

CHAPTER III.

FIRST VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS TO AMERICA

1492

Discovery of the Bahamas, Cuba and Haiti

" Ere we Gomera cleared, a coward cried,
*Turn, turn; here be three caravels ahead,
From Portugal, to take us: we are dead.
Hold Westward, pilot, calmly I replied.*
So when the last land down the horizon died,
Go back, go back! they prayed: *our hearts are lead.*
Friends, we are bound into the West, I said.
Then passed the wreck of a mast upon our side.
See (so they wept) God's Warning! Admiral, turn!
Steersman, I said, hold straight into the West.
Then down the night we saw the meteor burn.
So do the very heavens in fire protest:
Good Admiral, put about! O Spain, dear Spain!
Hold straight into the West, I said again.
Next drive we o'er the slimy-weeded sea.
Lo! herebeneath (another coward cries)
The cursed land of sunk Atlantis lies!
This slime will suck us down—turn while thou'rt free:
But no! I said, Freedom bears West for me!"—Sydney Lanier.



RIDAY, the 3d day of August, 1492, amid the tears and prayers of the populace, Columbus set sail from Palos, and the memorable voyage had begun. The Admiral took immediate charge of his flagship, the *Santa Maria*, while Martin Alonso Pinzon commanded the *Pinta*, and his brother, Vicente Yañez Pinzon, was captain of the *Niña*.

The three small vessels, the largest not over seventy-five feet in length, dropped down the Rio Tinto and the Odiel, and anchored for the night. The next morning they passed out to sea and steered for the Canaries, which they reached August 9th. Here the *Pinta* was supplied with a new rudder, the old one having been disabled intentionally by the impressed seamen; and the lateen sails of the *Niña* were changed to square rig. At the Great Canary, smoke and flame issuing from the peak of Teneriffe increased the alarm of the crews. Fresh water, fresh meat, and wood were taken in at Gomera.

On September 6th Columbus made his final start; in a few days passed by Ferro, the last known outpost of land, and

forty-five

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headed due west into the Sea of Darkness, sailing about on the 28th parallel of north latitude.

At this time the great ocean was believed to be inhabited by curious and frightful monsters, such as we see pictured on the old charts. Even the air was supposed to be peopled with gigantic birds, like the "roc," which could pick up a ship and bear it away in its talons, to dine upon the mariners at leisure. As the ships sail farther and farther into the Unknown, the sailors are alternately depressed or cheered by a commotion of the sea, or balmy breezes, a shower of falling stars, or shoals of fishes, a piece of wreckage, or the flight of birds.

Columbus made several discoveries before he discovered land. When about 200 leagues from the Canaries he noticed the variation of the needle from east of the pole star to the westward. He was also the first to traverse that weedy sea which his men named Sargasso, and the first European to note the trade winds of the tropics.

When about a month from the Canaries, the pilots reckoned they had come 580 leagues, whereas the true but secret log kept by Columbus showed over 700 leagues. On Sunday, the 7th of October, Columbus was induced by the Pinzons, and the flight of birds to the southward, to change his course to the southwest; but resumed a more westerly direction after a few days. Had he not made this deviation his ships would have sailed north of the Bahamas, and reached the coast of Florida near the Indian river, and Columbus would have discovered the mainland of America on his first voyage, in 1492, instead of on his third and fourth voyages, in 1498 and 1502, respectively. As is well known, Columbus made four voyages to America.

Every now and then a cloud-bank on the horizon, simulating an island, would give rise to a false cry of "Land." The frail caravels showed the effects of the long voyage; provisions were running low, and the sailors became more frightened and homesick from day to day. Wednesday, the 10th of October, their superstitious terrors break out into a general clamor to put about the ships and return to Spain. It was getting warmer all the time, and they appeared to be approaching the equatorial regions of the earth, where it was thought life could not exist on account of the great heat, and even the ocean boiled beneath the vertical rays of the sun. If the world were flat, as was the general belief, then it must have limits, and there was danger of getting too near the edge and gliding over into some bottomless abyss. If it were round, as Columbus affirmed, it would be impossible to sail back up the mountain of water to Spain, especially as the wind blew constantly from that direction.

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For answer, Columbus tries to make them understand the sphericity of the earth, points out the increasing signs of proximity to land, and paints the grandeur and wealth of the East in the language of Marco Polo, embellished by his own vivid imagination. He offers a velvet doublet as an additional reward to him who first announces land, and orders the unruly men to their duties.

About 10 o'clock the next night, October 11th, the Admiral, from the top of his lofty cabin, fancied he saw a light moving in the distance, and called Pedro Gutierrez, a gentleman of the King's bedchamber, who also thought he saw it. Rodrigo Sanchez is then called, and he, too, believed he saw a light.

The White Man's history on the Western hemisphere began at 2 a. m. on the morning of Friday, October 12, 1492, when Rodrigo de Triana, of Lepe, a sailor on the *Pinta*, gave the cry of "Land!" This time the alarm was true, as a low, dark mass on the horizon was plainly visible in the moonlight about two leagues away. The *Pinta*, which was in the lead, as usual, fired a gun, the signal of discovery of land, and the little fleet hove to and impatiently awaited the morn. Martin Alonzo Pinzon and his men sing the "Gloria in Excelsis," and the other crews join in the thanksgiving.

The annual pension of 10,000 *maravedis* (only about 61 dollars), promised by the Crown to the person first sighting land, was later awarded to Columbus, because he saw the light a few hours before Rodrigo announced the discovery of land. Whether the moving light was on shore or in a canoe was not ascertained. The acceptance of this reward by Columbus was a tactless and ungenerous act, highly characteristic of the man. We are glad to read that Rodrigo escaped the fate of his comrades who remained at Navidad, and returned in safety to Spain. They say that he felt so much wronged in not receiving the reward that he forsook his country and religion, crossed over into Africa, and turned Mussulman.

What do you suppose these Christian white men, representing the highest culture and civilization of Europe, did while waiting for day? In the Journal of Columbus we are told they spent the time in furbishing their arms. Every nationality of Europe which came to America, whether to seek their fortunes or a refuge from oppression, or with the avowed intention to propagate the Gospel, always furbished their arms before landing. In almost every instance the natives welcomed them as heavenly visitants, offering food and drink, gold and pearls, and such other commodities as the region afforded. It was not

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long before their trust and innocence were abused, and the massacre of the Indians soon followed, as a matter of course.

At daybreak on this memorable Friday, Columbus, who delighted in ceremony, made a landing in all the state he could muster. The principal personages were in armor, and carried swords; the common sailors wore their best clothes and went armed. Each of the Pinzons bore a green cross flag, inscribed with the letters F and Y (standing for Fernando and Ysabel), and above each letter a golden crown.

The Admiral attired himself in scarlet, and bore a sword in his right hand, and the royal standard in his left. When he stepped ashore he fell upon his knees, and then forward upon his face and kissed the earth. The whole company kneeled about him, while Columbus, with tears of joy streaming down his face, offered the following prayer:

“Lord God, eternal and omnipotent, by Thy sacred Word the heavens, the earth, and the sea were created; blessed and glorified be Thy name; praised be Thy majesty, which is exalted through Thy humble servant, in that by him Thy sacred name may be made known and declared in this remote part of the earth.”

