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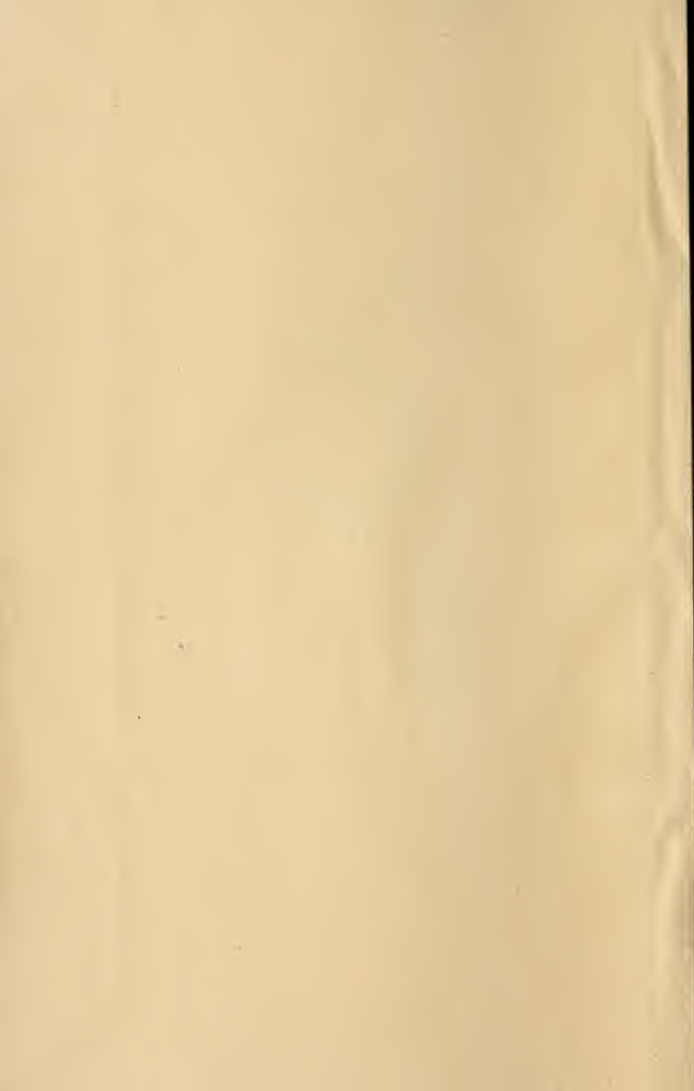
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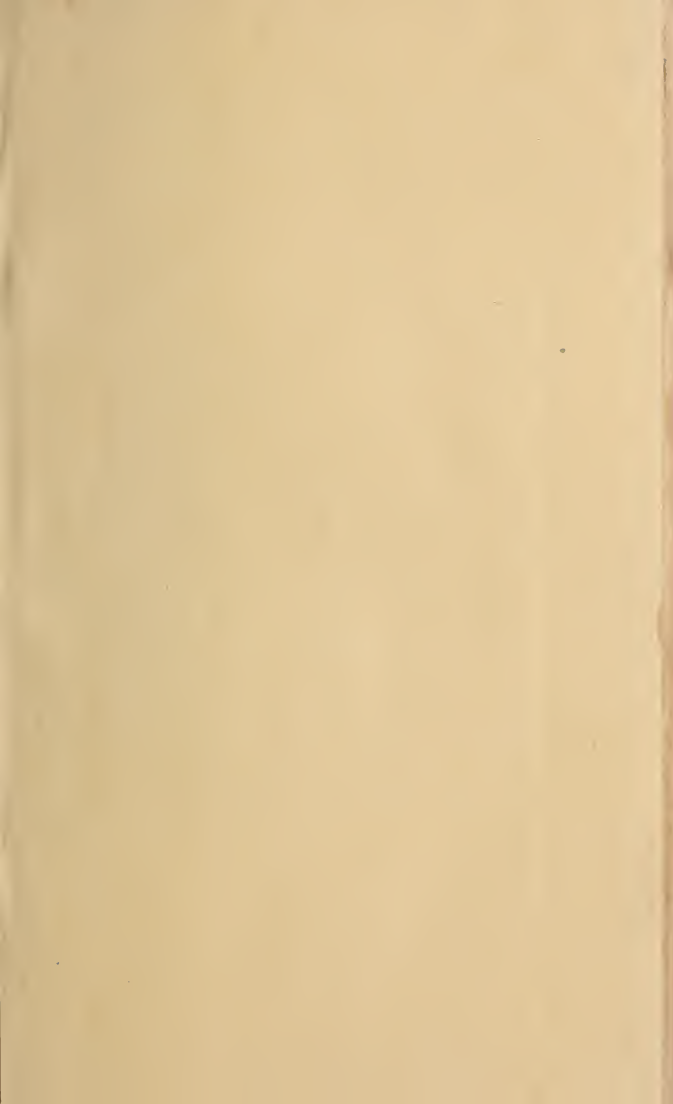
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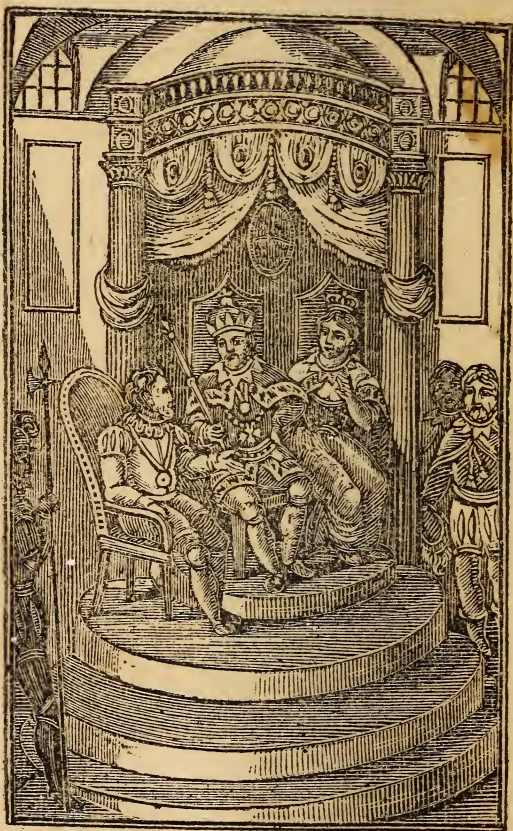




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COLUMBUS RELATING HIS ADVENTURES
TO THE KING AND QUEEN.

DISCOVERY

OF

A M E R I C A ,

BY

C H R I S T O P H E R C O L U M B U S .



MANCHESTER :

BANCKS AND COMPY.

1833.

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March 21st 1833

PREFACE.



THERE are many young people, who, when they hear of vessels sailing for America with merchandize, and of the large and populous towns which have been built in that quarter of the world; are ignorant, that it is scarcely more than three hundred years since it was first known to Europeans: the most learned Geographers, previous to that period, always supposing that the globe of the earth was covered with water, except in those places where stood Europe, Asia, and Africa: the following little book, therefore, gives an interesting account of the events which led to that discovery.

It also contains the history of a man, who may be deservedly ranked amongst the most illustrious; who raised himself from an humble station, by great talents, joined to virtuous perseverance;

of twenty, he undertook a voyage to the northern seas ; and such was his enterprising spirit, that he actually penetrated 100 leagues further north than Iceland, beyond the coast of which, no navigator had, until then, ever ventured to sail.

Soon after his return from the northern ocean, he entered into the service of a famous sea captain, who at that time, commanded a squadron, and was carrying on a war against the Turks. Whilst Columbus remained in his service, he established his character for skill in naval affairs, for bravery in action, and for his coolness and presence of mind in moments of danger. During one engagement, which took place not far from the harbour of Lisbon, the fleet in which he served, having attacked some Venetian galleys which were returning, richly laden, from the coast of Flanders, in the ardour of combat, he grappled with one of the enemy's vessels, and, while in this situation, fast locked to his antagonist by strong hooks and chains—the ship in which he served, took fire. In a moment all was terror and confusion, destruction was inevitable ; but Columbus instantly threw himself into the sea, and partly by swimming, partly by the support of an oar, which he accidentally found within his reach, he got safe to land.

But he soon quitted that life of warfare, and went to reside in Lisbon, where he married a

lady of good fortune. It was just at that time, that the Portuguese were anxious to discover a passage to the East Indies, in order to secure to their country, the commerce with the Spice Islands, which, before that period, had been carried on by a tedious overland journey from India, and it was proposed to reach those distant countries, sailing eastward, round the southern point of the continent of Africa. It occurred to Columbus, that a shorter and safer passage than this, might be found.—At that time, it was believed, that the ocean encompassed the whole earth, and Columbus, from his knowledge of geography, knew that the form of the world was round ; it therefore appeared to him, that the further those countries extended eastward, the nearer they must advance towards the west ; and he thus concluded, that the shortest and most certain course by which to reach them, must be, to sail westward, because he did not believe that any continent lay between him and the East Indies, in a westerly direction ; and thought, he would, therefore, sail in a *direct line* towards them ; whereas, he well knew, that in sailing eastward, he *must* encounter all the tedious voyage of sailing round the coast of Africa.

This conclusion, drawn from the globe-shaped figure of the earth, was strengthened by other circumstances. A Portuguese pilot having stretched farther to the west than was usual at

that time, took up a piece of timber floating upon the sea, and as it was driven to him by a westerly wind, it must have come, he thought, from land situated in that quarter. Columbus's brother-in-law had found to the west of the Madeira Isles, a piece of timber, fashioned in the same manner, and brought by the same wind, and had likewise seen canes of a great size floating upon the waves, which resembled those known as productions of the East Indies. After the wind had blown for a long time in a westerly direction, trees torn by the roots, were often driven upon the coast of the Azores; and at one time, the dead bodies of two men, with singular features, which resembled neither the inhabitants of Europe nor of Africa, were cast ashore there.

His first wish was, to obtain assistance from some of the Kings of Europe, for this great enterprise, and he made his application to the court of Portugal, but he met with many difficulties there, for his project was treated as an idle scheme, and he himself looked upon with ridicule. Accordingly, in the year 1485, he sent his brother Bartholomew with the same proposals to Henry VII. king of England, while he himself prepared to go to Spain on the same account; but Bartholomew being taken and plundered by pirates on his passage, was, on his arrival in London, reduced to such extreme poverty, as rendered him unable to gain an audience

of his Majesty. A man, however, will not remain long unnoticed, who has ingenuity and industry. By drawing and selling maps, he soon earned a comfortable livelihood, and at last acquired such reputation, as procured him access to the king. This honor he obtained in the year 1488, when he met with all the success that could be desired, and actually had entered into an agreement with the king of England, who promised to patronize the enterprise, some time before Christopher his brother closed with their Spanish Majesties.

Of this encouragement, however, we may suppose Columbus was ignorant: for at the period we are describing, the communication between distant countries was very difficult. In the year 1492 Queen Isabella approving his scheme, the articles of agreement were signed, by which Columbus was made Viceroy of the countries, and admiral of the seas he should discover; he was to have the tenth of all that was bought, bartered, found or acquired, within those limits, after the charge of the conquest should be defrayed, together with an eighth part of all he should bring home with his fleet; in consideration of which, he was to be at one eighth part of the expense in fitting it out.

The necessary preliminaries being thus adjusted, he was allowed three small vessels, the Santa Maria, commanded by himself; the Pinta, under the command of Martin Alonzo Pinzon;

and the Nina, with square sails, commanded by Vincent Yanez Pinzon, brother to the former; the latter furnishing one half of Columbus's share of the expense.

On Friday, the third day of August, in the year *fourteen hundred and ninety-two*, Columbus set sail from Palos, a little before sun-set, in presence of a vast crowd of spectators, who offered up their prayers for the happy issue of the voyage, which they wished rather than expected. The next morning, the rudder of the Pinta broke loose, which obliged the admiral to lie to. This damage, which was supposed to have been contrived by the master, who was averse to the voyage, was however soon repaired. This accident, some of the superstitious seamen would have interpreted as an ill omen; but Columbus wisely told them, that no omen could be evil, where people were engaged in a good design. He endeavoured to divert their attention from such trifles, by teaching them the principles of navigation, and to keep up their spirits, by giving them right sentiments of the undertaking in which they were embarked.

The fleet reached the Canaries on the 11th, and staid at the islands of Grand Canaria, and Isabella, till the 6th of September, in order to purchase another ship; but being disappointed, they sailed to the westward, with very little wind.

Here the voyage of discovery may be said to have commenced ; for Columbus holding his course due west, left the track which had been frequented by former navigators, and stretched into unknown seas.

Three days after losing sight of land, many people on board wept bitterly, from an apprehension that they should never see it more. To remove this childish despondency, which it was feared would infect the whole company, Columbus gave them the most confident assurances of prosperity and wealth, and at the same time, thought proper to conceal from them his reckoning ; for though they sailed eighteen leagues that day, he resolved to disguise his reckoning during the whole voyage, that these spiritless fellows might not think themselves so far from Spain as they really were. Happily for Columbus, he possessed not only naval skill and courage, (the result of thirty years experience,) but also a thorough knowledge of mankind, and a patient perseverance in the execution of his plans, without which, he never could have surmounted the difficulties against which he had to struggle. — As soon as the little squadron put to sea, he regulated every thing by his sole authority ; he looked himself to the execution of every order ; and allowing himself only a few hours for sleep, he was at all other times upon deck. — The sounding line was continually in his hands ; he attended

to tides and currents ; watched the flight of birds, the appearance of fishes, of sea-weeds, and of every thing that floated on the waves, and still, though so occupied, constantly found time to enter the most minute circumstances in a journal which he kept.

On the 12th of September, he was 150 leagues west of Ferro, and at this distance from land, discovered the body of a large tree, which appeared to have been long floating in the water. He here found a strong current setting to the north-east, and having run fifty leagues farther westward, he, on the thirteenth, perceived the needle varying half a point towards the north-east, and at day-break half a point more. The needle, it is necessary to inform the young reader, is that instrument by which sailors are enabled to direct their course.—When rubbed against a loadstone or magnet, it has the property of pointing north and south, when placed on a pivot, on which it can turn freely. In some parts of the earth it is observed to vary from this direction, and though it is now a familiar appearance, we may well suppose that when observed for the first time, it filled Columbus with surprise, and his companions with terror. They were now in a boundless ocean ; far from those places to which former navigators had penetrated ; their only guide was the compass, and it seemed as if that guide was about

to forsake them. Columbus, however, with no less quietness than ingenuity, invented a reason for this appearance, which, though it did not satisfy himself, seemed so plausible to his crew, as to dispel their fears.

On the 14th, the people onboard the Nina were surprised at the sight of a heron, and some tropical birds; but, the next day, their astonishment was greatly increased at seeing the sea covered with green and yellow weeds, that seemed to have been lately washed away from some rock or island: hence they concluded, that they were near land, especially as they found a live lobster floating among the weeds, and afterwards perceived the sea-water grow less salt as they advanced; they were also attended by a great shoal of tunny fish.

On the 18th, Martin Alonzo Pinzon, Captain of the Pinta, who was a-head, lay-to for the admiral, and informed him, that he had seen a great number of birds flying westward, and thought he discovered land to the northward, at fifteen leagues distance; but the admiral, being convinced that he was mistaken, would not alter his course, though solicited by the people, who readily gave credit to such an agreeable illusion; but the next day, the admiral seeing a number of sea gulls, which he supposed could not fly far, began himself to conceive hopes of soon reaching land; yet sounding with a line of

200 fathoms, he could find no bottom. Three days after, they took a bird like a heron, of a black colour, with a white tuft on the head, and web-footed; they also saw abundance of weeds, and in the evening, were visited by three small singing birds, which flew away at day break, and confirmed Columbus in the opinion, that they could not be far from land. The next day, they also saw a tropical bird, and met with such a quantity of weeds, that the surface of the sea resembled a meadow of vast extent. This strange appearance filled the crew with new alarms. They imagined that they were now arrived at the utmost verge of the navigable ocean; that these floating weeds would stop their further progress, and concealed dangerous rocks, against which they would shortly be dashed.—Columbus endeavoured to persuade them that the appearance of these weeds should rather encourage them, as being the sign of approaching land.—At the same time, a brisk gale arose, and carried them forward; several birds were seen hovering about the ship, and directing their flight towards the same direction in which the ships were moving. The desponding crew, therefore, recovered in some degree their courage, and began to entertain fresh hopes.

As the wind had hitherto been always right astern, the people were under the most dreadful apprehensions that they should never have a fair

gale to carry them back ; but about this time it shifted to the south-west, which gave great satisfaction to the admiral, as it afforded him room to convince the sailors of the vanity of their fears; yet in spite of all his reasons and remonstrances, they began loudly to murmur, from the apprehension of perishing at sea, whilst in quest of a country that had no existence; and their discontent made them so outrageous, that a mutiny would probably have ensued, had not a brisk wind sprung up at the west-north-west, and demonstrated that they should always have a chance for returning. Their hope of obtaining land was also revived, by seeing a pigeon fly over the ship, and by the sight of several small birds flying from the west.

In proportion as the people were elated by these signs, the greater was their mortification on their disappointment. They not only loudly complained against the admiral, who, they said, had, from a foolish and ill-grounded fancy, formed the design of raising his own fortune and family at their expence, but caballed against him, maintaining that they had already proceeded far enough to shew their courage and perseverance, and that it was therefore high time to return to their friends and country, though they should be even obliged to compel Columbus to consent to it. They considered that the admiral was a foreigner, and therefore would

scarcely have interest enough at court to bring them to punishment for their disobedience, especially as he had powerful enemies, who, they knew, would embrace every opportunity of opposing his designs. In short, their terror and despair were raised to such a height, that some proposed throwing him overboard, and alledged that when that was done, they should be secured from all farther danger, by their affirming, on their return to Spain, that he had fallen into the sea while he was making his observations. Columbus, who was not ignorant of this mutinous spirit, exerted all his abilities in order to remove it: he sometimes represented the duty they owed him, as being invested with a legal authority, which he resolved to maintain at the hazard of his life; and at others, reproached them with their pusillanimity and impatience, which even the most evident signs of their being near land, could not remove. In short, he shewed the folly of their fears, and so far encouraged their hopes, as to prevent their taking any resolution that could prejudice the important enterprise in which they were engaged.

On the 25th of September, about sun-set, Pinzon, whose ship was alongside of the admiral, suddenly cried out Land! land! and pointed towards the south west, where there appeared something like an island, at 25 leagues distance. This at once filled the men with such

joy, that they gave thanks to God with great fervour and devotion, and though Columbus was of a different opinion, he readily complied with their clamorous demand of sailing to it, and stood towards the supposed island, during the greatest part of the night; but in the morning, they saw all their hopes vanish, when their dissatisfaction returning, they renewed their complaints. The admiral, however, with a steadiness and intrepidity peculiar to himself, persisted in the execution of his purpose.

On the 29th, they saw several wagtails and gulls, many flying fishes also appeared, and sometimes fell into the ship, and in the afternoon, they met with a large quantity of weeds, which, as the men fancied, afforded a proof that there was ground near them under water, and that they should soon run upon it and perish.

On the first of October, the pilot of the admiral's ship was, by his own account, 578 leagues west of the island of Ferro, and though the distance, according to Columbus's reckoning, was 707, he did not tell them their mistake, lest the sailors should be more dejected on knowing their great distance from home. Two days after, perceiving no birds, they imagined they had passed between some islands, and the sailors earnestly entreated the admiral to steer either to the one side or to the other, in quest of the land they imagined they had left. He however refused to

Nor did Columbus hazard much in confining himself to so short a time; the proofs of an approach to land were now become so manifest, as not to be disputed. On the 11th of October, those on board the admiral's ship, saw a green rush together with a large rock-fish, swim by the ship; the sailors of the Pinta discovered a cane floating, and, what was much more extraordinary, took up a staff, curiously wrought, together with a small board, and at the same time, the crew of the Nina perceived a branch of thorn, full of red berries.

These objects having now assured the admiral of their near approach to land, he at night, after prayers, reminded them of the mercy of God, in granting them fair weather during such a long voyage, and exhorted them to be vigilant that night, as he expected to see land, the next day, and not only mentioned the pension of thirty crowns, but promised to give a velvet doublet to him who should be the first discoverer. During this interval of suspense and expectation, no man shut his eyes; all kept on deck, gazing intently towards that quarter where they expected to discover the land, which had been so long the object of their wishes.

About two hours before midnight, Columbus standing on the forecastle, observed a light at a distance, and privately pointed it out to one of the sailors, who acknowledged that he plainly

saw it, and supposed it to be a candle or torch belonging to some fisherman or traveller, as it seemed to move, and to vanish and appear by turns. This increased their vigilance and caution, though they still pursued their course till about two in the morning, when the *Pinta* being far-a-head, gave the signal of land, which was first discovered by a sailor at the distance of two leagues; the pension, however, was given to the admiral, who had before perceived the light. As they were now so near the shore, all the ships lay to, and the people waited for morning with the greatest impatience, in order to feast their eyes with what they had so long and so earnestly wished to behold.

Their hopes, however, were not now disappointed; for day no sooner dawned, than they perceived an island, about forty-five English miles in length, and almost one continued plain, covered with green trees; it was supplied with delightful rivers, and had a great lake in the middle. It was inhabited by a number of people, who being astonished at the sight of the ships, which they at first mistook for living creatures, ran down to the shore. The Spaniards were inflamed by the most eager curiosity to know the particulars of this interesting discovery, and the vessels were no sooner brought to an anchor, than the admiral proceeded towards the shore in his boat, well armed, with

the royal standard displayed, and with martial music, attended by the other two captains in their respective boats, with the particular ensigns of this enterprise.

Immediately on their landing they kneeled on the shore, gave thanks to God, and shedding tears of joy, kissed the ground. Columbus then standing up, gave the island, which was called by the natives Guanihani, the name of St. Salvador,* and took possession of it for their Catholic Majesties. This ceremony being performed, he was acknowledged as admiral and viceroy by the Spaniards, who now implored his pardon for the affronts and insults they had offered him, and joyfully swore to obey him as their majesties' representative.

While the Spaniards were thus employed, the natives looked on in silent admiration. The dress of the strangers, the whiteness of their skins, their beards, their arms, appeared strange and surprising. The vast machines of wood in which they had crossed the ocean, that seemed to move upon the waters with wings, and uttered a dreadful sound, resembling thunder, accompanied with lightning and smoke, struck them with such terror, that they concluded their new guests were inhabitants of the sun, who had descended to visit the earth.

The Europeans were hardly less amazed at

* It is now called Cat-Island.



COLUMBUS LANDING ON THE AMERICAN
SHORE.

