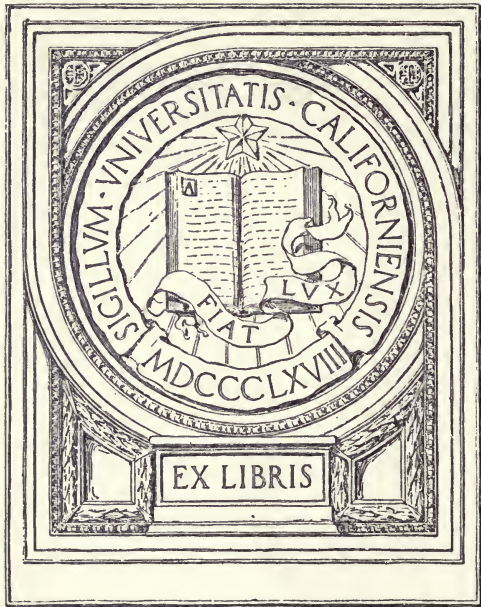


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Philip A. Roach. Address ...

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# ADDRESS

OF THE

MON. PHILIP A. ROACH,

ON THE

THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA BY COLUMBUS,

OCTOBER 12, 1492.

DELIVERED AT SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO PARK, OCTOBER 14, 1877,

BY INVITATION OF THE ITALIAN POPULATION OF SAN FRANCISCO.



SAN FRANCISCO:

W. M. Hinton & Company, Printers, 536 Clay Street.

1877.

*Presented to* .....

*With Compliments of*

PHILIP A. ROACH,

Of the SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER.

# PROGRAMME.

GRAND MARSHAL.

J. F. FUGAZI.

CHIEF AIDS.

Capt. Baker, Angelo Noce, H. I. Fisher, John A. McLaughlin, G. Bovo,  
F. Giovannini, Andrea Sbarboro, R. M. Clarken,  
M. J. Walsh, J. E. Cureton, B. Sarti.

AIDS.

A. Corduri, A. Mazza, L. Focacci, A. Focacci, G. Marselli, F. Raffo, G.  
B. Ghiozzi, L. Gardella, D. Paravagna, G. Pera, Vittorio Tachini,  
G. Demartini, B. Santurlosci, F. Orsi, D. Dalporto,  
E. Menesini, A. Belli, G. Baltron, A.  
Merici, G. Constantino,  
L. Paolucci, Fiori Frugolli, S. Giovannini.

FIRST DIVISION.

Marshal—Luigi Bacigalupo.

AIDS—G. Equi, G. Cagliari.

BAND—Lometti.

Escort—German Rifles, Capt. Wm. Brockhoff.

Barouche—Containing the Orator of the Day, Hon. P. A. Roach; the President of the Day, Mr. G. Cuneo; Mr. S. Antoldi, Poet, and Judge Ferral.

Barouche—Containing the President of the Garibaldi Guard, M. V. Ravenna, with the Civil Administration.

Barouche—Containing the representatives of the Mutual Benevolent Association, Mr. G. Sala, President.

SECOND DIVISION.

Marshal—A. Quilici.

AIDS—O. Menesini, U. Bertini.

BAND—San Francisco.

Barouche—Containing Messrs. L. Ghilardi, M. Perpoli, P. Canepa, and E. E. Palmieri, officers of the Gardeners' Association.

Triumphal Car, representing the Goddess of Agriculture,

Miss Louisa Arata.

Fishermen's Association—Triumphal Car, representing the Santa Maria, with the allegoric figure of Christopher Columbus, in costume of that age,

D. Mengolo, President.

Garibaldi Guard—Capt. G. Malatesta.

Italians in carriages and on foot.



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ADDRESS  
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HON. PHILIP A. ROACH  
ON THE  
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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

The concourse assembled here to-day is actuated by a spirit of gratitude towards the memory of one of Italy's noblest sons. Prolific as she has been in poets, heroes, philosophers and sages, no name in her annals, nor in those of other lands, has attained a higher place, as a benefactor of mankind, throughout the civilized world, than that of Christopher Columbus.

