella, which, according to some

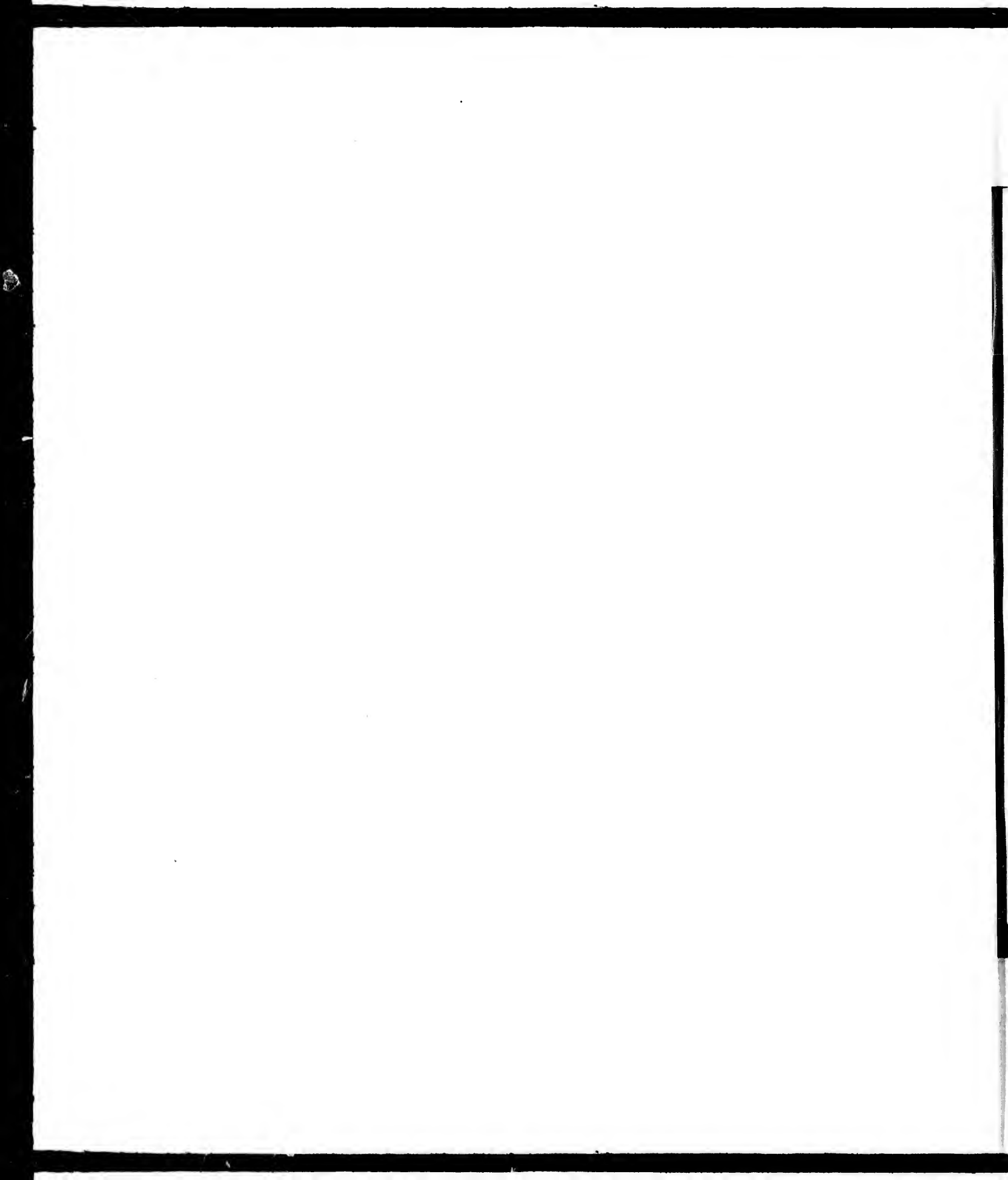
authorities, lasted five years ; for the facts above mentioned, though short in narration, occupied no little time in transaction. During the whole of this period, Columbus appears to have followed the sovereigns in the movements which the war necessitated, and to have been treated by them with much consideration. Sums were from time to time granted from the royal treasury for his private expenses, and he was billeted as a public functionary in the various towns of Andalusia where the court rested. But his must have been a very up-hill task. Las Casas, who, from an experience larger even than that which fell to the lot of Columbus, knew what it was to endure the cold and indolent neglect of superficial men in small authority, and all the vast delay, which cannot be comprehended except by those who have suffered under it, that belongs to the transaction of any affair in which many persons have to co-operate, compares the suit of Columbus to a battle, ' a terrible, continuous, painful, prolix



Columbus, From Johnson with Fothergill.

Columbus, Pa. - Excursion with Father, 1862.





battle.' The tide of this long war (for war it was, rather than a battle) having turned against him, Columbus left the court, and went to Seville 'with much sadness and discomfiture.' During this dreary period of a suitor's life—which, however, has been endured by some of the greatest men the world has seen, which was well known by close observation, or bitter experience, to Spenser, Camöens, Cervantes, Shakespeare, Bacon—one joy at least was not untasted by Columbus, namely, that of love. His beloved Beatrice, whom he first met at Cordova, must have believed in him, even if no one else had done so; but love was not sufficient to retain at her side a man goaded by a great idea, or perhaps that love did but impel him to still greater efforts for her sake, as is the way with lovers of the nobler sort.

“ Other friends, too, shared his enthusiasm, and urged him onward. Juan Perez de la Marchena, guardian of the monastery of La Rabida, in Andalusia, had been the confessor of Queen Isabella,

but had exchanged the bustle of the court for the learned leisure of the cloister. The little town of Palos, with its seafaring population and maritime interests, was near the monastery, and the principal men of the place were glad to pass the long winter evenings in the society of Juan Perez, discussing questions of cosmography and astronomy. Among these visitors were Martin Alonzo Pinzon, the chief ship-owner of Palos, and Garcia Hernandez, the village doctor ; and one can fancy how the schemes of Columbus must have appeared to the little conclave as a ray of sunlight in the dullness of their simple life. Hernandez, especially, who seems to have been somewhat skilled in physical science, and therefore capable of appreciating the arguments of Columbus, became a warm believer in his project. It is worthy of notice that a person who appears only once, as it were, in a sentence in history, should have exercised so much influence upon it as Garcia Hernandez, who was probably a man of far superior

attainments to those around him, and was in the habit of deploring, as such men do, his hard lot in being placed where he could be so little understood. Now, however, he was to do more at one stroke than many a man who has been all his days before the world. Columbus had abandoned his suit at court in disgust, and had arrived at the monastery before quitting Spain to fetch his son Diego, whom he had left with Juan Perez to be educated. All his griefs and struggles he confided to Perez, who could not bear to hear of his intention to leave the country for France or England, and to make a foreign nation greater by allowing it to adopt his project. The three friends—the monk, the learned physician, and the skilled cosmographer—discussed together the proposition so unhappily familiar to the last-named member of their council. The affection of Juan Perez and the learning of Hernandez were not slow to follow in the track which the enthusiasm of the great adventurer made out

before them ; and they became, no doubt, as convinced as Columbus himself of the feasibility of his undertaking. The difficulty, however, was not in becoming believers themselves, but in persuading those to believe who would have power to further the enterprise. Their discussions upon this point ended in the conclusion that Juan Perez, who was known to the queen, having acted as her confessor, should write to her highness. He did so ; and the result was favorable. The queen sent for him, heard what he had to say, and in consequence remitted money to Columbus to enable him to come to court and renew his suit. He attended the court again ; his negotiations were resumed, but were again broken off on the ground of the largeness of the conditions which he asked for. His opponents said that these conditions were too large if he succeeded, and if he should not succeed and the conditions should come to nothing, they thought that there was an air of trifling in granting such conditions

at all. And, indeed, they were very large ; namely, that he was to be made an admiral at once to be appointed viceroy of the countries he should discover, and to have an eighth of the profits of the expedition. The only probable way of accounting for the extent of these demands and his perseverance in making them, even to the risk of total failure, is that the discovering of the Indies was but a step in his mind to greater undertakings, as they seemed to him, which he had in view, of going to Jerusalem with an army and making another crusade. For Columbus carried the chivalrous ideas of the twelfth century into the somewhat self-seeking fifteenth. The negotiation, however, failed a second time, and Columbus resolved again to go to France, when Alonzo de Quintanilla and Juan Perez contrived to obtain a hearing for the great adventurer from Cardinal Mendoza, who was pleased with him. Columbus then offered, in order to meet the objections of his opponents, to pay an

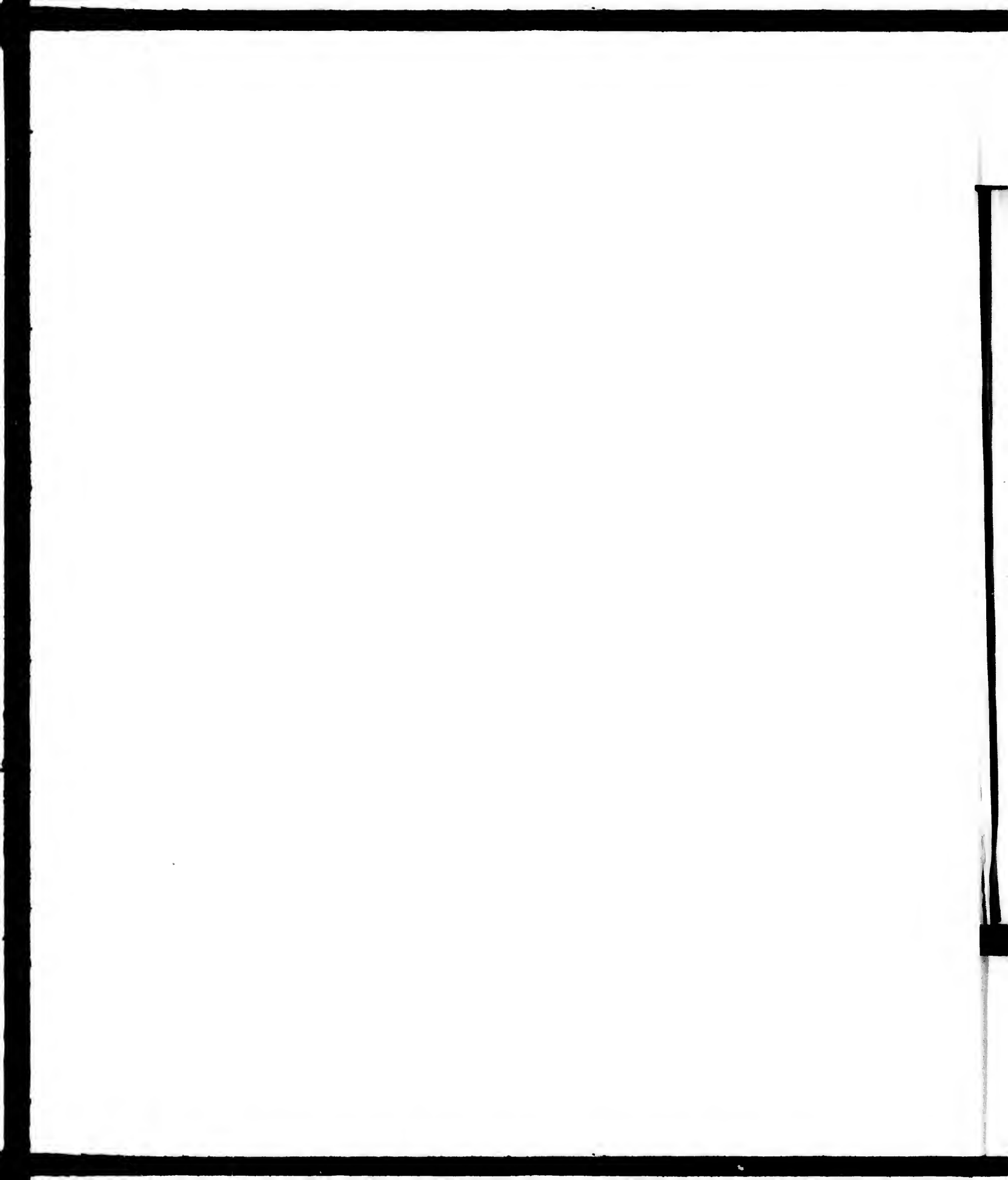
eighth part of the expense of the expedition. Still nothing was done. And now, finally, Columbus determined to go to France, and indeed had actually set off one day in January of the year 1492, when Luis de Santangel, receiver of the ecclesiastical revenues of the crown of Aragon, a person much devoted to the plans of Columbus, addressed the queen with all the energy that a man throws into his words when he is aware that it is his last time for speaking in favor of a thing which he has much at heart. He told her that he wondered that, as she always had a lofty mind for great things, it should be wanting to her on this occasion. He endeavored to pique her jealousy as a monarch by suggesting that the enterprise might fall into the hands of other princes. Then he said something in behalf of Columbus himself, and the queen was not unlikely to know well the bearing of a great man. He intimated to her highness that what was an impossibility to the cosmographers, might not be so in nature.

Nor, continued he, should any endeavor in so great a matter be attributed to lightness, even though the endeavor should fail; for it is the part of great and generous princes to ascertain the secrets of the world. Other princes had gained eternal fame this way. He concluded by saying that all the aid Columbus wanted to set the expedition afloat, was but a million of maravedis (equivalent to about £308, English money of the period); and that so great an enterprise ought not to be abandoned for the sake of such a trifling sum. These well-addressed arguments, falling in, as they did, with those of Quintanilla, the treasurer, who had great influence with the queen, prevailed. She thanked these lords for their counsel, and said she would adopt it, but they must wait until the finances had recovered a little from the drain upon them occasioned by the conquest of Granada, or if they thought that the plan must be forthwith carried out, she would pledge her jewels to raise the necessary funds.



Columbus Recalled by order of Isabella.





Santangel and Quintanilla kissed her hands, highly delighted at succeeding; and Santangel offered to advance the money required. Upon this the queen sent an alguazil to overtake Columbus and bring him back to the court. He was overtaken at the bridge of Pinos, two leagues from Granada; returned to Santa Fé, where the sovereigns were encamped before Granada; was well received by Isabella; and finally the agreement between him and their Catholic highnesses was settled with the secretary, Coloma."

These articles of agreement were as follows:

1. That Columbus should have, for himself, during his life, and his heirs and successors forever, the office of admiral in all the lands and continents which he might discover or acquire in the ocean, with similar honors and prerogatives to those enjoyed by the high admiral of Castile in his district.
2. That he should be viceroy and governor-general over all the said lands and continents; with the privilege of nominating three candidates for the government of each island or province, one of whom should be selected by the sovereigns.
3. That he should be entitled to reserve for himself one tenth of all pearls, precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and all other articles and merchandises, in whatever manner found, bought,

bartered, or gained within his admiralty, the costs being first deducted.

4. That he, or his lieutenant, should be the sole judge in all causes and disputes arising out of traffic between those countries and Spain, provided the high admiral of Castile had similar jurisdiction in his district.

5. That he might then, and at all after times, contribute an eighth part of the expense in fitting out vessels to sail on this enterprise, and receive an eighth part of the profits.

On the 17th of April, 1492, the papers were all signed and Columbus was free to begin the preparations for his momentous voyage. The port of Palos in Andalusia was designated as the place of departure, the municipality standing committed, on account of some offence, to furnish two armed caravels to the monarch for the space of twelve months. At the same time "a proclamation of immunity from civil and criminal process to persons taking service in the expedition was issued. The ships of Columbus were therefore a refuge for criminals and fraudulent debtors,"—not the choicest kind of material for an enterprise of pith and moment. Even with these inducements

it was not easy to induce men to embark. The hardy mariners of Palos refused to enlist for what they deemed a crazy voyage under a mad enthusiast. But Juan Perez was active in persuading men to embark. The Pinzons, rich men and skilful mariners of Palos, joined in the undertaking personally, and aided it with their money, and by these united exertions three vessels were manned with ninety mariners, and provisioned for a year.

“The vessels were all of small size, probably of not more than one hundred tons’ burden each, and therefore not larger in carrying capacity than the American yachts whose ocean race from New York to Cowes was regarded as an example of immense hardihood, even in the year 1867. But Columbus considered them very suitable for the undertaking. The *Santa Maria* which Columbus himself commanded, was the only one of the three that was decked throughout. The official persons and the crew on board

her were sixteen in number. The two other vessels were of the class called caravels, and were decked fore and aft, but not amidships, the stem and stern being built so as to rise high out of the water. One of them, the *Pinta*, was manned by a crew of thirty, commanded by Martin Alonzo Pinzon. The other, the *Nina*, had Vincent Yanez Pinzon for captain, and a crew of twenty-four men. The whole number of adventurers amounted to a hundred and twenty persons, men of various nationalities, including among them two natives of the British Isles."

At this juncture it may not be out of place to glance at the controlling motives of the illustrious man who planned and controlled the expedition. More than two hundred years had passed since the disastrous end of the eighth and last of those gigantic pulsations of religious faith and fanaticism known as the Crusades. Yet the great dream of Columbus was nothing less than the revival of the Crusades for the recovery of the Holy Land from

the rule of the Moslem. Another of his principal objects, says Irving, "was undoubtedly the propagation of the Christian faith." He expected to arrive at the extremity of Asia, and to open a direct and easy communication with the vast and magnificent empire of the Grand Khan. The conversion of that heathen potentate had, in former times, been a favorite aim of various pontiffs and pious sovereigns, and various missions had been sent to the remote regions of the East for that purpose. Columbus now considered himself about to effect this great work ; to spread the light of revelation to the very ends of the earth, and thus to be the instrument of accomplishing one of the sublime predictions of Holy Writ. Ferdinand listened with complacency to these enthusiastic anticipations. With him, however, religion was subservient to interest ; and he had found, in the recent conquest of Granada, that extending the sway of the Church might be made a laudable means of extending his own dominions. According to the

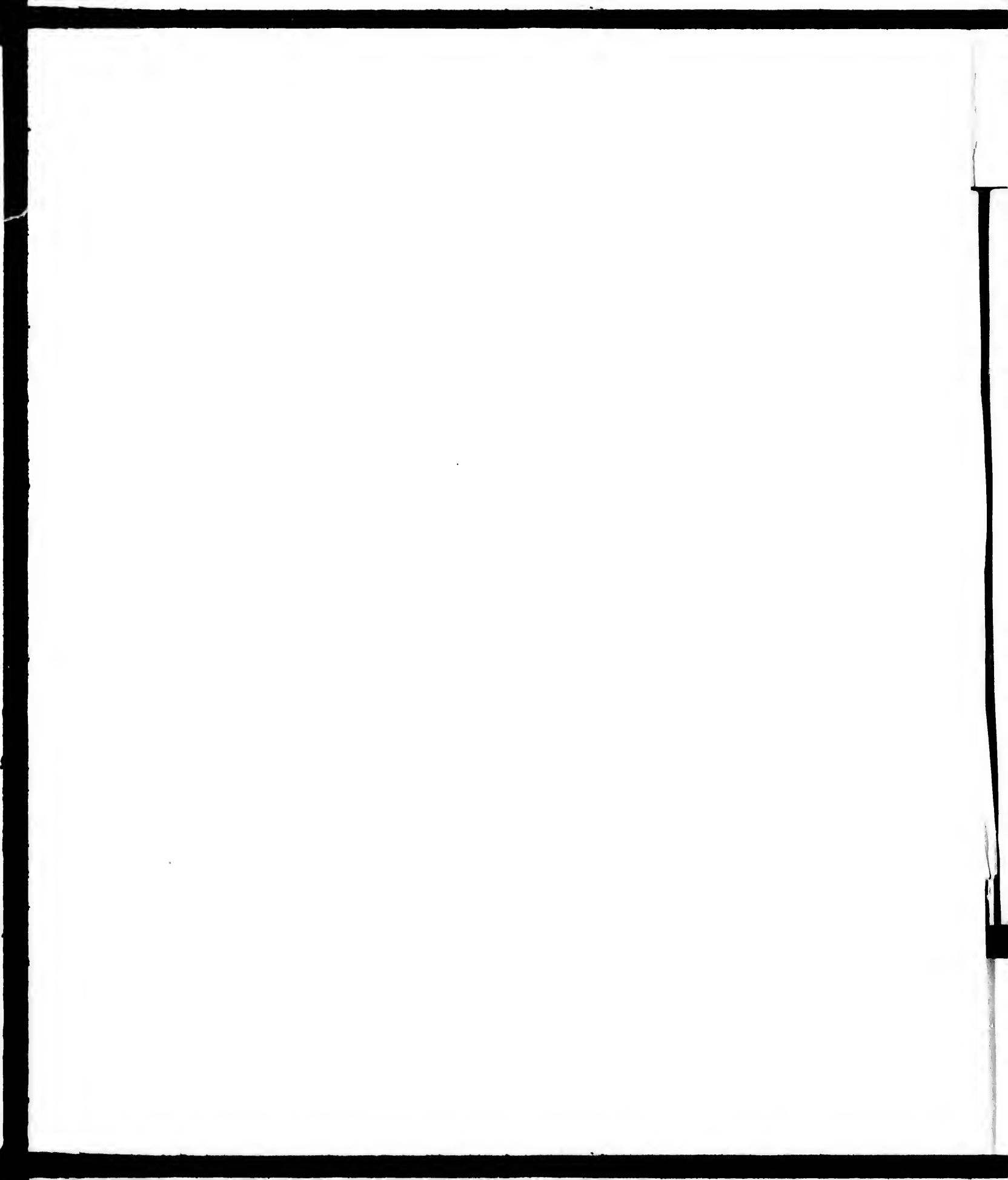


Columbus Received by Isabella.