B

the scene now before them. Every herb and shrub and tree was different from those which flourished in Europe. The soil seemed to be rich, but bore few marks of cultivation. The climate, even to the Spaniards, felt warm, though extremely delightful. The people also appeared to be both simple and quiet. Amongst them, Columbus distributed strings of glass beads, some red caps, and other things of small value, which they received with transport, and on his returning to his ship, some of them swam after him, while others followed in canoes, with javelins armed with fish-bones, spun cotton, parrots, and other things, to barter for such trifles as he had distributed among the rest. Few of these people seemed to be above thirty years of age; they were of a middle stature, well-shaped, and of an olive-colour, with thick lank black hair, which was generally cut short above their ears, though others had suffered it to grow, and tied it up like women's tresses. They had open countenances, very regular features, and high foreheads. The bodies of some, and the faces of others were painted black, white, and red, though a few of them had only their noses and eye-lids coloured. But all of both sexes were entirely naked; and so little were they acquainted with European arms, that they handled a naked sword by the edge, without any suspicion that it was capable of hurting them. Some of

these people being asked, by signs, how they had got the wounds, the marks of which were still visible on their bodies, they answered, in the same manner, that they received them in their own defence, when fighting against the inhabitants of other islands, who came with a view to enslave them.

The next morning, being the 13th of October, many of the Indians came to the ships in their canoes, which were made by hollowing the trunk of a tree. Some of these were so small as to hold only one person, and others large enough to contain forty. They were rowed with paddles, and were so light, that if they happened to be upset, the rowers could easily set them right again, and empty the water with calabashes, or dried gourds, which they carried with them for that purpose.

These Indians had no jewels nor any kind of metal, except small plates of gold that hung at their nostrils, which, by their signs, they informed the Spaniards came from the south and south-west, where there were many countries and islands. They were so fond of possessing any thing belonging to the Spaniards, that some of them picked up bits of broken earthen-ware that lay upon the deck, leaped into the sea and swam ashore with them. They were ready to exchange any thing in their possession, for the most insignificant trifles, and some of them gave

twenty-five pounds of well spun cotton for three small pieces of Portuguese brass coin not worth a farthing. Not that they believed these things had much intrinsic value; but they seemed to prize them only because they belonged to white men, whom they considered as people descended from heaven, and of whom they desired to keep some memorial.

On the 14th of October, the admiral coasted the island in his boat towards the north-west, till he discovered a large bay or harbour sufficient to contain a numerous fleet of ships, being all the while followed both by sea and land by crowds of the inhabitants, who expressed their wonder and regard by a variety of gesticulations. At length, arriving at a peninsula, he saw several of their houses and plantations, which appeared as pleasant as those of Castile in the month of May. However, finding that this was not the land he was in search of, he took seven of the Indians to serve as interpreters, and returning to his ships, sailed to other islands that were visible from the peninsula.

On the 15th of October, having sailed seven leagues, he arrived at the west-end of another island, which he found to be about ten leagues in length, and gave it the name of St. Mary of the Conception; but perceiving that the inhabitants differed but little from those of St. Salvador, and that it produced nothing worth notice, he

continued his course westward, and anchored upon the coast of another larger island, which extended north-west and south-west above 28 leagues. Before he reached this agreeable spot, which he named Fernanda, he took up an Indian, whom he found at sea in a small canoe, furnished with a piece of their bread, a calabash filled with water, and a little earth resembling vermilion, which was used by those people in painting their bodies. This Indian had also a small basket, in which was contained a string of glass beads and two small pieces of Portuguese money, from which it appeared, that he was bound from St. Salvador to Fernanda, with the strange news of the admiral's arrival; but the voyage being long, he was weary with paddling, and desired to be taken on board. Columbus treated him courteously, gave him bread and honey to eat, made him drink wine, and on setting him on shore, gave him some toys, in order that, by his favourable reports, he might prepossess the natives of Fernanda in favour of the Spaniards. The success answered the admiral's expectation; for the islanders, on hearing the favourable account given by the Indian, came in their canoes to barter the same sort of commodities which were found at St. Salvador; but they appeared to have more sagacity, and made more advantageous bargains. The women wore a kind of cotton cloth round their middle. Their houses

were built like tents, but had scarcely any furniture: and the beds in which they lay, were formed of a kind of net that hung from two posts. Here were some trees that seemed as if ingrafted, by their bearing leaves or branches of four or five different kinds. There were plenty of fish of different shapes and colours, with some lizards, snakes, and dogs that could not bark.

Columbus, finding nothing valuable in this island, sailed on the 19th of October to another, to which he gave the name of Isabella, in honor of her Catholic Majesty. This island far exceeded the others in beauty and extent. It abounded with rivers, pleasant meadows and groves, and the prospect was diversified with hills, which the rest wanted: the ear was delighted with the songs of birds, which not only hopped from bough to bough, but even flew in such flocks as darkened the air. Near one of the lakes, the Spaniards killed an alligator, seven feet long, with their spears, which, though at first, they beheld it with horror, they afterwards skinned and ate, this animal being esteemed by the Indians as most delicious food.

Columbus was no sooner acquainted with the produce of Isabella, and the manners of its inhabitants, than he set sail with a fair wind, for a large country to the south, which was extolled by the Indians under the name of Cuba, and arrived there on the 28th of October. It

exhibited a pleasing variety of hills and dales, woods and plains, and from the extent of its coast and the largeness of its rivers, appeared to be of great consequence.

To obtain some intelligence of the natives, the admiral cast anchor in a broad river, the banks of which were shaded by thick and tall trees, that were at the same time adorned with blossoms and fruit entirely unknown in Europe. Soon after their landing, they entered two houses which were deserted by the natives, who, being terrified at the appearance of the ships, had fled: upon which, the Spaniards re-embarked without touching any of their effects, and continued their course westward till they arrived at the mouth of another river; but this being larger than the other, Columbus sailed a considerable way up it. The banks were all along inhabited; but here also the natives fled with all the effects they could carry to the mountains, which arose to a considerable height, and were covered with lofty trees.

Columbus being sensible that if the inhabitants should thus continue to avoid him, he should never be able to learn the nature of the island, and being afraid of increasing their terror by landing a number of men, ordered two Spaniards, attended by an Indian of St. Salvador and another of Cuba, who had boldly ventured to come aboard with his canoe, to travel up into the

country, and to endeavour, by their obliging behaviour, to remove the terror of the people. In the mean time, he directed his ship to be careened, on which occasion, he observed that the only fuel of the country was mastic wood, which grew there in great plenty.

On the 5th of November, the two Spaniards returned, accompanied by the Indian king and his son, and informed the Admiral that they had travelled twelve leagues into the country, where they found a town, consisting of fifty wooden houses covered with straw, which contained about 1000 people; that they were met by the principal persons of the place, who took them by the arms and led them to the town, where they were allowed a spacious lodging, in which they were seated upon wooden benches made in the form of some strange animals, with their tails lifted up for them to lean upon, and having eyes and ears of gold. The Spaniards being seated on these benches, the Indians sat around them on the ground, and came one by one to kiss the hands and feet of these strangers, imagining they had come from heaven; they at the same time treated them with boiled roots, which in their taste resembled chestnuts. After the men had thus fulfilled the rites of hospitality, they retired, to make room for the women, who also kissed their hands and feet, and entertained them with their homely fare. This favourable

reception they owed to their two Indian attendants, who represented the Spaniards as a humane and generous people.

On their setting out to return to the ship, a great number of the natives proposed to accompany them; this offer they declined, and would accept of none but the Cacique or King and his son, under whose protection, they were entertained with great respect at several petty towns; meeting many of the inhabitants, who always carried lighted brands to kindle the fires with which they roasted the roots that constituted their principal food. In return for these civilities, the two princes were treated by the admiral with great kindness and respect.

In this excursion, they saw a variety of birds, among which were partridges and nightingales; but no quadrupeds, except a kind of dog which could not bark. A great part of the land was cultivated, and produced, besides the bread-root, maize or Indian corn, of which the natives made a very well tasted flour. Their principal manufacture was cotton, which they gathered from trees that grew without the least care or culture, and of this they made vast quantities of well spun yarn, but had no other use for it than forming hammocks and short aprons for the women. The Indians afterwards carried great quantities of this cotton on board the ships, where they willingly exchanged a basket full of it, for a

thong of leather. They had no gold, pearls or spices, but pointed towards the east, where they intimated that there was a country plentifully stored with them.

In consequence of the above information, Columbus resolved to sail to a place which the Indians called Bohio ; but before he left Cuba, he seized twelve Indians whom he intended to carry into Spain. This violence towards those who, instead of injuring, had treated him and his followers with the greatest kindness, was an act of great injustice, the seizure however was made with so little disturbance, that the husband of one of the women he had taken, came to the ship in his canoe, and begged that he might be allowed to accompany his wife and children. This instance of affection gave great pleasure to the admiral, who instantly granted his request, and gave orders for their being kindly treated.

On the 12th of November, Columbus, who had before endeavoured to leave the island, but was driven back, steered eastward for the island of Bohio, but the wind being still contrary, he was obliged to ply two or three days between the islands of Cuba and Isabella. In this interval, Martin Alonzo Pinzon, who had been informed by some Indians whom he had concealed in his ship, that Bohio abounded in gold, took advantage of the swiftness of his vessel, and contrary to all good faith, left Columbus in the

night, in order to anticipate his success, and engross the treasure of that wealthy island to himself.

Columbus being thus abandoned by one of his consorts, and the weather growing so rough as to render it dangerous for him to keep the sea, he returned to another harbour in Cuba, to which he gave the name of St. Catherine's. While the crews were here employed in taking in wood and water, he accidentally discovered signs of gold on some stones in the river, and up in the country saw mountains covered with tall pines, sufficient to furnish masts for the largest ships, and plenty of oaks fit for planks. In his run along the coast, for ten or twelve leagues to the south-east, he discovered many large rivers and excellent harbours, and was so delighted with the beautiful appearance of the country, that he was even tempted to fix his habitation there for life. Sailing up one of the rivers, he saw a canoe drawn upon land, as large as a twelve-oar barge, and afterwards perceived in the water, another canoe, which, though formed of the trunk of a single tree, was seventy feet long; and capable of containing fifty men.

The admiral having coasted the island for 106 leagues, set sail again for Bohio, which, though it was but sixteen leagues distance, he was prevented by the currents from reaching, till the next day, when he anchored in a port, to

which he gave the name of St. Nicholas, from its being the festival of that saint. He found that the harbour was large, deep, extremely safe, and encompassed with a great number of tall trees, which, however, were not in general so large as those of Cuba; but not being able to obtain any intercourse with the inhabitants, who fled at his approach, he coasted the island to the northward, till he arrived at a port, which he called the Conception, when observing that the country was very extensive, and in many respects resembled Spain both in the trees, plants, and fishes, he gave it the name of Espaniola or Hispaniola. He here saw a number of the natives, who, upon the landing of the sailors, fled from them with great precipitation; but they having at length taken a young woman, who had a plate of gold hanging at her nose, she was conducted to the admiral, who presented her with several trifles, such as small bells and glass toys, and civilly dismissed her to the town where she dwelt, sending with her, three Spaniards, and the same number of Indians.

The next day, eleven men well armed, went on shore, and travelled four leagues up the country, where they found a town which consisted of 1000 houses, and though the inhabitants, as usual, fled at their approach, they soon returned, at the persuasion of a St. Salvador Indian, who followed them, and removed their fears by the

favourable account he gave of the Spaniards, on whom they gazed with equal astonishment and awe: they even brought them food, and pressed them to stay in the town all night: the Spaniards, however, declined accepting this invitation, and returning to their ships, told the Admiral, that the country was fertile and pleasant, and the people whiter and handsomer than those they had hitherto seen; that they were courteous and tractable, and had let them know that gold was to be found farther to the eastward.

At this news, Columbus immediately set sail, and between Hispaniola and a small island on the north coast, called afterwards Tortuga, he took up, in a very rough sea, an Indian, who was struggling with the waves in a little canoe, and giving him some presents of a small value, set him safe ashore on the coast of Hispaniola. This man informing his countrymen of the manner in which he had been treated, induced them to come on board, but they brought nothing with them of consequence, except some small grains of gold, which hung at their ears and nostrils, of which they shewed, by signs, that there was a great quantity higher up in the country.

While the Spaniards were on shore, the next day, bartering with the Cacique or Sovereign of that district for a plate of gold, forty men in a canoe approached from the island of Tortuga, when the Cacique perceiving them, sat down

with his people on the strand, as a signal that they should not commit hostilities; but notwithstanding this, they landed; upon which, he arose, and by his threats obliged them to re-embark, and then giving a stone to one of the Spanish officers, made a sign for him to throw it at the Tortugans, to shew that he would espouse the cause of these strangers, against the Indians of the canoe, who, on their seeing this, returned to their island.

On the 18th of December, the same Cacique came to pay the Admiral a visit, carried in state in a palanquin, and attended by 200 men, though both he and they were entirely naked. He made no difficulty of going on board Columbus's ship, and the Admiral being at dinner, entered the cabin without ceremony, attended by two old men, who seemed to be his counsellors, and who sat down at his feet. Columbus received him with great civility and respect, and had provisions and wine set before him, which on his tasting, he sent to some of his men who remained upon deck. After dinner, during which, both he and the two old men spoke but little, he presented the Admiral with two thin pieces of gold, and a wrought girdle; in return for these, he received a string of amber beads, which the admiral took from his own neck, a pair of red shoes, a counterpane, and a bottle of orange-flower water, wherewith, this prince and his two attendants were so delighted, that they sig-

nified to Columbus, that the whole island was at his disposal. The Admiral then shewed him the effigies of Ferdinand and Isabella, imprest in a gold medal, which he viewed with admiration, and indeed, shewed signs of astonishment at every thing he saw. In the evening, he was, at his own desire, sent ashore in the ship's boat, and saluted with a discharge of several guns, the noise whereof filled him with amazement and terror; he was, however, so satisfied with his reception, that he ordered his people to entertain the Spaniards who conducted him to land, and returned home, with the Admiral's presents carried with great pomp and ostentation before him.

On the 24th of December, Columbus weighed, and sailed to a promontory, afterwards called Punta Santa, where, the weather being calm, he anchored about a league from shore, and retired to rest, which he had not enjoyed for two nights before; his example was followed by the crew, who, contrary to his repeated orders, had the folly to leave only a boy at the helm. This instance of neglect proved fatal; for about midnight, the vessel was carried upon a ridge of rocks, before any one on board was aware of the danger. The Admiral being the first who was awakened, by the cries of the boy at the helm, ran upon deck, and perceiving the rock, ordered the master and three sailors to leap into the boat and carry out an anchor

astern ; but instead of obeying his directions, they rowed to the other ship, in order to preserve their own lives. Upon this, Columbus immediately caused the vessel to be lightened, and the masts to be cut away ; but all his endeavours were ineffectual, and the water ebbing, the seams of the ship opened. But while they were in this emergency, the boat returned, the other ship refusing to receive the men, who had deserted their duty. The Admiral then, seeing no hopes of saving his own vessel, took the boat, and going with his men on board the other, the next morning despatched messengers, to inform the Cacique of his disaster, and to desire the assistance of the natives in unlading the ship. The Cacique, who condoled with their misfortunes with tears in his eyes, immediately ordered his people to repair to the wreck in their canoes, and to obey Columbus's directions ; and by their assistance, all the valuable effects were carried on shore, and deposited in houses appointed for that purpose.

On the 26th of December, this friendly Cacique, whose name was Guacanagari, paid another visit to the Admiral, whose loss he lamented with many expressions of sorrow : made him several presents, and perceiving how fond the Spaniards were of gold, promised to send for a great quantity of that metal, to a place called Cebao. Meanwhile, a canoe with Indians from another island, brought plates of

gold to exchange them for bells, on which they set a very great value, and the seamen on shore traded with the natives of Hispaniola, who came from the inland part of the country, and bartered gold for points and other trifles. Among the rest, an Indian came to the shore with a piece of gold that weighed four ounces, and holding it in one hand, stretched out the other, and an hawk's bell being put into it; he let go the gold and ran away, thinking he had got an article of greater value, and that the Spaniard would perhaps repent of his bargain if he staid.

Columbus being greatly pleased, both with this island and the manners of its inhabitants, resolved to settle a colony upon it, and was encouraged to take this step, by many of his men voluntarily offering to settle there. While the Cacique Guacanagari, instead of being disposed to take umbrage at their neighbourhood, considered them as valuable allies, who would protect him from the invasion of the Caribbee Indians; and in order to shew the importance of his friendship, Columbus gave orders, in the presence of this prince, for firing a great gun at the wreck, through which the ball penetrated and fell into the water on the opposite side, to the great astonishment of the Indians, who believed that their guests knew how to dart the thunder of heaven, and therefore earnestly implored their protection. In compliance with this request, made to him

by Guacananagari, Columbus ordered a fort to be built of the timber of the wreck, and having furnished it with provisions, ammunition, small arms, and cannon, manned it with a garrison of thirty-six men, under the command of Roderick d'Escovedo, Peter Gutierres, and James d'Arana, whom he warmly recommended to the favour and good offices, of the friendly Cacique and his people. Having thus provided the fort with all necessaries, he caused a few houses to be built, named the place the town of Nativity, and resolved to return immediately to Castile, lest some misfortune happening to the only ship he had now under his command, he should be for ever disabled from letting their Catholic Majesties know the important discoveries he had already made, and the countries he had annexed to their dominions.

When every thing was ready for his departure, he called those together who chose to be left upon the island, and addressing himself to them, desired them to return thanks to God, for having carried them to such a country, to plant His holy faith; *and not to forsake Him, their Almighty Friend, but living like good christians, to insure his protection*; he exhorted them to love and obey their captain: to respect Guacananagari, and to give no offence to any of his people; and that the opinion of their superiority might be confirmed, they

should offer no violence to any of the natives; observing, that it would be for their interest to barter with them fairly without covetousness; to endeavour to learn their language, which would be of great use, and to gain their friendship, which would render them happy and secure. In return for which, he promised to intreat their Majesties to reward them for opening the way to that new world.

He set sail from the port of Nativity on the 4th of January, taking such notice of the land as would enable him to discover the mouth of the harbour in any future expedition; and sailing to a high mountain, he gave it the name of Monte Christo; but the wind being contrary, he made but little way, when two days after, he fell in with the Pinta, under the command of Martin Alonzo Pinzon, who going on board, strove to excuse his desertion, by pretending he had lost sight of the Admiral in the night, and by alledging other frivolous excuses; but though Columbus plainly saw the falsehood of all these pretences, he wisely chose to disguise his sentiments, rather than run any risk of prejudicing the common cause, by giving rise to a dangerous dissention.

Pinzon had sailed to a river fifteen leagues to the east of the port of Nativity, where he had spent sixteen days in bartering with the natives for gold, of which he had procured a considerable quantity; one half whereof he distributed

amongst his crew, in order to obtain popularity, and to gain their consent to his dishonest intention of keeping the remainder for his own use. He afterwards anchored near Monte Christo, the wind not permitting him to proceed farther, and then he sailed in his boat up a river to the south-west of the mount, where discovering some gold dust among the sand, he called it the Golden River.

On the 13th of January, being near the cape called Enamorado, Columbus sent his boat on shore, where there stood some Indians, with all the signs of consternation and great fierceness in their countenances. They were armed with bows and arrows, and other weapons, and made a show of opposition ; but by the mediation of a St. Salvador Indian, they were brought to a kind of conference. One of them then ventured on board the admiral's ship, but appeared extremely savage, both in speech and aspect, his face being smutted with charcoal. This man having answered several questions, partly by signs, and partly by means of the Indian interpreter, he was feasted, and then set ashore with presents of glass beads, and bits of red and green cloth, that he might persuade his countrymen to bring gold, in exchange for such trifles.

At the place where he was set on shore, there were fifty men, with long hair, adorned with plumes of parrots' feathers, and armed with bows and arrows, who refused to trade with the

Spaniards, notwithstanding the persuasions of their countrymen; but on the contrary, treated them with scorn, and even began to commit hostilities. The Spaniards, who were but seven in number, seeing them advance, with fury in their looks, met them half way, and boldly charging them, shot one with an arrow, and wounded another with a sword, on which they instantly fled. Columbus was far from being displeased at this skirmish, which he imagined would give them such an high opinion of the bravery of his men, as would prevent their making any attempt to the prejudice of the settlement at the Nativity.

On the 16th of January, the Admiral set sail with his two ships for Spain, but after having enjoyed a favourable gale, till they were within 263 leagues to the westward of Ferro, they were overtaken by such a tempest on the 14th of February; that the sea running mountains high, they were unable to work their vessels, and were tossed about at the mercy of the waves. During the storm, the two ships were separated, so that the seamen in each, concluded that those in the other had perished. They had great scarcity of provisions, and their ships wanting ballast, were in danger of being upset. To remedy this last inconvenience, Columbus ordered his casks to be filled with sea-water, and that his discovery might have some chance of being known, in case he and his men perished,

he wrote a brief account of it upon two skins of parchment, which he wrapt in oil-cloths covered with wax, and having inclosed them in two separate casks, had them thrown into the sea. This must be allowed to have been an extraordinary instance both of his prudence and fortitude.

On the 15th of February, at which time the storm still continued, one of the sailors discovered land, which the pilot judged to be the rock of Lisbon, though the admiral imagined it to be one of the Azores; and soon after, they discovered other land, which proved to be St. Mary, one of the Azore islands, where they with great difficulty cast anchor, four days after. The admiral being lame in both his legs, in consequence of the fatigue he had undergone, many of the inhabitants came on board with fresh provisions, and compliments from the Governor, expressing their amazement at the success of the expedition, and seeming to rejoice at Columbus's discovery. They were also surprised to see that they had outlived the storm, and letting the sailors know there was in that neighbourhood a chapel, the admiral and his crew resolved to go on shore, to offer up their thanksgivings to Providence for their late preservation; for this purpose he sent his boat on shore with one half of the company, with orders to return immediately, that the rest might succeed them in the same kind of devotion; but

the first company had no sooner undrest themselves, and begun their procession, than they were attacked and made prisoners by the Governor, who lay in ambush with some of his people for that purpose.

Columbus, having in vain waited from day-break 'till noon, for the return of the boat, began to suspect foul play, and not being able to discover the hermitage, he sailed round a point, by which means he obtained a full view of it, and perceiving several Portuguese on horseback alight and enter his boat, as he imagined, to attack the vessel, he ordered the sailors to be upon their guard. He hoped that the commander of the men would come on board, in which case he resolved to detain him as an hostage; but the Portuguese, not daring to venture beyond a certain distance, he demanded the reason of their committing such an outrage upon his men, who had gone on shore upon the faith of a safe conduct, and let them know, that the King of Portugal would certainly be offended at this act of hostility committed against the subjects of their Catholic Majesties, with whom he was in alliance. To this the Portuguese Captain answered, that what they had done, was by the King's express orders, which giving Columbus reason to imagine, that there was a breach between the two crowns, and calling all his people to bear witness to what they heard, he again directed his discourse to the Portuguese,

and declared that he would never quit his ship, till he had seized a hundred Portuguese, and destroyed the whole island.