Every nation honors itself by commemorating the achievements of those who have rendered important services to their respective peoples. And various nations celebrate the anniversary of the birth-day of their great men, with a spirit of enthusiasm which finds a response in the most distant regions, where members of the nationality are scattered.

Such commemorative demonstrations have their origin in the noblest impulses of the human heart. They are the expressions of gratitude for benefits conferred upon humanity, which prompt emulation of noble deeds. Low in the scale of civilization must be the people who fail to recognize the benefits received from the

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teachings and examples of their heroes, statesmen, philosophers and benefactors.

#### NATIONAL SPIRIT

Will achieve national greatness and elevate character, when the people, on occasions like the one which has brought together this intelligent audience, assemble in their native or adopted homes, to honor the memory of their countrymen distinguished for the performance of deeds beneficial to humanity.

The anniversary we celebrate to-day is one in which all the civilized races of mankind tender to Italy their earnest sympathies. Columbus gave not a new world alone to "Castile and Leon,"—he gave it to mankind. The new world which he discovered has become the abode of representatives of all the known races.

#### CENTURIES OF IMMIGRATION.

During nearly four centuries Europe has been sending her active and enterprising sons to find their homes on her hospitable shores. And at the present day three languages—English, Spanish and Portuguese—dominate the vast territory extending from Alaska to Patagonia, and from Baffin's Bay to Cape Horn. In the interval of centuries the New World has poured into the Old her treasures of gold and silver and precious stones; and now, within a few years of the close of the fourth century since the discovery, the annual yield of the precious metals has not decreased in volume. These productions have developed the manufactures and commerce of the entire globe. The warlike spirit of the 15th century has been gradually changed for commercial and scientific enterprises, and the older continent has been enabled to support in abundance four-fold a larger population than it did in the days of Columbus. Great as has been the value of

#### THE TREASURES

America has given to the older hemisphere, her soil has yielded products more valuable than her diamonds, her silver or her gold. The Missionary Fathers discovered in her forests that precious bark called Cinchona, which has saved millions of the human race from the jaws of death. Other trees have yielded the precious balsams which have proved specifics against various diseases. And from her fields, extending nearly from Hudson's Bay on the

north to the drear wastes of Patagonia on the south, have been drawn the productions which have fed and clothed countless millions of mankind; also, from her islands has come that precious fertilizer which has repaired the waste of European cultivation. Abundant yields of coffee, sugar, wheat, rice, tobacco and the potato, have cheapened to the toiling masses of the human family the necessaries of life. Her prodigious yield of cotton, principally obtained in the United States and Brazil, has clothed about one-half the members of the human family; while its manufacture has given employment to a few nations, aided by machinery, that could not be performed by the manual labor of the entire world unaided by that agency. To carry on the commerce between the western and eastern hemispheres, vessels are employed of a tonnage so great that the Santa Maria, the admiral's ship, and the Pinta and Niña could be placed upon their decks and leave ample space for promenading.

To-day a great republic, which has attained its 100th year of existence, and an empire nearly as great in area as that of the United States, with several sister republics, attest the greatness of the achievement of Columbus. History will bear out the assertion, that no individual deed has been so fraught with beneficial influences to humanity as that accomplished by the firmness, constancy, and untiring perseverance which sustained Columbus in his dreary path over then unknown seas.

#### MORAL INFLUENCES.

Great as have been the material advantages resulting from the discovery of America, the crowning glory has been the solving of the problem of man's ability for self-government. On the virgin soil of the New World were early planted the seeds of civil and religious freedom, which rapidly fructified under her genial skies, and extended their benign influence over Europe. Kingly systems could not be enforced on this continent, and with the exception of the Dominion of Canada, the whole region has thrown off European tutelage. The idea which germinated on the soil of America, and which resisted long years of wars to extirpate, is self-government by their respective peoples; and that idea can never perish so long as its governments maintain a proper system of public education, and prevent by proper precautions the falsification of the popular will.

As the history of Columbus will give this audience the most



correct idea of his sufferings, services, and claims to the gratitude of mankind, I shall briefly allude to the incidents of his eventful career.