By royal command, this prayer was used by Balboa, Cortes, Pizarro, and other Spaniards when they made discoveries of new regions.

Rising from his knees, Columbus planted the flag of Castile, and with drawn sword, and without consulting the wishes of the rightful owners, who were hovering near, took possession of the island in the name of their Catholic Majesties.¹

The native name of the island was *Guanahani*, but Columbus called it San Salvador (Holy Saviour), thus inaugurating the regrettable renaming of American localities, which has continued to the present time.

A cross was erected, and the royal notary, Rodrigo de Escobedo, wrote down a full account of the proceedings. The officers and crews now swore allegiance to Columbus as Ad-

¹“And here was the beginning of these four centuries of such rank injustice, such horrible atrocities inflicted by the hand of our much-boasted Christian civilization upon the natives of the New World, as well might make the Almighty blush for ever having created in his own image such monsters as their betrayers and butchers. It is the self-same story, old and new, from Española to Darien and Mexico, from Brazil to Labrador, and from Patagonia to Alaska, by sailor and cavalier, by priest and puritan, by gold-hunter and fur-hunter—the unenlightened red man welcoming with wonder his destroyer, upon whom he is soon forced to turn to save himself, his wife, his children; but only at last to fall by the merciless arm of development beneath the pitiable destiny of man primeval.”—H. H. BANCROFT.

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miral and Viceroy of the new country. The craven souls, who a few days before had threatened mutiny, now knelt at his feet and kissed his hands, begging pardon for their offenses, and asking to be remembered when he distributed his favors.

The timid natives cautiously gazed on these queer performances by their visitors. They were filled with awe and wonder of these strange people, who had white skins, and hair on their faces, and wore so much bright and colored clothing; who carried such dangerous-looking weapons, and who had arrived in gigantic ships with immense wings. The very natural inference was that the Spaniards were celestial beings who had flown down from the skies, and who must be honored and obeyed accordingly. This was the first impression created by the Spaniards everywhere they landed; but it was never long before they showed themselves to be very human and very vulnerable.

As the natives lost their fear, they gathered about the white men and tendered food and drink.

Columbus was much disappointed in finding naked, brown-skinned natives, instead of the cultivated and opulent people of the East he had pictured. Nevertheless, believing he had found one of the numerous islands described by Marco Polo as lying in the sea of Chin (China), off the mainland of India, he called the natives "Indians," a misnomer by which they are still designated.

While with the Portuguese along the coast of Africa, Columbus had learned the value of colored cloth, glass beads, and gew-gaws in dealing with savages. He distributed a lot of these trifles among the natives of Guanahani and completely won their hearts. The Indians were particularly charmed with the little tinkling hawk-bells which the Admiral gave them. In return, the natives freely offered tame parrots, balls of yarn made from cotton which grew on the island, fruits and fish, and cassava² bread, made from the tuberous roots of the yuca which they cultivated. The Indians also gave Columbus some dry leaves which they seemed to value very highly.

²"Cazabi, cazabe, casabe, que de todas estas maneras se encuentra escrito, es una especie de pan que hacian los indios del magnoc, de la tucubia ó yuca y de otras raices."—Note in *Col. de Doc. Ined.* tomo iv, p. 185.

At another place in this same *Coleccion* we read that "pan cacabi, or cassava bread, was a bread of little sustenance made by the Indians from the root of the yuca, which was very abundant in Cuba, Jamaica, Brasil, and other parts. Yuca yielded much profit to the Spaniards; the monthly ration of a man being one pack-load, weighing fifty pounds."—Tomo x, p. 29.

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The very first question addressed by Columbus to the people of the New World he discovered was concerning the whereabouts of gold. We read in the Journal of Columbus, as transcribed by Las Casas:

"I examined these savages carefully, and wanted to know if they possessed any gold. I saw that some had a little piece of it run through a hole made in the nose; and I succeeded, by signs, in learning that going around their island, and sailing to the south, I should find a country where the King had many golden vessels, and a great quantity of the metal. I immediately tried to induce them to guide me to that country, but quickly understood their refusal; so I resolved to wait till the midday, and start, after dinner, in a southwest direction, where, according to the indications many of them gave me, there is land both to the south and to the northwest, and the inhabitants of the country situated in the latter direction often came to attack them, and they also go to the southwest in search of gold and precious stones."

The territory of the Great Khan of Tartary must lie to the northwest, while to the southwest would be Cipango, rich in gold, as related by Marco Polo, and now confirmed by the natives of the very first land he had reached.

The aboriginal people of the Bahamas,³ the Lucayans, discovered by Columbus, were a tall, graceful, dark-skinned race of barbarians. They were gentle and loving, quite unlike their cousins on the mainland, or their fierce neighbors to the south, the Caribs, who dwelt in the Lesser Antilles. They possessed pottery and stone implements, like celts, arrow-heads, mortars and pestles, and were expert in the use of their *canoas* (canoes). Columbus well describes them: "All of them go as naked as they came into the world; their forms are graceful; their features good; their hair, as coarse as a horse's tail, cut short in front and worn long upon their shoulders. They are dark of complexion, like the Canary Islanders, and paint themselves in various colors. They do not carry arms, and have no knowledge of them, for when I showed them our swords

³The Bahama Islands, or Lucayos, lie northeast of Cuba, from which they are separated by the old Bahama Channel, and extend from off the coast of Florida 700 miles in a southeasterly direction to near the shores of Haiti and San Domingo. The group is situated between 21° and 27° north latitude, and consists of 26 islands, 647 keys, and 2387 reefs and cliffs, mostly flat and narrow. The Bahamas came into possession of Great Britain in 1629, and 25 of the islands are now inhabited, mainly by negroes. The capital of the group, and the seat of the English Governor, is the pretty little city of Nassau, on New Providence, best known as a winter resort.

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they took them by the edges, and through their ignorance cut themselves. Neither have they any iron, their spears consisting of staffs tipped with stone and dog-fish teeth. * * * I swear to your Majesties, there are no better people on earth; they are gentle, without knowing what evil is; neither killing nor stealing."

Such were the timid, innocent aborigines of the Bahamas, living in Eden-like simplicity and happiness in their island homes. Twenty years later, when the Spaniards had exterminated nearly all the natives of Hispaniola, they stole away the Lucayans, to the number of 40,000, to slave in the mines and on the plantations of Hispaniola; and in about fifty years these people became extinct.

On account of their extinction, and also owing to the fact that the Spaniards made no settlements in the Bahamas, the identification of the island which Columbus named San Salvador still remains in doubt. Eleuthera, Cat, Watling, Exuma, Long, Crooked, Samana, Acklin, Caicos, Turk, and other islands have claimed to be Guanahani, the first landfall of Columbus. When Washington Irving issued his famous "Life and Voyages of Columbus," in 1827, he gave Cat Island, on the authority of a naval officer, as the original San Salvador. Captain G. V. Fox, United States Navy, favored Samana; while Captain A. B. Becher, Royal Navy, settled on Watling's Island, and most modern authorities have arrived at the same conclusion.⁴

⁴ Watling Island, one of the Bahama group, lies on the intersection of the 74th meridian and the 24th parallel of north latitude, and is 998 miles from New York, and 972 miles from Colon. The island is pear-shaped, with its smaller extremity pointing south, and is twelve miles long, and six miles wide, containing an area of about sixty square miles. It is flat and fringed with reefs. The coral formation of Watling, like that of the other islands of this group, is covered with a sparse soil, which supports only a scrubby vegetation. Though the climate is subtropical, the tall, stately trees and rank vegetation described by Columbus (and repeated by some recent writers) are absent. There are salt-water lagoons in the interior of the island.