He now returned to the port he had left; but the next day, the wind increasing, he lost his anchors, and was obliged to stand out to sea, towards the island of St. Michael, though not without being exposed to great danger, from his having only three able seamen on board, the rest being landmen, Indians, and boys. The weather being mild the next day, he endeavoured to recover the island of St. Mary, which he reached on the 21st, and soon after his arrival, a boat was sent to him with five men and a notary, who, in the Governor's name, desired to know whence the ship came, and whether he had really the King of Spain's commission. Being satisfied in these particulars, they returned, and caused the Spaniards to be released; for the King of Portugal had sent orders to all his Governors to secure the admiral's person; but as this scheme did not succeed, on account of Columbus staying on board, it was thought proper to dismiss the prisoners. The Admiral, having recovered his men, departed from the island of St. Mary, on the 24th of February, with a very favourable wind; but on the 3d of March, he was exposed to another tempest, during which his sails were split, and he narrowly escaped being wrecked on the rock of Lisbon, which they accidentally discovered at midnight; but, having weathered

it with great difficulty, he was the next day obliged to come to an anchor in the river Tagus, on which he immediately sent an express by land to their Catholic Majesties, with the news of his arrival, and another to the King of Portugal, to desire leave to cast anchor before the city, as he did not think himself safe in his present station.

On the 5th of March, the master of a guardship, with a boat filled with armed men, came up to Columbus, and ordered him to give an account of himself to the King's officers, as was customary with all the vessels that entered the river. To this Columbus replied, that he was the King of Spain's Admiral, and would not degrade himself so far as to send the most inconsiderable person on board his ship on such an errand. The Portuguese, finding him resolute, desired to see the King's letter, which being complied with, they returned to their ship, and made a proper report to Alvaro d' Acunha, who soon after came on board Columbus's ship, attended with fifes, drums and trumpets, and congratulated him on his return, with many expressions of friendship. The nature of Columbus's voyage was no sooner known at Lisbon, than the people were filled with the utmost curiosity to see the Indians, and to learn the particulars of his amazing discovery; the whole river was therefore soon covered with boats filled with people, some of whom praised God for Columbus's

success, while others lamented the hard fate of their nation, which had lost such a prize, through the incredulity or avarice of their King.

His Majesty, having received the Admiral's letter, gave orders for his being presented with all kinds of refreshments and necessaries, gratis, and at the same time wrote to him, to congratulate him upon his happy return, and to let him know that he desired to see him before he left his dominions. Columbus at first doubted whether he ought to accept this invitation; but considering that Spain and Portugal were at peace, and that he had been already treated by the King with uncommon respect, he resolved to wait on his Portuguese Majesty, who then resided at Val-Paraiso, a place nine leagues from Lisbon. He therefore set out on Saturday the 9th of March, when the King ordered his whole court to go out to meet him; and Columbus being conducted into the royal presence, his Majesty insisted on his putting on his cap, and being seated in his presence; he heard with seeming pleasure the particulars of the voyage, and offered to supply him with every thing he desired; yet observed, that as Columbus was before in his service, the conquest of right belonged to him; but the Admiral modestly gave his reasons for being of a contrary opinion; to which the King replied, that "It was very well, and he did not doubt but that justice would be done.

Columbus, having staid all Sunday and part

of Monday, took his leave, after his Majesty had in vain attempted, by very considerable offers, to re-engage him in his service. On his return, he was attended by many persons of rank, and passing by a monastery in which was the Queen, her Majesty desired to see him, and received his visit in a respectful manner. The same night, a gentleman arrived from the King to inform him, that if he chose to go to Castile by land, he would accompany him, and provide him with accommodation on the road, as far as the frontiers of Portugal. This offer he declined with suitable acknowledgements; and setting sail on Wednesday, the 13th of March, 1493, arrived on the Friday following at Saltes, and came to an anchor in the port of Palos, whence he had departed on the 3d of August in the preceding year.

Columbus was received, on his landing, by all the people in procession, giving thanks to God for his success, which it was hoped would greatly redound to the spreading of Christianity, and the advantage of their Catholic Majesties. Pinzon had already arrived in Galicia, and had resolved to carry in person the agreeable news of the discovery to court, when he received orders which forbade his coming without the Admiral, under whose command he had been sent on the expedition; and this mortifying disappointment made such an impression upon him, that he fell sick, and

returning to the place of his birth, he, in a few days after, died of grief and vexation.

In the mean time Columbus set out for Seville, on his way to Barcelona, where their Majesties then resided, and the roads were crowded with people of all ranks, who flocked to see him, with the Indians in his train. He arrived at Barcelona about the middle of April, and was received by the whole court and city in the most solemn manner. The streets could not contain the multitude that pressed to see him, together with the Indians and curiosities he brought, which were carried uncovered.

The people whom he had brought along with him from the countries he had discovered, marched first, and by their singular complexion, their strange features, and their uncouth finery, appeared like men of another species—next to them were carried the ornaments of gold, fashioned by the rude art of the natives, the grains of gold found in the mountains, and a dish full of the same metal, gathered in the rivers; after these appeared the various commodities of the newly discovered countries, together with their curious productions; Columbus himself closed the procession, and attracted the eyes of all the spectators, who gazed with admiration on the extraordinary man, who had conducted his followers by a road, concealed from past ages, to a new world.

• Their Majesties, to do him honour, ordered the royal throne to be placed in public, on which they seated themselves, with prince John, under a canopy of cloth of gold. The admiral was introduced by several gentlemen; and on his approaching the throne, the King rose up, and gave him his hand to kiss, when Columbus kneeling, his Majesty desired him to rise, ordered a chair to be brought him, and made him sit by his side. Columbus then gave an account of his voyage, his discoveries, and his hopes of finding still more extensive and important countries; shewed them the Indians, as they appeared in their native countries, and gave them a specimen of every thing he had brought from the new world. When he had done speaking, their Majesties rose, and kneeling down, with their hands lifted up, and with tears in their eyes, returned thanks to God, which was immediately followed by the choristers of the chapel singing the Te Deum.

In short, Columbus was treated as a grandee of the first rank, who had performed the most important services for his country; and when the King rode about Barcelona, he would have him constantly by his side; an honour which had been conferred upon none but princes of the blood. He was also gratified with new patents, which confirmed and enlarged the privileges he had before obtained.

CHAP. II.

IN a little time, such measures were taken for Columbus's second expedition, that seventeen vessels were fitted out for farther discoveries, and the settlement of colonies. The thirst of gold, and the success of the first voyage, drew together such a multitude of volunteers, that a great number was rejected, the admiral resolving to take no more than fifteen hundred persons, amongst whom there were many artificers and labourers.

Columbus, having provided all kinds of utensils, with a large stock of trifles most agreeable to the Indians, and having taken on board cows, horses, asses, and other animals for breeding in the new plantations, with the seeds of plants, trees, and all kinds of grain, &c. sailed from the road of Cadiz on the 25th of September, 1493, and stood south-west for the Canary Islands. He arrived at the Grand Canaria on the 2d of October, and on the 5th anchored at Gomera, where he took in water, wood and cattle, and, in particular, eight sows, from which were produced all the swine now in the West-Indies.

On the 7th, he continued his voyage for the Indies, after having delivered his orders, sealed up, which were not to be opened, unless the fleet should be separated by stress of weather. They now ran 400 leagues west of the Canaries, without meeting with any of those weeds which they had seen in their first voyage.

On the 2d of November, Columbus perceiving a great alteration in the winds, and there falling a violent shower of rain, he concluded that he was seven leagues to the westward of a high mountainous island, which he named Dominica, from its being discovered on a Sunday. Three other islands were discovered much about the same time, when the people assembling on the poop, returned thanks to God for their wonderful success, in having sailed nearly 800 leagues in the space of 20 days. The Admiral, finding no convenient place for anchoring on the east side of Dominica, stood over to another island, which he called Marigalante, after his own ship, and having landed, he with the usual solemnity took possession of it for their Catholic Majesties, as he had before done with respect to all the other islands which he had discovered.

On the 4th of November, he sailed to another considerable island, which he named St. Mary of Guadaloupe,* in consequence of a promise he had made to the friars belonging to a convent of that name. He there, at two leagues

* This is one of the largest of the Caribbee-Islands.

distance, perceived a very high rock, which terminated in a point, whence gushed a large torrent of water, which fell with a prodigious noise. Here he landed some men, who went to a town, which at their approach was abandoned by all the inhabitants, except some of the children, to whose arms the Spaniards tied a few baubles, as a mark of friendship. They here found geese like those of Europe, a great number of large parrots and other birds, pompions, annas, or pine apples, of exquisite taste and flavour; they also found bows and arrows, cotton, and several other things, which they left behind them, in order to give the owners a good opinion of their morals.

The next day, the Admiral sent two boats on shore, with orders, if possible, to take a few of the natives, from whom he might obtain some important information; and these returned with two young men, who, by their signs, let him know that they were born in another island, and were taken prisoners by those of Guadeloupe, who were called Caribs. The boats again going on shore for some of the men they had left, found six women, who had fled to them, and desired to be carried on board; which being done, the admiral gave them bells and beads, and then dismissed them, though, by their signs, they shewed an ardent desire to stay; but they were no sooner landed, than the Caribs robbed

them of their ornaments, in the very sight of the Spaniards. The next time the boat's crew landed, these poor creatures leapt into the boat, and by the most expressive gestures implored protection from the cruelty of the islanders, who, they signified, had kept their husbands in slavery. This information occasioned their being brought to the Admiral, whom they gave to understand, that towards the south there were many islands, and a large continent. Columbus would have immediately left Guadeloupe, had he not been informed that the captain of one of his ships, had, without his permission, landed with eight men before it was light, and was not yet returned; he therefore sent several of his people on shore, with trumpets and muskets, the noise of which might be heard through the woods; and this search proving fruitless, he sent another detachment of forty men, commanded by a captain, with orders to proceed through the country, and make observations on its productions. They found abundance of cotton, some trees, which, in taste and smell, resembled cinnamon, and also frankincense, ginger, aloes, and mastic. They likewise saw nightingales, daws, partridges, geese, herons, kites, and falcons. While they were thus employed, the stragglers returned of their own accord, when Columbus ordered their captain to be put in irons, and punished the rest, by shortening their allowance

of provisions. The Admiral himself then landing, found great quantities of cotton, spun and unspun, with many human skulls and bones, hung up in baskets; and observed that the natives were better accommodated with lodging, provisions, and other necessaries, than those of the other islands he had before discovered.

On the 10th of November, the Admiral weighed anchor, and sailing with his whole fleet towards the north-west, in search of Hispaniola, passed an island, to which, on account of its height, he gave the name of Montserrat; and having passed by St. Mary Redonda, and St. Maria la Antigua, he discovered several other islands, near one of which he cast anchor, and called it St. Martin. His people here seized four men and three children; but as the boat was putting off with them from the shore, they met a canoe, in which were four men and one woman, who, finding it impossible for them to escape, put themselves in a posture of defence, when the woman shot an arrow with such force and dexterity, that it passed through a strong target; but the Spaniards endeavouring to board them, upset the canoe, on which the Indians betook themselves to swimming, and one of them used his bow and arrow in the water, with the same dexterity as if he had been on dry land.

The Admiral again setting sail, continued his course west-north-west, leaving to the northward above fifty islands, the largest of which he called St. Ursula, and the others the Eleven Thousand Virgins. He then came to an island, to which he gave the name of St. John Baptist, and having anchored in a bay on the west side of it, his men caught several kinds of fish, as skate, soles, pilchards and shads; and also saw falcons, and some shrubs resembling wild vines. Some of the men afterwards landed, when they perceived several houses with a square in their front, from which was a spacious road down to the sea, flanked on both sides with towers made of cane, the tops of which were curiously interwoven with greens, and at the end of the road, next the sea, was raised a lofty gallery, or balcony, capable of containing ten or twelve persons.

On the 21st, the Admiral arrived in the bay of Samana, on the north side of Hispaniola, and immediately sent on shore one of the Indians, a native of that part of the country, whom he had carried into Spain, and who, being converted to the Christian faith, undertook for the submission of all his countrymen.

The Admiral, continuing his voyage to the town of the Nativity, was visited at Cape Angel by some Indians, who came on board to barter their commodities for those of the Christians; and, coming to an anchor in the port of Monte

Christo, some of his people were sent on shore in a boat ; when, to their great surprize, they saw, at a small distance, the bodies of two men, with a rope about their necks, made of a kind of broom, and their arms extended upon a piece of wood in the form of a cross ; but they could not discern whether they were Europeans or Indians.

The next day, which was the 26th, the Admiral sent several persons on shore, in different places, when many of the Indians went to them with great confidence and appearance of friendship, and pronounced several Spanish words they had learnt from the settlers, which eased the Admiral of the apprehensions he had begun to conceive ; judging that they would not have behaved with such freedom and unconcern, had they been conscious of having injured the men he had left behind him ; but the next day put an end to the doubt ; for on his anchoring near the town of the Nativity, some Indians in a canoe, came to the fleet, inquiring for the Admiral, but refused to come on board, till they saw him. From them he learnt, that some of the Christians, left there, died of distempers, and the rest were separated and gone to other countries ; but though Columbus suspected foul play, he, for the present, concealed his suspicions, and the same evening, dismissed the messengers with a present of baubles, made

of tin, and other trifles, for the Cacique Guacanagari, and themselves.

The next morning, Columbus landed, when to his great concern, he saw nothing but ruin and desolation ; the houses and forts were burnt, and nothing left belonging to the Christians but a few ragged clothes, and things of no value. As he had ordered the Spaniards, at his leaving them, if any thing happened, to throw the gold into a well he had made in the fort, he ordered that well to be cleansed ; but no gold was to be found there : he soon after found the bodies of eleven Spaniards, who seemed to have been dead about a month.— However, while he was ruminating on this event, with a mind filled with resentment and sorrow, he was visited by the Cacique Guacanagari's brother, who came attended by some Indians, who had learned to talk a little Spanish, and by whom he was informed, that he had scarcely set sail, when those he had left behind began to quarrel amongst themselves, every man endeavouring to amass all the gold he could obtain. That they roamed in small parties over the island, extending their rapacity and insolence to every corner of it ; and thus destroyed that favourable impression, with which the simple natives had at first regarded them. That Escovedo and Peter Gutieres, having killed one of the men, named James, had, with nine others, retired with their women to

Caunabo, a Cacique who was lord of the mines, and who put them all to death ; after which, that Cacique came, attended by a great number of men, to destroy the town, where there were only James de Arana, and ten of his men, who had remained with him to guard the fort, the rest having dispersed themselves about the island. Caunabo, who came upon them in the night, instantly set fire to the houses where these eleven Spaniards lived, with their women : on which they fled into the sea, where eight of them perished, and the other three were slain on shore, while Guacanagari endeavoured to revenge the Spaniards by making war on Caunabo ; but was put to flight, after having received a dangerous wound, which confined him to his house, and prevented his waiting on the Admiral.

This account perfectly agreed with the intelligence received from some Spaniards who had been sent up the country, and had visited the wounded Cacique at his own house, who greatly desired to see Columbus. The next day, therefore, the Admiral paid him a visit, and was received with the utmost cordiality, and concern for what had happened. Guacanagari repeated the melancholy story, with all the marks of unfeigned sorrow ; and at the same time, shewed his own wound, and those of his men, which they had received in defence of the Christians, and which plainly appeared

to have been made with wooden swords, and arrows pointed with fish-bones, and not with any European weapons. The compliment of condolence being passed, the Cacique presented the admiral with eight strings of small beads, composed of red, green, and white stones, a string of gold beads, a crown of the same metal, and three small calabashes full of gold dust, which weighed about thirty-two ounces. In return for these valuable presents, the admiral gave him a variety of baubles, which might be worth about three reals, or twenty-pence. Though the Cacique was extremely ill, he insisted on attending his guest to the fleet, where he was courteously entertained, and much pleased at the sight of the horses, of which the Spaniards had before given him an account. His new visitors, before this, had excited his wonder, but he now viewed them with increased astonishment.

Columbus being disgusted at a spot which had been the scene of so many disasters, and knowing that there were better and more commodious places in the island for a settlement, sailed on the 7th of December, with the whole fleet, to the eastward, and cast anchor before an Indian town, where he resolved to plant a colony. With this view, the people designed for settlers were landed, with provisions and proper utensils, in a plain where he built a

town, to which he gave the name of Isabella, in honour of the Queen. It was conveniently situated near a rock, where a fort might be erected; the harbour was spacious, and at the distance of a bow-shot, ran an excellent river, from whence canals might be easily cut through the midst of the place, and beyond it, lay an open plain, from which, the Indians said, the mines of Cebao were not far distant.

From the 11th of December to the 12th of March, in the following year, 1494, Columbus was employed in completing this new settlement; and having at length regulated the affairs of the town, he dispatched Alonzo de Hojeda, with fifteen men, in search of the gold mines, and on the 2d of February sent twelve of his ships back to Castile, with a letter to their Catholic Majesties, in which he gave a very particular account of whatever had happened, since his arrival in the West-Indies.

Hojeda soon after returned from this expedition, and informed the Admiral, that on the second day after he set out from Isabella, he lay at the pass of an almost inaccessible mountain, and afterwards at the distance of every league found Caciques, by whom he was hospitably entertained; but continuing his journey, he arrived, on the sixth day, at the place called the Mines of Cebao, where he saw Indians picking up gold out of a small river, as they did

from many others in the same province. This information was highly agreeable to the Admiral, who was just recovered from a fit of sickness, occasioned by fatigue; and on the 12th of March, having caused all the ammunition belonging to the other ships to be put on board his own, he left a strong guard in the two ships, and three caravals, and set out from Isabella for Cebao, attended by all the rest of his people, some of whom were on horseback, and others on foot.

The Admiral took the precaution of securing the ships, in consequence of having detected a conspiracy, headed by one Bernardo de Pisa, who had embarked from Spain, in quality of comptroller to their Catholic Majesties. This person had taken the opportunity of the admiral's illness, to tamper with some of the men, who being disappointed of the gold they expected to find without the least trouble, and dissatisfied with the regulations of the new settlements, readily joined with him in the design of revolting from the Admiral, and seizing the ships in order to return to Spain; but this mutiny being discovered, the Admiral caused the ring-leader to be secured, till he could have an opportunity of sending him home, to take his trial.

Columbus, in order to fill the Indians with the greater awe and respect, made his men march

in regular order through the villages, with trumpets sounding, and colours flying, and also carried with him every thing necessary for building a fort at Cebao.

But while Columbus endeavoured to make the natives respect his power, he did not neglect the means of gaining their love and confidence. In all his transactions with them, he was most scrupulously just, and on every occasion, treated them not only with humanity, but with indulgence. In his course through the country, he marched along the banks of the river which runs by Isabella; and crossing another river, lay in a pleasant plain, which extended to the foot of a high and craggy rock, which formed a pass. The next day he entered a spacious plain, in which he travelled five leagues, and spent the night near a broad river, which the men crossed on floats and in canoes. This, which he called the River of Canes, falls into the sea at Monte Christo. In his march, he passed by many Indian towns, composed of round thatched houses, the doors of which were so low, that no person could enter them without stooping down. The inhabitants seemed to have very little notion of private property; for the Indians who attended the Spaniards from Isabella, freely entered the houses and took what they liked best, without giving the least offence to the former possessors, while the latter attempted to take what they liked from the

Spaniards, and seemed surprised at meeting with a repulse. The way was hitherto agreeably diversified with mountains covered with wild vines, and other fruit-trees of various sorts.

On the 14th of March, Columbus set forward from the River of Canes, and at the distance of a league and a half, arrived at the banks of another river, which he named the Golden River, from their gathering here some grains of that metal. Having passed it with some difficulty, he proceeded to a large town, where he found that many of the inhabitants had fled to the mountains, and the rest barred their doors against him with canes; and having passed by another river, and several towns which were barricaded against him in the same manner, he entered the province of Cebao, which, though rough and stony, yielded plenty of grass, and is watered by several rivers which abound with gold washed down from the mountains; but though this is a large province, it has few or no trees, except some pine and palm trees, which grow on the banks of the river.

In this country he caused a fort to be erected in a very strong, though pleasant situation, to command the country about the mines, and protect the Spanish adventurers. This fort, which was built of timber and clay, was of sufficient strength to withstand the attack of any number of Indians, and having placed a garrison

in it of forty men, among whom were workmen of several sorts, to finish and repair the works, he set out on his return, and was met by considerable numbers of the natives, who came to sell their provisions, which chiefly consisted of a kind of bread and garlick. On the 29th of March, he arrived at his new colony of Isabella, where he found melons already fit to eat, though the seed had not been above two months in the ground; and a wild vine of that country, being pruned, produced large and excellent grapes; some wheat which had been sown in the latter end of January, already produced ears fit to gather; vetches produced a ripe crop of a much larger sort than those they had sown, within twenty-five days; sugarcanes, and the stones of fruit sprouted out in seven days; vine-branches produced leaves in the same time, and yielded green grapes in twenty-five days. Columbus had therefore great reason to be pleased with the soil and climate, and particularly with the water, which was extremely pure, cool, and palatable.

On the first of April, a messenger arrived at Isabella from the new fort, to which he had given the name of the castle of St. Thomas, with advice that the Cacique Caunabo was preparing to attack it. Columbus was but little concerned at this news, as he knew that he had nothing to apprehend from the natives, who

were under great apprehensions at the sight of his horses; yet as he intended to go to sea, with three caravals, in order to discover the continent, he thought it necessary to leave every thing in tranquility behind him, and therefore sent a reinforcement to the forty, of seventy men, part of whom were to be employed in making the road more passable, and in searching for the fords of the rivers. In the mean time, he completed his town, which was laid out in regular streets, and a convenient market-place; supplied it with river-water by a canal, and erected a water-mill to grind wheat; but as his people were not accustomed to the food of the natives, and provisions began to fail, he resolved to send the superfluous mouths to Spain. This step he thought himself obliged to take, from his finding that the climate disagreed with many of his people, who were in a sickly and languishing condition. As for those who enjoyed health, and were not absolutely necessary in the town, they were sent to traverse the island, in order to observe its situation, and accustom themselves to the Indian diet. These were commanded by Hojeda, who had orders to march to Cebao, and deliver up the command of these men to Peter Margarite, who was to conduct them round the island, while the former commanded the fort of St. Thomas.