Columbus Received by Isabella

High School



doctrines of the day, every nation that refused to acknowledge the truths of Christianity was fair spoil for a Christian invader; and it is probable that Ferdinand was more stimulated by the accounts given of the wealth of Cipango, Cathay, and other provinces belonging to the Grand Khan, than by any anxiety for the conversion of him and his semi-barbarous subjects. Isabella had nobler inducements; she was filled with a pious zeal at the idea of effecting such a great work of salvation. From different motives, therefore, both of the sovereigns accorded with the views of Columbus in this particular, and when he afterwards departed on his voyage, letters were actually given him for the Grand Khan of Tartary. The ardent enthusiasm of Columbus did not stop here. Anticipating boundless wealth from his discoveries, he suggested that the treasures thus acquired should be consecrated to the pious purpose of rescuing the holy sepulchre of Jerusalem from the power of the infidels. The sovereigns smiled at

this sally of the imagination, but expressed themselves well pleased with it, and assured him that even without the funds he anticipated, they should be well disposed to that holy undertaking. What the king and queen, however, may have considered a mere sally of momentary excitement, was a deep and cherished design of Columbus. It is a curious and characteristic fact, which has never been particularly noticed, that the recovery of the holy sepulchre was one of the great objects of his ambition, meditated throughout the remainder of his life, and solemnly provided for in his will. In fact, he subsequently considered it the main work for which he was chosen by Heaven as an agent, and that his great discovery was but a preparatory dispensation of Providence to furnish means for its accomplishment.

“A home-felt mark of favor, characteristic of the kind and considerate heart of Isabella, was accorded to Columbus before his departure from the court. An albala, or letter-patent, was issued

by the queen on the 8th of May, appointing his son Diego page to Prince Juan, the heir apparent, with an allowance for his support; an honor granted only to the sons of persons of distinguished rank. Thus gratified in his dearest wishes, after a course of delays and disappointments sufficient to have reduced any ordinary man to despair, Columbus took leave of the court on the 12th of May, and set out joyfully for Palos. Let those who are disposed to faint under difficulties in the prosecution of any great and worthy undertaking remember that eighteen years elapsed after the time that Columbus conceived his enterprise before he was enabled to carry it into effect; that the greater part of that time was passed in almost hopeless solicitation, amidst poverty, neglect, and taunting ridicule; that the prime of his life had wasted away in the struggle, and that when his perseverance was finally crowned with success, he was in his fifty-sixth year. His example should encourage the enterprising never to despair."

“The signing of the contract with Columbus by Ferdinand and Isabella, was a momentous act,” says A. W. Wright. “It marked the certain beginning of an enterprise which had a profound effect upon the welfare of the human race. Advancing civilization had been rapidly paving the way for it. There are ages of special mental activity in which mankind seems to progress much more swiftly than in others. Columbus lived, not only during the revival of classical and other learning, but stood upon the threshold of the greatest advance of physical knowledge within a given time the world has ever known—our own time, perhaps, excepted. . . . The trade to the East by the Mediterranean was mainly in the hands of the Italians, and in the general development of nautical enterprise Castile and Portugal were forced to turn their eyes to the Atlantic. These two nationalities, after a series of quarrels as to new possessions, made a treaty of division, Portugal securing Madeira, the Azores, and the African

coast. Castile took the Canaries and what she might find elsewhere. This apparently losing bargain for the latter confined her to a direction which led to America and the enormous results which followed. At this time, too, what soon became the great empire of Charles V. and Philip II. was founded by the union of Aragon and Castile in the persons of Ferdinand and Isabella. Under these monarchs Spain became a united nation, and the career of the Moors in the peninsula, which had lasted for eight centuries, was terminated."

The written terms which Columbus insisted upon, and to which the sovereigns after holding out some time placed their names, according to Prescott, "constituted Christopher Columbus their Admiral Viceroy, and Governor-General of all such islands and continents as he should discover in the Western Ocean, with the privilege of nominating three candidates for the selection of one by the crown for the government of each of

these territories. He was to be vested with exclusive right of jurisdiction over all commercial transactions within his admiralty. He was to be entitled to one-tenth of all the products and profits within the limits of his discoveries, and an additional eighth provided he should contribute one-eighth part of the expense." He was also to receive the title of Don, which then meant much more than it does now, for himself and his heirs forever. The share of the expense to be defrayed by Columbus was met through a loan from his friends the Pinzons. The amount ventured by the crown in the undertaking was only seventeen thousand florins.

Some writers have commented "upon the hesitation of Ferdinand and Isabella in investing so small a sum in so profitable an enterprise as discovering America; but, considering the circumstances, it was a very bold and advanced thing to do, and Isabella at least was decidedly ahead of the times in her day and generation. No other

monarch in Europe could be induced to take the step so uncertain of results, and she had to overcome the opposition of her husband. Next to Columbus himself should Isabella be honored in whatever ceremonies may be observed in the coming commemoration of the discovery of the New World. She remained his fast friend, and he wrote of her on his third voyage, 'In the midst of the general incredulity the Almighty infused into the Queen, my lady, the spirit of intelligence and energy, and whilst every one else in his ignorance was expatiating on the inconvenience and cost, her Highness approved it, on the contrary, and gave it all the support in her power.'"

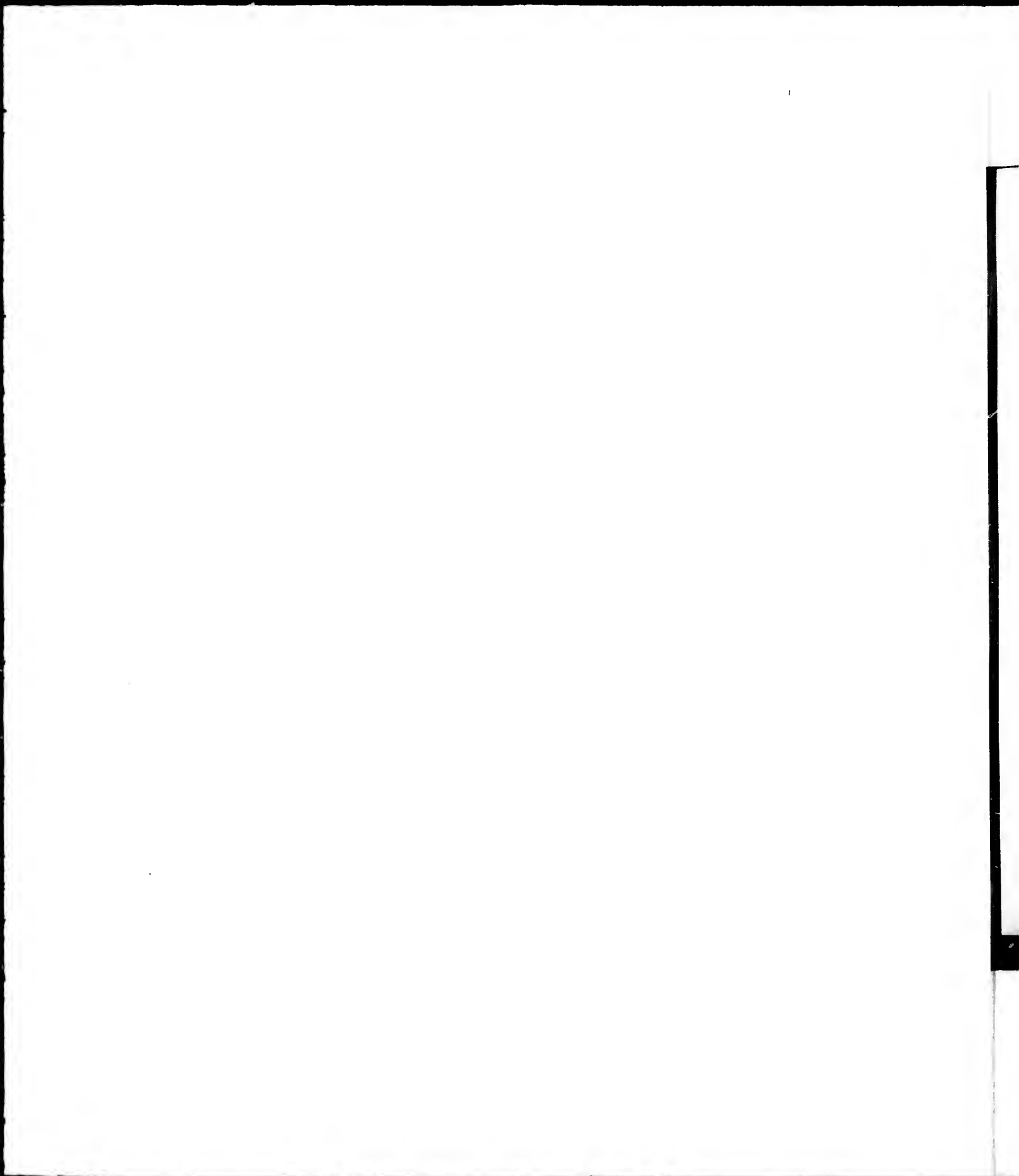


Father Juan and Garcia Hernandez, watching the Departure of Columbus.



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COLUMBUS THE NAVIGATOR.

IV.

ACROSS THE WESTERN OCEAN.

“ Cease, rude Boreas, blustering raider !
 List, ye landsmen all to me ;
Messmates, hear a brother sailor
 Sing the dangers of the sea !”

ON the third of August, 1492, after all the ships' companies had confessed and received the sacrament, the little fleet set sail from the harbor of Palos, and steered straight for the Canary Islands, the nearest land. Columbus's design was evidently to postpone as long as possible the actual plunge into the unknown, out of regard to the feelings of his motley crew. It is worthy of note that the most momentous sea-voyage ever undertaken was begun on a Friday, although down to our own time seamen have continued to regard that day as one of ill-omen. But in this case, at

least, Friday was not inauspicious, although the relatives of those on board the ships bade them farewell as men doomed to certain death.

At the outset Columbus commenced a regular journal for the inspection of his royal patrons on his return—for the sublime faith of the man never doubted but that he would return again to sunny Spain. This diary began with a dignified preface as follows :

“In nomine D. N. Jesu Christi. Whereas most Christian, most high, most excellent, and most powerful princes, king and queen of the Spains, and of the islands of the sea, our sovereigns, in the present year of 1492, after your highnesses had put an end to the war with the Moors who ruled in Europe, and had concluded that warfare in the great city of Granada, where, on the second of January, of this present year, I saw the royal banners of your highnesses placed by force of arms on the towers of the Alhambra, which is the fortress of that city, and beheld the

Moorish king sally forth from the gates of the city, and kiss the royal hands of your highnesses and of my lord the prince; and immediately in that same month, in consequence of the information which I had given to your highnesses of the lands of India, and of a prince who is called the Grand Khan, which is to say in our language, king of kings; how that many times he and his predecessors had sent to Rome to entreat for doctors of our holy faith to instruct him in the same; and that the Holy Father had never provided him with them, and thus so many people were lost, believing in idolatries, and imbibing doctrines of perdition; therefore your highnesses, as Catholic Christians and princes, lovers and promoters of the holy Christian faith, and enemies of the sect of Mahomet, and of all idolatries and heresies, determined to send me, Christopher Columbus, to the said parts of India, to see the said princes, and the people and lands, and discover the nature and disposition of them all, and the

means to be taken for the conversion of them to our holy faith ; and ordered that I should not go by land to the east, by which it is the custom to go, but by a voyage to the west, by which course, unto the present time, we do not know for certain that any one hath passed. Your highnesses, therefore, after having expelled all the Jews from your kingdoms and territories, commanded me, in the same month of January, to proceed with a sufficient armament to the said parts of India ; and for this purpose bestowed great favors upon me, ennobling me, that thenceforward I might style myself Don, appointing me high admiral of the Ocean sea, and perpetual viceroy and governor of all the islands and continents I should discover and gain, and which henceforward may be discovered and gained, in the Ocean sea ; and that my eldest son should succeed me, and so on from generation to generation forever. I departed, therefore, from the city of Granada, on Saturday, the 12th of May, of the same year 1492, to Palos,

a seaport, where I armed three ships well calculated for such service, and sailed from that port well furnished with provisions and with many seamen, on Friday, the 3d of August, of the same year, half an hour before sunrise, and took the route for the Canary Islands of your highnesses, to steer my course thence, and navigate until I should arrive at the Indies, and deliver the embassy of your highnesses to those princes, and accomplish that which you had commanded. For this purpose I intend to write during this voyage, very punctually from day to day, all that I may do, and see, and experience, as will hereafter be seen. Also, my sovereign princes, beside describing each night all that has occurred in the day, and in the day the navigation of the night, I propose to make a chart, in which I will set down the waters and lands of the Ocean sea in their proper situations under their bearings; and further, to compose a book, and illustrate the whole in picture by latitude from the equinoctial, and

longitude from the west; and upon the whole it will be essential that I should forget sleep and attend closely to the navigation to accomplish these things, which will be a great labor." *

A current writer has called attention to the curious fact, already noted, that "it was on a Friday, the 3d of August, 1492, that Columbus left the little island of Saltes on his memorable first voyage, and continues to comment that it was also on a Friday, the 12th of October, that he landed in the New World; that on a Friday he set sail homeward; that on a Friday again, the 15th of February, 1493, land was sighted on his return to Europe; finally, that on a Friday, the 15th of March, he arrived in Palos. What strikes one in perusing the story of the great voyage is how nature aided him in his task. The weather was delightful, and again and again his

* Irving's translation. Two things may be noted in his preface: the religious object of the expedition and the statement that it was not *certainly* known that anyone had previously crossed the Atlantic from Europe to America.

journal says "there could not be a more favorable wind." In the flight of birds, the patches of grass borne on the waves, and other signs of land seemingly not far distant, constant aids were furnished to him in keeping up the courage of his men. But on the return voyage nature squared the account with a winter of almost unprecedented fury, in which his escape from shipwreck was such that he accounted it miraculous. It is a curious speculation, When would the world have heard of what Columbus discovered, had his ships gone down in that fearful return voyage, and had his colony in the West Indies been left to take care of itself?"

The Canaries were reached after a few days' sail with no incident worth recording except the breaking of the *Pinta's* rudder. This was supposed to have been done by design, in hope of forcing the admiral to return to Spain. But such a trifle could not balk a man who had triumphed over the hinderances and discouragements

of near twenty years of waiting. The *Pinta* was repaired, and the cut of the *Nina's* sails altered for the better, and on the sixth of September the fleet set sail from Gomera, their prows pointing due west.

Looking backward, we are lost in admiration at the fortitude which could thus plunge boldly into a trackless and chartless sea. For it must be remembered that Columbus had nothing but hearsay, or tradition, or mere conjecture to support his beliefs. Charts he had none save a rude one prepared by himself, which exhibited the contour of the land toward which he was sailing, as he supposed it to lie. Though this chart no longer exists, it is known to have been based on the globe constructed by Martin Behaim in the year 1492, and which is still in existence. Its crude guesses are enough to make one laugh. The European and African coasts are pretty accurately laid down from Iceland to the Guinea Coast. Opposite to these, on the westward side of

the Atlantic, is situated the coast of Asia, or India, as it was termed. Midway between the two continents is placed the great island of Cipango, corresponding to Japan, and which Marco Polo said was fifteen hundred leagues distant from the Asiatic mainland.

Curiously enough this misplaced Cipango corresponds in situation to the fabled Atlantis. But in the calculations of Columbus he advanced this island—Japan—about three thousand miles too far to the east, and this was the first land he expected to reach.

For three days after leaving Gomera a great calm kept the three ships tossing on the Atlantic swells, with flapping sails, in full sight of the Canary Islands. At length, on the evening of Sunday, the ninth of September, a favoring breeze sprang up, and soon there was nothing to be seen but the boundless circle of sea and sky.

“On losing sight of this last trace of land, the hearts of the crews failed them. They seemed

literally to have taken leave of the world. Behind them was everything dear to the heart of man ; country, family, friends, life itself ; before them everything was chaos, mystery, and peril. In the perturbation of the moment, they despaired of ever more seeing their homes. Many of the rugged seamen shed tears, and some broke into loud lamentations. The admiral tried in every way to soothe their distress, and to inspire them with his own glorious anticipations. He described to them the magnificent countries to which he was about to conduct them ; the islands of the Indian seas teeming with gold and precious stones ; the regions of Cipango and Cathay, with their cities of unrivalled wealth and splendor. He promised them land and riches, and everything that could arouse their cupidity or inflame their imaginations ; nor were these promises made for purposes of mere deception ; he certainly believed that he should realize them all.

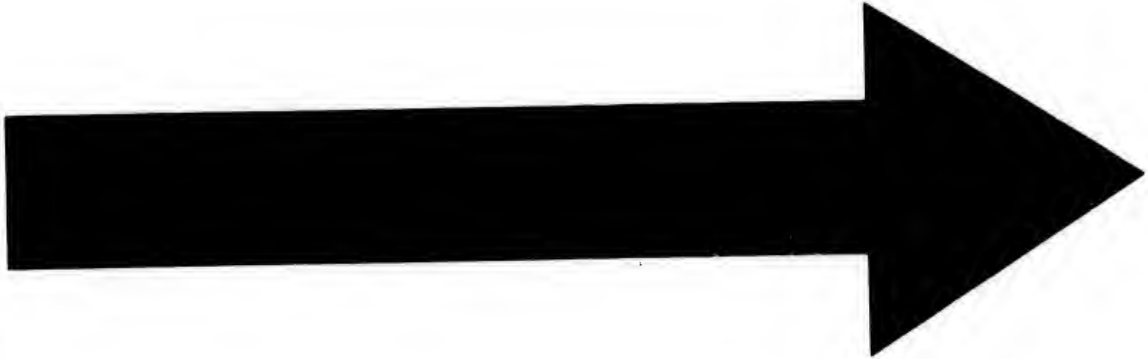
“ He issued orders to the commanders of the

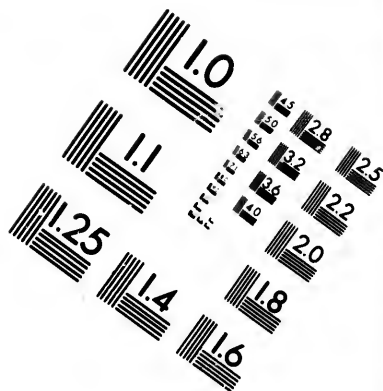
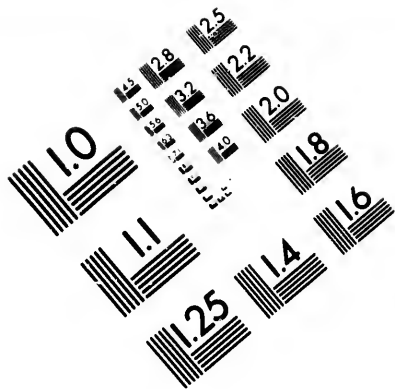
other vessels that, in the event of separation by any accident, they should continue directly westward ; but that after sailing seven hundred leagues they should lay by from midnight until daylight, as at about that distance he confidently expected to find land. In the meantime, as he thought it possible he might not discover land within the distance thus assigned, and as he foresaw that the vague terrors already awakened among the seamen would increase with the space which intervened between them and their homes, he commenced a stratagem* which he continued throughout the voyage. He kept two reckonings ; one correct, in which the true way of the ship was noted, and which was retained in secret for his own government ; in the other, which was open to general inspection, a number of leagues was daily subtracted from the sailing of the ship, so that the crews were kept in ignorance of the real distance they had advanced.

*An old device with Columbus; see Chapter II.