#### HIS EARLY EDUCATION.

Columbus was born in Genoa in 1436, of parents of the industrial class. At the age of 10 he commenced his studies at the University of Pavia, then one of the most renowned in Europe for the learning and ability of its professors and for the number of its students. At that period Italy stood pre-eminent in letters, in the arts, and sciences. Her poets and philosophers had opened new fields to thought and speculation. The art of printing, discovered in 1430, had made giant strides in diffusing knowledge by the publication of works of great merit, which had remained almost unknown in the cloisters. The downfall of the Greek empire, on the capture of Constantinople in 1453, forced many of the learned men of the empire of Constantine, to seek refuge in Italy. Their presence gave a powerful impetus to literature, and led to that era which has been called "La Renaissance," or the revival of learning. A spirit of enthusiasm was awakened in Italy for the acquisition of knowledge, and the writings of poets and philosophers inspired the youth of that land with the most lofty ideas and undaunted courage to follow their suggestions. The dreams of poets have often been proved correct, realized by scientific discovery. Dante, born in 1265, promulgated in his almost heaven-inspired work, with the tongue of a prophet, the theory of the rotundity of the earth. Nor is that the only suggestion that science has received from poets to secure the attainment of what seemed the impossible. Later, but not less memorable, was the declaration of Shakspeare, "in 40 minutes will I put a girdle round the earth," now realized by the flashings of thought even through ocean's depths, from one continent to the other. The influx of the learned Greeks into Italy spread a knowledge of the cosmography of the world, and was educating in Italy the race of navigators who formed that brilliant galaxy in the history of maritime discovery, among whom were the brothers Cabot and Amerigo Vespucci.

#### COLUMBUS LEFT COLLEGE

At the age of 14, possessed of an extraordinary amount of knowledge for his age. His father placed him with his grand



uncle, who held a commission in the Genoese navy, for Genoa was then at war with Venice, Naples and the Turk. He spent twenty years afloat, acquiring by this severe training, a thorough knowledge of seamanship, an acquaintance with the characteristics of the sailors of that time, of the methods of managing them, and frequently gaining from the conversations of experienced pilots facts, which, to his logical mind, formed a clue to solve the great problem he had in contemplation. In 1470, swimming from a burning galley, one of the attacking vessels on a Venitian fleet, off Cape St. Vincent, he succeeded, with the assistance of a spar, in reaching the shore, and proceeded to Lisbon, where he met his brother, Bartolommeo, who was then engaged in the business of chart making.

#### THE COURT OF PORTUGAL.

After a few years residence there, he married the daughter of the distinguished Italian navigator, Palestrello, and at his death inherited his charts and papers. Lisbon was then the grand center of commercial movement. Pilots and sailors who had been on voyages to the Canaries, the Azores, and African coast, were here met with, and they recounted many incidents which confirmed Columbus in his theories. In 1474 the celebrated Italian cosmographer, Toscanelli, replied to inquiries from Alfonso V, sending a chart, placing the east coast of Asia opposite the west coast of Africa, with an ocean of indefinite extent lying between. Columbus opened a correspondence with that venerable philosopher, who pronounced his plan of sailing to the west feasible. In 1477 he made a voyage apparently of exploration, to the northwest, 100 leagues beyond Iceland, into latitude 73, where he was astonished to find the sea, so near the polar circle, not frozen. This remained for a long period one of the most northerly of explorations. After his return he made a trip to the coast of Guinea.

We now arrive at the period when Columbus, having matured his plans, made application to different governments to furnish him the means of carrying them out. It is asserted that he applied to Genoa for assistance; but the Republic was unable to grant it. He then applied to John II, king of Portugal, who ascended the throne in 1481. This young monarch had imbibed the passion for discovery from his grand uncle, Prince Henry;

and with his reign all its activity revived. At this period the wildest stories prevailed regarding the wealth and inhabitants of Asia. Impatient of the slowness with which his discoveries advanced along the coast of Africa, and of the impediments presented to nautical enterprise, the youthful monarch called in the aid of science to devise some means by which greater certainty might be given to navigation. His two physicians, Roderigo and Joseph, the latter an Israelite, the most able astronomers and cosmographers of his kingdom, together with Martin Behen, of Nuremberg, entered into a learned consultation on the subject. The result of their labor was the application of the astrolabe to navigation, enabling the seaman, by the altitude of the sun, to ascertain the distance from the equator. This instrument has been improved and modified into the modern quadrant. This invention enabled the mariner to rove the deep and to enter boldly into unknown seas, confident of his ability to retrace his course by means of the compass and the astrolabe.