On the 29th of April, Hojeda with his party,

which consisted of above 400 men, left Isabella, and having crossed the river del Oro, or the Gold River, apprehended a Cacique and his brother, whom he sent in irons to the Admiral. This Cacique had accommodated three Spaniards, with five Indians to carry their clothes over a river, but being in the middle, they turned back, and ran away with the baggage, while the Cacique, instead of punishing them, converted what they had taken to his own use. Another Cacique, who dwelt beyond the river, relying on the service he had done to the Christians, went with the prisoners to Isabella, to intercede in their behalf. Columbus entertained him very kindly; but to heighten the favour he intended to grant, ordered the Cacique and his brother to be put to death in the market place; at which their honest friend shed a flood of tears, and earnestly begged that their lives might be spared; whereupon the Admiral instantly forgave them. These were no sooner released, than a man on horseback, who had just arrived from fort St. Thomas told the Admiral, that in his way through the town belonging to the Cacique who had been his prisoner, he alone had rescued four Spaniards whom the Indians had taken by way of reprisal, and had chased above 400 persons, who fled at the sight of his horse.

Nor shall we be surprised at the terror inspired by these animals, when we recollect,



that they were till then quite unknown to the Indians. They supposed them to be rational creatures, that formed but one animal with their riders, they were astonished at their speed, and considered their strength as irresistible.

The Admiral, being now resolved to discover the continent,* appointed a council to govern

* It is worthy of remark, that while Columbus was thus settling the affairs of Hispaniola, John Cabot, (a citizen of Venice, who lived at Bristol, in England) and his son Sebastian, sailed from the last-mentioned city on discoveries, saw the continent of Newfoundland, to which they gave the name of Prime Vista, or First-seen; and on the 24th of June, the same year, 1494, went on shore on an island, which they called St. John's, from its being discovered on St. John's day. John Cabot on his return to England, reported that this island was barren; but that the sea near the coast abounded with fish; that the people wore bear-skin clothes, and were armed with bows, arrows, pikes, wooden clubs, darts, and slings; and upon this report they obtained a patent for making discoveries: but this gentleman dying soon after, King Henry VII. granted a new patent to his son Sebastian, who set sail on the 4th of May, 1497, before Columbus began his third voyage. Sebastian sailed as high as 60 degrees, 30m. N. latitude; proceeding from thence into the south latitude 56 degrees, and from thence ran down to 38 degrees, along the coast of the continent of America, which, he expressly says, was afterwards called Florida, where provisions growing short, he sailed back, touched at Newfoundland, and returned to England.

the island in his absence, consisting of his brother Diego, who was present, and five other persons. He then sailed with three ships to Cuba, and running along the south side of that island, entered a large bay, which he called Puerto Grande, from its extent and depth of water. While he continued his course along the coast, a great number of Indians came aboard, in their canoes, with presents of bread, water, and fish; in return for which, he gave them a few bells, beads, and other trifles.

On the 5th of May, he reached Jamaica, where, he had been told, there was great plenty of gold. On his casting anchor at that island, he thought it the most beautiful of any he had yet seen, and a surprising multitude of the natives came, in canoes of different sizes, to exchange provisions for toys. The next day, he coasted along the island; but sending out his boat to sound the mouths of the harbours, they were soon surrounded by canoes, filled with armed men, who seemed resolved on beginning hostilities. However, the Spaniards being determined to enter Puerto Bueno, saluted them with such a flight of arrows, that several of them being wounded, the rest instantly retired. In that port, the Admiral repaired his ships, and afterwards sailed back to Cuba, with a firm resolution to know whether it was an island or a continent. The same day, a young

Indian of Jamaica, coming on board, begged to accompany Columbus to Spain, and though many of his kindred and other persons intreated him with tears in their eyes, to return. he persisted in his resolution, and the Admiral gave orders that he should be treated with the utmost civility.

On the 15th, he reached the point of Cuba, which he named Cabo da Santa Cruz, or Cape Holy Cross; but as he coasted along, he was overtaken by a terrible storm of thunder and lightning, which was the more dangerous, as he was entangled amongst the currents and flats, which hindered him from taking in his sails. He found the sea to the north and north-east of that island covered with a prodigious number of small, low, and sandy islands, some of which scarcely appeared above the surface of the water, and consequently rendered the navigation very hazardous. It is true, the nearer they sailed to Cuba, the higher and pleasanter these little islands appeared, and it being a matter of difficulty, and of no advantage to give a name to each of them, he styled them all in general, the Queen's garden. The next day, these islands seemed to multiply on all hands, so that his men reckoned 160 of them, parted from each other by navigable channels, through which the ships sailed. In some of them they saw a great number of cranes that were as red as scarlet;

abundance of turtles and their eggs, and an infinite number of small singing birds ; and, what appeared still more extraordinary, the air was as sweet, as if it had been impregnated with the richest perfumes. In one of the above channels, they found a canoe with fishermen, who seeing the boat approach, they, without the least concern, made signs to the Spaniards to keep off till they had done fishing ; and as their manner of catching fish appeared very surprising, they were willing to comply. The man had tied some small fishes, called Remora, or sucking-fish, by the tail, which meeting with another fish, fixed themselves to it, by the sucker on the top of the head, when the fisherman drew them up together. Upon this occasion they caught a sea turtle, to whose neck the sucking-fish had fastened itself ; and in this manner they will sometimes adhere to sharks of the largest size. The Indians in the canoe having taken a turtle, went on board to the Admiral, and made him a present of all the fish they had caught ; for which he gratified them with a few baubles.

On the 22d of May, Columbus landed in an island somewhat bigger than the rest, which he called St. Mary's ; but entering a town, all the inhabitants fled, when the Spaniards found nothing but fish in their houses which was all the food these people lived upon, and some dogs resembling mastiffs, that lived on the same food.

He then directed his course north-east where he was still bewildered by an astonishing number of flats and islands; and, notwithstanding all his precautions, in sounding and keeping men upon the round-top to look out, the ship was often aground, and this obliged him to relinquish his design of sailing east about, before he returned to Spain.

Being now in great want of water, he again touched at Cuba, when one of his sailors mounting a tree with a cross bow, to kill some bird or beast, discovered thirty people armed with spears and staves, and among them a person dressed in a white vest which hung down to his knees, carried by two men, in long garments that reached to their feet, all three being as white as the Spaniards; but seeing so many of their attendants, he was terrified, and calling to his companions, the Indians ran away without looking back. The next day, the Admiral sent some people on shore to discover the truth of this report; but the woods and marshes were so impassable, that after having travelled about a league from the shore, they were obliged to return.

Having sailed about ten leagues to the westward, they observed houses on the shore, from whence the natives came in canoes with food and water, for which they were well paid. The Admiral however, caused one of the Indians to

be detained; but told him and the rest, by his interpreter, that he would let him go as soon as he had given him proper directions for his voyage, and some account of the country. The Indian, satisfied with this promise, let him know, that Cuba was an island; and that the coast was very low, and surrounded with small islands.

The next day, the Admiral being inclosed between two islands, was obliged to tow the ships over a flat, where there was but very little water; when bearing up to the coast of Cuba, the Spaniards saw very large turtle, in such numbers, that they covered the sea. The next morning, the sun was darkened by a multitude of sea-crows, which flew towards the shore and lighted upon it; there also appeared abundance of pigeons, and other birds; and the next day, there came such a swarm of butterflies, that they darkened the air from morning till night, when they were carried away by a great shower of rain.

On the 13th, Columbus perceiving that the coast of Cuba ran far west, and that there would be the greatest difficulty in sailing that way, resolved to return to the town he had begun to build at Hispaniola, but being in want of wood and water, he anchored at Evangelista, an island of about thirty leagues in compass, and having provided the ships with what they wanted, directed his course to the south; but after having

sailed a few leagues through a channel which seemed to be the clearest, found himself embayed, and being in a manner destitute of provisions, was under a great consternation. However, for fear of discouraging his men, he appeared as cheerful as possible, and having returned as he entered, sailed towards some islands to the north-west, near which the sea seemed to be of different colours, owing, in all probability, to the shallow water, and the nature of the bottom seen through it. Soon after, his ship ran aground so fast, that she could not be got off, without great difficulty and danger; but, however, this was at last effected, and after many difficulties, he escaped from these shoals and islands, and arrived again at Cuba.

On the 16th of July, as Columbus was steering towards Cape Cruz, in the island of Cuba, he was surprised with such a violent storm, that the ships were almost overset before the sails could be furled, and they shipped so much water, that the men were scarcely able to keep them clear by pumping; for his men were rendered extremely weak, by fatigue and want of provisions, their allowance being only a pound of biscuit, and half a pint of wine a day, unless they happened to catch fish. This allowance the Admiral himself did not exceed. However, at his arrival at Cape Cruz he was civilly entertained by the Indians, who supplied him with

bread of grated roots, with plenty of fish, and great quantities of delicious fruit.

Columbus now stood over to Jamaica, and coasting along to the westward, found that part of the island full of excellent harbours, and abounding with inhabitants. He then made the south side of Hispaniola, and having lost sight of the other two ships that were under his command, cast anchor at a small island, where his men killed eight seals that lay asleep on the shore, and took great numbers of pigeons, and other birds, which, being unaccustomed to the human species, stood, still, while they were knocked down with staves.

Six days after, the Admiral being joined by the other ships that were missing, proceeded on his voyage, and coasted along Hispaniola, which exhibited the prospect of a delightful plain, extending a mile from the sea, and so populous, that for a league together, it seemed to be one continued town, in the neighbourhood of which was a lake five leagues in length. Here the natives came on board in their canoes, and told the Admiral that they had been visited by some Spaniards from Isabella, where all was well; when being greatly pleased with this information, he immediately despatched nine men across the island, with the news of his safe return, while he and his ship continued sailing along the coast to the eastward. In this course he sent the

boats ashore for water, near a great town, from which the Indians came to oppose their landing, with bows and poisoned arrows, and produced some ropes, with which they threatened to bind the Christians. But as soon as the boats reached the shore, they civilly laid down their arms, asked for the Admiral, and carried him provisions. Near this place, they saw a large fish, of the size of a middling whale. It bore its head, which was of the size of a pipe or butt, above water; and had a long tail, like that of a tunny fish, and two vast fins on the sides. From this, and other concurring circumstances, the Admiral prognosticated a change of weather, and seeking some place where he might ride secure, cast anchor under a little island, called by the Spaniards Saona. He then observed an eclipse of the moon, which was followed by a tempest, that lasted several days, during which he was under the greatest apprehensions, on account of the other vessels which could not get in. However, they weathered the storm, and joined the Admiral who continued his voyage, but was soon after seized with a lethargy, which deprived him of his senses and memory. On this account, it was agreed to sail directly to Isabella, where they arrived on the 29th of September. The Admiral, on his landing, soon recovered his health, though his weakness lasted several months.

Columbus, on his arrival, found his brother



MEETING OF COLUMBUS AND HIS BROTHER.

Bartholomew, at Isabella, and perceived that the natives had taken up arms against the Spaniards. The Admiral's joy was extreme at the sight of Bartholomew, who returning to Spain, from the court of England, where all his demands were granted, had been informed of his brother Christopher's success by Charles, king of France, who presented him with one hundred crowns to defray the expense of his journey. Upon this, he made all the haste he could to overtake the Admiral in Spain; but before his arrival at Seville, Christopher had sailed on his second voyage; however waiting on their Catholic Majesties, he was received with honour, and ordered to sail with three ships to the West-Indies, in order to carry provisions for his brother, where he arrived, while the Admiral was gone upon the discovery of Cuba.

Christopher Columbus now gave his brother Bartholomew, the title of governor of the Indies, which their Catholic Majesties very much resented, alleging that he had no power to grant so high an office; but this difference was at length compromised, and his place confirmed, under the title of Adelantado, or lord lieutenant of the Indies.

Though Christopher Columbus rejoiced at having the company and assistance of his brother, he was immediately involved in a great trouble and vexation by the misconduct of Peter

Margarite, who, instead of obeying his orders, by traversing the island with 360 foot, and fourteen horse, which had been left under his command, had encamped in a large plain, at ten leagues distance from Isabella, from whence he despatched the most insolent letters to the council; but finding, at length, that he was unable to obtain the supreme command, and dreading the return of the Admiral, who might punish him for his presumption, he, together with father Boyle, who had been sent to convert the Indians, embarked on board one of the three ships that brought over Bartholomew, and, with others of his party, returned into Spain, without assigning any reason for his departure, or disposing of the men under his command; on which they dispersed themselves through the country, robbed the natives of their effects, and committed such outrages, as not only entirely alienated the affections of the Indians from the Spaniards, but induced them to lay schemes of revenge. A Cacique, who had a large town, attacking some small straggling parties killed ten of the Spaniards, and set fire to a house, in which eleven of them were sick. Six of the Spaniards were killed in other parts of the island, and much greater numbers would have perished, had it not been for the Admiral's return. The Indians, indeed, might have easily shaken off the Spanish yoke, had they but united in their own defence; for there were four

principal Caciques, or Kings, each of whom had seventy or eighty petty lords under his subjection, who were obliged, when called upon, to assist in the wars.

Columbus was very uneasy at finding that the Christians, by their vices, had rendered themselves hated by the Indians, who could not bear their insolence and barbarity. Guacanagari, indeed, continued a firm friend to the Spaniards; and, visiting the Admiral at his return, declared that he had been so far from joining with his enemies, that he had protected and maintained an hundred of his people, by which means, he had incurred the displeasure of the other Caciques. Bohechico had killed one of his women, and another of them had been carried off by Caunabo; he therefore desired Columbus's assistance to recover the one, and to punish Bohechico for the death of the other. This the Admiral readily promised; and some of the natives who had murdered his men, being punished with death, and others sent into Spain, Columbus and Guacanagari set out from Isabella, to prosecute the war against the Indians, who were assembled, to the number of 100,000 while Columbus's forces consisted only of 200 foot, twenty horse, and twenty wolf dogs, and Guacanagari's body of Indians.

Columbus, being in sight of the enemy, on the second day of his march, divided the little army

under his command, into two bodies; one of which he gave to his brother Bartholomew that by attacking the enemy in two places at once, he might increase their terror and confusion. The Indians were immediately thrown into disorder by the discharge of the muskets and cross-bows; when, the Spaniards rushing upon them with their horses and dogs, so terrified them, that they were soon routed, and many slain; and a great number taken prisoners: among whom was Caunabo, with all his wives and children, who confessed, that he had before killed twenty of the christians, at the town of the Nativity, and that he intended to have acted in the same manner at Isabella. This confession, together with his being taken in arms, induced the Admiral to send him and his whole family into Spain, where they might be tried in such a manner, as was most agreeable to their Catholic Majesties.

This victory, and the captivity of Caunabo, so much intimidated the Indians, that, within the space of a year, Columbus, without any other engagement, reduced the whole island to obedience, and imposed a quarterly tribute to be paid the King and Queen of Spain; every inhabitant of Cebao being taxed at a certain quantity of gold, and the rest, at twenty-five pounds of cotton a head. Things being thus settled to his satisfaction, the natives became so quiet and pacific, that a single Spaniard might

travel in safety over the whole Island, and every where meet with a hospitable and friendly reception. However, the diseases of the climate, and change of diet, had reduced the colony of Isabella to less than one third of the number that first settled there.

The Spaniards, by conversing with the natives, now became better acquainted with their manners and customs; and learned, amongst other things, that the islands produced ebony, cedar, long pepper, ginger, frankincense, a great number of mulberry trees, and copper.

When a sick Indian was deemed past recovery, he was strangled, by order of the Cacique, and was either burnt, buried, or embalmed, at the pleasure of his relations. Some, on being embowelled and dried, were laid in hammocks, with bread and water at their heads, and others, deposited in a cave, furnished with the same kind of provisions. It is observable, that Caunabo, being questioned about a future state, said, that after death he should go to a certain vale, where he should find his parents and predecessors, and eat, drink, and enjoy all sensual pleasures, in the highest perfection.

But to return to Don Pedro Margarite, and father Boyle, who after having thrown the island into confusion, had, as has been already mentioned, deserted their posts, and returned to Spain. Those persons united in speaking

ill of the Indies, and misrepresented every thing done by Columbus, because they had not found gold, ready for them to plunder, heaped up in chests, or growing on the trees; and there being also letters written by some of the malecontents, which gave an ill character of the Admiral, their Catholic Majesties sent John Aguado, groom of the king's bed-chamber to observe what was doing in the island of Hispaniola; who set sail, with four ships, laden with necessaries for the relief of the people.

John Aguado arrived at Isabella while the Admiral was in a distant province; and, pretending to be invested with extraordinary authority, interposed in matters of government, reproved the Admiral's ministers, and some time after, followed Columbus, attended by a body of horse and foot; who being told that John Aguado was in search of him, returned to Isabella, where Aguado behaved with the utmost indiscretion, and treated the Admiral with the greatest disrespect. Meanwhile, the people complained to him of having no other provisions but a daily allowance, out of the king's stores, of a porringer of wheat, and a slice of rusty bacon, or rotten cheese, with a few beans or Spanish pease, and of the Admiral's obliging them, as they were in the king's pay, to work at the fortification, his own house, and other structures; and he resolved to lay these complaints before their Majesties.

At this time, the four ships brought by Aguado perished by a hurricane in the harbour, and there was no vessel left to carry him back, but the Admiral's two caravels; when Columbus, observing his presumption, and being informed that others had misrepresented him at court, where he had no other support than his own merit, resolved to appear before their Majesties, in order to vindicate himself: to let them know what he had found in his second discovery relating to the island of Cuba, and his opinion as to the partition that was to be made between the two crowns of Castile and Portugal. But, before he left the island, he ordered several new forts to be built; and being informed by some of the Caciques, that there were gold mines on the south side of the island, he found it necessary, in order to support his own credit, to discover as much of that metal as possible; and, therefore, sent several persons with his Indian guides, who, advancing into the most southern province, found gold in all the brooks; and, digging in several places, met with such plenty of it, that one labourer in a day could get above three pesos. These they called the mines of St. Christopher, from a fort the Admiral ordered to be erected there.

Columbus, having settled the affairs of the island, and appointed his brother Bartholomew his lieutenant, went on board one of the caravels

and John Aguado in the other, and taking with him 225 Spaniards, who wanted to return, with thirty Indians, sailed from Isabella, on the 10th of March, 1496. He continued his course till the sixth of April; but meeting only with contrary winds, and finding his provisions falling short, and his men discouraged, he stood off towards the Carribbee-islands, and on the 10th of April, anchored at Guadaloupe, where many women came, with bows and arrows, to hinder their landing; but, as the sea ran very high, the boats were not able to reach the shore; upon which, he ordered two Indian women to swim to it, and to tell the islanders that they wanted nothing but provisions, for which they would give them a valuable consideration.

The female warriors no sooner understood the demand of the Spaniards, than they directed them to sail to the other side of the island, where they could be supplied by their husbands. But, on their arrival there, a great number of people came down to the shore, and discharged their arrows at the boats; but, perceiving that the Spaniards rowed towards the land, they retired and formed an ambuscade in the nearest woods, whence they were easily driven by the firing of guns; their houses and effects were taken possession of by the Spaniards, who being acquainted with the method of making bread, went to work, and made a sufficient quantity of it to

supply their wants. In these Indian houses, which, contrary to the practice of the other islands, were square, they found large parrots, honey, wax, and iron. While many of the people were employed in baking bread, the Admiral sent forty men to obtain some intelligence of the country, and the next day, they returned with ten women, and three boys, amongst whom was the wife of a Cacique, whom a man, born in the Canaries, had much difficulty to overtake; which he could not have done, had she not, on seeing him alone, turned back, when seizing him she threw him upon the ground, and would certainly have stifled him, had not others come to his assistance. These women swathed their legs with a piece of cotton from the ankle to the knee, and wore their hair long, and flowing upon their shoulders, but no other parts of their bodies were covered.

Columbus having provided his ships with a supply of wood and water, set sail from Guadeloupe on the 20th of April, after having made some presents to all the inhabitants they had in their possession, and set them on shore, except the chief and her daughter, who chose to go to Spain with Caunabo, who was a native of the Caribbees, though a Cacique of Hispaniola.

On the 20th of May, when the ships were about 100 leagues west of the Azores, their provisions began to fail, on which, each man was

allowed only six ounces of bread, and something less than a pint of water a day ; and though there were eight or nine pilots in these two sloops, yet none of them knew where they were. On the 8th of June, several days after the reckonings of all the pilots had been out, except the Admiral's, they were in sight of Odemira, between Lisbon and Cape St. Vincent, which some mistook for the coast of Galicia, while others maintained that they were in the English Channel. The scarcity on board was now so great, that many of the men proposed to eat the Indians ; while others, to save the little provision that remained, were for throwing them overboard. These cruel expedients were rejected by the Admiral, who was obliged to exert all his address and authority, in order to protect them ; and the next morning, he was rewarded for his humanity, with the sight of land, which agreed so well with his having the evening before, asserted, that he was near Cape St. Vincent, which all on board had laughed at, that his men belived him to be prophetic in sea affairs.

The Admiral, on his landing, set out for Burgos, where he was favourably received by their Catholic Majesties, who were then celebrating the nuptials of their son with Margaret of Austria, the daughter of the emperor Maximilian, He presented the king and queen with several sorts of spice, various kinds of rich woods,

birds of beautiful colours, girdles, and masks adorned with gold plates, a large quantity of gold dust, with grains of that metal, of different sizes; and had so far improved their former discoveries, as to be able to affirm, that there were innumerable islands in these new discovered seas, that had the richest soil, and abounded with the most valuable natural productions.

Columbus having vindicated his own conduct to their Majesties' satisfaction, earnestly solicited to be sent back with supplies to the colony he had left both in want of men, and many necessaries; but notwithstanding the warmth of his solicitations, the court was so dilatory, that ten or twelve months elapsed before he could obtain a supply, which was sent in two ships, commanded by Peter Fernandez Coronel. After his departure, Columbus continued at court, to procure the equipment of such a fleet as was proper for him to conduct to the West Indies. This was, however, long retarded by the negligence and ill management of the King's officers, and particularly of Don Juan de Fonseca, archdeacon of Seville, who was afterwards created bishop of Burgos, and proved an inveterate enemy to Columbus, whom he at length brought to disgrace.

CHAP. III.

COLUMBUS at last set sail from the bay of St. Lucar de Barrameda, on the 30th of May, 1498, with six ships, laden with provisions and necessaries for the planters in Hispaniola, with a firm resolution to discover the continent. On the 7th of June, he arrived at the island of Puerto Santo, where he took in wood and water; on the 9th, touched at Madeira, where he received other refreshments on board; and on the 19th, reached Geomera, at which place, a French ship had taken three Spanish vessels, and stood to sea with them, in sight of the squadron. The Admiral, on being informed of this capture, ordered three of his ships to give chase; but they had made too much way for the Spanish ships to come up with them. However, one of the prizes was retrieved by the bravery of the Spaniards, whom the French had left on board; for clapping their captors under the hatches, they returned with the vessel safe into port.