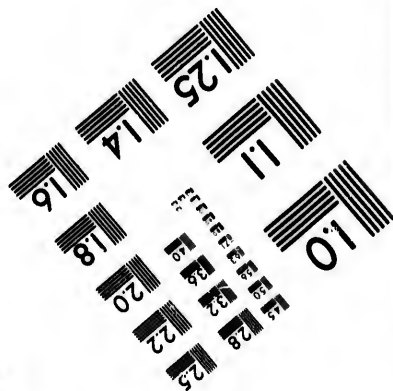
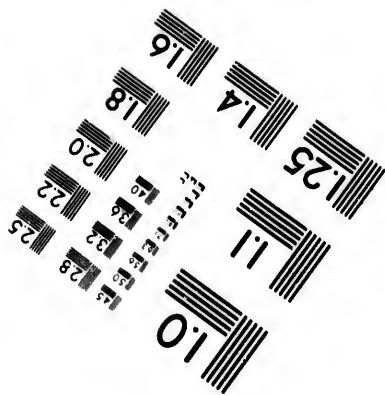
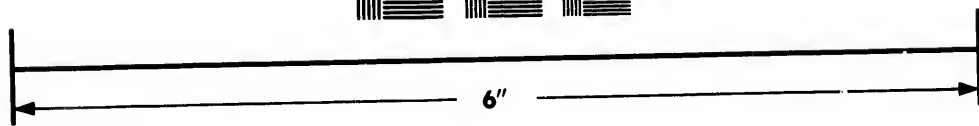
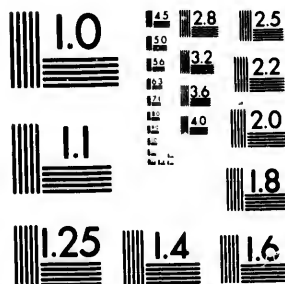
“On the 11th of September, when about one hundred and fifty leagues west of Ferro, they fell in with part of a mast, which from its size appeared to have belonged to a vessel of about a hundred and twenty tons’ burden, and which had evidently been a long time in the water. The crews, tremblingly alive to everything that could excite their hopes or fears, looked with rueful eye upon this wreck of some unfortunate voyager, drifting ominously at the entrance of those unknown seas. On the 13th of September, in the evening, being about two hundred leagues from the island of Ferro, Columbus, for the first time, noticed the variation of the needle,—a phenomenon which had never before been remarked. He perceived, about nightfall, that the needle, instead of pointing to the north star, varied about half a point, or between five and six degrees, to the northwest, and still more on the following morning. Struck with this circumstance, he observed it attentively for three days, and found

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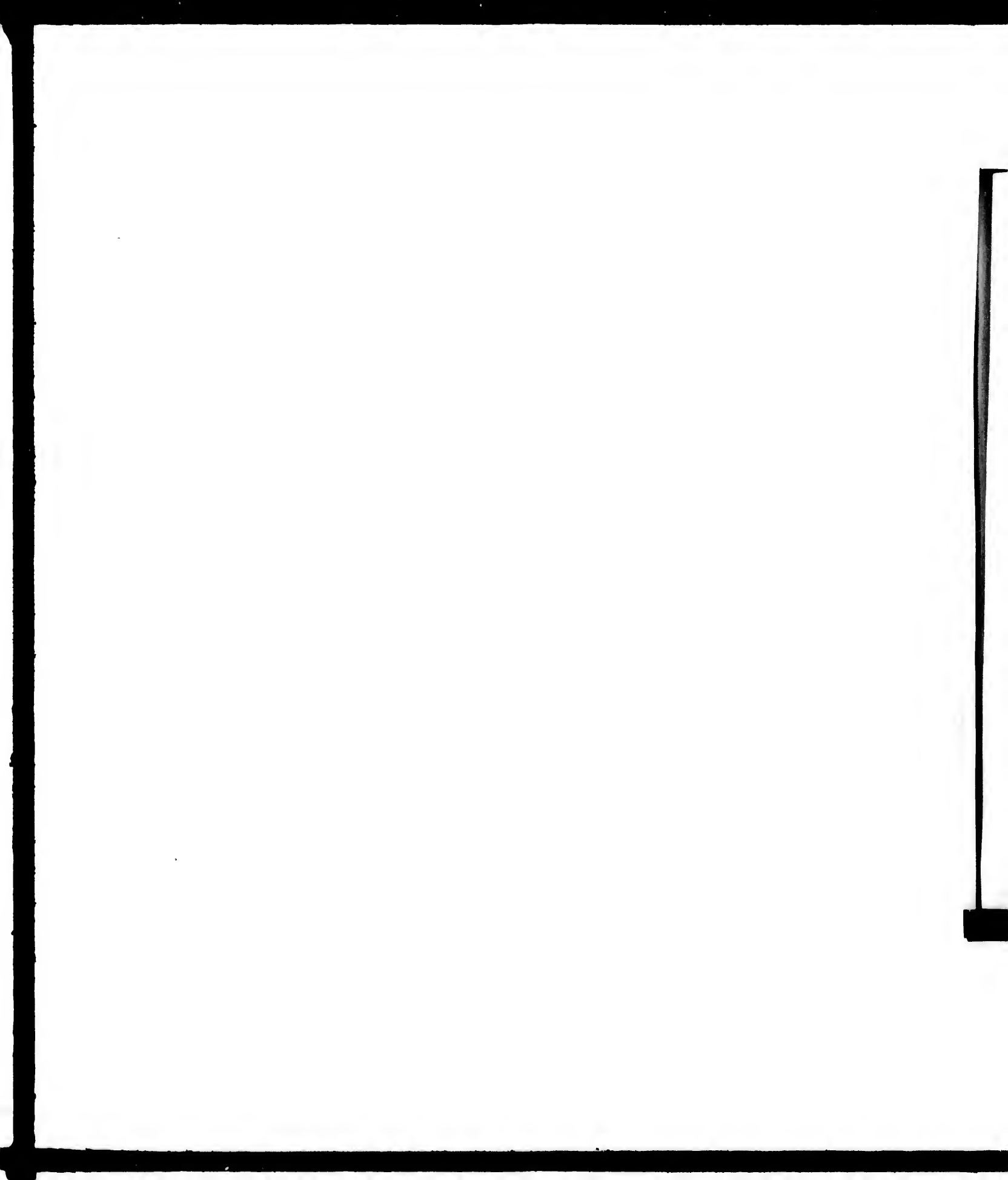
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that the variation increased as he advanced. He at first made no mention of this phenomenon, knowing how ready his people were to take alarm, but it soon attracted the attention of the pilots, and filled them with consternation. It seemed as if the very laws of nature were changing as they advanced, and that they were entering another world, subject to unknown influences. They apprehended that the compass was about to lose its mysterious virtues, and, without this guide, what was to become of them in a vast and trackless ocean?

“Columbus tasked his science and ingenuity for reasons with which to allay their terror. He observed that the direction of the needle was not to the polar star, but to some fixed and invisible point. The variation, therefore, he said, was not caused by any fallacy in the compass, but by the movement of the north star itself, which, like the other heavenly bodies, had its changes and revolutions, and every day described a circle round the

pole. The high opinion which the pilots entertained of Columbus as a profound astronomer gave weight to this theory, and their alarm subsided. As yet the solar system of Copernicus was unknown: the explanation, therefore, was highly plausible and ingenious, and it shows the vivacity of his mind, ever ready to meet the emergency of the moment. The theory may at first have been advanced merely to satisfy the minds of others, but Columbus appears subsequently to have remained satisfied with it himself. The phenomenon has now become familiar to us, but we still continue ignorant of its cause. It is one of those mysteries of nature, open to daily observation and experiment, and apparently simple from their familiarity, but which on investigation make the human mind conscious of its limits; baffling the experience of the practical, and humbling the pride of science."

Throughout the voyage Columbus's diary answered pretty much to the log-book which a modern

sea-captain keeps. All the petty incidents of a sea-voyage which even nowadays lend interest to each day are recorded, as the following extracts show :

“ On the 14th, the sailors of the caravel *Nina* saw two tropical birds, which they said were never wont to be seen at more than fifteen or twenty leagues from shore. On the 15th they all saw a meteor fall from heaven, which made them very sad. On the 16th, they first came upon those immense plains of seaweed (the *fucus natans*), which constitute the Sargasso Sea, and which occupy a space in the Atlantic almost equal to seven times the extent of France. The aspect of these plains greatly terrified the sailors, who thought they might be coming upon submerged lands and rocks ; but finding that the vessels cut their way through this sea-weed, the sailors thereupon took heart. . . . In the morning of the same day they catch a crab, from which Columbus infers that they cannot be more than eighty

leagues distant from land. The 18th, they see many birds, and a cloud in the distance ; and that night they expect to see land. On the 19th, in the morning, comes a pelican (a bird not usually seen twenty leagues from the coast); in the evening, another ; also drizzling rain without wind, a certain sign, as the diary says, of proximity to land.

“ The admiral, however, will not beat about for land, as he concludes that the land which these various natural phenomena give token of, can only be islands, as indeed it proved to be. He will see them on his return ; but now he must press on to the Indies. This determination shows his strength of mind, and indicates the almost certain basis on which his great resolve reposed. Accordingly, he was not to be diverted from the main design by any partial success, though by this time he knew well the fears of his men, some of whom had already come to the conclusion, ‘ that it would be their best plan to throw him quietly into the

sea, and say he unfortunately fell in, while he stood absorbed in looking at the stars.' Indeed, three days after he had resolved to pass on to the Indies, we find him saying, for Las Casas gives his words, 'Very needful for me was this contrary wind, for the people were very much tormented with the idea that there were no winds on these seas that could take them back to Spain.'

"On they go, having signs occasionally in the presence of birds and grass and fish that land must be near; but land does not come. Once, too, they are all convinced that they see land; they sing the 'Gloria in Excelsis;' and even the admiral goes out of his course towards this land, which turns out to be no land. They are like men listening to a dreadful discourse or oration, that seems to have many endings which end not; so that the hearer listens at last in grim despair, thinking that all things have lost their meaning, and that ending is but another form of beginning.

“These mariners were stout-hearted, too ; but what a daring thing it was to plunge, down-hill as it were, into

‘A world of waves, a sea without a shore,
Trackless, and vast, and wild,’

mocked day by day with signs of land that neared not. And these men had left at home all that is dearest to man, and did not bring out any great idea to uphold them, and had already done enough to make them important men in their towns, and to furnish ample talk for the evenings of their lives. Still we find Columbus, as late as the 3d of October, saying, ‘that he did not choose to stop beating about last week during those days that they had such signs of land, although he had knowledge of there being certain islands in that neighborhood, because he would not suffer any detention, since his object was to go to the Indies; and if he should stop on the way it would shew a want of mind.’

“Meanwhile, he had a hard task to keep his

men in any order. Peter Martyr, who knew Columbus well, and had probably been favored with a special account from him of these perilous days, describes his way of dealing with the refractory mariners, and how he contrived to win them onwards from day to day; now soothing them with soft words, now carrying their minds from thought of the present danger by spreading out large hopes before them, not forgetting to let them know what their princees would say to them if they attempted aught against him, or would not obey his orders. With this untutored crowd of wild, frightened men around him, with mocking hopes, not knowing what each day would bring to him, on went Columbus."

He had already, as we have seen, adopted the device of keeping a double-reckoning of the miles sailed—one, for the men, wherein their progress was made to appear slower than was really the case, and a correct reckoning for himself. It must be remembered that the admiral was not sure

of his distances, although he believed that his conjectures would prove to be truths; and in the second place, he did not wish to arouse the fears of the crews by letting them know how many watery leagues intervened between them and home. On the first of October the crew of the *Santa Maria* were told they had sailed five hundred and eighty-four leagues to the westward, but the private reckoning of Columbus showed seven hundred and seven.

Thus far Columbus had steered due west. Time and again the welcome cry of "Land ho!" had rung out from the different vessels, but in each instance it was proved to be a delusive cloud which melted into thin air. When they had sailed seven hundred and fifty leagues, the distance at which the admiral had expected to sight Cipango, even his stout heart began to have its misgivings. Great flocks of small birds were observed flying to the southwest, and remembering the great store which the Portuguese in their

various voyages had set by such indications, he concluded that there must be land in that quarter where the feathered creatures could find rest and food.

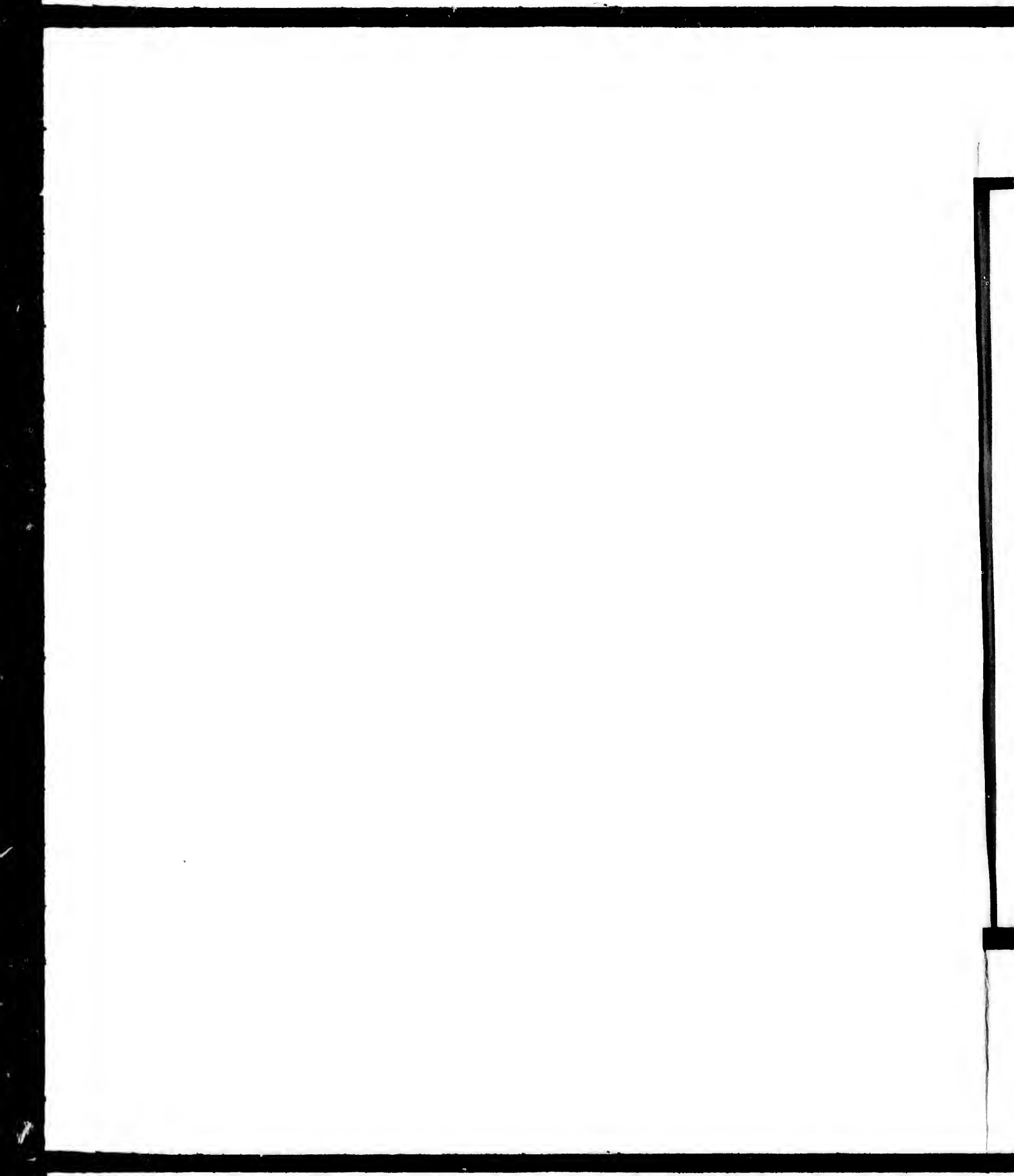
He therefore, on the night of the seventh of October, changed the course to west-south-west. And now the end of the voyage was near. "For three days they stood in this direction, and the further they went the more frequent and encouraging were the signs of land. Flights of small birds of various colors, some of them such as sing in the fields, came flying about the ships, and then continued towards the southwest, and others were heard also flying by in the night. Tunny fish played about the smooth sea, and a heron, a pelican, and a duck, were seen, all bound in the same direction. The herbage which floated by was fresh and green, as if recently from land, and the air, Columbus observes, was sweet and fragrant as April breezes in Seville.

"All these signs, however, were regarded by



The Ships of Columbus's First Voyage.





the crews as so many delusions beguiling them on to destruction ; and when on the evening of the third day they beheld the sun go down upon a shoreless ocean, they broke forth into turbulent clamor. They exclaimed against this obstinacy in tempting fate by continuing on into a boundless sea. They insisted upon turning homeward, and abandoning the voyage as hopeless. Columbus endeavored to pacify them by gentle words and promises of large rewards ; but finding that they only increased in clamor he assumed a decided tone. He told them it was useless to murmur ; the expedition had been sent by the sovereigns to seek the Indies, and, happen what might, he was determined to persevere, until, by the blessing of God, he should accomplish the enterprise." Mr. Butterworth's poem, "The Bird that Sang to Columbus," romantically alludes to the flying visits of the feathered inhabitants of the new lands to the ships of the little fleet :

" Padre,
 As on we go,
 Into the unknown sea,
 The morning splendors rise and glow
 In new horizons still—Padre, you know
 They said in old Seville 'twould not be so;
 They said black deeps and flaming air
 Were ocean's narrow bound ;
 Light everywhere
 We've found,

Padre.

" Behold !
 The fronded palms
 That fan the earth, and hold
 Aloft their mellowed fruit in dusky arms,
 Above these paradises of the sea.
 Hark ! hear the birds.—A land bird said to me
 Upon the mast on that mysterious morn
 Before the new world rose ;
 Sang, and was gone,
 Who knows,

Padre ?

" But he,
 That joyful bird,
 Was sent by heaven to me
 To sing the sweetest song man ever heard !
 He came among the mutiny and strife,
 And sang his song in these new airs of life—
 Sang of the Eden of those glorious seas,
 Then Westward made his flight,
 On the land breeze,
 From sight,

Padre."

" Columbus was now at open defiance with his crew, and his situation became desperate. Fortunately the manifestations of the vicinity of land

were such on the following day as no longer to admit a doubt. Beside a quantity of fresh weeds, such as grow in rivers, they saw a green fish of a kind which keeps about rocks ; then a branch of thorn with berries on it, and recently separated from the tree, floated by them ; then they picked up a reed, a small board, and, above all, a staff artificially carved. All gloom and mutiny now gave way to sanguine expectation ; and throughout the day each one was eagerly on the watch in hopes of being the first to discover the long-sought-for land.

“ In the evening, when, according to invariable custom on board of the admiral’s ship, the mariners had sung the *Salve Regina*, or vesper hymn to the Virgin, he made an impressive address to his crew.* He pointed out the goodness of God in

* In the evening, according to the invariable custom on board the Admiral’s ship, the mariners sang the Vesper Hymn to the Virgin.”—IRVING, Bk. iii., chap. iv.

“ *Ave Maria Stella,*”
Hail thou Star of the Sea !

thus conducting them by soft and favoring breezes across a tranquil ocean, cheering their hopes continually with fresh signs, increasing as their fears augmented, and thus leading and guiding them to a promised land. He now reminded them of the orders he had given on leaving the Canaries, that, after sailing westward seven hundred leagues, they should not make sail after midnight. Present appearances authorized such a precaution. He thought it probable

"*Dei Mater Alma,*"
Sweet mother, we trust in thee.

"*Atque semper Virgo,*"
Virgin for aye remaining,
"*Fatis Cœli porta,*"
Heaven's portal now maintaining.

"*Sumens illud arc,*"
O thou by angel blest,
"*Gabrielis ore,*"
Guard now our nightly rest.

"*Panda nos in pace,*"
Grant us to us thy peace,
"*Mutans Eæe nomen,*"
When life's long toll shall cease.

From the Cantata,

"*The Voyage of Columbus,*" by
DUDLEY BUCK.

they would make land that very night; he ordered, therefore, a vigilant look-out to be kept from the fore-castle, promising to whomsoever should make the discovery a doublet of velvet, in addition to the pension to be given by the sovereigns.