According to tradition, Watling Island is named after Captain George Watling, an old buccaneer commander. The population comprises about 600 negroes and mixed breeds, and one white Collector. The main settlement is Cockburn Town, on the roadstead of Riding Rocks, making into the west coast, where Columbus first landed, some say. The people maintain an Episcopal and a Baptist church. Watling Island belongs to Great Britain, which supports a lighthouse on Dixon Hill, the highest elevation, in the northeast part of the island. The lighthouse is half a mile from the beach, and is in latitude 24° 06' north, and longitude 74° 26' west. Steamers between New York and Panama, as well as most vessels plying between North and South America, pick up

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Columbus described Guanahani as large and very level, without any mountain, but with a large lagoon in the middle, all covered with forest trees and verdure most pleasing to the eye, and surrounded by a dangerous reef of rocks with a very narrow entrance. This applies, more or less, to a number of the islands. Like all islands of coral formation, the Bahamas are flat, with barrier-reefs. The stately trees and rich vegetation are now found on none of the group. Watling's and Crooked have salt-water lagoons, but Cat Island has none. It is conceivable that the natural forces, like hurricanes, tidal waves, or subsidence of the group, which destroyed the tall timber and swept from the islands the rich soil described by Columbus, could very readily fill up a shallow lagoon, or even make one on an island where none previously existed. In imagination one can even picture Guanahani as hiding beneath the waters of the ocean, in company with the lost Atlantis, and adding another puzzle to perplex the inquiring mind of man.

The squadron of Columbus departed from Guanahani on the afternoon of Sunday, October 14th, probably sailed around the northern end of the island, and then down its west coast. Seven natives were taken along as guides, without doubt against their wills, as one jumped overboard the first night, and another escaped when near the next landing-place.

The Admiral saw an island about six leagues away, which he reached at noon of the 15th, and named Santa Maria de la Concepcion. Authorities claim that this was Rum Cay, twenty miles south of Watling's Island. From here he sailed to another island visible to the westward, and on the way picked up a lonely Indian in a canoe, who, no doubt, was a messenger sent out from San Salvador, as shown by some glass beads and two *blancas*, or small Spanish coins, in his possession. Columbus served him with "bread, honey, and drink," and when near the next island the Indian was given his canoe and permitted to go ashore. His good report of the strangers brought the natives off in great numbers, who bartered their ornaments with the Spaniards, and helped to fill the pipes with fresh water. It was here that the Europeans first observed the suspended sleeping net, which the Indians called *hamaca*, origin of our English word hammock.

Watling light. If Watling Island is Guanahani, preponderance of evidence indicates that Columbus made his first landing in Green's Harbor, not far from the lighthouse; where Walter Wellman, in 1891, acting for the Chicago *Herald*, erected a monument to commemorate the notable event.

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These natives seem more modest and intelligent, and, what is more important, have a greater number of golden ornaments than the Indians on San Salvador and Santa Maria. Columbus calls this island Fernandina, in honor of the King, and it has been identified as the present Long Island.

On the morning of the 19th, the Admiral sailed to the southeast, and at midday reached the northern extremity of an island called Saomote, in the native tongue, but which he renamed Isabella, after the Queen. The three vessels anchored near an islet, in all probability the little island now known as Bird Rock, close by the northwest extremity of Crooked Island. Bird Rock light is eighty miles south of Watling, and eighteen miles north of Fortune Island, by steamer route.

Adjoining Crooked Island, on the south, is Fortune Island; but Columbus does not note the separation, and writes of the whole as Isabella. He is charmed with the beauty of the place. The air is filled with sweet and delightful odors from trees and flowers, and the exquisite melody of numerous birds. Flocks of parrots obscured the heavens, and the verdure was as green as in April in Andalusia. Citing again from the "Journal": "Groves of lofty and flourishing trees are abundant, as also large lakes, surrounded and overhung by the foliage in a most enchanting manner. * * * The land is higher than the other islands, and exhibits an eminence which, though it cannot be called a mountain, yet adds beauty to its appearance, and gives an indication of streams of water in the interior. * * * My eyes are never tired with viewing such delightful verdure and of a species so new and dissimilar to that of our country, and I have no doubt there are trees and herbs here which would be of great value in Spain, as dyeing materials, medicines, spices, etc., but I am mortified that I have no acquaintance with them."

A cape near which the Admiral anchors, supposed to be the north point of Crooked Island, he names Cabo Hermoso—Cape Beautiful—"because it is so." The Spaniards land and fill their water-casks, perhaps at what is known as "Frenchman's Wells," in Fortune Island. They also kill an "ugly serpent," later known as the *iguana*, which the Indians much relished as food.

Columbus plans to sail around Isabella till he shall find the King, "in order to see if I can acquire any of the gold which I hear he possesses," but changes his mind when the natives, by signs, indicate a much larger island to the southwest, called Cuba, where dwells a great ruler in much majesty. In the dis-

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eased imagination of Columbus this could be none other than Cipango, and so he wrote in his Journal:

"I weighed anchor at midnight from the Island of Isabella and the cape of the Rocky Islet, in order to go to the island of Cuba, which these people tell me is very large, with much trade, and yielding gold and spices; and by their signs I understand it to be the island of Cipango, of which marvelous things are related, and which, on the globes and maps I have seen, is in this region; and they told me I should sail to reach it west-southwest, as now I am sailing."

Reluctantly the Spaniards take leave of this enchanted isle, and on the 24th Columbus again follows the lure of gold to the southwest. The clear, shallow waters of the Bahama Banks teem with fishes, rivaling in colors the plumage of the birds; the air is filled with aromatic fragrance, so that Columbus believes he is among the Spice Islands of the East, and deplors his inability to express the sweet impressions awakened in his mind.

He passed southeast of a string of islets which he names *Islas de Arena*, now called Ragged Islands; and on the 28th of October arrived in sight of *Cuba*, which from its magnitude and the height of its mountains reminded him of Sicily. Most likely it was at Jibara, and not farther westward at Nuevitas, as stated by Irving, that Columbus first landed in Cuba and took possession of the country, calling it *Juana*, in honor of the Royal Prince. Fortunately, Cuba is one of the few places which have retained their primitive appellations.

"When I arrived at *Juana* I followed the coast to the westward, and found it so extensive that I considered it must be a continent and a province of Cathay. After having continued many leagues, without finding signs of towns or cities, and seeing that the coast took me northward, where I did not wish to go, as winter was already set in, I considered it best to follow it to the south, and therefore returned to a certain port, from whence I sent two messengers into the country, to ascertain whether there was any King there or any large city."

The port to which Columbus returned he called *Puerto Santo*. The clear river emptying into the harbor, its banks lined with palm trees, he named the *River of Palms*. The Admiral mentions the perpendicular, flat-topped mountain, rising to a height of 1800 feet back of the port. It is known from its peculiar shape as the *Yunque* (Anvil).