Columbus, aware of the liberality of the Court of Portugal in rewarding nautical discovery sought an audience of King John and proposed to discover a shorter route to India than that along the coast of Africa. His plan was to strike directly to the west across the Atlantic. He then unfolded his hypothesis in regard to the extent of Asia, and of the immense riches of the island of Cipango, the first land at which he expected to arrive. The king referred the proposition of Columbus to a learned Junto, composed of Roderigo and Joseph, and the Bishop of Ceuta. This scientific body treated the project as extravagant and visionary.

#### A STRATAGEM TO OBTAIN HIS PLANS.

But still King John manifested an inclination for the enterprise, and his ministers sought by stratagem to obtain the fruits of the labors of Columbus without acceding to his terms. Columbus was required to furnish for the consideration of the council a detailed plan of his proposed voyage, with the charts and documents from which he intended to shape his course. These being obtained, a caravel was dispatched with the ostensible purpose of carrying provisions to the Cape de Verde Islands, but with private instructions to pursue the designated route. The pilots, alarmed by the stormy weather, and seeing nothing but an immeasurable waste of waters before them, put back, ridicul-

ing the project of Columbus as extravagant and visionary. This unworthy attempt aroused the indignation of Columbus, and he refused all further efforts of King John to renew negotiations. Towards the end of 1484 he left Lisbon privately, fearing that his creditors might prevent his departure, the grand project which he had in view having reduced him to the verge of poverty.

## ISABELLA THE CATHOLIC.

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Columbus arrived in Spain in 1485, and the Duke of Medina Celi wrote to Queen Isabella strongly recommending his project to her attention. She was in her own right Queen of Castile, and shared the sovereignty of the united kingdom of Castile and Arragon with her husband Ferdinand; they were joint sovereigns, and Isabella participated in the labors of the cabinet and was frequently in armor on the field. The historians of her age are enthusiastic in their eulogies of her talents and virtues. She possessed wonderful firmness and earnestness of spirit. Her genius and grandeur of soul inspired the chivalry of Spain with lofty ideas, her pious example exercised a benign influence on the Court, and she loved her people, diligently promoting their welfare by her wise counsels. She appears in history as one of the purest and noblest mentioned in its pages. Her trials and triumphs made her life the romance of reality. She fostered the art of printing and some of the great works of the early press were published under her auspices. She lavished her means in promoting letters and arts, and through her aid Salamanca rose to the height which it assumed in that age. It was to that University that the queen referred the proposals of Columbus, which were debated before a learned commission in 1486. The theory of the rotundity of the earth advanced by Columbus was opposed by citations drawn from the writings of the Fathers of the Church, passages of the Bible, and the epistles of St. Paul, and that it was impossible we could have antipodes. But the arguments of Columbus had made a favorable impression on many of his auditors. Ferdinand and Isabella were now actively engaged in campaigns against the Moorish Kingdom of Granada, and Columbus was frequently invited to attend them, but he was never able to obtain an audience from the sovereigns in reference to his project. In the Fall of 1490, Columbus received a reply from Ferdinand declining to engage in the enterprise for the present, but



holding out hopes of support when relieved from the cares and expenses of war. Disgusted at this disappointment he left Seville, indignant at having lost so many years of his life in expecting assistance from Princes. He was now reduced to extreme poverty, and so pressing were his needs that he stopped one day at the Convent of Santa Maria, near Palos de Moguer, to beg bread and water for himself and son who accompanied him.

THE PRIOR OF SANTA MARIA.