"The breeze had been fresh all day, with more sea than usual, and they had made great progress. At sunset they had stood again to the west, and were ploughing the waves at a rapid rate, the Pinta keeping the lead, from her superior sailing. The greatest animation prevailed throughout the ships; not an eye was closed that night. As the evening darkened, Columbus took his station on the top of the castle or cabin on the high poop of his vessel, ranging his eye along the dusky horizon, and maintaining an intense and unremitting watch. About ten o'clock, he thought he beheld a light glimmering at a great distance. Fearing his eager hopes might deceive him, he called to Pedro Gutierrez, gentleman of

the king's bed-chamber, and inquired whether he saw such a light; the latter replied in the affirmative. Doubtful whether it might not yet be some delusion of the fancy, Columbus called Rodrigo Sanchez of Segovia, and made the same inquiry. By the time the latter had ascended the round-house the light had disappeared. They saw it once or twice afterwards in sudden and passing gleams; as if it were a torch in the bark of a fisherman, rising and sinking with the waves; or in the hand of some person on shore, borne up and down as he walked from house to house. So transient and uncertain were these gleams that few attached any importance to them; Columbus, however, considered them as certain signs of land, and, moreover, that the land was inhabited. They continued their course until two in the morning, when a gun from the Pinta gave the joyful signal of land. It was first descried by a mariner named Rodrigo de Triana; but the reward was afterward adjudged to the admiral, for having pre-

viously perceived the light. The land was now clearly seen about two leagues distant, whereupon they took in sail, and laid to, waiting impatiently for the dawn." Such is Irving's circumstantial and romantic account. It is doubtless near enough to the truth for all present purposes."

"The thoughts and feelings of Columbus in this little space of time," says Irving, "must have been tumultuous and intense. At length, in spite of every difficulty and danger, he had accomplished his object. The great mystery of the ocean was revealed; his theory, which had been the scoff of sages, was triumphantly established; he had secured to himself a glory durable as the world itself.

"It is difficult to conceive the feelings of such a man, at such a moment; or the conjectures which must have thronged upon his mind as to the land before him, covered with darkness. That it was fruitful, was evident from the vegetables which floated from its shores. He thought, too,

that he perceived the fragrance of aromatic groves. The moving light he had beheld proved it the residence of man. But what were its inhabitants? Were they like those of the other parts of the globe; or were they some strange and monstrous race, such as the imagination was prone in those times to give to all remote and unknown regions? Had he come upon some wild island far in the Indian sea; or was this the famed Cipango itself, the object of his golden fancies? A thousand speculations of the kind must have swarmed upon him, as, with his anxious crews, he waited for the night to pass away; wondering whether the morning light would reveal a savage wilderness, or dawn upon spicy groves, and glittering fanes, and gilded cities, and all the splendor of Oriental civilization."

This was the memorable night of the eleventh of October. The next morning, the twelfth,—and again it was a Friday—Columbus first beheld the soil, the trees, and the people of the New World.

Landing in great pomp, with all his captains and their crews, he named the island San Salvador, (its native name was Guanahani) and took formal possession thereof in the name of Ferdinand and Isabella.*

* For many years much uncertainty existed as to the precise spot where Columbus first landed in the New World, and only lately has the moot point been settled. For this distinction we also find many claimants; and perhaps it is not surprising that, since the Bahamas or Lucayos stretch for hundreds of miles and contain hundreds of islands, some of them resembling each other in general character, the chain should contain several that tally more or less with the descriptions preserved to us in the log book of Columbus. The Indians called it Guanahani; Columbus gratefully named it San Salvador. Irving found that tradition pointed to Cat Island as the one seen when that joyful cry of "Land!" was raised from the Pinta, and Humboldt sustained this view. But Navarrete identified it rather with the Grande Salina of the Turk Islands; Varnhagen thought it to be Marignana; Munoz, as early as 1798, pointed out that Watling Island, about fifty miles south-east of Cat Island, was the true land-fall of Columbus; Capt. Fox, favored the claims of the little island called Samana. The claims of Watling Island are supported by Munoz, and by such authorities as A. B. Becher, Peschel, Petermann, Major, and Blake. Gov. Blake is in some respects the most important, because his conclusions were those of personal study while he was Governor of the Bahamas, and were reached by going from island to island with a copy of the log book of Columbus in his hand and following his course.

"About midnight between the 11th and 12th of October," says a recent writer, "Columbus, on watch, thought he saw a light moving in the darkness. He called a companion, and the two in counsel agreed that it was so. It may have been on an island or in some canoe; or just as likely a mere delusion. The fact that

It was a mere islet of the Bahama group, but to Columbus it represented a world. Though apparently uncultivated it seemed to be teeming with population, the natives soon becoming ob-

Columbus at a later day set up a claim for the reward for the first discovery on the strength of this mysterious light. to the exclusion of the poor sailor who first actually saw land from the *Pinta*, has subjected his memory to some discredit, at least with those who reckon magnanimity among the virtues. At about 2 o'clock, the moon then shining, a mariner on the *Pinta* discerned unmistakably a low, sandy shore. In the morning a landing was made, and with prayer and ceremony, possession was taken of the new-found island in the name of the Spanish sovereigns." What land was this? Fox, working out Columbus's log, shows that he had sailed 3,458 miles. Unknown currents had helped him. The actual distance from Palos, in Spain to the islands he might have landed on shows an excess over the distance logged, to Grand Turk, 624 miles; to Marignana, 426; to Watling, 353; to Cat, 317; to Samana, 387. Columbus speaks of the island as "small" and again as "pretty large." He calls it very level, with abundance of water and a very large lagoon in the middle, and it was in the last month of the rainy season, when the low parts of the islands are usually flooded.

I.—Cat, or San Salvador. Alexander S. Mackenzie of the United States Navy worked out the problem for Irving, and this island is fixed upon in the latter's "Life of Columbus."

II.—Watling's Island is thirteen miles long by about six broad, with a height of 140 feet, and having about one-third of its interior water. This island was suggested by Munoz in 1793, and is advocated by Capt. Becher, R. N., Pescher and R. H. Major, and is most carefully worked out by Lieut. J. B. Murdock, U. S. N.

III.—Grand Turk is five and one-half by one and a quarter miles; its highest part seventy feet, and one-third of its surface is interior water. Navarrete, Kettell and George Gibbs adopted Grand Turk, and Major followed them in his first edition.

IV.—Marignana is twenty-three and a half miles long by an

jects of interest to the Spaniards, while the latter excited awe and veneration on the part of the islanders, who thought them gods from heaven. "The appearance of the natives," says Irving, "gave no promise of either wealth or civilization, for they were entirely naked, and painted with a variety of colors. With some it was confined merely to a part of the face, the nose, or around the eyes; with others it extended to the whole body, and gave them a wild and fantastic appearance. Their complexion was of a tawny or copper hue, and they were entirely destitute of beards. Their hair was not crisped, like the then recently-discovered tribes of the African coast, under the same latitude, but straight and coarse, partly cut

average of four wide: rises 101 feet, and has no interior water. It is argued for by De Varnhagen of Santiago de Chile.

V.—Samana or Attwood's Cay, is nine miles long by one and a half wide, with the highest ridge 100 feet. It is now uninhabited, but contains evidences of aboriginal habitation. It has been selected for the landfall by Gustavus V. Fox in the United States Coast Survey Report for 1880.

Watling's Island (II.) may be accepted as the landfall, though the matter of identification is of small importance alongside of the great historic fact that hereabouts land was discovered.

short above the ears, but some locks were left long behind and falling upon their shoulders. Their features, though obscured and disfigured by paint, were agreeable; they had lofty foreheads and remarkably fine eyes. They were of moderate stature and well shaped; most of them appeared to be under thirty years of age; there was but one female with them, quite young, naked like her companions, and beautifully formed. As Columbus supposed himself to have landed on an island at the extremity of India, he called the natives by the general appellation of Indians, which was universally adopted before the true nature of his discovery was known, and has since been extended to all the aboriginals of the New World.

“The islanders were friendly and gentle. Their only arms were lances, hardened at the end by fire, or pointed with a flint, or the teeth or bone of a fish. There was no iron to be seen, nor did they appear acquainted with its properties; for, when a drawn sword was presented to

them, they unguardedly took it by the edge. Columbus distributed among them colored caps, glass beads, hawk's bells, and other trifles, such as the Portuguese were accustomed to trade with among the natives of the gold coast of Africa. They received them eagerly, hung the beads round their necks and were wonderfully pleased with their finery, and with the sound of the bells. The Spaniards remained all day on shore refreshing themselves after their anxious voyage amidst the beautiful groves of the island, and returned on board late in the evening, delighted with all they had seen.

“ On the following morning, at break of day, the shore was thronged with the natives; some swam off to the ships, others came in light barks which they called canoes, formed of a single tree, hollowed, and capable of holding from one man to the number of forty or fifty. These they managed dexterously with paddles, and, if overturned, swam about in the water with perfect un-

concern, as if in their natural element, righting their canoes with great facility, and baling them with calabashes. They were eager to procure more toys and trinkets, not, apparently, from any idea of their intrinsic value, but because everything from the hands of the strangers possessed a supernatural virtue in their eyes, as having been brought from heaven ; they even picked up fragments of glass and earthenware as valuable prizes. They had but few objects to offer in return, except parrots, of which great numbers were domesticated among them, and cotton yarn, of which they had abundance, and would exchange large balls of five-and-twenty pounds' weight for the merest trifle. They brought also cakes of a kind of bread called cassava, which constituted a principal part of their food, and was afterwards an important article of provisions with the Spaniards. It was formed from a great root called yuca, which they cultivated in fields. This they cut into small morsels, which they grated or scraped and strained

in a press, making a broad thin cake, which was afterwards dried hard, and would keep for a long time, being steeped in water when eaten. It was insipid, but nourishing, though the water strained from it in the preparation was a deadly poison. There was another kind of yuca destitute of this poisonous quality, which was eaten in the root, either boiled or roasted,

“The avarice of the discoverers was quickly excited by the sight of small ornaments of gold, worn by some of the natives in their noses. These the latter gladly exchanged for glass beads and hawks’ bells; and both parties exulted in the bargain, no doubt admiring each other’s simplicity. As gold, however, was an object of royal monopoly in all enterprises of discovery, Columbus forbade any traffic in it without his express sanction; and he put the same prohibition on the traffic for cotton, reserving to the crown all trade for it, wherever it should be found in any quantity.

“He inquired of the natives where this gold

was procured. They answered him by signs, pointing to the south, where, he understood them, dwelt a king of such wealth that he was served in vessels of wrought gold. He understood, also, that there was land to the south, the southwest, and the northwest: and that the people from the last mentioned quarter frequently proceeded to the southwest in quest of gold and precious stones, making in their way descents upon the islands and carrying off the inhabitants. Several of the natives showed him scars of wounds received in battles with these invaders. A great part of this fancied intelligence was self-delusion on the part of Columbus; for he was under a spell of the imagination, which gave its own shapes and colors to every object. He was persuaded that he had arrived among the islands described by Marco Polo, as lying opposite to Cathay, in the Chinese Sea, and he construed everything to accord with the account given of those opulent regions. Thus the enemies which the natives spoke of as coming

from the northwest he concluded to be the people of the mainland of Asia, the subjects of the great Khan of Tartary, who were represented by the Venetian traveller as accustomed to make war upon the islands, and to enslave their inhabitants. The country to the south, abounding in gold, could be no other than the famous island of Cipango; and the king who was served out of vessels of gold must be the monarch whose magnificent city and gorgeous palace, covered with plates of gold, had been extolled in such splendid terms by Marco Polo."

The smallness of San Salvador made Columbus deem it not worth colonizing, and having taken in a fresh supply of water they set sail once more. But he was at a loss which way to steer, although he had no doubt but that he "was among the islands described by Marco Polo as studding the vast sea of Chin or China, and lying at a great distance from the mainland. These, according to the Venetian, amounted to between seven and eight

thousand, and abounded with drugs and spices and odoriferous trees, together with gold and silver."

Within sight on every hand were other islands similar to San Salvador, which the natives asserted were, like it, green and luxuriously fertile and populous. About fifteen miles away was one island, larger than San Salvador, whose inhabitants were asserted to be richer than their neighbors, wearing gold ornaments in profusion. The magic name of "gold" was enough to fire every heart on board the fleet; Columbus himself, believing that he was among the opulent Indies, was dazzled at the idea of exploring so rich an archipelago. The next day they anchored off the second island, which was also annexed to Spain, and which Columbus named Santa Maria de la Concepcion. The same scenes were repeated that had occurred at San Salvador, and the natives were found to be in similar circumstances and of the same dispositions—utterly devoid of all that the

Spaniards regarded as wealth, and extremely gentle and simple. There was no gold and no sign of any.

Upwards of two weeks were spent by Columbus cruising about among these islands of the Bahama group, seeking in vain to find an imaginary monarch and a clue to the riches which he was positive existed in this region. One delusion after another was swept away, but others rose to fill their places. A few gold trinkets were found on the natives, and on questioning them as to where this was procured Columbus learned of a great island to the south called Cuba; his own hopes and wishes so colored the accounts of the simple people that he "understood it to be of great extent, abounding in gold and pearls and spices, carrying on an extensive commerce in these articles in large merchant ships." The natives in speaking of this island used the word "Cubana-can;" they merely meant "the center of Cuba;" but here was the talisman which Columbus sought!

This must be the land of Kublai Khan, the rich Cipango of Marco Polo and other romancers. So, on October 24, every sail was spread to the breeze, the fleet steered west-south-west, and after three days' sailing, on the morning of October 28th, came in sight of Cuba, then as now, the Pearl of the Antilles.

But here also they found no gold, nor pearls, nor spices. When they showed the natives samples of cinnamon and dye-woods they declared that these things grew only to the southward. Convinced, however, that he was on the shores of Cipango, Columbus pushed inland by way of a river to find the king, named Guancanagari, by whom he was received most cordially—but he was not the great, the all-powerful Grand Khan.

However, two commodities in use by the natives came to the notice of the Spaniards, though at first they accounted them of no value. The first was the potato, and the second was tobacco; the last, "commercially speaking, proved more pro-

ductive to the Spanish crown than all the gold mines of the Indies."

While sojourning on the coast of Cuba, Martin Alonzo Pinzon deserted with the *Pinta*. He had heard from the natives of a certain island whence all the gold was said to come, and hoped to forestall Columbus in the discovery of this El Dorado. Thus early in the history of the Spanish dominion in the New World did the greed for gold manifest itself. Pinzon did secure a large amount of the precious metal by barter; one half he kept for himself, the rest he divided among his crew to secure their silence. Here, also, the admiral's ship, the *Santa Maria*, was wrecked on a reef through disobedience of orders on the part of her pilot. With her timbers Columbus built a fort, which he called La Navidad, having determined to leave a colony in Cuba. This he did, entrusting its care to a small band of his followers, whom he commended to the care of the good king Guacanagari. The admiral then shifted his flag to the *Nina*, the only vessel left to the admiral.

It is worthy of note that Columbus never entirely circumnavigated Cuba, and to the day of his death supposed that it was a part of the mainland of America!

Naturally Columbus was anxious to return to Spain, to announce his triumph. His fleet was reduced in strength, and his remaining vessel was badly strained. So, after making such repairs as were possible, the admiral set sail for Spain on the 4th of January, 1493, taking several natives with him to exhibit to the Old World. Scarcely had the anchor been weighed, however, when the *Pinta* hove in sight, which was all the more welcome since the *Nina* was the smallest of the fleet. Pinzon explained his desertion on the plea that he had been forced to part company by stress of weather, and Columbus accepted his excuses, though he did not believe them. Some writers have thought it more than probable that Pinzon, in possession of private information, had been off on a little search on his own account.

They coasted along the island of Hispaniola, or Hayti, as far as the Bay of Samana, and at last, on the sixteenth of January, left this bay homeward bound, although the admiral deviated from his course at first in the hope of finding the island of Babeque, peopled with Amazons, described by Marco Polo, of which he had understood the natives of Hayti to give him intelligence. Such a discovery would be, he considered, a conclusive proof of the identity of his new country with Marco Polo's Indies, and when four natives offered to act as his guides he thought it worth while to steer (in the direction of Martinique) in quest of the fabulous Amazonians. But the breeze blew towards Spain; home-sickness took possession of the crews; murmurs arose at the prolongation of the voyage among the currents and reefs of those strange seas; and, in deference to the universal wish of his companions, Columbus soon abandoned all idea of further discovery, and resumed his course for Europe.

“At first the voyage was tranquil enough, though the adverse trade-winds and the bad sailing of the *Pinta* retarded the progress of both vessels. But on the twelfth of February a storm overtook them, and became more and more furious, until on the fourteenth it rose to a hurricane, before which Pinzon's vessel could only drift helplessly, while the *Nina* was able to set a close-reefed foresail, which kept her from being buried in the trough of the sea. In the evening both caravels were sending under bare poles, and when darkness fell, and the signal light of the *Pinta* gleamed farther and farther off, through the blinding spray, until at last it could be seen no more, when his panic-stricken crew gave themselves up to despair, as the winds howled louder and louder, and the seas burst over his frail vessel—then, indeed, without a single skilled navigator to advise or to aid him, Columbus must have felt himself alone with the tempest and the night. But his brave heart bore him up, and his wonderful ca-

capacity for devising expedients on sudden emergencies did not forsake him. As the stores were consumed, the *Nina* felt the want of the ballast which Columbus had intended to take on board at the Amazonian island. 'Fill the empty casks with water,' he said, 'and let them serve as ballast,' an expedient which has grown common enough now, but which then was probably original."

During the height of the storm Columbus and his crew, after the manner of the time, made a vow to the Virgin that they would all go in pilgrimage on foot to the first shrine they met should they be permitted to reach land. This vow was productive of some unlooked-for consequences, as will be seen. After the *Pinta* disappeared the thought that the whole history of his discovery rested on the safety of the frail *Nina* filled Columbus with dismay, so he penned a brief account of what he had accomplished, and sealed it up in a stout cask, which was committed to the waves.

In 1858, says Sir Arthur Helps, a paragraph went the rounds of the English press affirming that this cask had been picked up by the ship *Chieftain* on the coast of Africa, but the story was a hoax.

After nearly a week of fierce tempests, the battered little *Nina* succeeded in reaching the island of St. Mary's, in the Azores. On the following day the ship's company proceeded on shore to fulfil their vow to the Virgin at a small hermitage or chapel on the coast. One half of the crew went on shore, barefoot and in their shirts, Columbus remaining on board with the other half to await their return. While the first party were at their devotions, the Portuguese Governor, Castaneda, surrounded them, and made them all prisoners. Supposing that this action proceeded from the Portuguese hostility to himself, Columbus was much perplexed. The next day the weather became so tempestuous that they were driven from their anchorage, and obliged to stand to sea toward the island of St. Michael. For two days the

ship continued beating about in great peril, half of her crew being detained on shore, the greater part of those on board being landsmen and Indians, almost equally useless in difficult navigation. Fortunately, although the waves ran high, there were none of those cross seas which had recently prevailed, otherwise, being so feebly manned, the caravel could scarcely have lived through the storm.

“On the evening of the 22d, the weather having moderated, Columbus returned to his anchorage at St. Mary's. Shortly after his arrival, a boat came off, bringing two priests and a notary. After a cautious parley and an assurance of safety, they came on board, and requested the sight of the papers of Columbus, on the part of Castaneda, assuring him that it was the disposition of the governor to render him every service in his power, provided he really sailed in the service of the Spanish sovereigns. Columbus supposed it a manœuvre of Castaneda to cover a retreat from

the hostile position he had assumed ; restraining his indignation, however, and expressing his thanks for the friendly disposition of the governor, he showed his letters of commission, which satisfied the priests and the notary. On the following morning the boat and mariners were liberated. The latter, during their detention, had collected information from the inhabitants which elucidated the conduct of Castaneda.

“ The king of Portugal, jealous lest the expedition of Columbus might interfere with his own discoveries, had sent orders to his commanders of islands and distant ports to seize and detain him wherever he should be met with. In compliance with these orders, Castaneda had, in the first instance, hoped to surprise Columbus in the chapel, and, failing in that attempt, had intended to get him in his power by stratagem, but was deterred by finding him on his guard. Such was the first reception of the admiral on his return to the Old World, an earnest of the crosses and troubles

with which he was to be requited throughout the remainder of his life."

On the twenty-fourth of February the *Nina* again steered for Spain, and after encountering another fearful gale came to anchor in the Tagus on the fourth of March. To the King of Portugal Columbus, being in his dominions, sent a despatch announcing his arrival, and received a pressing invitation to come to the court. This he accepted, as he says, "in order not to show mistrust, although he disliked it," and the highest honors were showered upon the gallant navigator.

Columbus wisely declined the offer of a safe-conduct to Spanish soil by land, and on the 13th of March left the Tagus for the harbor of Palos, which he reached on the 15th—again on a Friday.