The port is now *Baracoa*, one of the most beautiful harbors in the world. The clearness of the water and the rich plumage of the birds, the great forest trees and many graceful palms

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clothing hill and savannah, as they slope up to the mountains, stir the poetic soul of the Great Discoverer, and he writes that these things "render this country of such marvelous beauty that it surpasses all others in charms and graces, as the day doth the night in lustre."

It was up this same River of Palms that the Spaniards found a great canoe, made from the trunk of a single tree, probably the *ceiba*, capable of holding fifty people. Either from Jibara or Baracoa, Columbus sent forth his famous embassy to a place in the interior which the Indians called *Cuba-nacán*. The disordered brain of the Admiral thought they meant Kublai Khan, the great Tartar sovereign; and even Martin Alonzo Pinzon favored this belief.

Rodrigo de Jerez and Luis de Torres, the latter a converted Jew speaking Hebrew, Chaldaic, and Arabic, set out for the court of the great Khan, said to be four days' journey inland. They carry that ridiculous letter of introduction, heretofore mentioned, and are guided by two Indians, one from San Salvador and the other a Cuban.

While awaiting the return of his envoys, the Admiral careened, cleaned, and caulked his ships, one at a time, in the harbor at the mouth of the Rio de los Mares.

Mariners have always wondered why Columbus, on his first voyage, encountered none of the hurricanes so common in and about the West Indies during the latter months of the year. Had he been caught in the open sea by one of these fierce storms, it is probable that all three frail vessels would have been wrecked on the islands or keys. The caulkers gather wood to heat their tar, and Columbus notes the odor of mastic in the smoke, the precious gum then obtained only from the Grecian Archipelago.

In the meantime, the two ambassadors, after traveling some twelve leagues inland, arrive at the court of the chief ruler. Instead of an Oriental potentate in a city roofed with gold, they find an Indian *cacique* living in a village of about fifty palm-thatched shacks; in place of bowing before the great Khan, they themselves were worshiped as celestial beings. When shown gold, pearls, and spices, these Indians also pointed to the southwest.

It was among the Cuban Indians that the Spaniards first observed *maize* (corn), and a sort of potato or yam. Here, also, the natives were first seen rolling the dry leaves, before noticed, into a cylindrical form, lighting one end with a fire-brand, and drawing the smoke through the other end, which was held in the mouth. The Indians called these rolled leaves

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tobaccos, and to this day in Cuba cigars are called *tobaccos* as frequently as they are *cigarros*. The Cubans likewise cultivated the *yuca* (or manioc), whose starchy roots furnished the cassava bread, sweet peppers, and a kind of bean. Numerous strange fruits abound.

Two peculiar small quadrupeds were found in Cuba, the *hutia*, a kind of coney, now seldom seen, and a strange mute dog, which has become extinct. "Ye Dumme Dogge," as the old historians quaintly called the latter, was used in hunting the *hutia*, and also as an article of flesh food, together with the *iguana*.

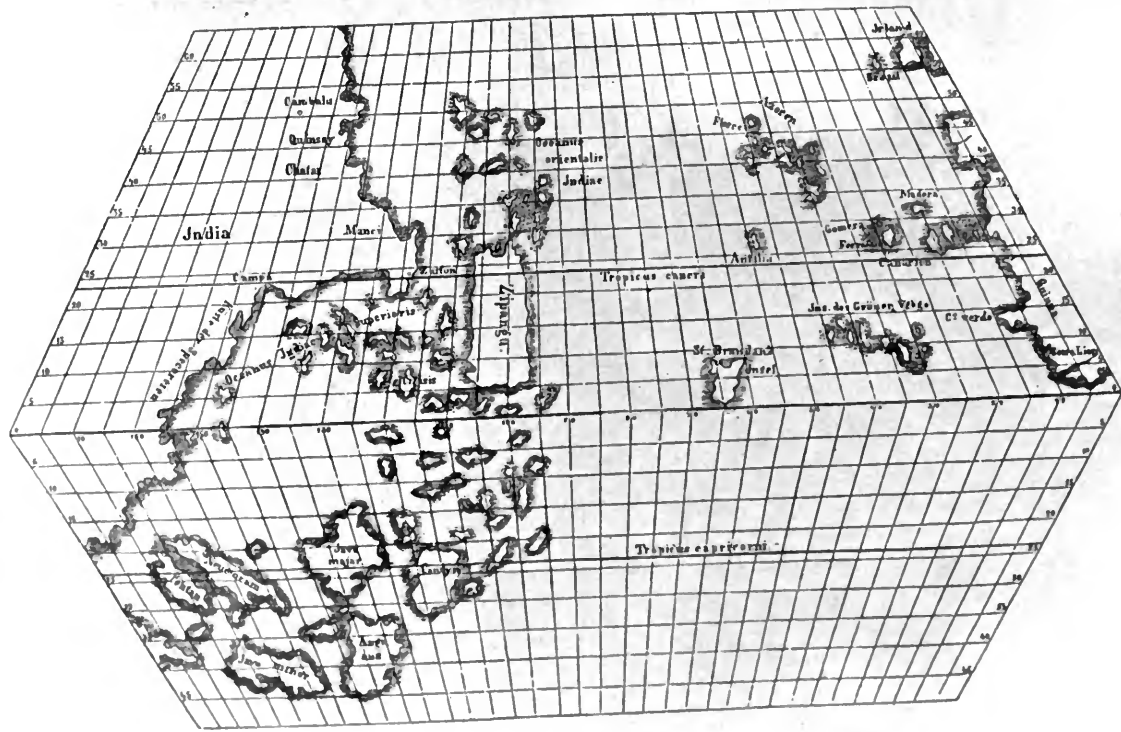
Cotton yarn was made from the wild plants, and woven into nets and *hamacas*. The natives possessed the primitive art of fire-making by the friction of two sticks of wood.

With all its natural beauty and bountiful vegetation, Cuba lacked the one essential charm—*Columbus found no gold in Cuba!*

The Admiral forbade his men to traffic with the natives except for the precious metal; but all he could see was one small ring in the nose of an Indian, and that resembled silver more than gold. When questioned concerning gold, the Cubans either pointed to the southwest, or mentioned "Babeque" or "Bohio;" so Columbus sets sail to the southeast, along the north coast of Cuba, in the direction of Bohio. Had he sailed westward, Columbus would have found Cuba to be an island, and have discovered the coast of Florida. Cuba was not circumnavigated till in 1508, two years after the death of the Admiral; and in all his subsequent experience in the Caribbean Sea and about the West Indian islands, Columbus never viewed the mainland of the New World he discovered north of Central America.

Columbus takes along some of the Cuban Indians, including several women, which Las Casas, in his "Historia de las Indias," calls a detestable act.

While sailing eastward, the fleet passes a collection of little islands, which Columbus calls "El Jardin del Rey"—the King's Garden. On November 25th, while trying to round the easternmost point of Cuba, called *Maisi*, the Admiral encounters strong head-winds, and signals the two caravels to put back to the shelter of the Cuban coast. The fast sailer *Pinta*, being in advance, kept on her course; for Captain Martin Alonzo Pinzon, the financial backer of Columbus, had decided to hasten on, at all hazards, to the golden island of Babeque, or Bohio. He might soon be repaid a hundred fold for all the expense and danger he had incurred.