Columbus sailed from thence to the island of Ferro; and, having resolved to send three of his

ships to Hispaniola, while he sailed with the rest to the Cape de Verde Islands, and from thence to the continent, he appointed John Antonio Columbus, his kinsman, Peter d' Arana, and Alonzo Sanchez de Carvajal, captains of the ships bound for Hispaniola, with orders that each should command a week in his turn.— Having dismissed them near the island of Hiero, he, on the 27th of June, descried the island of Sal, the first of the cape de Verde Islands, and, passing it, anchored close to a small island to which all the lepers in Portugal, were sent to be cured, by eating tortoise or turtle, and washing themselves frequently with their blood; for in the months of June, July, and August, abundance of those amphibious animals resort thither from the continent, to lay their eggs in the sand, and are easily caught by turning them on their backs while they are asleep. This was the sole business of the wretched lepers, and these animals, their only sustenance, for there is neither tree or spring in the island, so that they are obliged to drink the water of certain pits, which is brackish and unpalatable. The healthy people, living on that island, amounted only to six or seven, whose whole employment consisted in killing and salting goats, of which there were such multitudes on the mountains, that they have sometimes, in the course of one year, killed to the value of 4000 ducats; though the whole stock was

produced from eight goats, carried thither by Roderick Alphonso, the proprietor of the island.

On the 30th of June, Columbus sailed for the island of St. Jago, where he cast anchor, the next day in the evening, and sent ashore, to buy cows and bulls, wherewith to stock his plantation in Hispaniola; but finding that he could not obtain them without some difficulty and delay, he was unwilling to stay in so unhealthy a place; and, his men beginning to sicken, he sailed to the south-west, resolving to continue that course till he should be under the line, and to steer due-west in search of undiscovered countries. He proceeded in this course, notwithstanding his meeting with violent currents, which set towards the north and north-west, till he arrived within five degrees of north latitude, where he was becalmed for eight days, during which, the heat was so excessive, that the men could hardly breathe; and, had not the air been sometimes cooled with showers of rain, the crew were so ignorant as to apprehend, that they should have been burnt with their ships. The Admiral, therefore resolved to steer due-west; but having sailed many days in that course, and judging that the Carribbee Islands lay to the north, he resolved to sail directly for Hispaniola.

Columbus, therefore stood to the northward, and one day, about noon, a sailor going up to

the round-top, observed land, at the distance of fifteen leagues, that had the appearance of three mountains. This island, the Admiral distinguished by the name of La Trinidad, or Trinity; and sailing due-west, he anchored five leagues beyond a point which he called Punta de la Galera, from a rock, which at a distance, resembled a galley under sail; but finding no convenience for taking in water, he sailed farther west, and cast anchor at another point. He there took in the water, without seeing any houses or people, though in coasting along, he had left several towns behind him. The same day, being the 1st of August, they discovered the continent, at the distance of twenty-five leagues; but mistaking it for another island, the Admiral gave it the name of Isla Santa.

Columbus now proceeded to a more westerly point of the island of Trinidad, which he named Punta del Arenal, or Sandy Point; where, landing with his men in order to obtain refreshments, a Cacique of the island came to him, and observing that he wore a cap of crimson velvet, not only paid him great respect, but took off a circle of gold he had on his head, and put it on the Admiral's, and, with the other hand took off the Admiral's cap with which he was greatly pleased, and put it on his own head. The same day, when they were aboard their ships, a large canoe carrying twenty-five men, came from the eastward; but, being

about the distance of a musket-shot, the Indians gave over rowing, and called aloud; but, as what they said could not be understood, the Admiral ordered some of the men to allure them to the ship, by giving them some little brass basins, looking glasses, and other glittering toys; but this proving ineffectual, Columbus thinking to please them, ordered one of the men to ascend the poop, and play upon the tabor and pipe, while others danced around him. This, however, had a quite contrary effect, for they took it for a signal of war, and therefore, quitting their oars, laid hold of their targets and bows, and let fly their arrows. Upon this the Admiral ordered the music to cease, and some cross-bows to be brought, but only two of them to be shot; whereupon, the Indians immediately laid down their arms, and ran in close under the stern of one of the caravels, the pilot of which, went down into the canoe, and, giving one who seemed to be a principal person, a red cap, they made signs to him to go ashore, intimating, that they would give him such things as they had; but while he went into the boat to ask the Admiral's leave they rowed away.

These people were whiter than the Indians of the other islands, and had agreeable countenances. Their hair was long and straight; about their heads they tied a piece of cotton cloth, curiously wrought, of several colours, and

another about their waists. The Admiral wondered that being so near the equinoctial, he every morning felt the cold, notwithstanding its being in the dog-days; he observed that the rivers ran with greater rapidity than that of Seville; that the sea, at high water, flowed above 48 paces up the shore, as it did at St. Lucar, and that the current set with such strength between the islands of Trinidad and Santa, which were only two leagues asunder, that it resembled a rapid river. The Spaniards found that the fruit, trees, soil and climate, were the same as in Hispaniola. They saw parrots, some of a light green, others whitish, and others intermixed with red and yellow; and also caught very large oysters, and great quantities of other fish.

The ships having taken in water at Punta del Arenal, Columbus proceeded to a point on the north west of what he, till then, called Isla Santa, which he thought to be extraordinary high land, as indeed it is; and this, which is a part of the continent, near the vast ridge of mountains called the Andes, he afterwards called Paria.

Columbus now proceeded to another mouth, or channel, which he called the Serpent's Mouth, from the danger of the place; for anchoring near a rock, the sea ran so furiously to the northward, that it resembled the mouth of a great river, the stream of which, increasing

with a hideous noise, met with another current from the gulph of Paria, and swelled up the sea with terrible roaring, to the astonishment and consternation of the Spaniards, who expected to be overwhelmed. However, they suffered no other damage than one of the ships dragging her anchor. This danger being past, the Admiral sailed westward, along the coast of Paria, discovering several good harbours and rivers; and going ashore, saw many monkeys, and found plantains, and other fruit, like those of the island.

On the 6th of August, they sailed five leagues farther down, between the coast and the isle of Trinidad, where dropping anchor, three men came in a canoe, and, being carried to the Admiral, were treated with great civility, presented with toys, and set on shore at a place where a number of the Indians were assembled; who no sooner understood the pacific disposition of the Spaniards, than they came, in their canoes, to barter with the same things that had been bought by the Spaniards at the islands. They drank a liquor as white as milk, and another that was green, made of fruit and maize. The men covered their heads and waists with well-woven cotton, of different colours; but the women here, as well as in the isle of Trinidad, were entirely naked; but they seemed, in general, to be more civilized and tractable than the inhabitants of Hispaniola, and were particularly

fond of brass trinkets, and bells ; but having nothing of value, except a few inconsiderable plates of gold, that hung about their necks, Columbus ordered six of them to be taken on board, and then, continuing his course, saw a fine country, well peopled, and a town, which, for its beauty, he called the Gardens, where he anchored ; here many resorted to the ships with wrought clothes on their heads, and some of them with plates of gold about their necks. The Indians on board, said, that there was plenty of that metal in those parts, and shewed how they gathered it. As they sailed farther, they were still visited by more canoes, in which, all the people wore gold collars, with beads of various sorts ; and one Indian, in particular, had a single grain of gold as big as an apple. The women wore strings of beads about their arms, some of which were very fine pearls ; these they signified, were found in oysters to the westward of Paria : and the Admiral, having purchased some of them for a present to their Catholic Majesties, sent the boats to make farther enquiry about that valuable commodity ; but, though the sailors had no design to land, two of the Indian chiefs civilly constrained them to it, and conducted them to a house, where they were kindly entertained with bread, fruit of several sorts, the white liquor before-mentioned, and another of a red colour and good taste ; the men, all the time, keeping together

at one end of the house, and the women at the other. When they had been thus treated by the eldest, the youngest carried them to another house and treated them in the same manner. The sailors returned well satisfied, to their boats, highly pleased with the people, who were whiter than any other of the Indians, and of a very good stature; but what appeared to the Admiral as very extraordinary, was, the country appearing cool and delightful, notwithstanding its being so near the middle parts of the earth.

Columbus, still continuing his course, found that the water grew more and more shallow, and therefore anchoring upon the coast, he sent the smallest caravel to discover whether there was an outlet to the westward, among what appeared to be islands, but she returned the next day with a report, that what seemed islands, was one continued continent; so that, standing back to the eastward, he repassed the straits called the Dragon's Mouth, between Paria and Trinidad Island, but not without great difficulty and danger, from the boisterous currents, He now sailed westward, along the coast of Paria, and after passing by several islands, on the 30th of August, entered the harbour of St. Domingo, in Hispaniola, where his brother had built a town, which he called by that name, in memory of his father, whose name was Dominick.

Columbus was, at this time, almost blind with watching, and quite exhausted with fatigue; but he now indulged the hope of tasting the sweets of repose, and enjoying rest and tranquillity. He was, however, grievously disappointed; for he soon found that the whole island was in the utmost confusion. The greatest part of those he had left were dead; above 160 were miserably infected with a disease, brought on by their own irregular and vicious conduct, and a great number had rebelled, at the head of whom was Francis Roldan, whom he had appointed Alcade, or Chief Justice.

It has been already observed, that a considerable time elapsed before Columbus could obtain a supply from their Catholic Majesties for the colony of Hispaniola. In this interval, provisions beginning to fail, the Spaniards of that island began to murmur, became dissatisfied with their situation, and even despaired of his return. Roldan, whose office gave him considerable influence, resolved to take advantage of this spirit of discontent, in order to centre the whole power in his own hands; and therefore encouraged the murmurs of the discontented, against Bartholomew Columbus, the lieutenant, and his brother Diego, to whose tyranny he falsely imputed all their sufferings. His intrigues were so successful, that the minds of many of the Spaniards were alienated from the brothers of Christopher Columbus, and even several attempts were made upon their lives. Roldan,

at length, pulling off the mask, assembled his men, who amounted to sixty-five, and attempted to seize the town and fort of Conception. But this scheme miscarried, through the vigilance of Ballester, the commander; who, obtaining intelligence of his design, communicated it to the lieutenant, from whom he received a reinforcement. This rebellious behaviour obliged Bartholomew to send orders to Roldan to resign his post, and submit to an impartial trial; but he disdainfully refusing to obey these commands, marched with his mutineers to Isabella, where he tried in vain to launch a caravel, which was upon the stocks, plundered the store-houses and magazines, and obliged Diego Columbus to retire for protection into the fort; after which, he fell upon the cattle that grazed in the neighbourhood, killed many of them, for provisions, and took all the beasts of burden to serve his people in their march to the province of Xaragua, where he chose to reside, on account of its being the most pleasant and plentiful part of the island, and because it seemed to offer him the means of indulging all his improper inclinations.

Before Roldan set out for his retreat, he resolved to try his strength, and, if possible, surprize the town of the Conception, where he intended to murder the lieutenant, and did not doubt but he should easily subdue his men, who were too fond of an idle and voluptuous life; but Don Bartholomew, who was a man of equal

courage and discretion, took such measures, that not one of his people would forsake him ; and boldly marching out against Roldan, the latter did not think fit to hazard a battle. Roldan, now, by artful insinuations, to the prejudice of Christopher Columbus and his brothers, engaged Guarinoex, a powerful Cacique, in his interest ; and several Indian lords, who were flattered with the hope of having their tribute remitted, entered into an association, by which it was resolved, that at the full moon, the natives should surprize and murder the Spaniards ; who for the convenience of finding subsistence, lived amongst them in small detached parties. But this prospect also miscarried, through the ignorance of the Indians ; some of whom, being mistaken with respect to the appearance of the moon, fell upon the Christians before the appointed time, and were easily repulsed ; by which means, the conspiracy was discovered, and the Spaniards were put upon their guard.

Roldan, who was greatly mortified at these repeated miscarriages, now retired with his followers to Xaragua, proclaimed himself the protector of the Indians against the oppression of the lieutenant and his brother ; and his artful misrepresentations had not only an effect on some of the natives, who refused to pay the tribute, but made an impression on the minds of those Spaniards who still remained under

the government of the lieutenant; many of whom were, by the warmth of the climate, disposed to a life of idleness, and were discontented at their having received no supplies from Spain; and indeed such a spirit of dissatisfaction was diffused amongst them, that the lieutenant did not dare to punish the guilty, for fear of a general revolt.

From these apprehensions he was, however, in some measure relieved, by the arrival of the two ships first sent, in consequence of the Admiral's solicitations; for, these bringing a reinforcement of men and provisions, with the assurance, that the Admiral himself would soon follow, the people were encouraged to persevere in their duty. These two ships being arrived at St. Domingo, Roldan marched towards that city, in order to obtain necessaries, and, if possible, seduce some of the new comers; but he was anticipated by the activity of the lieutenant, who reached the place before he was within six leagues of it, and so effectually guarded the passes that he could not succeed. Yet, as he earnestly wished that the Admiral should find the island in tranquillity, he sent overtures of accommodation by the commander of these vessels; but Roldan sent him back with a contemptuous refusal.

While things were in this situation, the three ships, which the Admiral had despatched from the Canary Islands, arrived; but instead of

entering the harbour of St. Domingo, were driven by the currents as far westward, as the province of Xaragua, where they were visited by Roldan, and his followers, who seduced many of the people, and prevailed on them to enter into his service. The captains of these three vessels, understanding that Bartholomew Columbus, and the Alcade, were at variance, agreed that Carvajal, the commander of one of the ships, should stay in Xaragua, and endeavour to produce an accommodation ; that John Antonio Columbus, who commanded one of the other vessels, and was kinsman to the Admiral, should conduct the workmen over land to St. Domingo ; and that captain Arana should sail round with the ships. John Antonio Columbus accordingly landed with forty men ; but, on the second day of his march, all his followers, except six or seven, deserted to the rebels, and with these he was obliged to return on board, after having in vain expostulated with Roldan upon his treacherous conduct on this occasion.

After a troublesome voyage, in which their provisions were spoiled, and Carvajal's vessel greatly damaged, his ships arrived at St. Domingo, whither the Admiral was just returned from the discovery of the Continent. His brother had informed him of Roldan's revolt ; at which, being greatly concerned, he caused Roldan to be informed, that he was extremely sorry for the breach that had happened between

him and the Adelantado, or lieutenant, and was very desirous of healing it ; that he should be glad to see him, and would grant him a safe conduct. At the same time, hearing that the rebels complained of their being detained upon the island, for want of vessels to carry them home, he published a proclamation, granting leave for all that desired it to return to Spain, promising to supply them with provisions, and a free passage. Roldan, however, treated all the Admiral's advances towards a reconciliation with indignity and insult ; boasting, that it was in his power, either to support or suppress the authority of the Admiral, with whom he would not treat, without the meditation of Carvajal, whom, he said he knew, to be a man of honour and discretion:

As Carvajal was a person of consequence, and had some prudence, Columbus, though he had reason to suspect his fidelity, since he had supplied the rebels with arms while the ships lay at Xaragua, consented to employ him in this negociation. Roldan, however, refused to treat with him, sent an insolent letter to the Admiral, and, being at length persuaded to accept of a safe conduct, and to visit Columbus, made such extravagant proposals, as he could not embrace, without exposing himself to contempt. Columbus, therefore, explained his reasons for rejecting them, and proclaimed a free pardon to all who should return to their duty within

thirty days; a copy of which, with new overtures of peace, was carried to the rebels by Carvajal, and about the same time, Columbus sent five ships to Spain, with a letter to their Majesties, containing a particular account of the Colony, and its dissensions.

After many disputes, it was at length agreed that the Admiral should deliver to Roldan two good ships wellmanned and victualled, for transporting him and his party to Spain; that they should be paid their salaries and wages to the day of their departure, and that such of their effects should be restored, as had been seized by his, and the lieutenant's order. Matters being thus compromised, the Admiral gave orders for equipping the ships, but the weather being extremely boisterous, some time elapsed before they were ready, and could be brought round to Xaragua; and during this interval, Roldan changed his mind, and refused to embark; but expressing a desire to see the affair accommodated, demanded a safe conduct, in order to treat with Columbus in person. The latter being sensible of the mutinous disposition of his own people, was so solicitous about healing this division, that he not only complied with Roldan's demand, but went round with two caravels to the port of Azua, near Xaragua, where he had a conference with the rebel chief, in which it was agreed, that 15 of Roldan's

followers should be sent home in the first ships bound for Spain; that lands and houses should be given, instead of pay, to those who remained; that Roldan should be again appointed perpetual Alcade, and that an act of general amnesty should be published.

This troublesome affair being thus adjusted, the Admiral caused a captain, at the head of a body of men, to march round the island, in order to pacify and reduce the rebellious Indians; and, that no cause of animosity might be left in Hispaniola, he proposed to take his brother, the lieutenant, with him to Spain, but while he was preparing for the voyage, Alonzo de Hojeda arrived in the island, with four ships, from a cruize, in which he had pretended to make discoveries; and, putting into the port of Yaquimo, not only committed several outrages against the Indians, but, by letters, began to tamper with some of the Spaniards, who were hardly yet confirmed in their duty. To these he insinuated, that Queen Isabella was in a very precarious state of health; and that after her decease, the Admiral would find no protection at court; but must fall a victim to the hatred of Hojeda's kinsman, the Bishop of Burgos, and Columbus's inveterate enemy.

The Admiral being informed of these proceedings, ordered Roldan to march against him with twenty-one men. This order he obeyed so suddenly, that Hojeda, finding it impossible to

escape, went to meet him, excused his landing, under the pretence of his being in want of provisions, and declared that he had no intentions to disturb the repose of the island, but would soon sail to St. Domingo, and give the Admiral an account of his voyage. But, notwithstanding these professions, he sailed to the province of Xaragua, where he seduced many of the people, by telling them that he and Carvajal had been appointed, by their Majesties' Counsellors, as checks upon the Admiral; and, that as he had not been so just as to pay them, they should go under his command, and do themselves justice by force. This wild scheme being opposed by some of the Spaniards, who were amazed at Hojeda's presumption, a tumult ensued, in which several persons were killed and wounded; but Roldan marching a second time against him he retired to his ship. The Alcade, perceiving he was out of his reach, invited him to come ashore, and treat of an accommodation; and, upon his refusal, offered to go on board; when Hojeda, sending his boat well manned, Roldan, with six or seven of his followers, entered it, and, when it was least suspected, fell upon Hojeda's men, made himself master of the boat, and returned with it to land; which obliged Hojeda to submit to a treaty, and to give security that he would depart the island.

Soon after, another commotion was raised by

Ferdinand Guevara, who was in disgrace with the Admiral for being concerned in the late sedition; and he, being exasperated against Roldan, for not permitting him to marry the Queen of Xaragua's daughter, entered into a conspiracy with one Adrian de Mozica; and, having engaged many people in his interest, resolved to surprize and murder the Alcade. But, Roldan being informed of their proceedings, took his measures so well, that he seized the chief conspirators, and being ordered by the Admiral to punish them according to law, he proceeded to a fair trial, in consequence of which, Mozica was hanged, some of the confederates banished, and others sent to prison.

This example had such an effect, that tranquillity was restored throughout the whole island; and about this time, such rich gold mines were discovered, that every man left the King's pay, and went to dig on his own account, allowing the King one-third of all that was found. In this employment, they met with such success, that one man would sometimes gather forty ounces in a day, and a lump of pure gold was found, that weighed 196 ducats.

While Columbus was thus exerting all his prudence, and exercising his humanity, in appeasing the troubles of Hispaniola, he little thought that a storm was rising against him at home. A number of malecontents had been

sent to Spain during the rebellion, who represented him as an insolent alien ; ignorant of the laws and customs of the Spanish nation ; oppressive and cruel in his disposition, elated with the dignity to which he had been raised, and so avaricious and unjust, that he not only withheld the pay due to the servants of the Government, but embezzled the riches of the island. They inveighed, with still greater bitterness, against his brother, the lieutenant, nor did Diego escape the utmost virulence of their censure. These invectives, being spread abroad by the friends of those who had been the disturbers of the peace of Hispaniola, and encouraged by many persons at court, who envied Columbus's success and reputation, such a clamour was raised in Castile, that the King and Queen were daily surrounded in the streets, by people demanding justice against that proud and tyrannical foreigner, who had oppressed so many Castilians, and discovered a mischievous country, to be the ruin and grave of the Spanish gentry. Their Majesties sent an inspector general to Hispaniola, with power to inquire into the Admiral's conduct, and, if he should be found guilty, to send him home, while the inspector was to remain governor of the island in his room. Francis de Bovadilla, a knight of the order of Calatrava, but in very low circumstances, was chosen for this high office ; and being furnished with full powers, arrived at

St. Domingo in the latter end of August 1500, while the Admiral was at the Conception, with most of the people of consequence, settling the affairs of that province.

Bovadilla, finding nobody at St. Domingo who could be a check upon his conduct, immediately took possession of the Admiral's palace, seized his effects, assembled all who were disaffected to the brothers, declared himself governor, dispatched orders to the Admiral to repair to him without delay; and to back his summons, sent him the King and Queen's letter, which contained no more, than that their Majesties had sent the bearer to acquaint Columbus with their pleasure, which he was directed to obey; and this order was signed both by the King and Queen.

Columbus, immediately on his receiving this letter, set out for St. Domingo, to wait upon Bovadilla; who, without any legal information, sent him and his brother Diego on board a ship, where they were laid in irons, placed under a strong guard, and entirely excluded from the speech of any person whatsoever. A process was then begun against them, and all their enemies being admitted as evidences, their depositions were so malicious, incoherent, and absurd, that nobody who had not been determined, at all events, to ruin the accused, would have paid the least regard to their allegations.



COLUMBUS AND HIS BROTHER IN IRONS.

Bovadilla, however, on this occasion, countenanced the most flagrant perjuries, and even encouraged the rabble to insult the prisoners, by blowing horns at the port where the ships lay at anchor, and by reading scandalous libels in the market-place. The lieutenant, who was not yet returned from Xaragua, might probably have rescued his brothers, by force of arms, had not the Admiral ordered him to submit quietly to their Majesties' authority, vested in the person of the new governor, who had no sooner laid his injunction on Andrew Martin, the captain of the ship, to deliver the Admiral in irons to the Bishop de Fonseca, by whose direction he acted, than he began to embezzle the treasure, squander the King's revenue amongst his creatures, oppress and plunder the Indians, countenance the greatest profligacy, and destroy all the prudent regulations established by the Admiral.