"The enthusiasm and excitement aroused by the success of the expedition were unbounded. At Palos, especially, where few families had not a personal interest in some of the band of ex-

plorers, the little community was filled with extraordinary delight. Not an individual member of the expedition but was elevated into a hero—not a debtor or a criminal whom the charter of immunity had led, rather than bear the ills he had, to fly to others that he knew not of—but had expiated his social misdeeds, and had become a person of consideration and an object of enthusiasm. The court was at Barcelona. Immediately on his arrival Columbus despatched a letter to the king and queen, stating in general terms the success of his project; and proceeded forthwith to present himself in person to their highnesses. Almost at the same time, the *Pinta*, which had been separated from her consort in the first storm which they encountered, made the port of Bayonne, whence Pinzon had forwarded a letter to the sovereigns, announcing 'his' discoveries, and proposing to come to court and give full intelligence as to them. Columbus, whom he probably supposed to have perished at sea, he seems to have

ignored utterly, and when he received a reply from the king and queen, directing him not to go to court without the admiral, chagrin and grief overcame him to such an extent that he took to his bed; and if any man ever died from mental distress and a broken heart, that man was Martin Alonzo Pinzon."

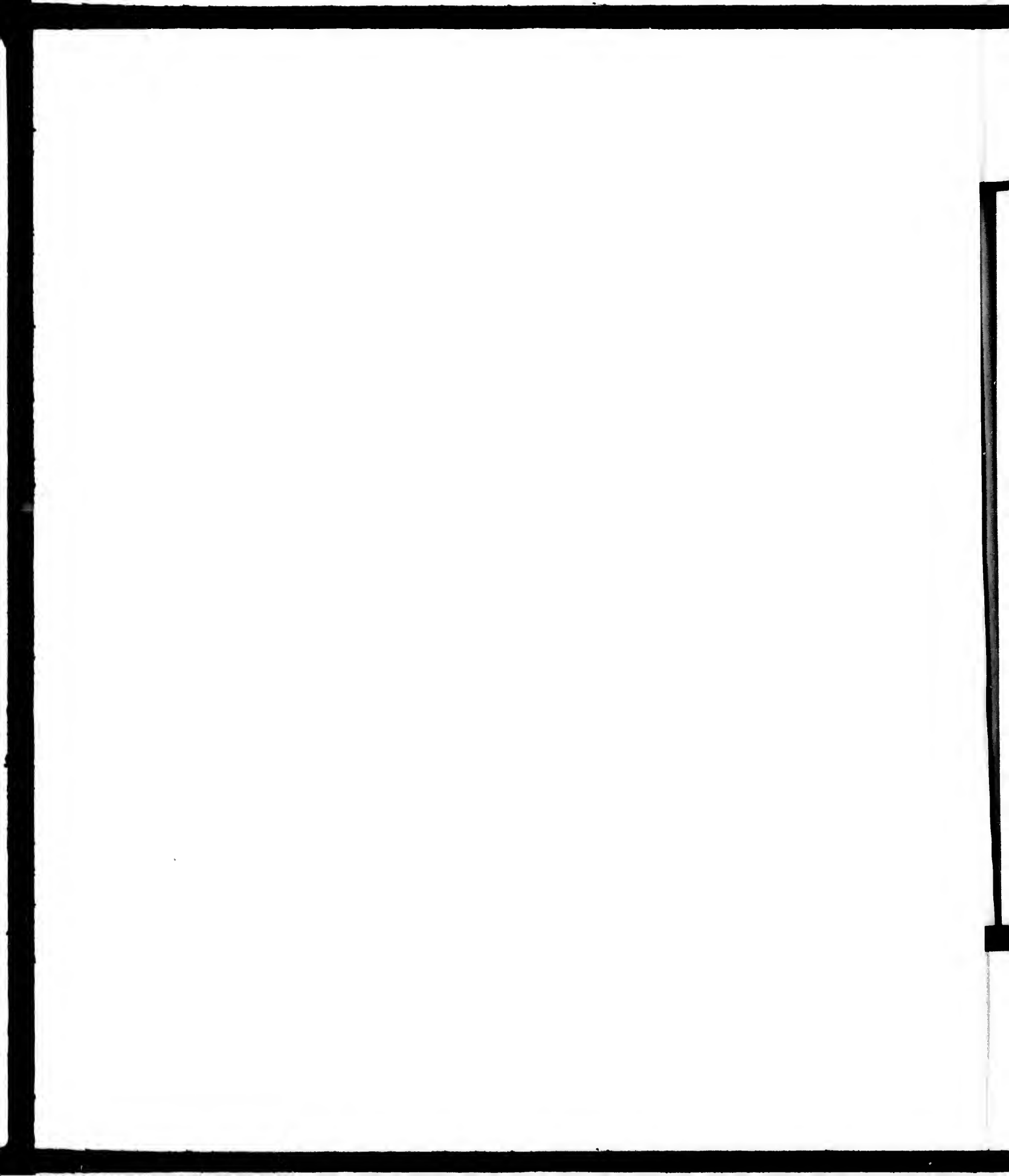
Columbus was now the foremost man in all the Spanish peninsula, and, indeed, in the whole world. "The court prepared a solemn reception for the admiral at Barcelona, where the people poured out in such numbers to see him that the streets could not contain them. A triumphal procession like his the world had not yet seen. The captives that accompanied a Roman general's car might be strange barbarians of a tribe from which Rome had not before had slaves. But barbarians were not unknown creatures. Here, with Columbus, were beings of a new world. Here was the conqueror, not of man, but of nature, not of flesh and blood, but of the fearful



Columbus Presenting an "Indian" to Ferdinand and Isabella.



Christopher Columbus
Columbus Presenting an "Indian" to Ferdinand and Isabella.



unknown, of the elements, and, more than all, of the prejudices of centuries. We may imagine the rumors that must have gone before his coming. And now he was there. Ferdinand and Isabella had their thrones placed in the presence of the assembled court. Columbus approached the monarchs, and then, 'his countenance beaming with modest satisfaction,' knelt at the king's feet, and begged leave to kiss their highnesses' hands. They gave their hands; then they bade him rise, and he seated before them. He recounted briefly the events of his voyage—a story more interesting than the tale told in the court of Dido by Æneas, like whom he had almost perished close to home—and he concluded his unpretending narrative by showing what new things and creatures he had brought with him. Ferdinand and Isabella fell on their knees, giving thanks to God with many tears; and then the choristers of the royal chapel closed the grand ceremonial by singing the 'Te Deum.' Afterwards men walked

home grave and yet happy, having seen the symbol of a great work, something to be thought over for many a generation."

The agreement between Columbus and their Catholic Majesties was carried out to the letter; the title of "Don" was bestowed on him, together with a special coat of arms. The sovereigns applied to the Pope for a grant of the lands to be discovered in the "Indies," and, to appease the rival thrones of Spain and Portugal, "the Pontiff divided the Spanish and Portuguese Indian sovereignties by a line drawn from pole to pole one hundred leagues west of the Azores and the Cape de Verde Islands."

In his "Songs of History" Hezekiah Butterworth has thrillingly described the triumph of Columbus under the title, "The Thanksgiving for America." We give the poem entire:

I.

"Twas night upon the Darro.
The risen moon above the shadowy tower

Of Comares shone, the silver sun of night,
And poured its lustrous splendors through the halls
Of the Alhambra.

The air was breathless,
Yet filled with ceaseless songs of nightingales,
And odors sweet of falling orange blooms ;
The misty lamps were burning odorous oil ;
The uncurtained balconies were full of life,
And laugh and song, and airy castanets,
And gay guitars.

Afar Sierras rose,
Domes, towers, and pinnacles, over royal heights,
Whose crowns were gemmed with stars.

The Generalife,
The summer palace of old Moorish kings
In vanished years, stood sentinel afar,
A pile of shade, as brighter grew the moon,
Impearling fountain sprays, and shimmering
On seas of citron orchards cool and green,
And terraces embowered with vernal vines
And breathing flowers.

In shadowy arcades
Were loitering priests, and here and there
A water-carrier passed with tinkling bells.

There came a peal of horns,
That woke Granada, city of delights,
From its long moonlight reverie. Again :-
The suave lute ceased to play, and castanet ,
The water-bearer stopped, and ceased his song
The wandering troubadour.

Then rent the air
Another joyous peal, and oped the gates

And entered there a train of cavaliers,
Their helmets glittering in the low red moon.

The streets and balconies
All danced with wondering life. The train moved on,
And filled the air again the horns melodious,
And loud the heralds shouted :—

*“ Thy name, O Fernando, through all earth shall be
sounded,
Columbus has triumphed, his foes are confounded.”*

A silence followed,
Could such tidings be ? Men heard and whispered,
Eyes glanced to eyes, feet uncertain moved,
Never on mortal ears had fallen words
Like these. And was the earth a star ?

On marched the cavaliers,
And pealed again the horns, and again cried
The heralds :—

*“ Thy name Isabella, through all earth shall be sounded ;
Columbus has triumphed, his foes are confounded ! ”*

All hearts were thrilled.
“ Isabella ! ” That name breathed faith and hope
And lofty aim. Emotion swayed the crowds ;
Tears flowed, and acclamations rose, and rushed
The wondering multitudes towards the plaza.
“ Isabella ! Isabella ! ” it filled
The air—that one word “ Isabella ! ”

And now
'Tis noon of night. The moon hangs near the earth—
A golden moon in golden air ; the peaks

Like silver tents of shadowy sentinels
 Glint 'gainst the sky. The plaza gleams and surges
 Like a sea. The joyful horns peal forth again,
 And falls a hush, and cry the heralds :—

*“ Thy name, Isabella, shall be praised by all the living ;
 Hasten, haste to Barcelona, and join the Great Thanks-
 giving ! ”*

What nights had seen Granada !
 Yet never one like this ! The moon went down,
 And fell the wings of shadow, yet the streets
 Still swarmed with people hurrying on and on.

II.

Morn came,
 With bursts of nightingales and quivering fires.
 The cavaliers rode forth towards Barcelona.
 The city followed, throbbing with delight.
 The happy troubadour, the muleteer,
 The craftsmen all, the boy and girl, and e'en
 The mother—'twas a soft spring morn ;
 The fairest skies of earth those April morns
 In Andalusia. Long was the journey,
 But the land was flowers, and nights were not,
 And birds sang all the hours, and breezes cool
 Fanned all the ways along the sea.

The roads were filled
 With hurrying multitudes. For well 'twas known
 That he the conqueror, viceroy of the isles,
 Was riding from Seville to meet the king.
 And what were conquerors before to him whose eye
 Had seen the world a star, and found the star a world ?

Once he had walked
The self-same ways, roofless and poor and sad,
A beggar at old convent doors, and heard
The very children jeer him in the streets,
And ate his crust, and made his roofless bed
Upon the flowers beside his boy, and prayed,
And found in trust a pillow radiant
With dreams immortal. Now ?

III.

That was a glorious day
That dawned on Barcelona. Banners filled
The thronging towers, the old bells rung, and blasts
Of lordly trumpets seemed to reach the sky
Cerulean. All Spain had gathered there,
And waited there his coming ; Castilian knights,
Gay cavaliers, hidalgos young, and e'en the old
Puissant grandees of far Aragon,
With glittering mail, and waving plumes, and all
The peasant multitude with bannerets
And charms and flowers.

Beneath pavilions
Of brocades of gold, the Court had met.
The dual crowns of Leon old and proud Castile
There waited him, the peasant mariner.

The trumpets waited
Near the open gates ; the minstrels young and fair
Upon the tapestries and arras'd walls,
And everywhere from all the happy provinces
The wandering troubadours.

Afar was heard
A cry, a long acelalm. Afar was seen

A proud and stately steed with nodding plumes,
Bridled with gold, whose rider stately rode,
And still afar a long and sinuous train
Of silvery cavaliers. A shout arose,
And all the city, all the vales and hills,
With silvery trumpets rung.

He came, the Genoese,
With reverent look and calm and lofty mien,
And saw the wondering eyes and heard the cries
And trumpet peals, as one who followed still
Some Guide unseen.

Before his steed
Crowned Indians marched with lowly faces,
And wondered at the new world that they saw ;
Gay parrots shouted from their gold-bound arms,
And from their crests swept airy plumes. The sun
Shone full in splendor on the scene, and here
The old and new world met. But—

IV.

Hark ! the heralds !
How they thrill all hearts and fill all eyes with tears !
The very air seems throbbing with delight ;
Hark ! hark ! the cry, in chorus all they cry :—

“ *A Castilla y à Leon, à Castilla y à Leon,
Nuero mundo dio Colon !* ”

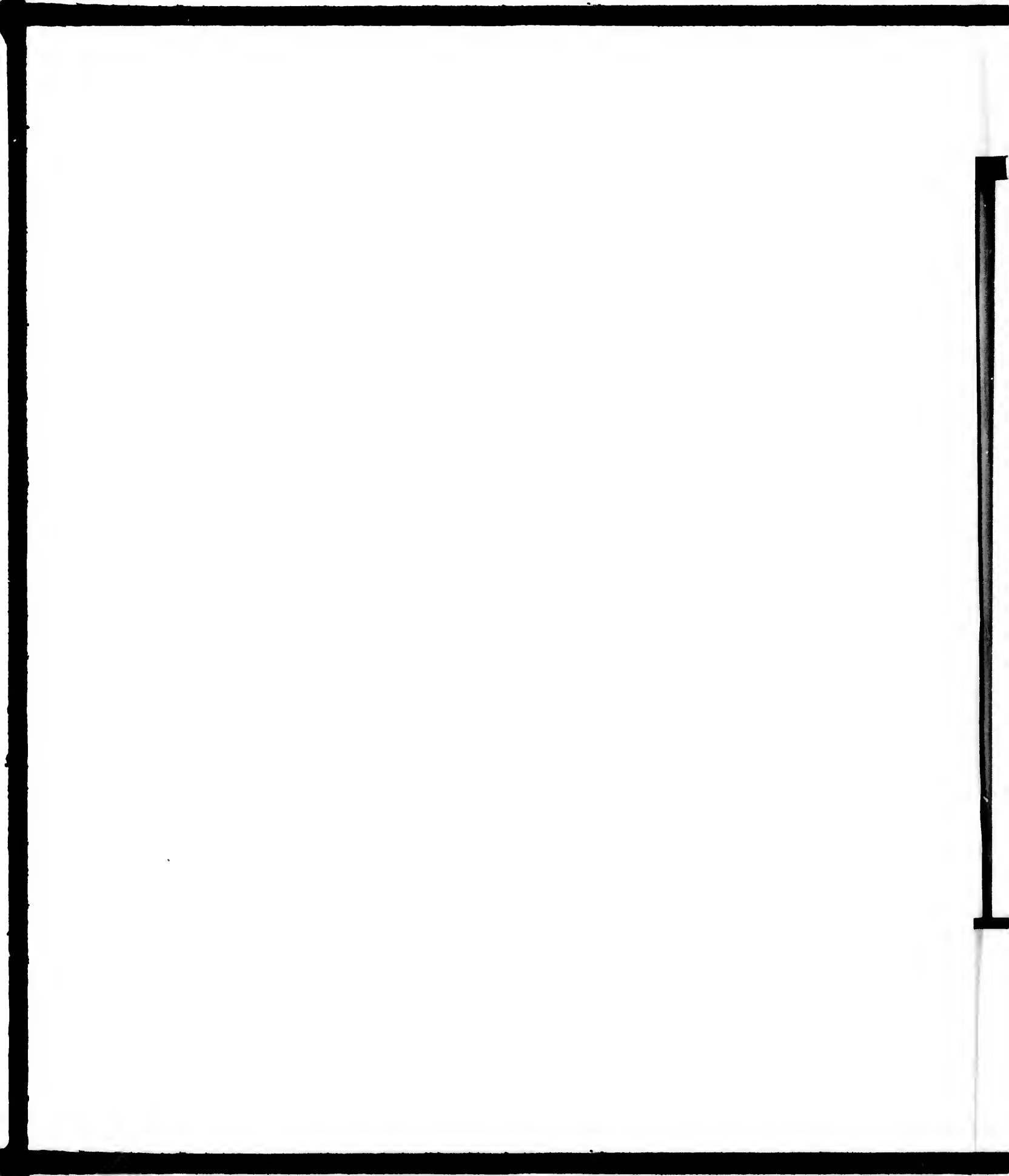
Every heart now beats with his,
The stately rider on whose calm face shines
A heaven-born inspiration. Still the shout :
“ *Nuero mundo dio Colon !* ” how it rings !



Columbian Monument, designed by José de Manjarrés.



injuris.



From wall to wall, from knights and cavaliers,
 And from the multitudinous throngs,
 A mighty chorus of the vales and hills !
 " *A Castilla y à Leon !* "

And now the golden steed
 Draws near the throne ; the crowds mov back, and
 rise

The reverent crowns of Leon and Castile ;
 And stands before the tear-filled eyes of all
 The multitudes the form of Isabella.
 Semiramis ? Zenobia ? What were they
 To her, as met her eyes again the eyes of him
 Into whose hands her love a year before
 Emptied its jewels !

He told his tale :

The untried deep, the green Sargasso Sea,
 The varyiny compass, the affrighted crews,
 The hymn they sung on every doubtful eve,
 The sweet hymn to the Virgin. How there came
 The land birds singing, and the drifting weeds,
 How broke the morn on fair San Salvador,
 How the *Te Deum* on that isle was sung,
 And how the cross was lifted in the name
 Of Leon and Castile. And then he turned
 His face towards Heaven, " O Queen ! O Queen !
 There kingdoms wait the triumphs of the cross ! "

v.

Then Isabella rose,
 With face illumined : then overcome with joy
 She sank upon her knees, and king and court

And nobles rose and knelt beside her,
And followed them the sobbing multitude ;
Then came a burst of joy, a chorus grand,
And mighty antiphon—

*“ We praise thee, Lord, and, Lord, acknowledge thee,
And give thee glory !—Holy, Holy, Holy ! ”*

Loud and long it swelled and thrilled the air,
That first Thanksgiving for the new-found world !

VI.

The twilight roses bloomed
In the far skies o'er Barcelona.
The gentle Indians came and stood before
The throne, and smiled the queen, and said :
“ I see my gems again.” The shadow fell,
And trilled all night beneath the moon and stars
The happy nightingales.

During the festivities at Barcelona the nine
Indians brought home by Columbus were baptized.
Shortly afterward one of them died, and the
Catholic theologians of the time gravely an-
nounced that he was the first of his race to enter
heaven !

Thus ended the first voyage of Columbus, which
gave a new continent to civilization, as a result of

which Columbus himself rose to the summit of his fame and favor.

"It is wonderful," says a recent writer, "how much was discovered during that first expedition. It was then that Columbus found the potato, which '...s come to be so important to mankind, as well as tobacco, which the natives smoked in the form of 'dry weeds, rolled up in a leaf, which was dry also, shaped like the paper muskets the boys made on the feast of Pentecost; and lighting one end of it, they suck the other, and absorb or inhale the smoke.' Of course there were novel fruits and spices, enormous reeds and gourds, and cotton so abundant that in a single house 12,000 pounds of it were found spun, and rolled in balls, although it seemed to be used for little but hammocks and women's aprons."

V.

RESULTS AND REWARDS.

“ Thus the whirligig of Time brings in his revenges.”

SCARCELY were the sails of the *Pinta* and the *Nina* dry than the monarchs of Spain commanded that a second fleet be fitted out, with which to further explore the new-found continent, and better secure the same to their crowns. There was need for haste, for John the Second, of Portugal, was believed to be about to seize by stratagem what he had lost by timidity. Regretting too late that the project of Columbus had been spurned and scoffed at, John also equipped a large force of ships, the avowed destination of which was Africa, but which had secret instructions to sail Westward Ho! and grab a goodly slice of the so-called Indies. But Ferdinand was a master of all the arts of intrigue, and he managed to en-

tangle the King of Portugal in long-drawn-out negotiations conducted by slow-moving embassies until the Spanish fleet was well advanced.

Frequently, during this long interchange of international courtesies, the Spanish sovereigns wrote to Columbus, urging the utmost despatch. But the admiral needed no spurring; he was too anxious to be afloat once more, with a goodly force at his back, and on the way to further explore his "Indies."

"Twelve caravels and five smaller vessels were made ready, and were laden with horses and other animals, and with plants, seeds, and agricultural implements for the cultivation of the new countries. Artificers of various trades were engaged, and a quantity of merchandise and gaudy trifles, fit for bartering with the natives, were placed on board. There was no need to press men into the service now; volunteers for the expedition were only too numerous. The fever for discovery was universal. Columbus was confident that he had

been on the outskirts of Cathay, and that the scriptural land of Havilah, the home of gold, was not far off. Untold riches were to be acquired, and probably there was not one of the 1,500 persons who took ship in the squadron that did not anticipate a prodigious fortune as the reward of the voyage. Nor was what continued to be the great object of these discoveries uncared for. Twelve missionaries, eager to enlighten the spiritual darkness of the western lands, were placed under the charge of Bernard Buil, a Benedictine monk, who was specially appointed by the Pope, in order to ensure an authorized teaching of the faith, and to superintend the religious education of the Indians. The instructions to Columbus, dated the 29th of May, 1493, are the first strokes upon that obdurate mass of colonial difficulty which, at last, by incessant working of great princes, great churchmen, and great statesmen, was eventually to be hammered into some righteous form of wisdom and of mercy. In the course of

these instructions, the admiral is ordered to labor in all possible ways to bring the dwellers in the Indies to a knowledge of the Holy Catholic Faith. And that this may the easier be done, all the armada is to be charged to deal 'lovingly' with the Indians; the admiral is to make them presents, and to 'honor them much'; and, if by chance any person or persons should treat the Indians ill, in any matter whatever, the admiral is to chastise such ill-doers severely."