While receiving this miserable fare the Prior Juan Perez de Marchena happened to pass by and was pleased with the noble appearance of the stranger. The Prior, from his residence near an important sea port, took an active interest in maritime affairs; he was a man of extensive learning and became impressed with the conversation of Columbus. Fearing that the refusal of Ferdinand might lose to Spain the opportunity of greatness by realizing the discovery of new regions, he induced Columbus to remain a few days at his Convent until he could visit Isabella, whose confessor he had been. The representations of the Prior convinced the Queen of the merits of the project, and with considerate kindness she bethought herself of his poverty and sent him a sum of money—twenty thousand maravedies, equal to \$220 of our money, to buy a mule for his journey and a proper outfit to present himself at Court. He arrived at Court in time to witness the surrender of Granada, and to see the last of the Moorish Kings sally from the Alhambra. Nearly eight hundred years of war ended by restoring a large portion of Spain to Christian rule; and during three centuries of that period, the Caliphs of Cordova exceeded in the splendor of their Court that of their rivals of Bagdad. There was in the crowd that flocked to congratulate their sovereigns one, who, in a very short period was destined to give to Spain the finest and richest regions of the earth. The war being over negotiators were appointed to treat with Columbus, but his conditions were regarded as so exorbitant as to be declared inadmissible, and in February, 1492, he determined to abandon Spain immediately, and had actually made some progress on his journey toward France, when he was called back by a special courier. The day before, the receiver of the ecclesiastical revenue, St. Angel, successfully urged Isabella to aid the enterprise, stating the advantages that would redound to

the interests of religion and the glory of Spain. Ferdinand objected that there was no money in the treasury. Isabella replied to this: "I will undertake the enterprise for my crown of Castile, and will pledge my jewels to raise the necessary funds." That noble declaration opened a new era in the history of the world.

THE DEPARTURE.

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Capitulations were signed by Ferdinand and Isabella April 17, 1492, and Columbus immediately repaired to Palos, with the royal mandate to secure three vessels and crews. After weeks of efforts, three small vessels were obtained, many of the crew being impressed. The largest, the Santa Maria, was decked and carried the Admiral's flag; the Pinta and the Niña were only partially decked, and the entire number on board the vessels consisted of 120 persons. The largest of the fleet was about 100 tons. They left the port of Palos on Friday, the 3d of August, 1492, all having previously partaken of the sacraments and committed themselves to the special guidance and protection of heaven. It was a day of gloom for that community as nearly every family had a friend or relative in the expedition. The spirits of the seamen, already cast down, were still more depressed at the affliction of those they left behind, who took leave of them with tears and lamentations as if they were embarking never to return. On the 10th of August, the ships arrived at the Canary Islands to make necessary repairs and remained there three weeks. He then set sail over the unknown sea. His crew as they progressed became more and more dissatisfied and were anxious to return. Many indications, such as seeing land-birds, sea-weed, excited temporary confidence that they were nearing land, and sometimes the clouds seemed to cover well defined traces of land. But as they sailed on these disappeared and the crews became more and more obstinate; the Pinzons admirably sustained Columbus, and prevented mutiny, and at last on the morning of Friday, Oct. 12, land was discerned from the mast-head of the Pinta, which was made known by the firing of a gun from that vessel. Sail was now taken in and the dawn impatiently awaited. They arrived at the island now called San Salvador. The great mystery of the ocean was solved. The theory of Columbus was established! In ten weeks, after leaving Spain, the sublime achievement to which he had devoted his

life was realized. His long years of poverty, anguish and humiliation were recompensed. He was now fifty-six years of age and the realization of his views made him the Viceroy of regions greater than had ever been given to any individual. Landing he took possession of the island in the name of Ferdinand and Isabella; and with imposing religious ceremonies he unfurled the banner of Spain which we see now floating from the masthead of the Santa Maria, which forms a feature of this celebration. The meeting of the races was an extraordinary sight. The simple Indians, gazing upon the commanding and venerable person of Columbus and his mailed followers, believed them to have descended from the skies. While to the Europeans the natives were the objects of the most intense curiosity differing as they did from all known races of mankind.