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RESTORED TOSCANELLI CHART OF 1474.

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The *Santa Maria* and *Niña* seek a harbor in a small river east of Baracoa, from which they make another start on the 4th of December. Columbus arrived at Cuba believing it to be the island of Cipango (Zipangu), 500 leagues off the coast of China; when he departed he entertained the belief that it was a portion of Mangi, on the mainland. So the next day when he doubles Cape Maisi, he names it Cape Alpha and Omega, thinking it the extreme eastern projection of the Asian continent. Instead of turning to the southwest, Columbus followed the advice of his Indians and sailed to the southeast, the direction in which the *Pinta* had disappeared.

The lighthouse on Cape Maisi is 239 miles south of Watling's Island. The passage east of Cuba is called the Windward Channel, and is the route followed by vessels from New York and other northern ports to South America, the Isthmus of Panama, and points in the Caribbean Sea.

Fifty miles southeast of Cape Maisi, across the Windward Channel, is Cape San Nicolas, the extreme northwestern extremity of the large island of Haiti. Columbus was but a few hours sail from Cuba when his Indians exclaimed "Bohio!" and pointed to towering mountains straight ahead. As he approached the land in the evening the Admiral noticed fires on shore as far as the eye could see.

On December 6th, with the little *Niña* in advance taking soundings, the *Santa Maria* follows into a spacious bay, which Columbus names San Nicolas, in honor of Saint Nicholas, whose fête day it was. On account of a natural quay, it is more commonly known as Mole San Nicolas.

Columbus then sails eastward along the northern shore of Haiti. Meeting rough weather, the vessels take shelter under the lee of a small island, a few miles off the coast, which Columbus calls Tortuga, because of its resemblance to a sea-turtle. This little island becomes famous, in the second quarter of the seventeenth century, as the headquarters of that brotherhood of seamen generally referred to as the buccaneers.

Opposite Tortuga, on the main island, Columbus finds a beautiful valley, with a river running through it, which is so enchanting that he names it Val de Paraiso (Vale of Paradise). On the 12th day of December, in a port which he called Concepcion, Columbus takes possession of Haiti, with the usual ceremonies, and erects a cross on an eminence. The aboriginal name, *Haiti*, meant high land, or Island of Mountains, a very appropriate appellation. Columbus, however, renamed it Hispaniola, or Española, because, as he said, it reminded him of the south of Spain. The western end of the island was called

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by the natives Bohio, and the eastern section Babeque, the region of gold. This corresponds, roughly, with the modern division of the island into the black Republic of Haiti, and the Republic of Santo Domingo.

When the Spaniards landed, all the Indians fled, except a young woman, who, like Lot's wife, stopped to look back, and was caught, perhaps not unwillingly, by three of the seamen. Her dark skin and total nudity gave no promise of Oriental civilization; but, then, *she had a golden ring in her nose*. Columbus clothes the naked beauty in a shirt, puts a string of beads about her neck, and treats her so well that the coy maiden is reluctant to return to her people. Her good report of the white strangers induces the rest to come forth, bringing cassava bread, fish, and fruits, which they offer to the Spaniards. The Admiral continues eastward, either entering or noting each harbor and river. The farther he goes the more gold is seen among the natives, and as they crowd about the two ships in their canoes to barter, very few escape without parting with nose-ring or plate of gold for some European bauble or bit of broken dish. The Indians are particularly delighted with the little bells, or chug-chugs, as they call them. On December 18th, there being no wind, the Spaniards decked out their vessels and fired a salute in memory of the annunciation of the Blessed Virgin.

While in a beautiful harbor, probably the Bay of Acul, Columbus receives a young chieftain, who was carried on the shoulders of his subjects, bearing a present from the head Cacique of that region, named *Guacanagari*, and an invitation to visit him. The present comprised a cotton girdle, to which was attached a mask, with eyes, nose, tongue, and ears of gold. It was here that the Admiral first heard of the Cibao, a mountain region in the interior, from whence came the gold. Columbus was continually identifying American with East Asian names: so he immediately declares Ci-ba-o to be the Ci-pan-go of Marco Polo.

Monday morning, December 24th, the Admiral again sails to the east, intending to visit Guacanagari in his village of Guarico. Columbus usually kept the deck himself, but this night the sea is "calm as water in a dish," to use his own words, so the Admiral takes some much-needed repose. The watch went to sleep, and the helmsman gave the tiller to a boy and followed his example. This is the only boy mentioned in the first voyage of Columbus, and no blame attaches to him for what followed.

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Very early on Christmas morning, 1492, Columbus' flagship, the *Santa Maria*, was carried by a treacherous current hard upon a reef, which, according to Ober, is located in front of Cape Haitien. Fortunately, Guarico, now the fishing hamlet of Petit Anse, was but a few miles away; so Columbus sent messengers to Guacanagari imploring assistance. The Admiral ordered his captain to carry an anchor astern, and make an effort to warp the *Santa Maria* off the reef; instead of which he rows off to the *Niña*, less than two miles to windward. Vicente Yañez Pinzon—those Pinzons were all brave sailormen—reproves the captain, and hastens to the relief of the *Santa Maria*. The masts are cut away and some of the cargo thrown overboard to lighten her, but the old boat remains fast, and is rapidly going to pieces in the breakers. The Admiral and his crew go aboard the *Niña*, and Guacanagari hastens to the wreck with a fleet of canoes, and carries all the stores in safety to his village, where they are guarded with savage fidelity. "The wreckers' trade might flourish in Cornwall, but, like other crimes of civilization, it was unknown in St. Domingo."—(HELPS.)

Columbus is much cast down by his misfortune, and the Cacique gives a great feast to honor and divert this white god who has come to visit him. Guacanagari exhibits so much natural dignity and gentle courtesy that he completely wins the heart of the Admiral. After the sumptuous meal, a thousand naked Indians engage in their primitive dances, to the sound of tom-toms, to entertain the Spaniards.

Wishing to impress the natives with his power, Columbus ordered a famous Moorish bowman in his company to exhibit his skill with the cross-bow. He then fired off an arquebus; and when he discharged one of his small cannon, which splintered the shrubbery in its path, the Indians fell on the ground in alarm. Guacanagari takes the golden crown from his own head and places it on the head of Columbus. The subchiefs likewise give up their coronets to the Admiral. Columbus presents Guacanagari with a pair of red shoes, a large silver ring (highly valued because there was no silver in Haiti), and a bead collar; and then, in an exuberance of affection and generosity, throws his fine scarlet robe over the shoulders of the chief. During the feast an Indian arrives and tells of seeing another vessel, the *Pinta*, of course, two days previous.

All this time the Spaniards are exchanging their trinkets and pieces of iron and leather for gold-dust, nuggets, and ornaments. The Indians have a fashion of smelling the European articles, and calling them *turey*; that is, from heaven.

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These Indians were so friendly, and possessed so much gold, which came from the Cibao not very far away, that Columbus decided to leave here a portion of his command, which could gather in the precious metal, while he himself hurried back to Spain to bring out more men and supplies. This was agreeable to Guacanagari, who thought how advantageous it would be to have the powerful aid of these supernatural beings^{*} to repel the dreaded *Caribs*, those fierce cannibals who roasted his men and stole his women.