Andrew Martin was no sooner out at sea, than, being ashamed to see the brave Columbus in this disgraceful situation, he would have knocked off his irons; but he resolved to wear them during his whole passage, and to keep them ever after, as a memorial of the reward he had obtained for his services; and indeed, these fetters he always preserved in his own chamber, and, at his request, they were at length buried in the same coffin with his body.

On the 20th of November, 1500, he wrote

to their Catholic Majesties, to acquaint them with his arrival at Cadiz. Upon which, they gave immediate orders for his being released; sent him very gracious letters, in which they expressed their sorrow for his sufferings, and invited him to court, promising that he should soon be sent out again, and fully restored to his honours.

On his arrival at Granada, the King and Queen gave him a favourable reception, and let him know that they were offended with the author of his imprisonment, who had acted thus without their orders, and promised that he should have full satisfaction. Meanwhile, they directed his affair to be examined; and, the accusations against him plainly appearing malicious and frivolous, he was honourably acquitted; and at the same time, a new governor of Hispaniola was appointed, in order to redress the Admiral's grievances, and to oblige Bovadilla to restore what he had unjustly seized. This commission was granted to Nicholas de Obando, commendary of laws, a man of abilities, but crafty, cruel and revengeful, who afterwards exercised great barbarity upon the natives and their chiefs.

It was, at the same time, resolved to send the Admiral upon some voyage that might turn to his advantage, and keep him employed, till Obando could settle the affairs of Hispaniola; but, there being some delay in the execution

of this design, and the Admiral, being apprehensive of future disgrace, from the indefatigable efforts of his enemies at court, desired to be excused from embarking again, and entreated their Majesties to defend him against all dangers. - This procured him a very favourable answer, and soon after, the most advantageous grants and concessions, which made him resolve, once more, to expose his life, in another voyage to the Indies, in order to perfect his discoveries.



CHAP. IV.

BEFORE we proceed to Columbus's next voyage, it is proper that we should give some account of the discoveries, whether real or pretended, that were made before he again set sail for America. Alonzo Hojeda, who has been already mentioned in the course of this voyage, and Americus Vespucius, obtained from the Bishop of Burgos, the draughts and plans which, by their Majesties' order, Columbus had deposited in the hands of that prelate; who, out of hatred to that great commander, and to rob him, if possible, of his credit and reputation, gave them up, without the knowledge of the King and Queen. The licences he gave these gentlemen, were also clandestine. They set sail from Cadiz, on the 20th of May, 1499, and steered directly in search of the continent, pursuant to the Admiral's scheme, which, before this time, he had actually carried into execution. This was the first voyage made by Americus Vespucius; and, though he now only touched at that part of the Continent which had been visited by the Admiral, yet he impu-

dently pretended to discover it; and, by confounding this with a voyage he afterwards made into those parts, dressed up a plausible story; and, being an excellent geographer, and draftsman, imposed upon the greatest part of Europe. In Spain, however, he was soon detected; for pretending that he returned directly to that kingdom, after a voyage of thirteen months, spent in discoveries, Hojeda made oath, that only five months were spent in the voyage; and that finding themselves short of provisions, they sailed to Hispaniola for a supply.

It was no sooner known that Alonzo Hojeda, and Americus Vespucius, had obtained the above licences, than others resolved to make use of the same interest, in order to acquire a share of the riches of the new world; and a company was formed, by some of the inhabitants of Seville, the principal of whom was Peter Alonzo Nino, of Palos, who was with the Admiral when he discovered Paria, and Christopher Guerre, of Seville.

Nino, having obtained the King's licence, upon condition of his not coming to an anchor, or landing within fifty leagues of any place discovered by Columbus, set sail soon after Hojeda and Vespucius; discovered land, and arrived at the Province of Paria, a few days after them; where, finding the Indians behave peaceably, he, contrary to his instructions,

landed, and cut Brazil wood ; and then, continuing his course, came to what Columbus had called the Bay of Pearls, formed by the island of Margarita and the continent, which he had visited in 1498.

The people here went on board Nino's ships, without any apprehensions, carrying pearl necklaces, and wearing jewels in their noses and ears ; for which the Spaniards gave them hawk's bells, bracelets, rings, and several trifles made of tin. Having thus purchased a considerable quantity of valuable pearls, the Spaniards passed by Coro, near the province now called Venezuela, one hundred and thirty leagues below Paria, and the Dragon's Mouth, and anchored in a bay where they were well received by fifty men, who came from a place at a league's distance, and very earnestly pressed them to anchor at their town ; upon which, the Spaniards gave them some toys, and the Indians, taking off all the pearls they had about their necks and arms, in the space of an hour gave them as many as weighed fifteen ounces.

The next day, the Spaniards came to an anchor before a town called Curiana, where the Indians made signs to them to come on shore ; but, being no more than thirty-three men, they durst not venture, and, therefore, by their signs, invited the Indians to come on board ; which they did, in their canoes, carrying

pearls, which they freely exchanged for toys ; by which the Spaniards, being convinced of their sincerity, landed, and stayed twenty days on shore ; during which, they were courteously entertained with venison, rabbits, geese, ducks, parrots, fish, and bread made of maize. They perceived, that the natives kept markets, or fairs ; that they had earthen jars, dishes, and other vessels, of several shapes, and that in their pearl necklaces they had frogs, and other creatures, made of gold. They asked, by signs, where that metal was gathered, and were answered in the same manner, that it was got six days journey from thence, at a place called Curiana Cauchito.

The Spaniards, therefore, sailed thither, and found that the people were very tractable ; for they came on board in their canoes, without the least jealousy, and bartered with them for wrought and unwrought gold, though they would not part with their pearls. They also gave them some monkeys, and very beautiful parrots, of various colours.

Leaving this place, they proceeded farther ; but, as they approached the shore, above five thousand naked men came, armed with bows and arrows, to oppose their landing ; and though they strove to please them, by shewing them hawk's bells and other things, they could not prevail, and therefore returned to Curiana,

where they were received with the same satisfaction as before; the Indians, now, trading with them for pins and needles, which, the Spaniards shewed them would be of use in drawing the thorns out of their feet, when they happened to tread upon them. The Indians were highly pleased, thinking they had made very advantageous bargains with the Spaniards, who carried away above twelve thousand ounces of pearls: some of which were very beautiful, and well coloured, and as large as small hazelnuts; but, they were ill-bored, the Indians having no iron. The Spaniards were now so well satisfied with the success of their voyage, that they resolved to return home, and arrived in Galicia, on the 6th February, 1500, two months after they left Curiana, when Nino, and Christopher Guerre, who shared in the expense and profits of the voyage, were accused, before the governor, by their own ship's crew, of having defrauded the King of his duty, which was the fifth part.

The great riches which the adventurers gained by this voyage, promoted the spirit of discovery, more especially among such as knew the proposals made by Columbus, or had served under him in his first two voyages. Of these, none was so capable of prosecuting them as Vincent Yanez Pinzon, of whom we have already spoken. He had a liberal education, great courage, and a large fortune; he therefore

fitted out, at his own expense, a squadron of four stout ships, with which he sailed to the Cape de Verd Islands, where he took in refreshments, and steered from St. Jago, about the year 1500, first standing to the south, and then to the west, and was the first subject of the crown of Castile and Leon, that crossed the equinoctial line.

But, he had hardly crossed the Line, when he met with a dreadful storm, in which all on board expected to perish. However, having run two hundred and forty leagues farther to the westward, they, on the 26th of February, discovered land at a great distance, which Yanez called Cabo de Consolation, or Cape Comfort;* and, sounding, had fourteen fathoms water. Captain Pinzon, going on shore, took possession of the country, in the name of their Catholic Majesties, and endeavoured, to the utmost of his power, though without effect, to induce the people to trade with him; for the natives being inflexible, and having no good opinion of these invaders, an engagement ensued, in which some were slain on both sides.

This made Captain Pinzon resolve to retire, and continue his voyage; which he did, to the mouth of the river Maranon, where he observed a mighty struggle between the tide salt water,

* It is now called Cape St. Augustine.

coming in, and a vast current of fresh water, pouring down from the land. The country, at the mouth of this river, he found well inhabited on both sides; but, not being able to persuade the inhabitants to traffick, he resolved, without further delay, to proceed towards Paria.

Yanez, on his arrival at Paria, took in Brazil wood, and then struck over to the islands that lay in the way to Hispaniola. But, when the ships were lying at anchor, there arose such a dreadful storm, that two of the four sunk, in sight of the others, with all the men; a third was forced from her anchors, with eighteen men, and carried out of sight; and the fourth, though she rode it out, beat so furiously, that the sailors, believing she would be dashed in pieces, went ashore in the long boat, and had thoughts of murdering all the Indians they found, to prevent their calling in their neighbours to destroy them; but, the ship that had been driven to sea, with eighteen men, returned, and the other, which rode at anchor, being saved, they sailed to Hispaniola, where they refitted, and returned to Spain about the latter end of September, after having discovered six hundred leagues of the coast of Paria.

James de Lepe, a native of Palos, having heard of the expedition undertaken by Pinzon, applied himself to the Earl of Miranda, his

patron; and, promising to perform wonders, in case he would enable him to make the same voyage, his request was complied with, and he actually arrived at the mouth of the river Maranon, soon after Pinzon had left it; the people, being provoked at his seizing thirty-six men, and carrying them on board, vigorously attacked the Spaniards, and killed several of them; which obliged him to prosecute his voyage to Paria, where he also quarrelled with the inhabitants, and returned, without making the least advantage of this expedition, except taking a few Indian prisoners.

It is here proper to observe, that Emanuel, King of Portugal, sending a considerable fleet to the East Indies, under the command of Peter Alvarez Cabral, in the year 1500, that Admiral, sailing to the S. W. to avoid the calms on the coast of Guinea, was so happy as to discover Brazil, one of the richest provinces in South America, by mere accident. But it is now necessary to return to the discoveries made by the great Columbus.



CHAP. V.

COLUMBUS, having received his instructions, sailed from Cadiz, with four small ships, and 140 men, including boys. On the 9th of May, 1502, he arrived at St. Catherine's and departed from thence, on the 11th, for Arzilla, a seaport-town of Morocco, then subject to Portugal, and invested by the Moors. He sailed thither, in order to relieve the Portuguese, who were reported to be in great distress; but the Moors had raised the siege before his arrival; the Admiral, therefore, sailed for Grand Canaria, where he arrived on the 20th, and, having taken in wood and water for the voyage, proceeded, on the 25th, in the evening, for the West-Indies, with so favourable a wind, that, on the 15th of June, he arrived at the island of Martinico. He there took in a fresh supply of wood and water, and then sailed by the Caribbee Islands to St. Domingo, in Hispaniola, where he intended to exchange one of his ships, which was a bad sailer, in order to continue his voyage, with less hindrance, to the coast of Paria, in quest of a strait,

which, he concluded, was near the place since called Veragua and Nombre de Dios.

In order that the judge, sent by their Majesties to call Bovadilla to an account, might not be surprised at his unexpected arrival, he, on his approaching the port, despatched before him one of his captains, to signify the necessity of changing the ship; and to represent, that, as he apprehended a great storm was approaching, he proposed to secure himself in that port, and desired that the homeward-bound fleet might not sail for eight days, by which means, it would avoid the danger to which it would otherwise be exposed. But, so little inclined was this new governor to assist the Admiral with another vessel, that he would not even allow him to enter the port; and, disregarding his advice, permitted the fleet, in which were Roldan, and all who had been in the rebellion, to put to sea, on their return to Spain.

But, the fleet had no sooner weathered the east point of Hispaniola, than there arose so terrible a storm, that the Admiral of the fleet, in which was Bovadilla, and most of the rebels, foundered; and this hurricane was so fatal to the rest, that of the eighteen ships that were in that fleet, only four were saved. Meanwhile Columbus, who had foreseen the storm, and been refused admittance into an island, which he had discovered and added to the dominions

of Spain, sheltered himself under the land; but the next day, the tempest increasing, three of Columbus's vessels were forced out to sea; when the *Bermuda*, the ship he wanted to exchange, would certainly have perished, had she not been preserved by the admirable skill of his brother Bartholomew, who was allowed to be the most expert seaman of his time. The ships, being thus separated, each concluded that the other was lost, till, in a few days, they met again in the port of Azua. The Admiral's satisfaction, however, was considerably diminished, by the mortification he felt, upon reflecting that he had been denied shelter in a port where he had a right to command, and refused a privilege, in his own island, that is never denied to strangers. However, the consequence of this storm furnished his superstitious enemies with a pretence for saying, that he had raised it by magic, in order to destroy the fleet bound for Spain; and, what seemed to add weight to this ridiculous supposition, was, that the only ship of the eighteen, that arrived in Spain, was the *Aguja*, on board of which were four thousand pesos of gold, belonging to the Admiral; while the three others, that resisted the fury of the waves, were forced, in a shattered condition, back to St. Domingo.

Columbus, while in the port of Azua, gave

his men some refreshment, after the storm, and allowed them to divert themselves with fishing, in which they had good success; and, amongst the rest of the fish caught here, was one, called the Savina, which is as big as an ordinary church bell; and, lying asleep above water, was struck, with a harping iron, by the crew in one of the boats. One end of this iron being fastened to a long rope, which was attached to the boat, the fish drew the boat after it, with astonishing rapidity; while those who were on board the ship, seeing the boat skim about, and not knowing the reason, were greatly astonished; till, at last, the fish sinking, it was drawn to the ship's side, and hauled up by the tackle. they also caught, in the same way, the Manatee, or sea-cow, an amphibious animal, whose flesh was compared by the people on board, to that of veal.

Columbus, having here repaired the damage his ships had sustained by the storm, sailed, in order to make discoveries on the continent, and reached the islands of Guania, near the province now called Honduras; where Bartholomew Columbus going ashore, with two boats, they saw a great number of pine trees, and pieces of lapis calaminaris, which, being mixed with copper, some of the seamen mistook for gold.

While the Admiral's brother was at this island, and was very desirous of knowing what

it contained, he observed, approaching the shore, a canoe, made of one tree, as long as a galley; it was eight feet wide, and had an awning of palm leaves in the middle, not unlike that of the Venetian gondolas; under this cover, the women, children, and all the goods, were sheltered, from the weather; and though there were twenty-five men on board the canoe, they had not the courage to defend themselves against the boats; but, being pursued, were taken, without opposition. The Admiral was rejoiced at having obtained an opportunity of discovering the commodities of the continent, without exposing his men to danger; and, having given orders for examining the cargo, there were found quilts, and a kind of shirts, without sleeves, made of cotton, curiously wrought, and died of several colours; some small cloths, of the same sort, to be worn about the middle; with large sheets, in which the women on board wrapt themselves; large wooden swords, edged on each side with sharp flints, fixed in grooves, with thread, and a bituminous matter; and also, hatchets made of copper, bells of the same metal, with plates, and crucibles for melting it. As for the provisions, they consisted of the same kind of roots and grain, as were eaten in Hispaniola, and a sort of liquor, resembling English beer, made of maize. They had also, a considerable number of cocoa-nuts, upon which, they seemed

to set a great value; for, notwithstanding the consternation with which they were seized, at finding themselves prisoners aboard the ship, they never failed, when one of these nuts chanced to fall upon the deck, to stoop and take it up with eagerness, as if it were something of consequence. They behaved with extraordinary modesty, and seemed to have some sense of decorum; with which the Admiral was so pleased, that he ordered them to be well used; gave them European commodities, in exchange for such of their goods as he thought proper to retain; and then, restoring their canoe, suffered them to depart. He, however, kept an old man, who seemed both the wisest and the chief man of the company, in order to learn something of the country, and to draw others to converse with the Christians; which he faithfully did, as long as they sailed where his language was understood; and when he could be no longer serviceable, was dismissed with a present, and sent home, highly pleased.

Though the Admiral was told, by this Indian, of the great wealth, politeness, and ingenuity of the people, westward towards Mexico, yet, knowing, that as that country lay to the leeward, he could sail thither, from Cuba, whenever he thought fit, he resolved, at present, to persist in his design of discovering a strait in the continent, through which he expected to

find the East Indies, and, in particular, the country that produced spices. This, however, was a mistaken hope; the land, as we now more accurately know, being unintersected by any opening, or passage. He, accordingly, sailed towards Darien, where he was told that he should find this strait; but the Indians meant an isthmus, or neck of land, joining the continent of North and South America together, which he mistook for a passage, extending from sea to sea. In quest of this strait, he sailed towards a point on the continent, to which he gave the name of Cassias, from his finding there great plenty of trees, bearing a fruit so called, by the natives of Hispaniola; and near this cape, saw people who wore painted tunics, or shirts, made of cotton, so thick and strong, as to defend them against the weapons used in that country, and even to bear off the stroke of some of ours. Farther to the eastward, he found the natives of a fierce aspect, and of a savage disposition; they went entirely naked, eat flesh and fish raw as it was taken, and made holes in their ears, which they stretched, by the pendants, so wide, that a hen's egg might be passed through them; from which circumstance, the Admiral denominated that coast, *delas Orejas*, or, of the ears.

On the 14th of August, in the morning, Bartholomew Columbus went ashore upon this

coast, to hear mass, with the colours flying, and attended by the Captains, and many of the men; and a few days after, he again landed, to take possession of the country for their Catholic Majesties; when, about a hundred Indians loaded with provisions, ran towards the shore; but, on the approach of the boats, suddenly retired, without speaking a word. The lieutenant, perceiving their timidity, desired the interpreter to allure them with bells, beads, and other toys; with which they were so well pleased, that they returned, in greater numbers, the next day, with several sorts of provisions; as hens, which were better than those of Spain, geese, broiled fish, and red and white beans. The country was low, green and beautiful, and produced abundance of pines, oaks, and palm-trees, with all the fruits that were to be found on the island of Hispaniola; there were also deer, leopards, and other animals. The inhabitants were like those of the islands, only their foreheads were not so high. For the most part, they went naked, except a cloth round their waists; but those of distinction wore red and white cotton cloths about their heads; and some had a short jacket, without sleeves, that reached to the waist. Their arms and bodies were ornamented with different figures, wrought into the skin by pricking it; and on festival days, they painted their faces of various colours, which made them look extremely

terrible. They seemed to have no religion, and every nation spoke a particular language of its own.

From Cape Cassias, the Admiral was seventy-three days in sailing sixty leagues to the eastward, the wind and current being contrary all the time. But, as there was good riding along the coast, he tacked to and fro, and every night dropped anchor under the land; but, at length, he reached a cape, to which he gave the name of *Gracias a Dios*, or, Thanks to God; because from that place, the land turning off to the south, enabled him to prosecute his voyage with a trade wind. However, a little beyond this head-land, he passed some dangerous sands, which for a considerable way, ran out to sea.

On the 16th of September, being in want of wood and water, Columbus sent the boats into a river, that seemed to have a deep and good entrance; but, on their return, the wind blowing from the sea, and the waves running high against the current of the river, one of the boats, with all her men, was lost, when the Admiral called this, *Rio de la Disgracia*, or the River of disaster. Still running to the southward, they, on the 25th, anchored near a little island, called *Quiriviri*, and a town, on the continent, named *Coriari*, which is situated near a great river, to the banks of which, a multitude of people resorted; some, with bows and arrows, others with staves of wood as black

as jet, as hard as iron, and pointed with fish bones, while others came with clubs. They seemed to have assembled with the intention of defending their country from invasion; but, observing the pacific disposition of the Spaniards, were very desirous of bartering their commodities with them; which consisted of arms, cotton jackets, and pieces of pale gold, which they wore about their necks. With these things they swam to the boats, for the Spaniards did not go ashore that day, nor the next; nor would the Admiral allow his people to take their goods in exchange, but presented them with several baubles. Yet, the less the Spaniards seemed to regard the traffick, the more eagerness they discovered for it and made signs for them to come ashore; but, these proving ineffectual, they retired, leaving every thing they had received, on the shore, where they were found, by the Spaniards, at the place which they afterwards landed at. The Indians, at length, supposing that the Spaniards did not confide in their sincerity, sent an old man, of an awful presence, carrying a flag upon a staff, attended by two young girls, with pieces of gold about their necks. These, by the old man's desire, were conducted, by the boat's crew, aboard the Admiral; who ordered them to be clothed, and fed, and had them set on shore, where they were received with much satisfaction, by the old man, and fifty of the natives.

Bartholomew Columbus, going ashore the next day, in order to learn something of the country, two of the chief men came to the boat, and, taking him by the arms, made him sit down between them. In this situation, he began to interrogate them, by signs, and ordered his secretary to write down what were supposed to be their answers; but, they no sooner saw the pen, ink, and paper, than they were in such consternation, that most of them ran away, imagining, perhaps, that these were implements of sorcery; for they had performed some ceremonies of exorcism, before they approached the Spaniards; scattering a powder in the air, and burning some of the same powder, and endeavouring to make the smoke fly towards the Christians.

A few days after, the admiral desired his brother to go ashore, with several men, to view the town, and obtain some knowledge of the country. The most remarkable things he observed, were several tombs, in a great wooden structure, covered with canes, in one of which was a dead body, embalmed; in another, two bodies, wrapt up in cotton sheets, but without any ill scent; and, over each tomb, was a board, upon which were carved the figures of beasts, and, on some of them, the effigies of the deceased, adorned with plates of gold about their necks, and other ornaments.

These being the most civilized Indians in

those parts, the Admiral ordered some of them to be taken, out of whom he chose two, who seemed to be the most intelligent; the rest were sent away, with some presents, and great civility; and endeavours were used to make them sensible that their companions were detained for no other reason but to serve as guides upon that coast, and that, in a little time, they would be set at liberty; but the natives, believing they were detained through avarice, a number of them came down to the shore, the next day, and sent four persons on board, to treat for their ransom, with a present of two wild hogs, which were very small. Columbus caused these deputies to be entertained with great civility, and though he would not grant their request, he sent them away well satisfied, and amply paid for the hogs; one of which was hunted on the deck, by a kind of wild cat, of a grayish colour, that had been caught in the woods by one of the sailors, after he had cut off one of its fore-legs. This animal leaps like a squirrel, from tree to tree; and, not only fastens upon the branches with its claws, but even with its tail, by which it frequently suspends itself, either for sport or rest. The hogs, though naturally very fierce, no sooner saw this animal, than they ran terrified, about the deck; when the Admiral, perceiving their fright, ordered one of them to be brought near the cat, which instantly twisted its tail

round the hog's snout, and, fastening the fore-leg, that remained, upon its head, would soon have despatched it, had not the men interposed.

On the 5th of October, the Admiral sailed into the bay of Caravaro, which is six leagues in length, and about three in breadth. Here they found many small islands, with channels between them; through some of which the ships sailed, as it were, in lanes, the trees, on each side, brushing against the shrouds. As soon as they anchored in this bay, the boats were sent to one of the islands, where there were twenty canoes on the shore; the people lying near them, quite naked, having only a gold plate about their necks. They expressed no signs of fear; but, for three bells, gave a gold plate, that weighed ten ducats; and said, there was great plenty of that metal on the continent, at a small distance from the shore.