#### THE RETURN.

Columbus, after visiting many of the Islands in the vicinity of the one he discovered, left on the 4th of January, 1493, for Spain. For a few days, everything was favorable to a safe and speedy voyage, and the little barks sped gaily on their homeward course. But soon a tempest rose and the vessels almost foundered. Nor was this their only trial. A few days of fair weather was followed by a storm far more terrible than that which they had before encountered. For the space of two weeks they were driven constantly before the furious winds. The whole crew were terrified and firmly believed their last hour had come. One heart however never quailed in all the long war of the elements; one soul alone, trusting in the power of the Almighty to stay the fury of the tempest, remained in the vessels,—Columbus firm and undaunted. Prayers, vows and supplications were directed to Heaven, that the storm might cease. On the 17th of February, after seven weeks of mingled fear and hope land was seen. It proved to be St. Mary's, one of the Azores Islands, and Columbus staid there four days to perform the vows he had made, and to refresh his tired crews. He again set sail, but when a short distance from Portugal, encountered a storm scarcely less fierce than the last, but this being weathered he arrived at Lisbon on the 4th of March, 1493. He immediately asked permission of the Portuguese government to enter that port. When the tidings reached the Court of the arrival of Col-



umbus and the success which had attended his efforts, the excitement almost surpassed all conceivable bounds. The King of Portugal prepared a magnificent reception to his honor, and when approaching the city at which the King was, Columbus was met by an immense concourse of nobles and members of the royal household. Columbus related his adventures to the King who attentively listened with feeling of pleasure and regret. But amidst all this outward show of friendship, an under current of animosity concealed by this pomp and grandeur was attempting to destroy the fruits of this grand discovery. Columbus was not slow to perceive this and hastened his departure. He set sail for Spain on the 13th of March, and arrived in the port of Palos two days later, after an absence of not quite seven months on the most remarkable enterprise which had ever been undertaken.

#### HIS RECEPTION.

The return of Columbus to Spain with proof of his amazing discovery, created a far greater state of excitement than that witnessed in Lisbon. The news of his arrival spread with almost the speed of lightning. Bonfires blazed from every eminence, bells were rung, cannon were fired, and the whole populace gave themselves up to demonstrations of joy. At this time the King and Queen were at Barcelona, about seven hundred miles distant from Palos. Columbus was immediately ordered to repair thither. His journey was one continued ovation; not a village, not a hamlet, not a person, but came forward to see the discoverer of the Indies. The windows, housetops, balconies, were always filled with eager thousands, striving to do homage to this great man. Yet amidst all this grandeur and pomp, the heart of Columbus never grew proud. He remained always the meek and humble man he had been, before he added these magnificent realms to the domain of Spain. At length he reached Barcelona. As he neared that city an immense concourse of nobles came forth to meet him. Ferdinand and Isabella, with their son Prince John, were seated beneath a silken canopy in a vast saloon, prepared for the occasion. The apartment was crowded with the grandees of the realm. As Columbus approached, the sovereigns did him the honor of rising and inviting him to a seat at their side. This was an honor conferred on persons only of highest rank. Columbus desired to kiss their hands, to which with

some reluctance, they consented. He then narrated his adventures, his sufferings, the storms and dangers which they had encountered and their happy return. He showed them all that he had brought from the islands, and dwelt particularly on the great field that existed in the New World for missionary labor. At the close of this narration, the King and Queen, and the whole assembly with one accord, fell on their knees and raised their voices to heaven in that beautiful anthem: "TE DEUM LAUDAMUS." Not a shout of joy or other demonstration. The feelings were too great for expression. As Las Casas says: "The souls of the auditors in that solemn hour were so borne up to Heaven, that it seemed as if they communicated with the celestial light."

The news of this great discovery excited the profoundest attention in Europe. In Italy, the wildest enthusiasm prevailed, and Genoa was justly proud of the achievements of her son. Other Italian navigators, the Cabots, Vespucci, and others, soon followed in the paths of maritime discovery. Ferdinand and Isabella manifested toward Columbus their warmest gratitude; showing him the most signal marks of royal favor, even allowing the arms of Spain to be quartered on his shield, with this inscription:

"To Castile and Leon,  
A New World gave Colon."