On a small hill, near the Indian village of Guarico, Christopher Columbus constructed from the timbers of his flagship, the wrecked *Santa Maria*, a wooden tower, or fort, mounted with lombards, and surrounded by a ditch. He named the fort Navidad (the Nativity), in memory of their escape from the wreck on Christmas Day. Barring the discovery of America and attempt at settlement made by the Norsemen in the tenth century, this was the very first structure erected and the very first colony planted by Europeans in the New World.

So willing were the Indians to assist in the work that the fort was finished by New Year's Day, 1493. In it were placed arms and ammunition, provisions sufficient to supply the garrison for one year, articles for traffic, and seeds for planting. So attractive was life in these islands that most of the Spaniards volunteered to remain; and of these the Admiral selected forty men to garrison La Navidad. One of these was Diego de Arana, a cousin of Beatriz Enriquez. He was a notary and *alguacil*, and to him was given the command.

Before leaving, the Admiral gives a return banquet, after which the Spaniards, in sword and buckler, exhibit a sham-battle to impress the Indians. Guacanagari is so grieved at the departure of his new friend and ally that he orders a statue of Columbus to be made of gold, "as large as life."

Columbus counseled those staying on Haiti to stick together and obey their officers, to be just to the Indians, and, above all, to be chaste in their conduct with the native women. January 4, 1493, Columbus and the other Spaniards set sail for Spain on the little *Niña*, which saluted the fort as she left the harbor. The salutation was returned; and this was the last they ever saw of Navidad and their countrymen.

Nevertheless, here was the beginning of the Spaniards' curse, which depopulated the inhabitants of Haiti in so brief a time as to have no parallel in history. When White Man met Red

^{*}"The Indians soon understood that instead of being children of God, they were a new plague that Heaven had sent to their injury."—*Quintana*.

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Man the inevitable conflict of races ensued, and, as always happens, the weaker perished.

The coast line still extended toward the east in the direction of Spain, so the Admiral continued to sail along the shores of Haiti. On the 6th, while beating up against a stiff breeze, the *Pinta* was seen approaching under full sail before the wind. Columbus put about to find a harbor, signalling to the *Pinta* to follow, and they both came to anchor near a promontory, which he called Monte-Cristi. Captain Pinzon explained his disappearance on November 20th as due to stress of weather. As a matter of fact, under the guidance of an Indian aboard, he had intentionally run away from the Admiral, in order to be the first to reach Babeque, the Land of Gold. Pinzon was the first to reach the district of Haiti called Babeque, but whether the first to arrive at the island is doubtful, as he encountered numerous other islands before reaching Haiti.

He had obtained a large amount of gold, half of which he kept, dividing the other half among his crew. Columbus smothered his wrath, because he was, literally, in the hands of the Pinzons. He did, however, insist on Martin Alonzo releasing four men and two girls he had seized on Haiti.

About a league from Monte Cristi is a river called then, as now, the Yaqui. Here the vessels took in fresh water; and on account of particles of gold adhering to the hoops of the casks, Columbus named it *Rio del Oro*, or Golden River. The Yaqui has its origin in the Cibao, or "Goldstone" country, and is in the region that was called Babeque. It was here that Martin Alonzo Pinzon obtained most of his gold. The Admiral notes the presence of many large turtles; and sees the faces of three mermaids rise from the water, like he had seen on the Guinea coast; and adds that they were "not so handsome" as generally represented. Undoubtedly, these were manatis, or sea-cows (*Manatus americanus*).

On January 9th, the reunited vessels sail to the eastward, and the next day pass a cloud-capped mountain, which Columbus calls Monte de Plata, or Mountain of Silver. This has given name to the present town and port of Puerto Plata, on the north coast of Santo Domingo. Continuing along the coast, they pass Cape Cabron, and a few leagues farther on round Balandra Head into the magnificent Bay of Samaná, on the northeast corner of Haiti.

Here Columbus meets a tribe of Indians quite different from those previously seen. A party of Spaniards seeking water is suddenly attacked by about fifty painted natives, armed with war-clubs, javelins, and bows as long as those used by English

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archers. The Spaniards wound several, when the rest take to flight, leaving so many arrows on the field that the Admiral names the bay *Golfo de las Flechas*, or Gulf of Arrows.

This was the first native blood shed by the Spaniards in the Western Hemisphere. These Indians, the Ciguayans, closely resembled their fierce neighbors, the Caribs; and were under the dominion of Cacique *Mayonabex*. Columbus was much concerned as to the effect of this bloodshed upon the attitude of the Indians; but the latter seemed to look upon the fight simply as a pleasant introduction. The next morning a great number of warriors came down to the beach and bartered with the Spaniards in great amity, the chief himself being entertained by the Admiral, to whom he presented his golden coronet.

Four of the Indians told of an island to the northeast inhabited solely by women, and volunteered to serve as guides. As the coast now turned to the south, and this was in the direction of Spain, Columbus gladly accepted their offer, and took the four young men aboard. To the Admiral this island of women, called Madinino, was simply another confirmation of Marco Polo, who wrote of an island of Amazons.

January 16, 1493, Columbus, with the *Niña* and the *Pinta*, took final departure from Haiti, or Hispaniola, as he now called the island, and headed northeastward for Spain. When once at sea the Ciguayans became confused about the direction of Madinino, or the Island of Amazons, so the Admiral carried them on to Spain, where they, with the other Indians, formed the principal feature of his triumphal journey across Spain to appear before Ferdinand and Isabella at Barcelona. These Indians were baptised in Barcelona, where one of them soon died, the first native of the New World, according to Herrera, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

As we do not pretend to give a full account of the life and voyages of Columbus, but only those facts and events leading up to the discovery and settlement of the Isthmus of Panama and Castilla del Oro, we will pass over the incidents attending his perilous return voyage, and the brief period when Court and courtiers did him honor, during which Columbus drained the cup of joy to the dregs.

In the midst of a great storm,* the *Pinta*, about February 13th, became separated from the *Niña*, and the latter, with great difficulty, reaches St. Mary, one of the Azores. After some difficulty with the Portuguese Governor, Castañeda, the Admiral departs from St. Mary's on the 24th. A few days later, when nearing the coast of Spain, the *Niña* runs into another gale, which almost swamps the caravel. While driven

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under bare poles, Columbus sights the rock of Cintra, at the mouth of the Tagus, and on March 4th manages to work into the river, which is the port of Lisbon. When invited to the Court by King John, no doubt Columbus enjoyed describing the richness of the lands which Portugal had declined to seek. In the midst of their chagrin some of the courtiers even propose to kill Columbus, and seize this new territory for Portugal.

On the 13th, the Admiral takes leave of this dangerous hospitality, and on March 15, 1493, he arrives back at Palos, after an absence of a little less than seven and a half months. The same day, while the peals of triumph are still ringing for Columbus, the *Pinta* also reaches Palos, from the Bay of Biscay, where she was driven by the storms, and Martin Alonzo Pinzon quietly proceeds to his home, where he dies shortly afterwards.

In the evening, in fulfillment of vows made during the tempest, the Admiral and his crew marched in procession through the tearful populace to the convent Church of Santa Clara, at Moguer, where they offered up thanks for their safe return from the voyage into the unknown seas.