The next day, the boats were sent on shore upon the continent; and, in their way, met with two canoes, full of people, who, refusing to barter their gold plates, two of the chief persons amongst them were taken, in order that the Admiral might obtain some intelligence from them, by means of the Cariari interpreters. The gold plate, worn by one of those men, weighed fourteen ducats, and the others twenty-two; and these confirmed what the islanders said of the gold, which was to be found, at the

distance of two day's journey, up in the country. In this bay, they took great numbers of fish, and on the shore they found a large quantity of fresh provisions, and also great plenty of roots, and fruit. The men are painted all over, of several colours; as red, black, and white, and had no other covering besides a narrow cotton cloth, which hung round the waist.

From this bay, the Admiral sailed into another, very near it; and, on the 17th pursued his voyage, twelve leagues farther, to the river Guaiga; when, ordering out the boat, to go ashore, the men were furiously assaulted by above one hundred Indians, who ran up to their middles, in the sea, brandishing their lances, blowing horns, and throwing sea-water towards the Spaniards; at whom they also spouted the juice of some shrubs they were chewing, with signs of detestation and defiance. The Spaniards, without either approaching or retreating, endeavoured to appease them, which at length they effected, and at last, exchanged sixteen gold plates, worth eighty pounds sterling, for a few bells, and other baubles. However notwithstanding this friendly intercourse, the next day, the natives lay in ambush for the boats; but perceiving that nobody would venture to land, without knowing what disposition they were in, they rushed into the water, as before, and even threatened to throw their javelins, unless the boats that lay upon their

oars, should return to their ships. The Spaniards, at length, exasperated at this insolent behaviour, wounded one of them, with an arrow, and, at the same time, the Admiral, firing one of his guns, so terrified them, that they fled with precipitation; when four men landing, invited them, by signs, to return; on which, laying down their arms, they came back, and very peaceably exchanged their gold plates.

The Admiral then proceeded on his voyage; and casting anchor in the mouth of a great river, the people of the country were seen to assemble, and, soon after, sent two men in a canoe, to the ships; who, having talked with the Cariari interpreters, came aboard, without any apprehensions, and by the advice of those Indians, gave their gold plates to the Admiral, who, in return, presented them with some trifles. This canoe returning, another appeared, with three men, who behaved in the same manner; and, amity being thus established, the Spaniards went ashore where they found a great number of Indians, with their King, who only differed from the rest, in being covered with a large leaf of a tree, because it then rained very hard. This prince, to set his subjects an example, exchanged his plate, and bad them barter for theirs; which they instantly did, and the Spaniards received nineteen plates of pure gold. Here they saw an old wall,

which seemed to be built with stone and lime ; and this, being the first part of the Indies where Columbus had discovered signs of a solid and regular structure, he brought away a piece of it as a memorial.

The Admiral now sailing, with a fresh gale, to the eastward, held on his course to five towns of great trade, among which was Veragua ; where the Indians said the gold was gathered, and the plates made, which they wore about their necks ; and continuing his voyage, he arrived at a harbour, to which he gave the name of Porto-Bello, or Beautiful Port, from being very spacious, and encompassed by a fine and populous country. He entered this harbour on the 2d of November, passing between two small islands, within which, the ships lay close to the shore ; where he was obliged, by the rain and bad weather, to continue seven days ; during which he was constantly visited by the people, in canoes, who came from the adjacent country to barter fine spun cotton, and provisions, for pins, points, and other trifles.

On the 9th, he sailed eight leagues to the eastward ; but the next day, was forced four leagues back, by stress of weather ; and putting in among the islands, near the continent, where the town of Nombre de Dios now stands, he called the bay, Puerdo de Bastimentos, or the Port of Provisions ; because all those small islands were covered with corn. Here, a boat well

manned being sent in pursuit of a canoe, the Indians were so frightened, that they threw themselves into the sea, and swam away, notwithstanding all the endeavours of the Spaniards to take some of them; for when a boat approached any of these Indians, they dived like a duck, and came up at the distance of a bow shot.

Columbus staid here, refitting the ships, till the 23d of November, when he continued his course eastward, trading with the Indians on the coast, for provisions, and such pieces of gold, as hung at their ears and noses. On the 24th, he entered a small port, which he named the Retreat, from its being able to contain no more than five or six ships, and its being only fifteen or twenty paces wide at the mouth. On both sides, the rocks appeared above water, but the channel between them was so deep, as not to be fathomed, though if the ships inclined to either side, the men might leap on shore. The Admiral was induced to enter this confined harbour, by the misrepresentations of those who were sent to view it, whose avarice rendering them fond of dealing with the Indians, they were glad of lying close to the shore, in order to have a constant opportunity of changing trifles for gold.

The Indians, at first, came very familiarly to trade with the ships, till being provoked by the insolence and dissolute behaviour of the

scamen, they began to have recourse to arms, and some skirmishes passed between them. As their numbers daily increased, their courage rose in proportion, and they, at length, seemed resolved to board the ships; when the Admiral, having, in vain, attempted to appease them, by patience and acts of civility, found that he was obliged to alter his behaviour, in order to convince them of his importance, and therefore commanded some of his guns to be fired; but this noise, which they found unattended with any consequence, gave them no apprehensions, and therefore, they answered it with shouts, and beating the trees with staves, and by threatening signs, shewed that they did not fear the noise. Upon which Columbus, ordered one of the guns to be loaded with ball, and fired at a company of these Indians, assembled upon a small eminence, when the ball falling in the midst of them, made them sensible that he could make use of a thunderbolt, as well as of thunder; for they fled with the utmost consternation, and for the future, they durst not appear even on the mountains.

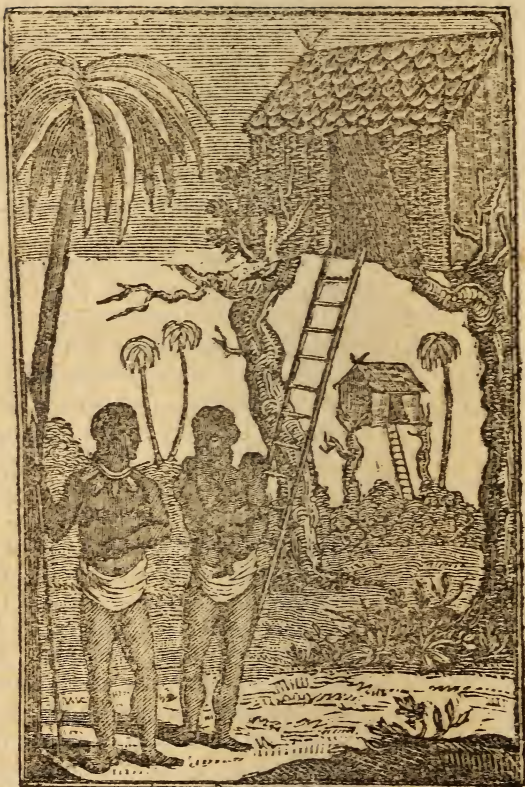
These were the best shaped Indians, of any they had yet seen; they were tall and slender, without the prominent bellies, frequent in these parts. The country afforded but few trees, and little grass, and in the harbour, there were very large alligators, which went upon the shore to sleep, whence they diffused so strong

a scent, that it seemed, as if all the musk in the world was gathered together. If they found a man sleeping, they would drag him to the water, to devour him, but were fearful and timorous when attacked.

The ships had been nine days confined here by bad weather, when Columbus perceiving that violent winds from the east, and north-east, continued to blow without ceasing, and that it was impossible to trade any longer with the inhabitants of this coast, resolved to return, in order to obtain satisfaction about what he had heard of the mines of Veragua, and therefore, on the 5th of December, he sailed back to Porto-Bello; but the next day, while he held on his course, the wind shifted to the west; however, not thinking this a settled gale, he bore up against it for some days, during which, the weather was so extremely boisterous and unsettled that the sailors could scarcely stand upon the deck; they had heavy and incessant rains, the air was filled with lightning, and the thunder roared incessantly. The men, who were continually wet to the skin, and exposed to all the violence of the storm, began to be terrified, and filled with despair, especially, on their finding, that when the weather seemed a little to favour their sailing to Veragua, the wind veered about, and drove them towards Porto-Bello, and when they were in hopes of entering that harbour, they were beat off again.

In the midst of this danger and distraction, they were near being overwhelmed by a water spout; and, to complete their misfortunes, they lost sight of one of the ships, which they concluded was lost, till they saw her again, at the end of three dark and dismal days, in which, she had been obliged to cast anchor, and had afterwards been driven to sea, with the loss of her anchor and boat.

The men were now, not only quite spent with cold, hunger, and fatigue, but the ships almost shattered to pieces by the tempest, when they were relieved by a calm, which lasted two days, during which, they were surrounded by a prodigious number of sharks, that would bite at the hook, though baited only with a red rag. These had a dreadful appearance to the superstitious sailors; who imagined, that as the ravens are said to smell out dead bodies at a great distance, so these ravenous fish were an omen of their destruction, and were ready to devour them, as soon as the ships should fall to pieces. Many of these fish were caught, and, from the belly of one of them, was taken an entire turtle, and from another, the whole head of a shark, which the sailors had caught, and thrown into the sea; so that the individuals, of this species, seemed to prey upon each other. The sailors, however, notwithstanding their apprehensions, and this fish being known to



INDIAN HUTS BUILT ON TREES.

make a very indifferent meal, ate them with great eagerness; for they had been now eight months at sea, and had consumed all their provisions; except their biscuit, part of which was so full of maggots, that many delayed eating it until it was dark, to avoid seeing what they were obliged to swallow.

On the 17th of December, the Admiral entered into a large harbour, where he permitted his men to repose themselves for three days; during which, going ashore, they found that the inhabitants lived in huts, built upon the tops of trees, sticks being laid from bough to bough, and the huts erected upon them; a custom which must have arisen from the fear of wild beasts, or of land floods.

In the beginning of January, they cast anchor near a river which the Admiral named Belem; or Bethlem, from his arriving there on the feast of the Epiphany. To the westward of this river was that of Veragua, the water of which was shallow; however, the boat went up it to the town, where they were informed, that they should find the gold mines of Veragua, so often mentioned. The Indians, at first stood upon their guard, in order to oppose the landing of the Spaniards; but, an Indian interpreter going ashore, and representing them in a favourable light, the natives were pacified, and exchanged with them twenty gold plates, some hollow

pieces of the same metal, like joints of reeds, and some grains of gold, that had never been melted; but to enhance the value, they pretended they were gathered upon certain mountains, at a great distance.

On the 9th, the Admiral's ship attended by one other, sailed up the river Belem, when the Indians soon came to barter with the Spaniards, bringing fish, which, at some seasons of the year, come up these rivers in incredible numbers; they exchanged some gold for pins, beads, and hawks-bells, and, the next day, the ship was joined by the two others, which had staid behind for want of water.

On the third day after their arrival, Bartholomew Columbus went up the river, with the boats, to a town belonging to a Cacique, named Quibio, who, hearing of the lieutenant's design, came in his canoe to meet him, and having received each other in a friendly manner, they discoursed, by means of their interpreter, for a long time together. The next day, the same prince visited the Admiral, made him some presents, and after a conversation which lasted an hour, during which, his people exchanged some gold for bells, retired well pleased with his reception.

They had lived five days in this friendly manner, when the river suddenly swelled to such a surprising height, and rushed down with

such impetuosity, that the Admiral's ship parted her cable, and running foul of the ship Galega, brought the foremast by the board, and both the vessels were in danger of perishing. This sudden swell of the river, was supposed to proceed from a violent shower, that had fallen upon the mountains of Veragua, which the Admiral named St. Christopher's, from their tops reaching above the clouds. On the 6th of February, the ships being caulked and refitted, the Admiral sent his brother, with sixty-eight men, in boats, to the river Veragua, the mouth of which was at a league's distance from that of Belem; when rowing up, they arrived at the Cacique's town where they staid a whole day, inquiring the way to the mines. In consequence of the intelligence they received, they, next day, travelled four leagues and a half, and came to a river, which, on account of its windings, they passed forty-four times; the day following, they arrived at the place to which they were directed, and in two hours time, every man had gathered some gold about the roots of the trees, which were very thick and of a prodigious height. This sample was much valued, as none of those who went, had any tools to dig, or had ever before gathered any. As the sole aim of this expedition was to obtain information relating to the mines, they returned well pleased to the ships, though, as they afterwards

learned, the place called the mines, from which they had picked it, were not those of Veragua, which lay much nearer, but of Uria, a town belonging to a people at war with the Cacique Quibio, who had artfully directed the Spaniards to his enemies' mines, instead of his own.

On the 14th of February, the Admiral's brother went into the country, with forty men, followed by a boat with fourteen, and marched to the river Urira, seven leagues west of Belem. The next day he was met by the Cacique, attended by twenty men, who made them a present of provisions, and some gold plates. During this intercourse, the Indians chewed a dry herb, and sometimes added to it a sort of powder. Having rested a while in this place, the Spaniards and Indians went together to the town, whence abundance of the people came out to meet them, and a house being provided for their lodging, they were hospitably entertained. Soon after, came the Cacique of a neighbouring town, named Durira, attended by a great number of Indians, who brought some gold plates to barter, and told the lieutenant, that up in the country, there were Caciques who had great quantities of gold, and that there were many men armed like the Spaniards.

The next day, Don Bartholomew marched with thirty men towards Zobabra, after having

ordered the rest to return by land to the ships. He here saw the ground, for about six leagues, covered with maize, and cultivated like the corn fields of Europe. At Zobabra, he was kindly entertained by the natives, as he was also at another town called Cateba, at both which places, he purchased some gold plates; but, having now advanced a considerable way from the ships, without discovering any harbour along the coast, or river, larger than that of Belem, where he might conveniently settle a colony, he returned with a good quantity of gold, to the place from which he had taken his departure, and where it was now agreed to make a settlement, under his command.

Proper dispositions being made, the sailors began to build, about a cannon shot from the mouth of the river Belem, houses of timber, which they covered with the palm-tree leaves that grew along the shore; and a large building was also erected, to serve as a storehouse and magazine, in which, several pieces of cannon, with powder, provisions, and other necessaries, were lodged, for the support of the planters; while a quantity of wine, oil, vinegar, chéese and grain, was deposited on board the ship Galega, which was to be left with the lieutenant, with cordage, nets, hooks, and other fishing tackle for the use of the colony. Indeed, these could not fail of being of signal service, in a

country that abounds with such quantities of fish, which are caught by the natives, with hooks made of tortoise-shell.

The houses being erected, and proper regulations made, for the preservation of the new colony, the Admiral resolved to return to Spain; but his voyage was effectually prevented, by want of water to carry the ships out of the river, and by a terrible surf, that beat upon the shore, and threatened immediate destruction to any vessel that should approach it: to render these circumstances the more unfortunate, the rains, which alone could swell the river, were past; the bottoms of the ships were so worm-eaten, that they resembled honey-combs; and, to complete their vexation, one of their interpreters reported, that Quibio intended to set fire to the houses of the Spaniards, who, contrary to his inclination, and to that of his people, had made a settlement in his dominions.

Upon this occasion, the Admiral concerted measures with his brother, for seizing the Cacique with his principal men, in order to carry them to Spain, as hostages, for the good behaviour of his subjects: an expedient, which, however politic, was not at all agreeable to the humanity of Christopher Columbus on other occasions, and equally inconsistent with all the laws of nature and nations. However, on the 30th of March, the lieutenant, attended by

above seventy men, proceeded to Veragua, which consisted of straggling houses, and, at a small distance from that place, was desired by a messenger from the Cacique not to come up to his house, which stood upon a hill; but notwithstanding this request, the lieutenant resolved to proceed with only five men, ordering the rest to follow two by two, at some distance, and when they should hear a musket fired, to beset the houses, and let nobody escape. On his approaching Quibio's residence, he was met by another messenger, who entreated him not to enter the house, and told him, that the Cacique himself would come out, though he was wounded by an arrow. Quibio, on his going to the door agreeably to his promise, was immediately seized by the lieutenant, and the musket being fired, the house was soon surrounded by the rest of the Spaniards, and about thirty persons made prisoners, without the least opposition, among whom, were the wives and children of the Cacique, with some of his principal subjects, who offered to ransom themselves with a large quantity of gold, that was concealed in an adjoining wood. But the lieutenant, disregarding the offers, ordered them all to be bound and carried on board, before the country should take the alarm; intending himself to stay, with the greatest part of the men, to secure some of Quibio's kindred and subjects,

whom he had not been able to take; he therefore delivered the prisoners to James Sanchez de Cadiz, an able Pilot, who, with great confidence and alacrity, undertook to carry them on board the Admiral. The Pilot embarked with them in the boat, when Quibio complaining that his hands were too hard bound, Sanchez, moved by compassion, loosed them, but kept the rope with which he was tied, in his own hand. The Cacique now finding his hands at liberty, took an opportunity, while the Pilot was looking another way, to plunge into the river, which he did with such violence, that Sanchez quitted the rope, in order to save himself; and as it began to grow dark, and the boat was instantly filled with confusion, it was impossible to hear or see how he got to shore.

The lieutenant, perceiving that it would be impossible to overtake the fugitive Indians, the next day returned with the men to the ships, and, as if to prove, that when we commit one unjustifiable act, it is difficult to say where we shall stop, the barrier being once broken down, he added to his former unjustifiable conduct, that of presenting the plunder of Quibio's house, which was worth three hundred ducats in gold plates, to his brother; who, after deducting the fifth part for their Catholic Majesties, divided the remainder among those who were employed in this expedition.

Soon after this, the rain fell, and the floods coming down, opened the mouth of the river; upon which the Admiral sailed out, with three ships, leaving one for the service of his brother. He, however, came to an anchor at a league's distance, in order to wait for fair weather, and in the mean time, sent back the boat for water.

Quibio, seeing that the three ships were gone, and being grieved and provoked at the loss of his wives and children, and also exasperated at the violence offered to himself, resolved openly to attack the settlement. The woods by which it was surrounded, facilitated this enterprize, and enabled the Indians, unperceived, to reach a spot, within ten paces of the houses, from whence they rushed upon the Christians, with dreadful shouts, throwing their javelins, not only at those who appeared, but also through the slender roofs, so that four or five were dangerously wounded, before the Spaniards were able to put themselves in a posture of defence. Don Bartholomew, however, being a man of great courage and resolution, sallied out upon the enemy, with seven or eight of his men; and notwithstanding the Indians several times rallied, he drove them into the wood; but, though the Indians would not engage hand to hand, after they had felt the edge of the European swords, and the teeth of a dog, by which they were furiously attacked, they continued

to throw their javelins at a distance, till they were driven from their covert, and obliged to fly, after they had killed one Spaniard, and wounded seven others, amongst whom was the lieutenant.

Captain James Tristap, whom the Admiral had sent ashore with the boat, and who appeared just as the Indians were obliged to retire into the wood, stood an idle spectator during the engagement, without suffering any of his men to land; and, the battle being over, rowed a full league up the river, to take in fresh water, at a place quite covered with wood; when, the Indians sallying from the grove in their canoes, attacked him with a shower of javelins, and though the captain sustained their onset with great gallantry, both he and the whole boat's crew were soon slain: one person only, happening to fall over-board in the midst of the fray, dived to the bottom, reached the shore, and passed through the wood to the colony, where he gave an account of the disaster.

The colony was so terrified at this news, that they would immediately have abandoned the settlement, and joined the Admiral in the ship he had left them, had they not been prevented by the lowness of the water, at the mouth of the river, which was not sufficient to float their vessel; and the sea beat with such

violence over the bar, that no boat could be sent to the Admiral with advice of their distress. He himself rode in a very dangerous open road, without his long boat, and was ignorant of the unhappy fate of the captain and his crew, till he had the mortification to see their bodies driven down the river covered with wounds, and preyed upon by a number of carrion crows. This melancholy spectacle spread great despondency amongst his people, who concluded that the whole colony had perished. Meanwhile, the Indians, elated at the advantage they had gained, returned to the attack of the settlement; which they carried on, day and night, without intermission, so that every Spaniard must have fallen a sacrifice to their resentment, had they not removed to an open strand, where they formed a barricado of casks, and other lumber, and planted their cannon in such a manner, as to make great havock amongst the enemy, who became terrified at those dreadful instruments of slaughter.

The Admiral waited ten days for fair weather, in order to send the only boat that now remained, for intelligence; and, to add to these vexations, several of the Indian prisoners, who were confined in the hold, burst open the hatches in the night, leapt into the sea, and swam ashore; and those that remained, being disappointed in their hopes of escaping in the same manner, hanged

themselves; by which means, they had no hostages, by whom they might make a peace with Quibio.

As the weather still continued boisterous, and the Spaniards on board, grew extremely impatient to learn the fate of their companions, one of the sailors offered to swim ashore, provided he might be carried in the boat to the place where the surf began to run high. This proposal, which was gladly embraced by the Admiral, was soon put in execution; and the sailor, having obtained sufficient intelligence from the colony, swam off again, and gave a circumstantial account of all that had happened, and of the particulars of the divisions and dissensions which had now arisen amongst the men, who paid no regard to Don Bartholomew's authority, and were unanimous in nothing, but their resolution to leave the place. They desired to be immediately taken on board, and resolved, if that was refused them, to put to sea in their own rotten vessels, since they had rather trust to the mercy of the waves, than continue exposed to the resentment of the savages. Upon this, Columbus agreed to send for them, and the weather becoming favourable, they left the country, taking with them all their goods and effects, in the boat and some canoes, which they lashed together, leaving nothing behind them but the hulk of the ship, which was unfit for service.

The company, being thus, to their mutual joy, re-assembled, the Admiral sailed to the eastward, as far as Porto-Bello, where he was obliged to leave one of his ships, which was so leaky, and worm-eaten, that she could not proceed, and continued his course till the 10th of May, when he observed two small islands, which he named Tortugas, from the great number of turtle found there. Then, continuing his course thirty leagues to the northward, he arrived at the islands called Jardin de la Reyna, or the Queen's gardens, ten leagues to the south of Cuba, by which time, the ships were so leaky, that the men were harrassed by working at the pumps; though, as they had scarcely any provisions left, they were but little able to support such fatigue. In this unhappy situation, they were overtaken by a dreadful storm, in which the ship Bermuda ran foul of the Admiral, and both were in the greatest danger of being foundered; and, the same night, they narrowly escaped being wrecked upon some sharp rocks.