Thousands were eager to embark for the new Land of Plenty, in marked contrast to the apathy and dread displayed at the outset of the first voyage. The limit had been set at one thousand; but so persistent were the volunteers, "many offering to enlist without pay," that the number accepted was twelve hundred. But at least three hundred more managed to secrete themselves just before sailing, or got on board "by fraud and device," so that about fifteen hundred comprised the final strength of the expedition.

So, on September twenty-fifth, 1493, the squadron set sail from Cadiz, and after taking in fresh water and provisions, Columbus sailed from Ferro for the second time, on October 13th. The voyage was almost uneventful, and the passage a quick one for those days, for on the third of November the ships came in sight of land, having "by the goodness of God and the wise management of the admiral sailed in as straight a track as if they had come by a well-known and frequented route." The day being Sunday, the name *Dominica* was bestowed on the first island to which they came. Columbus had steered a more southerly course, "in the hope of falling in with the islands of the Caribs, of which he had heard such wonderful accounts from the Indians."

At *Dominica* no inhabitants were found, and being anxious to reach the colony at *La Navidad* the fleet stood to the north and northwest, visiting and naming on the way the islands of *Maria Galante*, *Guadaloupe*, *Montserrat*, *Antigua*, *St.*

Martin, Santa Cruz, and Porto Rico. Some of the aborigines were asserted to be cannibals, a "discovery" which filled the Spaniards with horror.

At length, on the twenty-second of November, Columbus reached Hispaniola, and coasted along the northern shore till he reached La Navidad. But not a vestige of the colony remained! "The fort was razed to the ground. Not one of the settlers was alive to tell the tale. The account which Guacananagari gave to Columbus, and which there seems no reason to doubt, is, that the Spaniards who had been left behind took to evil courses, quarrelled amongst themselves, straggled about the country, and finally were set upon, when weak and few in numbers, by a neighboring Indian chief named Caonabo, who burned the tower and killed or dispersed the garrison, none of whom were ever discovered. It was in Caonabo's country that the gold mines were reported to exist, and it is probable that both the cupidity and the

profligacy of the colonists were so gross as to draw down upon them the not unreasonable vengeance of the natives. Guacanagari, the friendly cacique, who had received the admiral amicably on his first voyage, declared that he and his tribe had done their utmost in defense of the Europeans, in proof of which he exhibited recent wounds which had evidently been inflicted by savage weapons. He was, naturally, scarcely so friendly as before, but communication with him was made easy by the aid of one of the Indians whom Columbus had taken to Spain, and who acted as interpreter. Guacanagari was willing that a second fort should be built on the site of the first, but the admiral thought it better to seek a new locality, both because the position of the old fort had been unhealthy, and because the disgusting licentiousness of the settlers had offended the Indians to such an extent that whereas they had at first regarded the white men as angels from heaven, now they considered them as debased

profligates and disturbers of the peace, against whom they had to defend their honor and their lives.

“Sailing along the coast of Hayti, Columbus selected a site for his projected settlement, about forty miles to the east of the present Cape Haytien. This he called Isabella, after his royal mistress. Here the ships of his squadron discharged their stores, and the Spaniards labored actively in the construction of the first town built by Europeans in the New World. But the work did not progress prosperously. Diseases prevailed among the colonists. The fatigues and discomforts of a long sea voyage were not the best preparations for hard physical labor. The number of men which the admiral had brought out with him was disproportionate to his means of sustaining them. Provisions and medicines began to fail. And, worst of all, none of the golden dreams were realized, under the influence of which they had left Spain. Only small samples

of the precious metal could be procured from the natives, and the vaguely indicated gold mines had not been reached. Anxiety, responsibility, and labor began to tell upon the iron constitution of the admiral, and for some time he was stretched upon a bed of sickness."

The time approached, however, when it was necessary to send part of the fleet back to Spain, and this was another source of deep annoyance to the ambitious mind of Columbus. "He had hoped to find treasures of gold and precious merchandise accumulated by the men left behind on the first voyage; or at least the sources of wealthy traffic ascertained, by which speedily to freight his vessels. The destruction of the garrison had defeated all those hopes. He was aware of the extravagant expectations entertained by the sovereigns and the nation. What would be their disappointment when the returning ships brought back nothing but a tale of disaster? Something must be done, before the vessels sailed, to keep

up the fame of his discoveries, and justify his own magnificent representations.

“As yet he knew nothing of the interior of the island. If it were really the island of Cipango, it must contain populous cities, existing probably in some more cultivated region, beyond the lofty mountains with which it was intersected. All the Indians concurred in mentioning Cibao as the tract of country whence they derived their gold. The very name of its cacique, Caonabo, signifying ‘The Lord of the Golden House,’ seemed to indicate the wealth of his dominions. The tract where the mines were said to abound lay at a distance of but three or four days’ journey, directly in the interior; Columbus determined, therefore, to send an expedition to explore it, previous to the sailing of the ships. If the result should confirm his hopes, he would then be able to send home the fleet with confidence, bearing tidings of the discovery of the golden mountains of Cibao.

“The person he chose for this enterprise was

Alonzo de Ojeda. Delighting in all service of a hazardous and adventurous nature, Ojeda was the more stimulated to this expedition from the formidable character of the mountain cacique, Caonabo, whose dominions he was to penetrate. He set out from the harbor, early in January, 1494, accompanied by a small force of well-armed and determined men, several of them young and spirited cavaliers like himself. He struck directly southward into the interior. For the first two days, the march was toilsome and difficult, through a country abandoned by its inhabitants; for terror of the Spaniards extended along the sea-coast. On the second evening they came to a lofty range of mountains, which they ascended by an Indian path, winding up a steep and narrow defile, and they slept for the night at the summit. Hence, the next morning, they beheld the sun rise with great glory over a vast and delicious plain, covered with noble forests, studded with villages and

hamlets, and enlivened by the shining waters of the Yagui.

“Descending into this plain, Ojeda and his companions boldly entered the Indian villages. The inhabitants, far from being hostile, overwhelmed them with hospitality, and, in fact impeded their journey by their kindness. They had to ford many rivers in traversing this plain, so that they were five or six days in reaching the chain of mountains which locked up, as it were, the golden region of Cibao. They penetrated into this district without meeting with any other obstacles than those presented by the rude nature of the country. Caonabo, so redoubtable for his courage and ferocity, must have been in some distant part of his dominions, for he never appeared to dispute their progress. The natives received them with kindness; they were naked and uncivilized, like the other inhabitants of the island, nor were there any traces of the important cities which their imaginations had once pictured forth.

They saw, however, ample signs of natural wealth. The sands of the mountain-streams glittered with particles of gold ; these the natives would skillfully separate and give to the Spaniards, without expecting a recompense. In some places they picked up large specimens of virgin ore from the beds of the torrents, and stones streaked and richly impregnated with it. Peter Martyr affirms that he saw a mass of rude gold weighing nine ounces, which Ojeda himself had found in one of the brooks.

“ All these were considered as mere superficial washings of the soil, betraying the hidden treasure lurking in the deep veins and rocky bosoms of the mountains, and only requiring the hand of labor to bring them to light. As the object of his expedition was merely to ascertain the nature of the country, Ojeda led back his little band to the harbor, full of enthusiastic accounts of the golden promise of these mountains. A young cavalier of the name of Gorvalan, who had been

despatched at the same time on a similar expedition, and who had explored a different tract of country, returned with similar reports. These flattering accounts served for a time to reanimate the drooping and desponding colonists, and induced Columbus to believe that it was only necessary to explore the mines of Cibao in order to open inexhaustible sources of riches. He determined, as soon as his health would permit, to repair in person to the mountains, and seek a favorable site for a mining establishment.

“The season being now propitious for the return of the fleet, Columbus lost no time in despatching twelve of the ships under the command of Antonio de Torres, retaining only five for the service of the colony. By this opportunity he sent home specimens of the gold found among the mountains and rivers of Cibao, and all such fruits and plants as were curious, or appeared to be valuable. He wrote in the most sanguine terms of the expeditions of Ojeda and Gorvalan,

the last of whom returned to Spain in the fleet. He repeated his confident anticipations of soon being able to make abundant shipments of gold, of precious drugs, and spices; the search for them being delayed for the present by the sickness of himself and people, and the cares and labors required in building the infant city. He described the beauty and fertility of the island; its range of noble mountains; its wide, abundant plains, watered by beautiful rivers; the quick fecundity of the soil, evinced in the luxuriant growth of the sugar-cane, and of various grains and vegetables brought from Europe.

“As it would take some time, however, to obtain provisions from their fields and gardens and the produce of their live stock adequate to the subsistence of the colony, which consisted of about a thousand souls; and as they could not accustom themselves to the food of the natives, Columbus requested present supplies from Spain. Their provisions were already growing scanty.

Much of their wine had been lost, from the badness of the casks ; and the colonists, in their infirm state of health, suffered greatly from the want of their accustomed diet. There was an immediate necessity of medicines, clothing, and arms. Horses were required, likewise, for the public works and for military service ; being found of great effect in awing the natives, who had the utmost dread of those animals. He requested also an additional number of workmen and mechanics, and men skilled in mining, and in smelting and purifying ore."

All these glowing accounts, just as Columbus expected, served to keep alive the ardor of the monarchs. The fleet arrived in Spain on the second of February, 1494, and "though it brought back no wealth to Spain, yet expectation was kept alive by the sanguine letter of the admiral and by the specimens of gold and produce which he enclosed. The sordid calculations of petty spirits were as yet overruled by the enthu-

siasm of generous minds captivated by the lofty nature of these enterprises.

Meantime the building of the city of Isabella was progressing finely, and the admiral was incessantly busy about the affairs of the colony, which were in a most distracted state. Scant fare and hard work were having their effect; sickness pervaded the whole armament; and men of all ranks and stations, hidalgos, people of the court and ecclesiastics, were obliged to labor manually under regulations strictly enforced. The rage and vexation of these men, many of whom had come out with the notion of finding gold ready for them on the sea-shore, may be imagined; and complaints of the admiral's harsh way of dealing with those under him (probably no harsher than was absolutely necessary to save them), now took their rise, and pursued him ever after to his ruin. A mutiny, headed by Bernal Diaz, a man high in authority, was detected and quelled before the mutineers could effect their intention of seizing

the ships. Diaz was sent for trial to Spain. The colonists, however, were somewhat cheered after a time by hearing of gold mines, and seeing specimens of ore brought from thence; and the admiral went himself and founded the Fort of St. Thomas in the mining district of Cibao. But the Spaniards gained very little real advantage from these gold mines, which they began to work before they had consolidated around them the means of living; in fact, dealing with the mines of Hispaniola as if they had been discovered in an old country, where the means of transit and supplies of provisions can, with certainty, be procured.

“There was also another evil, besides that of inconsiderate mining, and, perhaps, quite as mischievous a one, which stood in the way of the steady improvement of these early Spanish colonies. The Catholic sovereigns had unfortunately impressed upon Columbus their wish that he should devote himself to further discovery, a

wish but too readily adopted and furthered by his enterprising spirit. The hankering of the Spanish monarchs for further discovery was fostered by their jealousy of the Portuguese. The Portuguese were making their way towards India, going eastward. They, the Spaniards, thought they were discovering India, going westward. The more rapidly, therefore, each nation could advance and plant its standard, the more of much-coveted India it would hereafter be able to claim. Acting upon such views, Columbus now proceeded onwards, bent upon further discovery, notwithstanding that his little colonies at Isabella and St. Thomas must have needed all his sagacity to protect them, and all his authority to restrain them. He nominated a council to manage the government during his absence, with his brother Don Diego as president of it; he appointed a certain Don Pedro Margarite as captain-general; and then put to sea on the 24th of April, 1494."

In this voyage Columbus made many important

"finds" in the West Indies, chief among which was the island of Jamaica and the cluster of fertile islets known as "the Garden of the Queen." The navigation was beset with such perils among the rocks and currents, sandbanks and reefs of the archipelago, that the admiral is said to have gone without sleep for thirty-two days! As a result he was stricken with a grave illness, and the ships were compelled to return to Isabella with their invalided commander, where they arrived on the twenty-ninth of September, 1494. Columbus was ill for five months. But during this sickness he was cheered by the presence of his brother, Bartholomew Columbus, who had come out while the admiral was absent. Soon after there arrived Antonio de Torres, with several shiploads of supplies for the colonists and a packet of letters from Ferdinand and Isabella, commending Columbus for his faithfulness and fortitude.

But only the opportune arrival of the admiral at

Isabella saved the settlement from the fate of La Navidad. During his absence the Spaniards left in charge had managed to alienate the natives by their unrestrained waste, covetousness, brutality, and licentiousness. They went roaming all over the country, and death and disaster marked their track, and now there was "but little hope of the races living peaceably together," and the Indians "were now swarming about the Spaniards with hostile intent." Even the pacific Columbus was forced to fight a battle with the natives, routing them utterly, and a "horrible slaughter ensued." This and other conflicts mark the commencement of vassalage and slavery in the West Indies and in Spanish America. Columbus imposed a tribute upon the whole population of Hispaniola, which was thus arranged :

"Every Indian above fourteen years old, who was in the provinces of the mines, or near to these provinces, was to pay every three months a little bellful of gold ; all other persons in the island

were to pay at the same time an *arroba* of cotton for each person. Certain brass or copper tokens were made—different ones for each tribute time—and were given to the Indians when they paid tribute; and these tokens, being worn about their necks, were to show who had paid tribute." Thus was human slavery first introduced by Europeans.

At this time there arrived in the Indies an envoy from the Court of Spain named Juan Aguado. The Spanish monarchs had been listening to complaints against Columbus made by some malecontents—Father Buil, Margarite, and others—who had returned to Spain, and Aguado was commissioned to make a thorough inquiry into the affairs of the colony.

"The royal commissioner arrived at Isabella in October, 1495, and his proceedings in the colony, together with the fear of what he might report on his return, quickened the admiral's desire to return to Court, that he might fight his own battles there himself. For the tide of his fortune was turn-

ing, and this appeared by several notable signs. Strong as was the confidence which the sovereigns reposed in him, the representations of Margarite and Buil—the rough soldier and the wily Benedictine—had produced their effect. They complained of the despotic rule of Columbus; of the disregard of distinctions of rank which he had manifested by placing the hidalgos on the same footing as the common men as regards work and rations during the construction of the settlement; and of his mania for discovery, which made him abandon the colony already formed in the unremunerative search for new countries. The commissioner who was sent to investigate these charges, as well as to report on the condition of the colony, found no difficulty in collecting evidence to substantiate them. An unsuccessful man is generally persuaded that somebody else has caused his failure. And the ‘somebody else,’ in the case of the colonists, was, by universal consent, the foreign sea-captain who had deluded

Spanish hidalgos by his wild projects, and had become a grandee under false pretenses. The Indians, too, who were glad to lay their miseries at the door of somebody, and who were told that Aguado was the new admiral, and had come to supplant the old one, were not slow to add their quota to the charges against Columbus. To rebut these accusations, as well as to protest against the issue of licenses to private adventurers to trade in the new countries independently of the admiral (a measure which, in violation of Columbus's charter, had lately been adopted), he quitted Isabella on the 10th of March, 1496, in the *Nina*, while Aguado took ship in another caravel. Many of the colonists, who had been rudely awakened from their golden dreams, seized this opportunity of returning to Spain; and the Cacique Caonabo was also taken on board, probably with a view of impressing upon him an overwhelming conviction of Spanish power, and of the futility of any efforts to resist it.

“The voyage was a miserable one. Contrary winds prevailed until provisions began to run short, and rations were doled out in pittances which grew scantier and scantier until all the admiral’s authority was needed to prevent his ravenous shipmates from killing and eating the Caribs who were on board, in retribution, so ran the grim jest, for their cannibalism. At last, when famine was imminent, after a voyage of three months’ duration, the two caravels entered the Bay of Cadiz on the 11th of June, 1496. After about a month’s delay, Columbus received a summons to proceed to the court, which was then at Burgos. In the course of his journey thither he adopted the same means of dazzling the eyes of the populace, by the display of gold and the exhibition of his captives, as on his return from his first voyage ; but so many unsuccessful colonists had returned, sick at heart and ruined in health, to tell the tale of failure to their countrymen, that this triumphal procession was

very unlike the last as regards the welcome accorded by the public. However, the sovereigns seem to have given the admiral a kind reception, and instead of placing him on his defense against the charges which had been brought forward by Father Buil, they listened with sympathy to his story of the difficulties which had beset him, and heard with sanguine satisfaction of the recent discovery of the mines from which it was said that the natives procured most of the gold that had been found in their possession, and which promised an incalculably rich harvest. Presently, in apparent confirmation of this belief, one Pedro Nino, a captain of the admiral's, announced his arrival at Cadiz, with a quantity of 'gold in bars' on board his ship. It was not until great expectations had been raised at court, and the wildest ideas conceived of the magnitude of this supposed first instalment of the riches of the newly found gold mines, that it turned out that this Nino was merely a miserable maker of jokes, and

that the 'gold in bars' was only represented by the Indians who composed his cargo, whose present captivity was secured by 'bars,' and whose future sale was to furnish gold. This absurdity naturally caused Columbus and his friends no slight mortification, and added a fresh weapon to the shafts of ridicule which his enemies were forever launching at his extravagant theories and his expensive projects."

Clearly enough the reaction had set in. The state of excited expectation in which the monarchs and the people of Spain had lived for the past few years was too strained to be kept up on such meager food as the admiral had been able to supply from time to time. His employers desired tangible and immediate results—ingots of gold, strings of pearls and rubies and diamonds, bales of rich fabrics and spices, instead of which they had received a few beggarly handfuls of glistening gold-dust, some rare or new botanical specimens, and a score or so of savages. It is not

surprising that they missed the full significance of the recent discoveries when Columbus himself was equally short-sighted. Familiarity with the "stupendous wonder of a newly discovered world" had bred contempt, and prince and populace demanded new wonders as the price of their goodwill. Then, too, the incidents which attended the return of the second company of voyagers were such as to foster distrust. The fleet had sailed away flushed with hope and anticipation; they returned broken with disease and disaster, ragged, and poorer than when they set out, and every man among them blamed the admiral and scoffed at his discoveries.

But amid all this Columbus carried an indomitable and undaunted front. He reiterated his belief that in the island of Cuba lay the Golden Chersonese of the ancients, and that discoveries needed only to be pushed a little farther to reach the goal of every man's hopes. He pointed to the gold mines on the island of Hispaniola, and

gravely asserted that therein he had found the ancient Ophir.

On twelfth of July, 1496, Columbus was summoned before the sovereigns in a kind and gracious letter, and he set out to meet them at Burgos, accompanied by his natives, whom he decked out in all their native finery, hoping thereby to dazzle the eyes of all beholders. Nor was the hope vain. This display of the curiosities and treasures had for the nonce the desired effect even with the monarchs, and they listened favorably to the admiral's suggestion of a third voyage, in which he undertook to push on to Terra Firma, and annex that to the crown. But Spain was as usual afflicted with foreign wars and a depleted treasury, and it was not until the spring of 1497 that any serious steps were taken to fit out another fleet. But Columbus found that the statesmen and clerics in power at court were hostile to every suggestion he made, and not until Queen Isabella again took the matter in

hand was the requisite authority gained. At length, however, after a ruinous delay, on May 30, 1498, Columbus set sail from San Lucar de Barrameda with a squadron of six vessels and two hundred men on a third voyage of discovery.

“The route he proposed to take was different from that pursued in his former voyage. He intended to depart from the Cape de Verde Islands, sailing to the southwest, until he should come under the equinoctial line, then to steer directly westward with the favor of the trade-winds, until he should arrive at land, or find himself in the longitude of Hispaniola. Various considerations induced him to adopt this course. In his preceding voyage, when he coasted the southern side of Cuba, under the belief that it was the continent of Asia, he had observed that it swept off toward the south. From this circumstance, and from information gathered among the natives of the Caribbee Islands, he was induced to believe that a great tract of the mainland lay to the south

of the countries he had already discovered. King John II. of Portugal appears to have entertained a similar idea; as Herrera records an opinion expressed by that monarch, that there was a continent in the Southern Ocean. If this were the case, it was supposed by Columbus, that, in proportion as he approached the equator, and extended his discoveries to climates more and more under the torrid influence of the sun, he should find the productions of nature sublimated by its rays to more perfect and precious qualities. He was strengthened in this belief by a letter written to him at the command of the queen, by one Jayme Ferrer, an eminent and learned lapidary, who, in the course of his trading for precious stones and metals, had been in the Levant and in various parts of the East; had conversed with the merchants of the remote parts of Asia and Africa, and the natives of India, Arabia, and Ethiopia, and was considered deeply versed in geography generally, but especially in the natural

histories of those countries whence the valuable merchandise in which he dealt was procured. In this letter Ferrer assured Columbus, that, according to his experience, the rarest objects of commerce, such as gold, precious stones, drugs and spices, were chiefly to be found in the regions about the equinoctial line, where the inhabitants were black, or darkly colored; and that until the admiral should arrive among people of such complexions, he did not think he would find those articles in great abundance."