Names of the Europeans left at Navidad in 1493:

"Lista de las personas que Colon dejó en la Isla Española y halló muertas por los Indios cuando volvió á poblarla en 1493.—(R. Arch. de Indias en Sevilla, Papeles de Contratacion, y en la Colec. de Muñoz.)

Alonso Velez de Mendoza: de Sevilla.

Alvar Perez Osorio: de Castrojeriz.

Antonio de Jaen: de Jaen.

El Bachiller Bernardino de Tapia: natural de Ledesma.

Cristóbal del Alamo: natural del Condado (de Niebla).

Castillo, platero: natural de Sevilla.

Diego Garcia: de Jerez.

Diego de Tordoya: de Cabeza de Vaca.

Diego de Capilla: del Almaden.

Diego de Torpa.

Diego de Mambles: natural de Mambles.

* Fearing his ship might founder during the tempest of February 14, and news of his discovery be lost, the Admiral wrote on parchment to his sovereigns that he had found the Indies. Sealing the announcement in waxed cloth, he placed it in a cask, and committed the message to the mercy of the angry waves. Don Fernando tells us that his father wrote a second notice, which he attached to a log on deck, so that it would float away should the vessel sink. The next day, February 15, 1493, Columbus wrote a letter to Luis de Santangel, Escribano de Racion; and on February 18 he wrote another letter relating his discovery to Gabriel (Raphael) Sanchez, controller of finances; both of which have been preserved. These letters were put in print the same year, and constitute the first documents narrating the discovery of America.

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Diego de Mendoza: de Guadalajara.
Diego de Montalban: de Jaen.
Domingo de Bermeo.
Francisco Fernandez.
Francisco de Godoy: natural de Sevilla.
Francisco de Vergara: natural de Sevilla.
Francisco de Aranda: de Aranda.
Francisco de Henao: de Avila.
Francisco de Jiménez: de Sevilla.
Gabriel Baraona: de Belmonte.
Gonzalo Fernandez de Segovia: de Leon.
Gonzalo Fernandez: de Segovia.
Guillermo Ires: natural de Galney, en Irlanda.
Hornando de Porcuna.
Jorge Gonzalez: natural de Trigueros.
Juan de Urniga.
Juan Morcillo: de Villanueva de la Serena.
Juan de Cueva: de Castuera.
Juan Patiño: de la Serena.
Juan del Barco: del Barco de Avila.
Juan de Villar: del Villar.
Juan de Mendoza.
Martin de Lograsan: cerca de Guadalupe.
Pedro Corbacho: de Cáceres.
Pedro de Talavera.
Pedro de Foronda.
Sebastian de Mayorga: natural de Mayorga.
Tallarte de Lajes: ingles.
Tristan de San Jorge."

—(NAVARRETE, *tomo II*, pag. 19.)

Navarrete notes that Muñoz, at different places, gives the number of men as being 37, 38, and 39. The above list includes 40 persons; to which must be added the names of the Governor, Diego de Arana, and his two lieutenants, Pedro Gutierrez and Rodrigo de Escobedo; making 43 in all.

It will be observed that one of these, Guillermo Ires, was an Irishman, probably William Harris, of Galway; and that the name written Tallarte de Lajes belonged to an Englishman, perhaps Arthur Laws or Larkins. This list gives Francisco de Vergara, not given by Captain Duro, who includes Maestre Juan, surgeon, in his enumeration; so that both registers contain 43 names.

CHAPTER IV
SECOND VOYAGE
OF
COLUMBUS TO AMERICA

1493

Discovery of the Lesser Antilles, Porto Rico, and Jamaica

"In placid indolence supinely blest,
A feeble race these beauteous isles possess'd;
Untamed, untaught, in arts and arms unskill'd,
Their patrimonial soil they rudely till'd,
Chased the free rovers of the savage wood,
Ensnared the wild-bird, swept the scaly flood;
Shelter'd in lowly huts their fragile forms
From burning suns and desolating storms;
Or when the halcyon sported on the breeze,
In light canoes they skimmed the rippling seas;
Their lives in dreams of soothing langour flew,
No parted joys, no future pain they knew,
The passing moment all their bliss or care;
Such as their sires had been the children were,
From age to age, as waves upon the tide
Of stormless time, they calmly lived and died."

James Montgomery.



IN the same letter in which the Sovereigns welcome Columbus back to Spain they bid him hasten preparations for another voyage to the new lands he had discovered. The astute and wily Ferdinand shared with Columbus the belief that these islands were on the borders of India and Cathay, and he was fully alive to the possibilities for glory and profit to be derived from them. To shut out any claims to these lands which Portugal might make under the Papal edict of 1471, granting her exclusive right to navigate to the eastward, Spain applied to Pope Alexander VI, as representative of the Creator, to confirm her title of discovery; and the Pope, on May 3d and 4th, 1493, issued his famous Bulls dividing the unknown world between Spain and Portugal by a "line of demarcation" passing 100 leagues west of the Azores and Cape de Verde islands, and extending from Pole to Pole (*vide* Appendix).

A royal decree was issued forbidding anyone making a voyage to the Indies, except with the permission of their

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Majesties; and all barter and traffic with the Indians was declared a monopoly of the Crown. Columbus received a coat-of-arms; and the pledges made him in the capitulation of April 30, 1492, were confirmed, on the 28th of May, in a formidable document beginning: "In the name of the Holy Trinity and Eternal Unity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and of the Blessed Virgin, the Glorious St. Mary, Our Lady; and of the Blessed Apostle St. James, Light and Mirror of All Spain, Patron and Guide of the Sovereigns of Castile and Leon; and of all the other Saints, Male and Female, in the Courts of Heaven."

In spite of the multitude of heavenly witnesses, the unscrupulous Ferdinand had no difficulty in breaking this obligation when it suited his purpose so to do.

No sooner was it known that the Admiral was returning to the islands of gold and spices than all the adventurers and soldiers of fortune turned loose by the cessation of the Moorish wars clamored for office in the expedition, or at least a passage to the new islands. Though the ships carried cattle, seeds, and tools to form a colony, but few went out with any intention of remaining in Hispaniola; and all expected to reap a golden harvest from the simple and timid natives.

For once in his life Ferdinand became enthusiastic, and counted not the cost in furnishing a large fleet, believing that in a few months Antonio de Torres, the second in command, would come sailing back to Spain with his ships full of the costly drugs and spices of the East; and the ton of gold which Columbus reckoned the garrison of Navidad could accumulate during his absence. With great difficulty, and even by extortion, and sequestering the property of the banished Jews, funds were raised to obtain and equip vessels at Seville, Cadiz, and other places and ports in Andalusia.

Although Columbus was such a devout churchman, many of his troubles were brought upon him by prelates of his own faith. He came near being consigned to the Inquisition by the Junta before the first voyage; and now the management of the outfitting of his second expedition is given to Juan Rodrigues de Fonseca, Archdeacon of Seville, later made Bishop of Burgos. From the very start, Fonseca was unfriendly to Columbus, and continued his enmity until even after the death of the Admiral. Columbus was a foreigner, and seems to have been thoroughly disliked by most of the Spaniards, both high and low, with whom he came in contact. He made his great discovery with neither relative nor fast friend, but at the head

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of a mutinous crew; and his success served to excite the jealousy and resentment of many grandees and clerics about the Court.