The wind being at length abated, the Admiral sailed to an Indian town on the coast of Cuba, where, having purchased some refreshments, he stood over to Jamaica, pumping and baling all the way; notwithstanding which, the water rose up almost to the deck. In this situation, he put into an harbour called Puerto Rueno; but finding no fresh water there, steered to the eastward,

into another called Santa Gloria; where, finding it impossible to keep the ships afloat, he ran them ashore, alongside of each other, causing them to be propped up on each side, to keep them upright, and sheds to be made on the poop and forecastle, to secure the sailors from the inclemencies of the weather, and the attempts of the Indians,

He here made it his study to oblige the natives, who resorted in great numbers to the ships, with what they had to barter, and appointed two persons to superintend the market, and prevent frauds or abuses, as well as to divide what was purchased, equally among the sailors. This regulation was both agreeable to his own men, and to the Indians, who exchanged two small animals, like rabbits, for a bit of tin, and two of their cakes of bread for two green or yellow beads, and things of greater value for a hawk's bell; and sometimes a Cacique, or other considerable person, had a present of a pair of scissars, or a small looking-glass.

The Admiral, having consulted with the officers on the best means of leaving that island, it was agreed to send an account of their situation to Nicholas de Obando, governor of Hispaniola, and to Alonzo Sanchez de Carvajel, the Admiral's factor there, to desire that a ship might be freighted, and sent to their relief, at the Admiral's expense. Two canoes

were chosen for this dangerous expedition; in one of which, James Mendes de Segura, the Admiral's chief secretary, embarked, with six Spaniards, and ten Indians, to row it; and Bartholomew Fiesco, a Genoese gentleman, went, with the same number of hands, on board the other, with orders to return immediately with the news of their safe arrival. They then rowed to the most eastern point of Jamaica, under the conduct of the Admiral's brother; who took care to supply them with every thing necessary for the voyage, which was a very extraordinary, one to be performed by canoes; since the distance between the two islands amounted to thirty-three leagues, without any intervening land, except a small rock or island, about eight leagues from the coast of Hispaniola. Don Bartholomew made them wait for a calm, and then, ordering them to prosecute their voyage, staid till they were out of sight.

They launched out at night; the Indians who rowed, sometimes leaping into the water, to cool themselves, and then returning to the oar again. The second day after their departure, they all began to be much tired; but the two chiefs encouraged the men, advising them to eat, in order to recover their strength. The Indians, being heated by the sun, and by labouring at the oar, soon emptied their calabashes of water; and, the heat increasing,

their thirst increased with it, so that, by noon, they had no strength left. They were then relieved, by the commanders frequently giving them something to drink out of their rundlets, which supported them till the cool of the evening. They were soon greatly distressed with the apprehension that they had lost their way, and had missed the little island eight leagues from Hispaniola, where they expected to refresh themselves; and, that afternoon, they threw an Indian over-board, who died with thirst; others lay stretched out, and quite disabled, while the rest expecting death, held salt-water in their mouths, to cool them, but could receive no comfort from it.

They proceeded the second night without seeing the island, till the moon rising, it was happily discovered; when they all joined in encouraging the Indians, shewed them the land, and gave them small sips of water, which so revived their spirits, that by break of day they arrived at the island. They, however, found it to be a solid rock, about half a league in compass, without a single tree, or spring of water; yet, going about from one cliff to another, they collected, in the hollows, more than was necessary to quench their thirst; for, being scorched with drought, they drank so much, that some of the poor Indians died upon the spot, and others fell sick. There they staid till the afternoon; and having rested, and

refreshed themselves with the shell-fish they picked up along the shore, they went on board in the evening, and steered to the nearest land of Hispaniola, where they arrived early in the morning. Fiesco, having rested two days, was desirous of returning to the Admiral, according to his promise, but was obliged to desist, because neither the sailors, nor Indians, would accompany him in the voyage. Mendes, though he laboured under a quartan ague, occasioned by his sufferings at sea, immediately set out for Xaragua, where he informed the governor of the Admiral's situation, and, after much importunity, obtained leave to purchase a ship at St. Domingo.

To return to the island of Jamaica. Soon after the departure of the canoes, the men who were left behind, began to grow sickly, in consequence of a change of provisions, and the fatigue they had suffered, whence a spirit of discontent diffused itself among them. They now privately murmured, and caballed against the Admiral, whom they accused of being the cause of all their misfortunes. The chief promoters of these discontents were two brothers, whose name was Porrás; one of whom had been captain of the ship Bermuda, and the other purser of the fleet. And these, having gained over 48 of the men, resolved to declare their intentions. Accordingly, on the 2d of January, 1504, captain Francis de Porrás,

whom they had chosen for their leader, went upon the quarter-deck, and, addressing himself to the Admiral, asked, "what is the reason, my lord, that you will not return to Spain, but keep us here to perish?" From this insolent question, Columbus readily suspected that a mutiny was formed, and very calmly replied, that he did not see how it was possible for them to return to Spain, till they were assisted by a vessel from Hispaniola; and that they well knew, he had already, by their unanimous advice, sent for a ship, and, if they had any better method to offer, they might propose it. Francis de Porras replied, that there was no need of much advising, and that he might embark immediately or stay behind, and then, turning his back, added, "I will go to Spain with all that will follow me;" and, being immediately seconded by all the mutineers, after causing much confusion on board the ship, they seized ten canoes, which the Admiral had bought of the Indians, and being joined by many who were sick, went to the eastern point of Jamaica, whence Mendes and Fiesco had departed for Hispaniola. In their way, they committed all manner of outrages upon the poor Indians, whom they advised to apply for redress to the Admiral, and to put him to death if he refused to give them satisfaction; adding, that his design in staying, was to involve them in such miseries as he had already entailed upon the inhabitants of the other islands.

Having reached the point, they attempted to pass over to Hispaniola, with some Indians, whom they had compelled to go on board every canoe, to serve as rowers; but they had not got four leagues from land, when the wind, which was contrary, beginning to freshen, and the sea to rise, they thought fit to lighten the canoes, which were heavily laden, by throwing what they had over-board, except some provisions, water, and their arms, and at last, the poor Indians who rowed. These unhappy people swam till they were weary, and then hung by their canoes to recover themselves, when the barbarous ruffians cut off their hands; and thus, eighteen of these poor creatures perished, and none would have escaped, had not these inhuman monsters, for their own sakes, kept a few, to row them back to Jamaica.

On their returning ashore, some were for taking the advantage of the easterly wind, and currents, for passing over to Cuba, whence they would have a short cut to Hispaniola; others, for returning, and making peace with the Admiral, or depriving him by force of all he had in his possession. But, it was agreed, by a majority of voices, that they should wait for a calm, and then make another attempt to pass directly to Hispaniola. They staid a month, or six weeks, waiting for this opportunity, at an Indian town near that cape, during which, they plundered the poor natives; after which, having

made two unsuccessful efforts to perform the voyage, they at length quitted their canoes, and rambled from place to place, sometimes bartering with the people for provisions, and sometimes taking them by force.

Christopher Columbus exerted all his address to remove the bad impressions made by the mutineers on the minds of the Indians, by which means, he engaged them to supply him with provisions, and, at the same time, employed his humanity in the relief of the sick, all of whom were recovering; but, his being constantly supplied with provisions having produced a scarcity among the Indians, who showed little more than was just necessary for their subsistence, they began to grow remiss in their attendance, and he being no longer plentifully supplied, more of his men revolted; and the natives, who were already stocked with the commodities brought by the Spaniards, no longer considered Columbus as in a situation that commanded respect or obedience.

In this dilemma, the Admiral fell upon a very extraordinary expedient for retrieving his character and affairs with these savages. It was an expedient far from being justifiable; for we never should think it allowable to gain an advantage by unworthy means; nor should we ever do what is wrong, even though good were expected to grow from it; besides, as we shall find, making use of the sacred name of

God in a falsehood. As he knew that there would be an eclipse of the moon within three days, he sent an Indian of Hispaniola, who was on board, and spoke Spanish, to assemble the Cacique and principal men of that district, in order to confer with them on an affair on which they were nearly concerned; and they obeying the summons, the day before the eclipse, he told them by his interpreter, that he and his people were Christians, and believed in God, who created Heaven and Earth, rewarded the righteous, and punished the wicked; and, therefore, would not suffer the rebellious Spaniards to pass over to Hispaniola, though he had conducted Mendes and Fiesco to that island; that the same Almighty Being was displeased at the Indians for neglecting to supply his distressed servants with provisions, in exchange for their commodities, and was therefore determined to punish them with pestilence and famine; as a proof of which, God would give a token of his anger in the sky, and, that very night, they should see the moon, rising, with a bloody aspect to point out the punishment which God would inflict upon them.

This prediction had different effects upon the Indians, some of whom went away in a fright, while others laughed at it, as an idle story; but, on their perceiving the moon actually eclipsed, and darkness increasing, as she

rose, they were universally filled with consternation; and, running from all quarters, laden with provisions, entreated the Admiral to intercede with God, and prevail on Him to be no longer angry with them, and that, for the future, they would take care to supply all his wants.

The Admiral replied, that he would offer up his prayers for them, and then shutting himself up till the eclipse was as the height, and ready to decrease, told them that he had been offering up his petitions to Heaven for their preservation, and that God had been so good as to forgive them, on their promise of being kind and hospitable to the Christians; and, as a testimony of his forgiveness, they should see the moon by degrees resume her former splendour. In short, the Indians, perceiving the eclipse disappear, praised the God of the Christians, returned the Admiral many thanks, and continued to supply him plentifully with provisions; for, though some of them had formerly seen such eclipses, they all thought it impossible to foretell them, without an immediate correspondence with the Deity, and therefore considered Columbus as, in a peculiar manner, the favourite of Heaven.

Eight months having elapsed, since the departure of Mendes and Fiesco, without the Admiral's obtaining the least intelligence of them, the people, supposing they had either

perished at sea, or been killed by the Indians of Hispaniola, in the way to St. Domingo, began to be extremely dejected; and their fears were confirmed by a canoe, which they found upset, and driven by the current upon the coast. These apprehensions daily increasing, at length produced a second conspiracy, headed by one Bernard, an apothecary of Valencia, and two of his companions; who, in imitation of the other mutineers, formed a scheme for deserting the Admiral; but its execution was prevented by the arrival of a vessel, sent by the governor of Hispaniola. The captain, whose name was James de Escobar, having come to anchor near the wrecks, came in his boat to deliver a letter with compliments from the governor, and presented the Admiral with a cask of wine and two fitches of bacon, and these being delivered, Escobar weighed anchor, and sailed back the same evening;

Columbus was greatly mortified at his abrupt departure; but, however made use of this event, to put an end to this second conspiracy; for he told the men, that as he had resolved not to go away without them, and, as that little caravel was not sufficient to carry them all, Escobar went away so suddenly, that he might lose no time in bringing them relief. This declaration had such an effect upon the conspirators, that they immediately laid aside all

thoughts of their designs; but the true reason of the ship's arrival was, that Lares, governor of Hispaniola, was apprehensive that the Admiral would, upon his return to Spain, be reinstated in his government, and had sent Escobar to observe his situation, and whether he might not easily be destroyed. However, from this caravel, Columbus received certain intelligence of the safe arrival of Mendes and Fiesco, at Hispaniola, and did not doubt, but that in consequence of their remonstrances, he should be speedily relieved.

The Admiral, being desirous of reducing the mutineers who had behaved in so scandalous and base a manner, rather by fair means than by force, sent two persons to acquaint them with the advice he had received, to desire them to return, and to let them know, that, in that case, no notice should be taken of what had happened; but Francis de Porras, dreading the consequences of a re-union, met these messengers at a distance, and answered, that they would not trust the Admiral, but would behave themselves peaceably in the island, if he would promise to procure a ship to carry them off. Or if he had but one, assign one half of it to them, for their own convenience, and give them an half share of the clothes and commodities that were still in his possession, since they had lost all their own effects;

otherwise, they would come and take the whole by force of arms. As for the caravel from Hispaniola, they asserted it was only a delusion, which the Admiral, who was a great magician, had raised by enchantment.

The mutineers actually resolved to put their threats in execution, and marched to an Indian village, within a quarter of a league of the wrecks; when the Admiral, being informed of their design, sent his brother with fifty men, well armed, to expostulate with them, and persuade them to return to their duty; but to refrain from all acts of hostility till they should be first attacked. Don Bartholomew posted himself upon a rising ground, within bow-shot of the mutineers, and then sent the two messengers the Admiral had employed before, to offer terms of peace; but the mutineers, treating this condescension as the effect of fear, they fell upon his men with great confidence of victory; six of the boldest having solemnly sworn to fight their way to the lieutenant, whose death, they imagined, would disconcert his followers. However, they were disappointed; for at the very first charge, five of them were slain. Francis de Porras boldly singled out the lieutenant, and, at one blow, clove his target down to his hand, which he wounded; but, not being able, suddenly, to recover his sword, was made prisoner, after having received several

wounds. The lieutenant then rushed upon the enemy, and, being seconded by his men, obliged them to fly with precipitation; and having obtained a complete victory, returned to the wreck, with a good number of prisoners.

The next day, the fugitives sent a petition to the Admiral, in which they confessed their fault, begged pardon, and promised to serve him faithfully for the future; and this they solemnly swore to perform. The Admiral instantly granted them a free pardon, and took them again into his protection; but, to prevent future animosities, kept Francis de Porras a close prisoner, and appointed a proper person to command, and lead them about the island, in order the better to procure subsistence, in exchange for the commodities with which he caused them to be supplied.

In this posture were affairs in Jamaica, where the Admiral had been a full year, when a ship arrived, freighted by James Mendes, attended by a caravel; and Columbus, embarking with his whole company, on the 21st of June, 1504, set sail for Hispaniola; but, the wind and current being contrary, they had a troublesome voyage, and did not reach St. Domingo till the 13th of August. The Governor, with all the city, went out to meet him, paying him many compliments, and lodged him in his own house, but his outward shew of respect was mere

affectation, for he caused Francis de Porras to be set at liberty, and threatened to punish those who had adhered to the Admiral in his greatest dangers.

Columbus, being sensible of the deceitful manner in which he was treated, and of the true motives of the governor's behaviour, chose to conceal his resentment, whilst he prepared for his departure, and, on the 12th of September, embarked on board a ship provided by his agents, and also took with him the vessel that had brought him and his people from Jamaica; but, they were no sooner out of port, than the main-mast of the smaller vessel came by the board, upon which he ordered her back to St. Domingo, and continued his voyage in the other. He had not, however, been long at sea before he met with a violent tempest, wherein all on board expected every moment to perish, and in which they lost their main-mast; but, making a jury-mast of the yard, they continued their voyage; and, after being exposed to another storm, that carried away their fore-mast, arrived at the port of St. Lucar.

Columbus, upon his landing, was greatly afflicted at the news of the death of his best friend, and only patroness, Queen Isabella; for, though King Ferdinand had always treated him with some degree of respect, he well knew, that he was far from having any real kindness for him,

or even any inclination to do him justice. That prince thought, the advantages he had stipulated for himself were too considerable, and therefore, instead of fulfilling his engagement, offered him a large estate in Spain in exchange for what was his due in the West Indies. Columbus, who was confined to his bed, was extremely displeas'd at his treatment; but, while he was endeavouring to obtain his just demand, his solicitations were interrupted by King Ferdinand's taking a journey from Valladolid to Laredo, to wait for his son-in-law King Philip, and Queen Johanna his daughter; and, before Ferdinand's return, Columbus's illness increasing, he died on the 20th of May, 1506, aged sixty-four. His body was convey'd to the monastery of the Carthusians at Seville, where, some authors say, that he was magnificently interred in the cathedral of that city, and a monument erected to his memory, on which is the following inscription,

A Castilia, ya Leon,
Nueuo Mundo Dio Colon.

In English.

To Castile and Leon,
Columbus gave a New World.

Others assert, that his body was carried from the above monastery, to the city of St. Domingo,

in Hispaniola, and that he lies interred in the chancel of the cathedral, which may probably be true, notwithstanding the above monument, erected to his honour.

Thus died his truly great man, who was the son of a wool-comber, of Congureto, a village in the territory of Genoa; by his abilities, he not only raised himself, and his family to nobility, but rendered himself, by his discoveries, the greatest man of the age in which he lived. He was, however, in many respects, treated with ingratitude, both by the King, and those who were under his own command; and it is no small blemish to King Ferdinand's character, that he did not do justice to his merit, but always meanly endeavoured to falsify his engagements with him. To Columbus, justly belonged the honor of giving a name to the new World; which, from him, ought to have been called Columbia: while the name of America was bestowed on what he discovered, from that of Americus Vesputius, who had no just title to that honour. Columbus, by discovering a new World, opened new sources of commerce. He settled Hispaniola, took a view of Cuba, visited and resided for a considerable time in Jamaica, bestowed the name of St. John on the island of Porto Rico, and discovered almost all that could be properly called the West Indies. He, indeed, but barely saw the continent; but then,

he saw both parts of it, and the isthmus that unites them, and left behind him schemes for extending these discoveries, and conjectures on the consequences that might attend them.

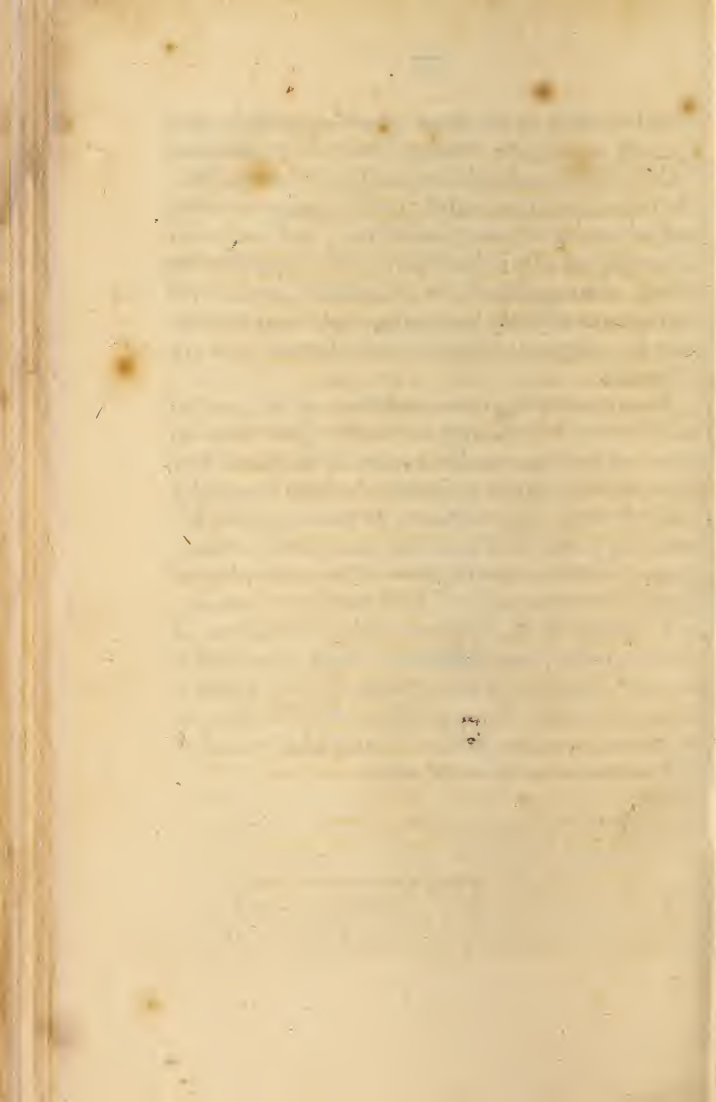
We shall conclude this account with a description of his person, and the character given of him by a Spanish historian, justly esteemed for his fidelity. “ Columbus was tall of stature, had
 “ a long visage, and a majestic aspect, an aquiline nose, gray eyes, and a clear and ruddy
 “ complexion. When young, his hair and beard were fair; but the many hardships he
 “ suffered, soon turned them gray. He was a
 “ man of wit and pleasantry, was eloquent in
 “ discourse, and yet moderately grave. His
 “ affability to strangers, and his discreet conversation, gained him the affection of every
 “ ingenuous mind; he had an air of authority
 “ and grandeur that attracted respect. He
 “ was very strict in religion, according to the
 “ mode of his country, and obliged such as
 “ were under his command, to shew, at least a
 “ decent regard to it. He had an earnest concern for the conversion of the Indians, and
 “ endeavoured, as much as was in his power,
 “ to allure them, by obliging the Spaniards to
 “ lead a life, in some measure, agreeable to
 “ the faith they professed. He was a man of
 “ undaunted courage; was fond of great enterprises; temperate in eating and drinking,

“ and modest in his dress ; he was patient, and
 “ ready to forgive wrongs, and only desirous
 “ that offenders should be sensible of their faults.”
 He remained unmoved amidst the many troubles
 and adversities that attended him, and died with
 a composure of mind suitable to the magnanimity
 which distinguished his character ; and, with
 sentiments of piety becoming that supreme res-
 pect for religion, which he manifested on every
 occasion.

His name will be remembered as long as the
 world endures ; though we must regret that, on
 some occasions we have seen Columbus lose
 sight of that spirit of justice, which generally
 guided, and ought always to have guided his
 conduct ; and that one, who possessed so many
 great qualities, should have done any thing to
 tarnish his reputation. This history, however,
 is a lesson to us, that no rank, or station, of
 circumstance, can screen us from censure, if
 we act wrong ; and that, however, the genera-
 tion, amongst whom we live, may flatter, or
 be silent upon our faults, the voice of posterity
 will speak of us as we deserve.

FINIS.

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ON THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

Long since Philosophers, if fame be true,
Had found a Mystic Stone, 'tis nothing new,
A Stone that, if we credit all that's told,
Transmutes all various matter into Gold.
Miraculous Arcanum ! quite unknown
To all the world, but sage adepts alone !

Hence sprang employment for the chymic schools ;
Much work for knaves ; and punishment for fools,
Who in the tempting wild pursuit ran mad ;
Yet found no Gold, but lost what gold they had.

Fools, cease your search, for be it understood,
'Tis not in matter to supply this good ;
From crucibles this secret is not sent,
But He hath found it, who hath found *content*.

The Pearl that makes us truly rich and great,
And yields Celestial Gold in every state ;
Inestimable prize !—'tis only found
In true religion, with contentment crown'd.

This heavenly charm makes beggars rich as kings,
The Palace level with the Cottage brings,
And, through the blessing of Almighty power,
Gives solid comfort in the trying hour.

Thrice happy He that always is serene,
In health, and wealth, and poverty, and pain ;
That unrepining, stems an adverse tide,
And calmly checks the torrent of his pride !
That lives resign'd, and feels no inward strife,
Content in all vicissitudes of life ;
In want abounding, not desiring more,
In affluence kind, and courteous to the poor.

Advance, ye Chymists, ye that seek to know
From whence our chiefest happiness can flow ;
Renew the search,—if ye contentment find,
You then possess the jewel in *your mind*

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Treatment Date: March 2010

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