On Thursday, July 31, land was discovered toward the southwest, and proved to be the island of Trinidad, so named in honor of the Trinity, and also because when first sighted three lofty peaks came into view against the evening sky. He was now very near to the mainland, and on the Spanish Main of later years. Sailing on around Trinidad the ships entered the Gulf of Paria, into which the Orinoco discharges its immense volume of water. But still the admiral

believed he was among islands—a delusion fostered by the very rugged and much indented coast-line of this part of South America. At length, noticing the immense torrent of water brought down by the rivers, Columbus began to suspect that the land which he had been calling the island of Gracia was not an island, but a continent. But at this juncture he had no time for further investigation, being anxious to reach his colonists at Hispaniola.

It is worth while to stop here a moment and glance at the workings of the mind of Columbus and his mental attitude towards his great discovery. Never was man more deluded. "We are hardly so much concerned with what the admiral saw and heard," says Sir Arthur Helps, "as with what he afterwards thought and reported." To understand this, it will be desirable to enter somewhat into the scientific questions which occupied the mind of this great mariner and most observant man.

"The discovery of the continent of America by Columbus, in his third voyage, was the result of a distinct intention on his part to discover some new land, and cannot be attributed to chance. It would be difficult to define precisely the train of ideas which led Columbus to this discovery. The Portuguese navigations were compelling cause. Then the change, already alluded to, which Columbus had noticed in his voyages to the Indies, on passing a line a hundred leagues west of the Azores, was in his mind, as it was in reality, a circumstance of great moment and significance. It was not a change of temperature alone that he noticed, but a change in the heavens, the air, the sea, and the magnetic current.

"In the first place, the needle of the compass, instead of north-easting, north-wested at this line; and that remarkable phenomenon occurred just upon the passage of the line, as if, Columbus says, one passed the hill. Then the sea there was full of sea-weed like small pine-branches, laden with a

fruit similar to pistachio nuts. Moreover, on passing this imaginary line, the admiral had invariably found that the temperature became agreeable, and the sea calm. Accordingly, in the course of this voyage, when they were suffering from that great heat which has been mentioned, he determined to take a westerly course, which led, as we have seen, to his discovering the beautiful land of Paria.

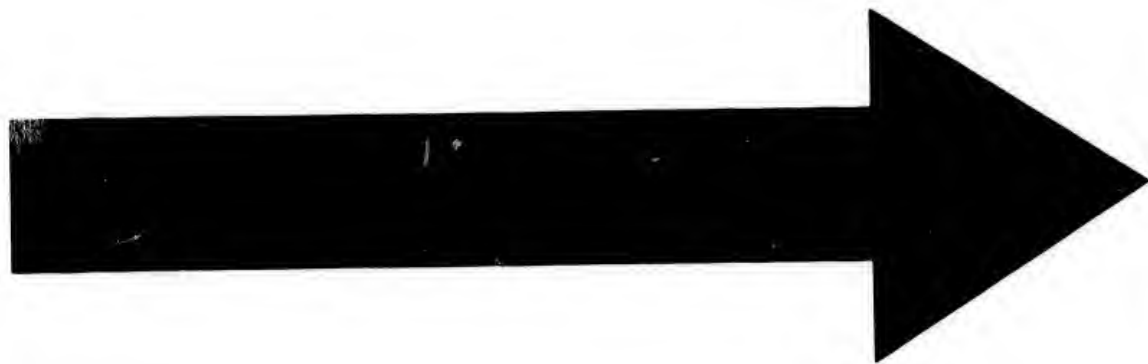
“ Now Columbus was one of those men of divining minds, who must have general theories on which to thread their observations; and, as few persons have so just a claim to theorize as those who have added largely to the number of ascertained facts, so Columbus may well be listened to, when propounding his explanation of the wonderful change in sea, air, sky, and magnetic current, which he discerned at this distance of a hundred leagues from the Azores.

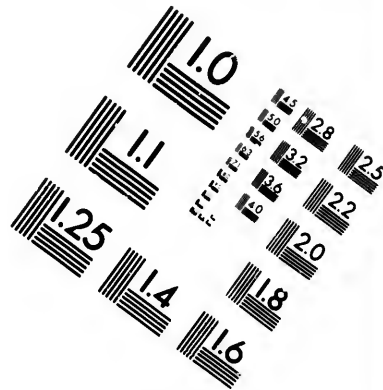
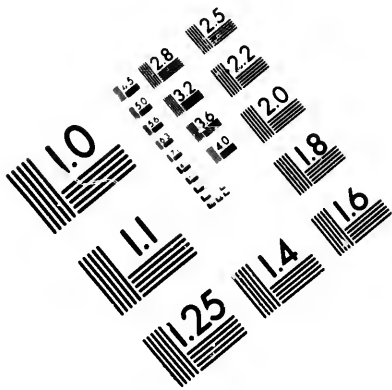
“ His theory was, that the earth was not a perfect sphere, but pear-shaped; and he thought

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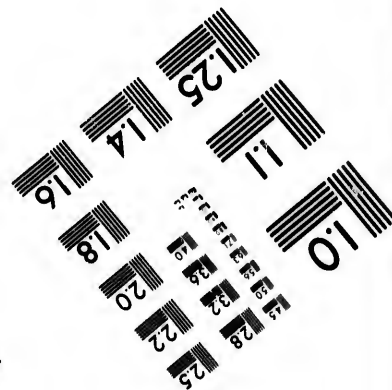
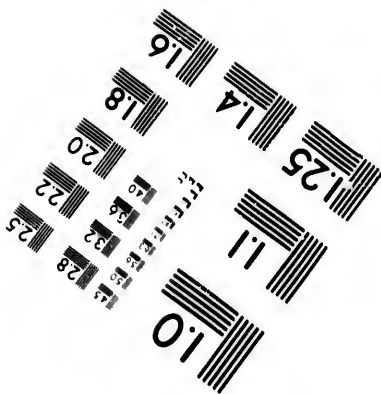
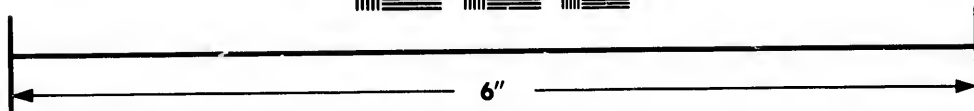
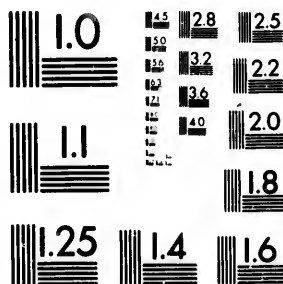
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that, as he proceeded westwards in this voyage, the sea went gradually rising, and his ships rising too, until they came nearer to the heavens. It is very possible that this theory had been long in his mind, or, at any rate, that he held it before he reached the coast of Paria. When there, new facts struck his mind, and were combined with his theory. He found the temperature much more moderate than might have been expected so near the equinoctial line, far more moderate than on the opposite coast of Africa. In the evenings, indeed, it was necessary for him to wear an outer garment of fur. Then, the natives were lighter colored, more astute, and braver than those of the islands. Their hair, too, was different.

“Then, again, he meditated upon the immense volume of fresh waters which descended into the Gulf of Paria. And, in fine, the conclusion which his pious mind came to, was, that when he reached the land which he called the island of Gracia, he was at the base of the earthly Paradise. He also,

upon reflection, concluded that it was a continent which he had discovered, the same continent of the east which he had always been in search of ; and that the waters, which we now know to be a branch of the river Orinoco, formed one of the four great rivers which descended from the garden of Paradise.

“ Very different were the conjectures of the pilots. Some said that they were in the Sea of Spain ; others, in that of Scotland, and, being in despair about their whereabouts, they concluded that they had been under the guidance of the Devil. The admiral, however, was not a man to be much influenced by the sayings of the unthoughtful and the unlearned. He fortified himself by references to St. Isidoro, Beda, Strabo, St. Ambrose, and Duns Scotus, and held stoutly to the conclusion that he had discovered the site of the earthly Paradise. It is said, that he exclaimed to his men, that they were in the richest country in the world.”

Columbus arrived at Hispaniola a physical wreck. The defects in his eyesight had grown so serious that "he could no longer take observations or keep a look-out, but had to trust to the reports of the pilots and mariners." Throughout the voyage "he had been parched and consumed by fever, racked by gout, and his whole system disordered by incessant watchfulness; he came into port haggard, emaciated, and almost blind." But his spirit was as intrepid as ever.

A fresh source of anxiety awaited him in Hispaniola, and retarded those discoveries he was burning to pursue. Affairs in the colony had gone all awry during his absence, and the natives were in a state of hostility to the colonists, mainly because so many of their number had been captured and sent back to Europe as slaves. In fact, Columbus himself was an advocate of this trade in human flesh, and in his despatches he proposes that "the masters of vessels were to receive slaves from the colonists, were to carry them to Spain

and pay for their maintenance during the voyage ; they were then to allow the colonists so much money, payable at Seville, in proportion to the number of slaves brought over. This money they would expend according to the orders of the colonists, who would thus be enabled to obtain such goods as they might stand in need of." The feelings of the natives in the matter were apparently never thought of.

Columbus soon settled the petty squabbles ; " he reduced the Indians to subjection ; the mines were prospering ; the Indians were to be brought together in populous villages, that so they might better be taught the Christian faith, and serve as vassals to the crown of Castile ; the royal revenues (always a matter of much concern to Columbus) would, he thought, in three years amount to sixty millions of reals ; and now there was time for him to sit down, and meditate upon the rebuilding of the temple of Jerusalem, or the conversion of Cathay. If there had been any prolonged quiet

for him, such great adventures would probably have begun to form the staple of his high thoughts. But he had hardly enjoyed more than a month of repose when that evil came down upon him which 'poured the juice of aloes into the remaining portion of his life.'

"The Catholic sovereigns had hitherto, upon the whole, behaved well to Columbus. He had bitter enemies at court. People were for ever suggesting to the monarchs that this foreigner was doing wrong. The admiral's son, Ferdinand, gives a vivid picture of some of the complaints preferred against his father. He says, 'When I was at Granada, at the time the most serene Prince Don Miguel died, more than fifty of them (Spaniards who had returned from the Indies), as men without shame, bought a great quantity of grapes, and sat themselves down in the court of the Alhambra, uttering loud cries, saying, that their Highnesses and the admiral made them live in this poor fashion on account

of the bad pay they received, with many other dishonest and unseemly things, which they kept repeating. Such was their effrontery that when the Catholic king came forth they all surrounded him and got him into the midst of them, saying, "Pay! pay," and if by chance I and my brother, who were pages to the most serene Queen, happened to pass where they were, they shouted to the very heavens saying, "Look at the sons of the admiral of Mosquitoland, of that man who had discovered the lands of deceit and disappointment, a place of sepulchre and wretchedness to Spanish hidalgos: "adding many other insulting expressions, on which account we excused ourselves from passing by them.'"

"Unjust clamor, like the above, would not alone have turned the hearts of the Catholic sovereigns against Columbus; but this clamor was supported by serious grounds for dissatisfaction in the state and prospects of the colony; and when there is a constant stream of enmity and

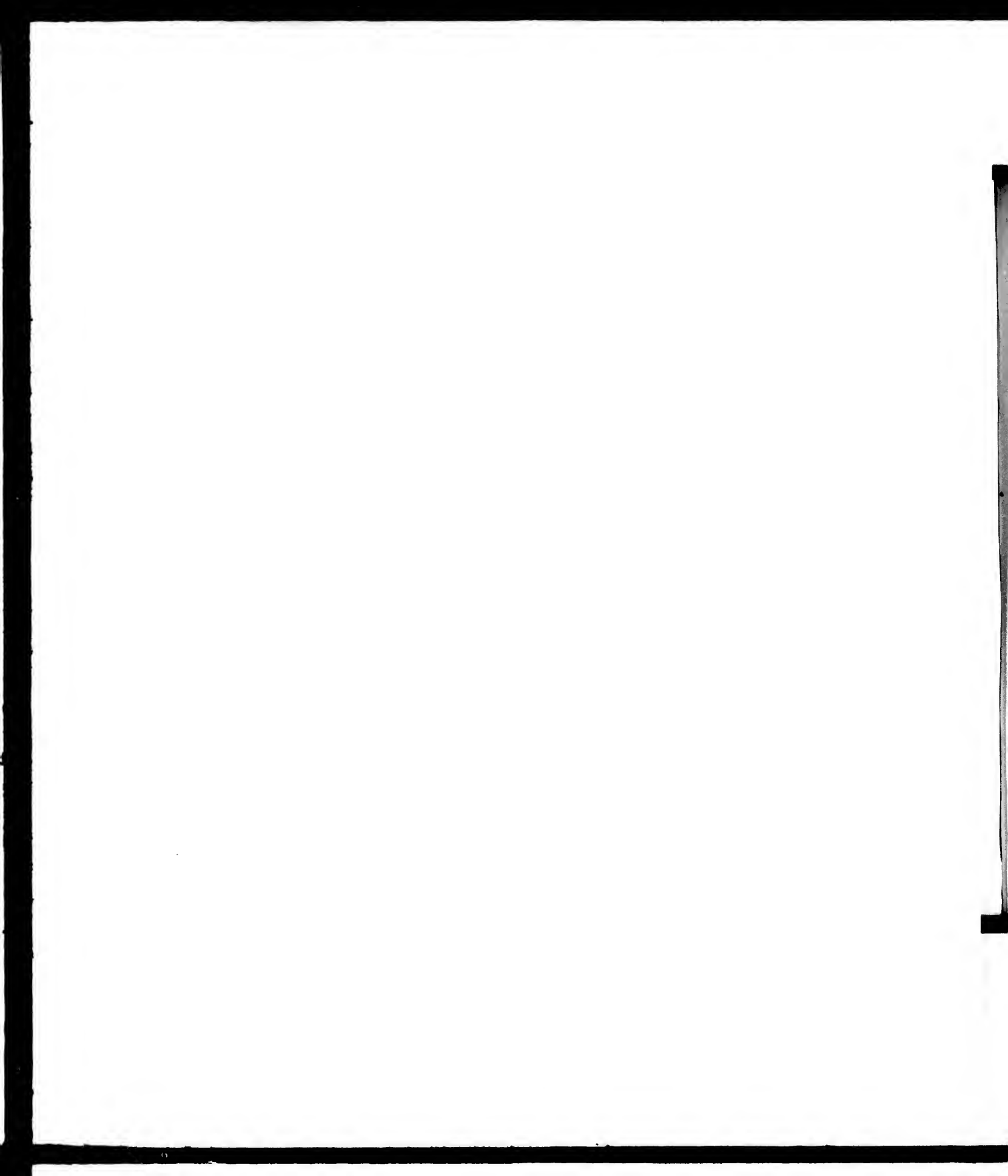
prejudice against a man, his conduct or his fortune will, some day or other, offer an opportunity for it to rush in upon him. However this may be, soon after the return of the five vessels from St. Domingo, Ferdinand and Isabella appear to have taken into serious consideration the question of suspending Columbus. He had, himself, in the letters transmitted by these ships, requested that some one might be sent to conduct the affairs of justice in the colony; but, if Ferdinand and Isabella began by merely looking out for such an officer, they ended in resolving to send one who should take the civil as well as judicial authority into his own hands. This determination was not, however, acted upon hastily. On the 21st of March, 1499, they authorized Francis de Bobadilla 'to ascertain what persons have raised themselves against justice in the island of Hispaniola, and to proceed against them according to law.' On the 21st of May, 1499, they conferred upon this officer the government, and signed an



Bobolillo Jacking Columbus in a Dismal.



Boanilla looking Calambors in a Dougrou.



order that all arms and fortresses in the Indies should be given up to him. On the 26th of the same month, they gave him the following remarkable letter to Columbus:—

“ ‘ Don Christopher Columbus, our Admiral of the Ocean : We have commanded the Comandador Francis de Bobadilla, the bearer of this, that he speak to you on our part some things which he will tell you; we pray you give him faith and credence, and act accordingly.

“ ‘ I the King, I the Queen.

“ ‘ By their command,

“ ‘ Miguel Perez de Almazan.’

“ Bobadilla, however, was not sent from Spain until the beginning of July, 1500, and did not make his appearance in Hispaniola till the 23d of August of the same year. Their Highnesses, therefore, must have taken time before carrying their resolve into execution; and what they meant by it is dubious. Certainly, not that the matter should have been transacted in the coarse way

which Bobadilla adopted. It is a great pity, and a sad instance of mistaken judgment, that they fixed upon him for their agent."

Bobadilla's first act was to seize the admiral's house, and summon Columbus before him for examination. No resistance was offered by either Columbus or his brothers, and Bobadilla promptly put them all in chains, and shipped them off to Spain!

And now charges came thick and fast against the caged lion; the historian Herrera says that "the stones rose up against him and his brothers." Members of the various expeditions "told how he had made them work, even sick men, at his fortresses, at his house, at the mills, and other buildings; how he had starved them; how he had condemned men to be whipped for the slightest causes, as, for instance, for stealing a peck of wheat when they were dying of hunger. Considering the difficulties he had to deal with, and the scarcity of provisions, many of these accusa-

tions, if rightly examined, would probably have not merely failed in producing anything against Columbus, but would have developed some proofs of his firmness and sagacity as a governor. Then his accusers went on to other grounds, such as his not having baptized Indians, 'because he desired slaves rather than Christians.' "

The charges were either frivolous or malicious, and were all capable of explanation. Few men, possessing the romantic and enthusiastic spirit of Columbus, would have acted with the good sense and moderation which, on the whole, characterized his dealings with the natives of the West Indies.

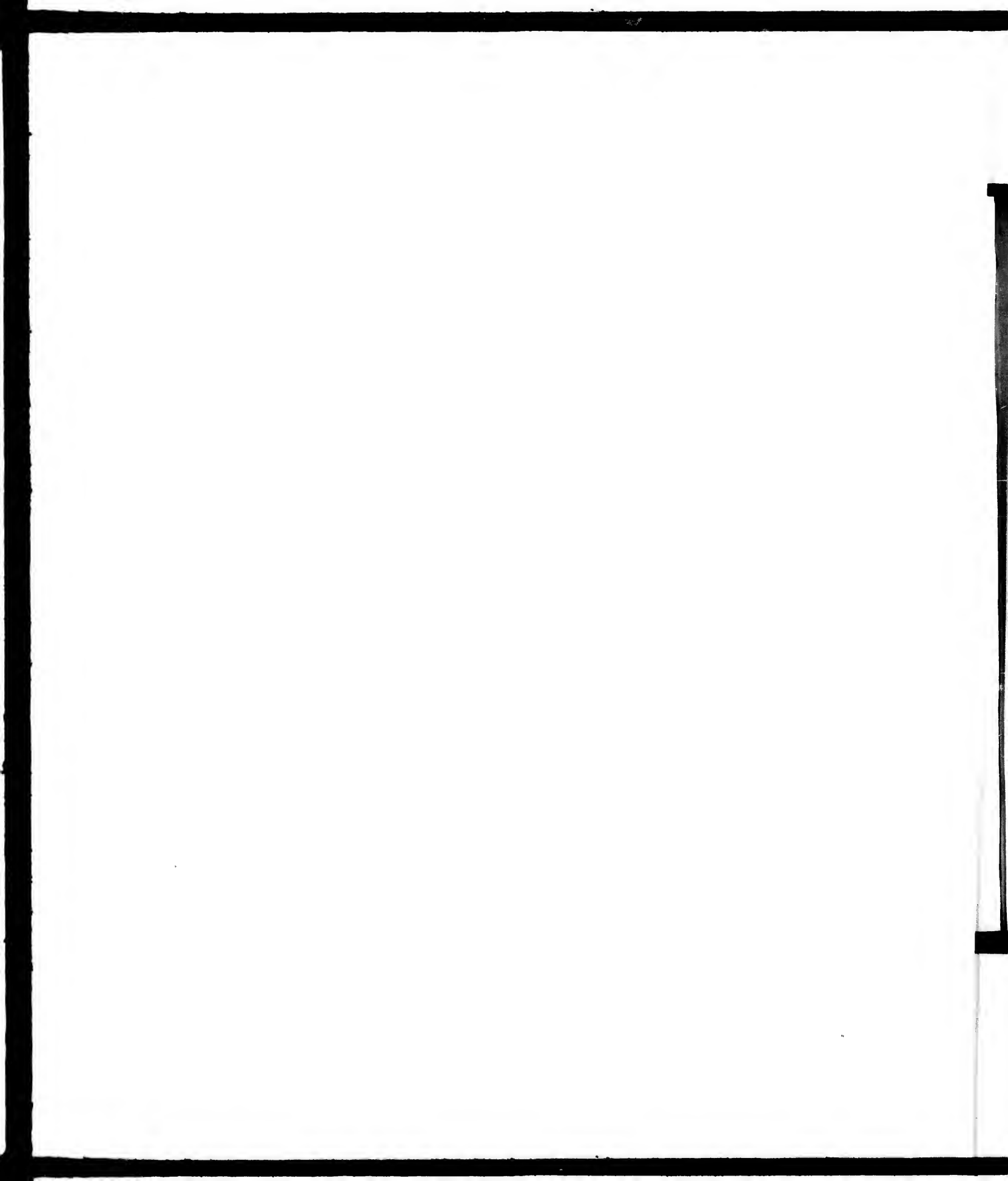
However, the immediate effect of Bobadilla's deposition of Columbus was to end his career as governor of the Indies. "His chains lay heavily upon him, nor would he allow them to be removed unless by royal command."