And Isabella made him the confidant of her plans for the protection and conversion to the faith of the native population. After a sojourn of six months, occupied in making preparations on a grand scale, in September, 1493, Columbus sailed from Cadiz on his second voyage, with 17 ships and 1500 men, and discovered several large islands; but his enemies in Spain, by their calumnies, to which Ferdinand was too willing to listen, forced him to return in 1496. Having cleared himself with his sovereigns he, in May, 1498, set out on his third expedition, and steering more to the southward, discovered the mouths of the Orinoco and landed in South America, at a place now forming a part of Venezuela. Returning from these discoveries he sailed for Santo Domingo, where, on arrival, he found everything in disorder. Ferdinand, crafty, envious and suspicious, had again listened to calumnies against the Admiral and had appointed an officer of his household, Bobadillo, to succeed him as Governor, who, shortly after his arrival, exceeding his powers, put him in prison, seized his

papers, and sent him home in chains. This unworthy treatment excited the indignation of the Spanish people. With rare eloquence the Admiral related his wrongs to the sovereigns; Isabella was affected unto tears, and Ferdinand disavowed all knowledge of the disgraceful affair; but he refused to redress the grievances of which Columbus had so long complained. But calumnies, disappointments, and injustice could not crush the spirit of the grand old man. He had not yet fully realized his predictions. On the 9th of May, 1502, he set sail from Spain with four vessels and one hundred and fifty men, to seek once more a passage uniting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The mutinous character of his crew, however, forced him aside to seek for gold, and after many difficulties and disasters, and having added but little to his previous discoveries, he returned to Spain in 1504. Isabella, his protectress, was dead. Washington Irving says of that noble woman: "She was one of the purest spirits that ever ruled over the destinies of a nation. Had she been spared, her benignant vigilance might have prevented many a scene of horror in the colonization of the New World, and might have softened the lot of its native inhabitants."

#### ROYAL INGRATITUDE.

After her death Ferdinand proved basely ungrateful; and the man who had given him such immense territories, broken down by exposure, suffering the terrible torments of the gout, and in abject poverty, died at Valladolid, May 20, 1506. His dying words were—"Lord, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" Death did not end his voyages. His remains were first buried in the Convent of St. Francis; in 1513 they were transferred to Las Cuevas; in 1536 they were escorted by a royal squadron to St. Domingo and deposited in the cathedral of that city; when the island was ceded to France, the remains, amid the greatest pomp, were removed in 1796 to Havana, where they now repose.

What a destiny of the living body and its mortal remains! The former, animated by a noble spirit, four times crossed the ocean and performed the greatest achievement recorded in the annals of time. The latter, four times conducted to the sepulchre, it is to be hoped has at last found a permanent resting place.

As this address is nearly ended, permit me a few personal remarks. Frequently in Lisbon I visited the church where Colum-



bus was married, and where often he humbly knelt in prayer, invoking divine grace to sustain him in his trials and tribulations. And in the cathedral of Havana I have paid the homage of my respect to his memory, by kneeling at the grand altar and praying to God the Merciful for the eternal happiness of his soul. And I yet cherish the hope of being able to visit the land that gave him birth—Genoa the Beautiful—the Republic so renowned by the sublime achievements of her sons.

The conclusion of this address will be the character of Columbus, as drawn by the master hand of Washington Irving.

#### THE CHARACTER OF COLUMBUS.

His impetuous ardor threw him into the study of the Fathers of the Church, the Arabian Jews and the ancient geographers; while his daring but irregular genius, bursting from the limits of imperfect science, bore him to conclusions far beyond the intellectual vision of his contemporaries. If some of his conclusions were erroneous, they were at least ingenious and splendid; and their errors resulted from the clouds which still hung over his peculiar path of enterprise. His own discoveries enlightened the ignorance of the age, guided conjecture to certainty, and dispelled that very darkness with which he had been compelled to struggle.

In the progress of his discoveries he has been remarked for the extreme sagacity and the admirable justness with which he seized upon the phenomena of the exterior world. The variations, for instance, of terrestrial magnetism, the direction of currents, the groupings of marine plants, fixing one of the grand climacteric divisions of the ocean, the temperature changing, not solely with the distance to the equator, but also with the difference of meridians: these and similar phenomena, as they broke upon him, were discerned with wonderful quickness of perception, and made to contribute important principles to the stock of general knowledge. This lucidity of spirit, this quick convertibility of facts to principles, distinguished him from the dawn to the close of his sublime enterprise, insomuch that, with all the sallying ardor of his imagination, his ultimate success has been admirably characterized as a “conquest of reflection.”

And he thus concludes: “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."