"The career of Columbus had already been marked by strong contrasts. First, a 'pauper pilot,' then the viceroy of a new world; alter-



Columbus sent to Spain in Chains.





nately hoping and fearing, despondent, and triumphant, he had passed through strange vicissitudes of good and evil fortune. But no two events in his life stand out in stronger contrast to each other than his return to Spain after his first voyage and his return now. He was then a conqueror; he was now a prisoner. He was then the idol of popular favor; he was now the unpopular victim of insidious maligners. In truth, the contrast was so startling as to strike home to the hearts of the common people, even of those—and there were many such—who had lost kinsmen or friends in that fatal quest for gold which the admiral had originated and stimulated. The broad fact was this: Columbus had given Spain a new world; Spain loaded him with fetters in return. There was a reaction. The current of public opinion began to turn in his favor. The nation became conscious of ingratitude to its benefactor. The nobility were shocked at the insult to one of their own order. And, no sooner had

the sovereigns learned from Columbus of his arrival, and of his disgrace, than they issued immediate orders for his liberation, and summoned him to their court at Granada, forwarding money to enable him to proceed there in a style befitting his rank. They then received him with all possible signs of distinction; repudiated Bobadilla's arbitrary proceedings; and promised the admiral compensation and satisfaction. As a mark of their disapprobation of the way in which Bobadilla had acted under their commission, they pointedly refused to inquire into the charges against Columbus, and dismissed them as not worthy of investigation."

The fire of adventure still blazed in the breast of the rugged old admiral. He sought a private audience with Queen Isabella, and into her sympathetic ear poured out the story of his wrongs. It was promised that the sway of the new governor should last for two years only, when it was hoped that the reins of government might be

again entrusted to Columbus. Already murmurs of discontent were heard at Bobadilla's actions. He harried the natives, made slaves of them all, and succeeded in wringing from them four times as much gold as did Columbus. Charged with the most minute instructions as to his conduct of the affairs of the colonies, a new governor, Nicholas de Ovando, left Spain on February 13, 1502, with command of twenty-five hundred adventurers.

Meantime Columbus chafed at his forced inactivity, and he soon laid a new scheme before the monarchs of Spain. He had long held the theory that somewhere there was a strait leading from the vicinity of St. Domingo to the East Indies where the Portuguese held sway, and from which they were already drawing vast riches. He persuaded the sovereigns to furnish him with the necessary ships to put this theory to the test. To this they agreed, and in May, 1502, Columbus and his brother Bartholomew and his second son Fernando, set sail from Cadiz.

Martinique was reached on June 13, and after refitting, set sail for Jamaica July 14th. "For about nine weeks he made so little progress that his crews began to clamor for the abandonment of the expedition. The ships were worm-eaten and leaky. Provisions were running short. The seamen had seen their commander thrust away from what might be called his own door; and the sight of his powerlessness had strengthened their independence until it amounted to insubordination. Fortunately, however, before the discontent broke out into open mutiny, a breeze sprang up from the east, and the admiral easily persuaded his unruly crews that it was better to prosecute their voyage than to remain beating about the islets waiting to return home."

At length they came in sight of the coast of Honduras, along which they coasted to the eastward as far as Cape Gracias a Dios, so named in gratitude for a timely shift of wind which enabled them to continue their coastwise voyage. A few

weeks later the Bay of Panama was reached, and the fleet again refitted and watered, but still there were no signs of the kingdom of the Grand Khan! But the admiral lingered on the coast of Central America, until December 5th, when a violent hurricane was like to have wrecked the caravels. After buffeting the waves for a week they gained the mouth of a river, which Columbus named Bethlehem, having entered it on the day of Epiphany.

Here they heard of a powerful cacique named Quibia, lord of some marvelous gold mines. They managed to obtain large quantities of the precious metal, so that Columbus was sure that he had at last come to the very Aurea Chersonesus from which Solomon had collected the gold for the Temple at Jerusalem! Here a settlement was founded with about eighty colonists. Huts were built, and supplies sent ashore, Columbus immediately setting sail for Spain for reinforcements. But before the ships had gained the sea-breeze

the Spaniards got into a bloody fight with the natives and many were killed. The result was that the colony was abandoned and the survivors were taken aboard the fleet once more. But now the ships were found to be utterly unseaworthy, so Columbus ran them ashore on the coast of Jamaica, built huts on deck for housing the crews, and sent messengers to Ovando in Hispaniola asking for a ship to carry them all to Spain.

Months went by and no succor came ; the crews mutinied and were on the point of starting for Hispaniola in native canoes. From this mad project they were diverted by the threatening hostility of the Indians, which was only averted by Columbus foretelling an eclipse of the moon, which he said he had called down from heaven to punish them for their bad conduct. The eclipse arrived punctually, and once more the star of the white men was in the ascendant.

When eight months had rolled by a caravel arrived from Ovando with some trifling presents

for Columbus, and promising speedy succor. But it was not until June 28, 1504, a year after the beaching of the worn-out vessels, that the Spaniards were gladdened by the sight of two caravels coming to their relief, under the command of Ovando in person. In less than a month Columbus was once more on the high seas, the prows of his ships pointing toward Spain.

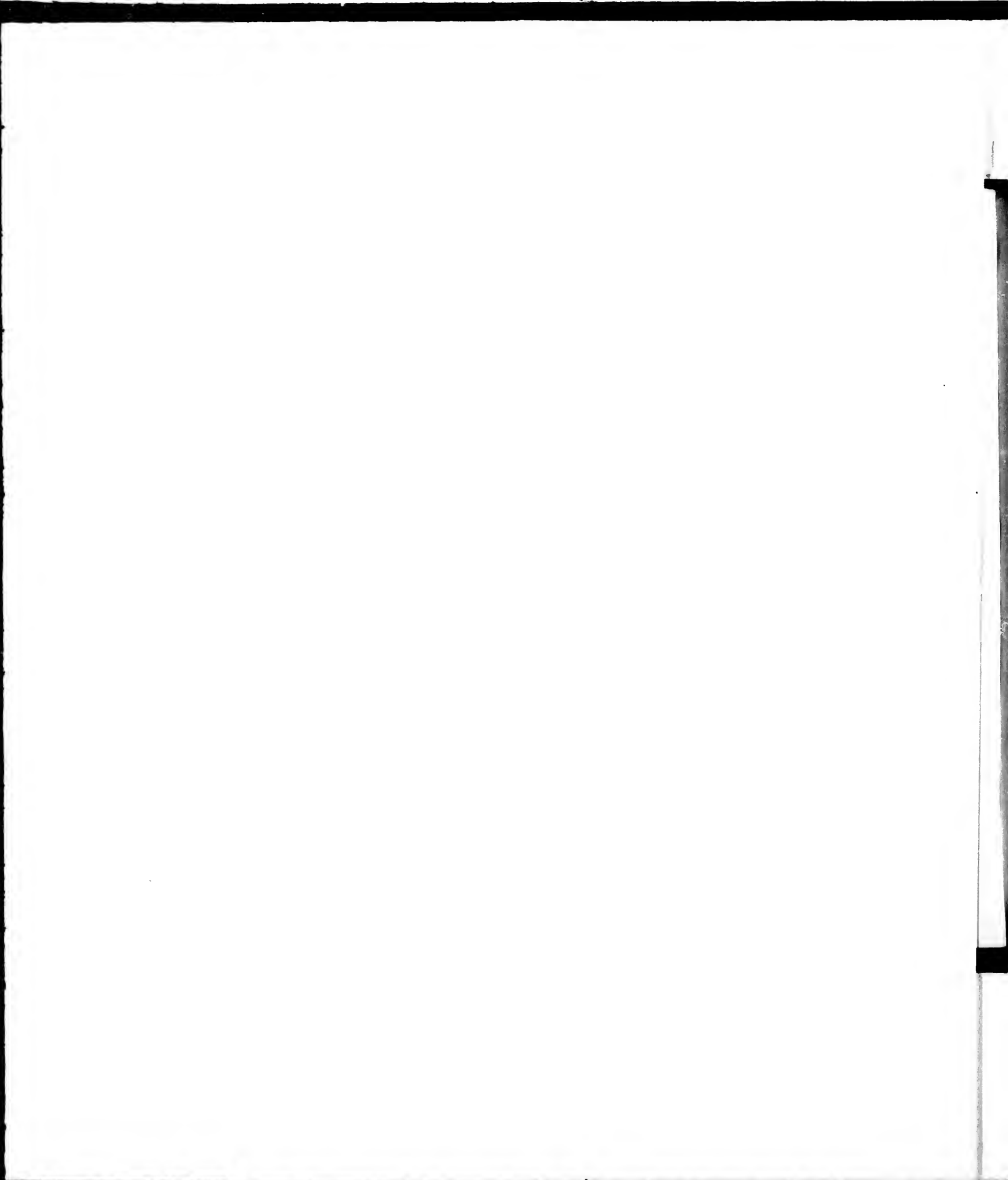
Misfortunes still pursued him; fearful storms swept the Atlantic; twice the ship was dismasted and in danger of foundering; added to which was the fact that the admiral's health was steadily succumbing to the attacks of disease. On the other hand he could expect no very enthusiastic reception at court. On every hand he had failed. He had discovered no strait, he brought home no gold, and he had lost his ships. So, "prostrated by sickness, nearly ruined in means, and hopeless of encouragement from the sovereigns, the discoverer of the New World arrived at Seville on the 7th of November, 1504,



Death of Columbus.

Death of Columbus





in as miserable a plight as his worst enemy could desire." To add to his sorrow, his best friend was no more, for Queen Isabella died on the 26th of November.

Columbus had previously written to the sovereigns that he was too ill to wait on them at court, though still proffering his services. But the end was near. Having received the consolations of the Church, and uttering as his last words, "Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit," the gallant explorer died at Valladolid on Ascension Day, May 20th, 1506.

"His body was deposited in the convent of St. Francisco, and his obsequies were celebrated with funeral pomp at Valladolid, in the parochial church of Santa Maria de la Antigua. His remains were transported afterwards, in 1513, to the Carthusian monastery of Las Cuevas of Seville, to the chapel of St. Ann or of Santo Christo, in which chapel were likewise deposited those of his son Don Diego, who died in the

village of Montalban, on the 23d of February, 1526. In the year 1536 the bodies of Columbus and his son Diego were removed to Hispaniola, and interred in the principal chapel of the cathedral of the city of San Domingo ; but even here they did not rest in quiet, having since been again disinterred, and conveyed to Havana, in the island of Cuba."

Ferdinand ordered a monument to be erected to the memory of Columbus bearing these words ; "To Castile and Leon Columbus gave a New World."

He died in total ignorance of the importance of his discovery. Its reality exceeded by far his own wildest dreams. "Until his last breath," says Irving, "he entertained the idea that he had merely opened a new way to the old resorts of opulent commerce, and had discovered some of the wild regions of the East. He supposed Hispaniola to be the ancient Ophir which had been visited by the ships of Solomon, and that Cuba

and Terra Firma were but remote parts of Asia. What visions of glory would have broken upon his mind could he have known that he had indeed discovered a new continent, equal to the whole of the Old World in magnitude, and separate by two vast oceans from all the earth hitherto known by civilized man ! And how would his magnanimous spirit have been consoled, amidst the afflictions of age and the cares of penury, the neglect of a fickle public, and the injustice of an ungrateful king, could he have anticipated the splendid empires which were to spread over the beautiful world he had discovered ; and the nations, and tongues, and languages which were to fill its lands with his renown, and revere and bless his name to the latest posterity ! ”

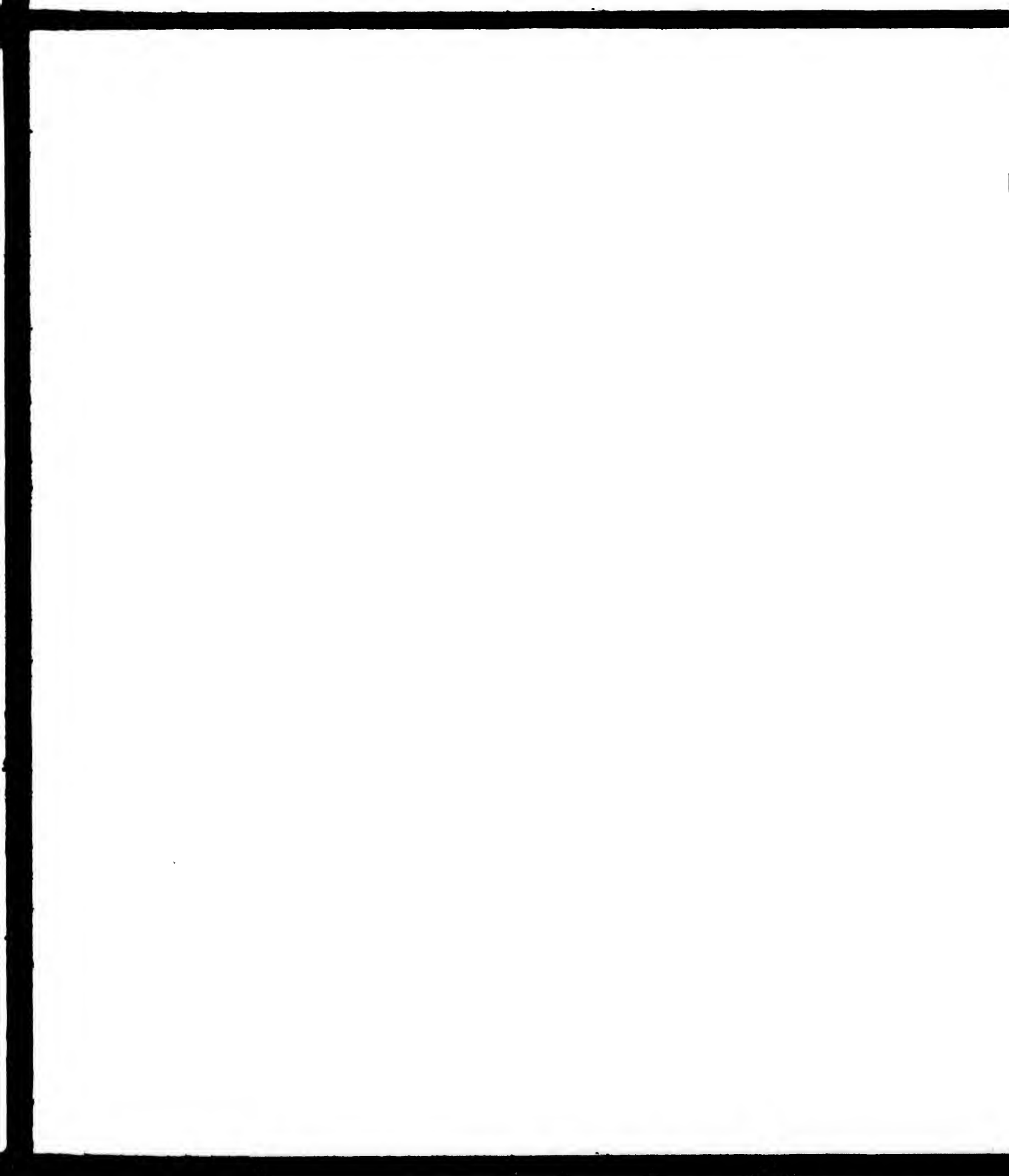
“ Inexpressibly melancholy,” says a recent writer, “ is the story of the reverses in the fortune of Columbus, and of the clouds that darken his declining years. The very enthusiasm with which he had described the riches and resources of the



Sunol's Statue of Columbus, Central Park, New York.



t, *New York.*



New World caused more to be expected of him than he could accomplish. He was the constant victim of intrigue. His colonists sent to the Court misstatements of his management and his motives, and one of the most devout, sincere, and unselfish of men was depicted as a sordid and lying adventurer. It was his destiny to drink the cup of ingratitude to the dregs. With Queen Isabella dead, his subordinates conspiring against him, and the cold-hearted Ferdinand neglecting him, one by one the pledges that had been received from his patroness were left unredeemed. Broken in health, half blind, he spent years in seeking audience of kings and ministers, and in his later life, to the pangs of physical suffering were added the torture of seeing others wearing the honors due himself. Finally he was reduced to begging a loan of money to buy a cot upon which to die. It is all a most dramatic and pathetic story,—the rise from a humble workshop to the pinnacle of renown as the discoverer of a

New World, followed by a steady sinking to poverty and neglect, ending with death in a lodging-house. He died uttering as his last words those of Christ on the cross; but the local Cronicon, which collects all the details of city life, has not even a word of mention of his death for that year. After his death his fame quickly reached the zenith. Not the least marvellous of the gifts of Columbus was his extraordinary power of detailed observation, which attracted the profound admiration of Humboldt. Not a change in compass or current, not a wisp of floating weed or flight of birds, escaped his studious eye, and his recorded inferences and conclusions would alone place him among the wisest of mankind."

Enough has been said in the foregoing pages to show that "Columbus never saw, much less stood upon, the shores of the continent of North America. In no sense was he the discoverer of that great country which is now known by the

name of the United States of America. His gold-hunting expeditions were confined to the islands, and the adjacent coasts of South and Central America." The very situation of the first land he saw is doubtful, though Watling Island is now generally accepted as the site of the historic landfall; and it was from this spot that he wrote home to their Catholic majesties that he should be able to supply them with all the gold they needed, with spices, cotton, mastic, aloes, rhubarb, cinnamon, and slaves." At one time the great admiral bade fair to discover the Floridian peninsula, but he changed his course to the southwest in search of his chimerical Cipango.

To the English—the near kin and blood-relations of the descendants of Leif Ericson and his Vikings—belongs the honor of re-discovering the forgotten continent of North America of which our own land forms a part; and the Cabots—John the father, and Louis, Sebastian, and Sancho, the sons—in 1497, in a Bristol ship

called the *Matthew*, were the first to set foot on the mainland, coasting from Labrador to the latitude of Cape Hatteras.

The voyages of the Cabots to North America were followed by those of Cortereal, a Portuguese, in 1500 and 1501; by those of various seamen from 1506 to 1530; by those of Jacques Cartier for exploration and discovery in 1534-35, 41, 43. Curiously enough, during the first fifty years of the 16th century, we find all the mariners taking one of two known routes—the extreme southerly course followed by the Spaniards and the equally extreme northerly one traversed by the Northmen and later by the English.

Various abortive attempts at settlement were made. “The first colonists in 1585 had to be taken off in 1586. The first real effort at colonization on United States territory was that of Sir Walter Raleigh, and out of repeated failures arose the formation of the Virginia, the London, and the Plymouth Companies, the domain of the lat-

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ter extending from Long Island Sound to Maine. The Plymouth Company dissolved in its turn, and made room for the historic settlement of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock in 1620."

"Honor to whom honor is due!" Not by the southern route across the Atlantic followed by Columbus, nor to the Spaniards, must we look for the beginnings of a civilized and enlightened government in the northern half of our continent. "A settlement in Florida and a line of missions and feeble colonies along the Pacific coast are the chief claims that can be made by Spain to anything like a share in the honor of having helped to found or form the present nation."

The real discoverers and colonizers, whose descendants became the dominant race in America, were of English affiliation, birth, or descent, and their slow keels were wafted hither by the same tempestuous gales that drove the hissing spray along the bulwarks of the Viking ships five hundred years before.