The ships are ordered to rendezvous at Cadiz, and sail on the 15th of July; but week after week slips by and the preparations are still incomplete. Juonato Beradi, an Italian merchant in Seville, had a contract for furnishing many of the supplies, and employed as manager one Amerigo Vespucci. Amerigo did not accompany Columbus on this voyage, but was destined later to have his name affixed to the New World discovered by Don Christopher.

In the midst of the hurry and confusion, much fraud was perpetrated; and the vessels sailed not only overloaded with an ill-assorted assemblage of persons, but fitted out with defective stores and provisions. The good meat and biscuit were exchanged for bad; men sold their armor and accoutrements; and even the twenty-five steeds for the men-at-arms of the Holy Brotherhood were replaced by twenty sorry hacks; notwithstanding the presence of scores of clerks, inspectors, and notaries, who made lists of every article taken aboard, and required affidavits from every individual.

Finally, on September 25, 1493, a fleet of seventeen sail, consisting of three stately vessels (ships of from two to three hundred tons), and fourteen caravels, set sail from the harbor of Cadiz. One of the carracks, the Admiral's flagship, is the *Maria Galante*; another is called the *Gallega*. Among the caravels is the brave little *Niña*, already a veteran in transatlantic passage. Instead of carrying one thousand persons, as planned, fifteen hundred crowded and stowed themselves away on the ships. "Men were ready to leap into the sea to swim, if it had been possible, into those new-found parts," so wild were they to get to the Land of Gold.

Among the notables on the fleet, or those destined to win renown in the *West Indies*, as the new region was now called, were Juan Ponce de Leon, who conquered Puerto Rico, discovered Florida, and vainly sought the Fountain of Eternal Youth; Alonso de Ojeda, protégé of the Duke of Medina-Celi, a dashing young soldier from the Moorish wars, who would perform still greater deeds in the islands, and found the first settlement on the Gulf of Darien; Juan de la Cosa, the ablest pilot of his time, who made the first map of the western world; Diego Colon, the youngest brother of Columbus, who should have been a monk instead of trying to manage an unruly colony; Diego de Alvarado, who sailed from Guatemala to dispute the

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possession of Peru with Pizarro; Francisco de Garay, who opposed Cortez; Pedro de las Casas, father of the justly famous Fray Bartolomé; Doctor Chanca, the Queen's own physician, and medical director of the fleet, who wrote a chronicle of the voyage and the first scientific sketch of America to the Chapter of Seville. Last, but not least, was Fray Bernardo Boil, a Benedictine monk, the apostolic delegate, and head of a dozen priests, "one of those subtle politicians of the cloister, who in those days glided into all temporal concerns."—(IRVING.) According to Bancroft, there were aboard "also bloodhounds to aid in Christianizing and civilizing the natives."

Columbus kept a sharp lookout for any Portuguese fleet that might try to intercept him, and on the 2d of October arrived safely at the Gran Canaria without a conflict. On the 5th he anchored at Gomera, another island of the group, where he took on not merely fresh water and wood, but seeds and cuttings of the sugar-cane, oranges, lemons, vegetables, and melons; and increased their stock of domestic animals. Among the latter were eight swine, costing seventy-five cents each, from which, so says Las Casas, sprung the infinite number of hogs subsequently found in the Spanish settlements. The sugar-cane, melons, citrous fruits, and swine brought to America from the Canaries have been of more benefit to mankind and productive of more wealth than all the billions of gold carried from the New World by the Spaniards.

On the 13th the fleet passed Ferro, the most western of the islands; and on the twentieth day thereafter, November 3, 1493, sighted the first land, which turned out to be a lofty island. Crews and passengers chant the "Salve Regina" and other services of the church. It being Sunday morning, Columbus gave it the name of *Dominica*, which it still retains. It was off this little island, in 1782, that Rodney won the mastery of the Caribbean for the British from the Frenchman De Grasse, flushed with his victory at Yorktown in the preceding year.

Thirty miles to the southward could be seen the peaks of another Carib island, afterwards called Martinique, which became the residence of Madame de Maintenon and the birth-place of the Empress Josephine, two women destined to change the history of France.

Columbus had intentionally taken a more southerly course than on his first voyage, in order to encounter, if fortunate, certain islands described by the Indians of Haiti as lying to the east and south of them; particularly the Island of Amazons,

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and the Island of Cannibals. By this southern route he avoided the Sargasso Sea, and experienced no greater danger than a thunderstorm, when good St. Elmo, with lighted tapers, appeared on the mastheads and conducted them safely out of the tempest.

Finding no anchorage, the Admiral detached a caravel to explore Dominica, and proceeded to a smaller island to the northward, which he named *Marigalante*, after his ship. A large party was landed, and with much ceremony Columbus took possession not only of that island and others in sight, but all unseen lands and the sea which embraced them; all "in the manner provided by law," as Doctor Chanca wrote. No habitations are found here, but the caravel from Dominica reports seeing houses and people on that island.

The next day Columbus sailed to an island about twenty miles north, which presented a great mountain peak, with a shining cataract on its side, which "appeared to fall from the skies." He calls the island *Guadalupe*, in fulfillment of a promise made to the monks of Estramadura. In the shacks were found many human bones and heads hanging from the rafters. A number of women fled to the Spaniards, and stated that they were captives from Buriquen, a large island in the north. The present island was called Turuqueira, and was inhabited by Caribs, who made raids on the northern islands, carrying off the men for food and the women for other purposes. Columbus rightly believed these to be the "cannibals" so much dreaded by the Lucayans and Haitians, but erred again when he sought confirmation in Marco Polo's book and identified them with the Anthropophagi of Asia.

On Guadalupe the Spaniards find the sternpost of a European ship, and what looks like an iron dish. Diego Marquez, the royal inspector, and captain of one of the caravels, with two pilots and eight men, go ashore without the Admiral's permission, and lose themselves so completely in the tropical forest that Ojeda, with forty picked men, is unable to find them. Very fortunately, nearly all the male population is away on a foray, in ten war-canoes, and the half-starved wanderers return in safety to the ships, having delayed the expedition about a week.

Sunday, November 10th, the fleet weighed anchor and stood to the north in the direction of Hispaniola, Columbus giving names to the numerous islands of the Lesser Antilles which lay in their course. The next day he passes by a ragged island, which he calls *Monserate*, after a mountain and monastery in Spain. A few miles away is a lovely rounded rock rising

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several hundred feet above the sea, which is named *Santa Maria la Redonda*; and the next morning a low-lying island to the northeast receives the appellation *Santa Maria la Antigua*. A small island presenting a volcanic cone, reminds the Admiral of a snow-clad peak near Barcelona, and he calls it *Nieves*, or *Snows*; later known as *Nevis*.

Across a narrow channel is another island, with a towering central peak, which Columbus calls *St. Christopher*, after his patron saint. It was here that the English got their first footing in the West Indies, in 1625; and the name was abbreviated to *St. Kitt's*. Farther on, the Admiral names *St. Eustacio*, *St. Martin*, and the rock-bound *Saba*. In affectionate remembrance of his brother, he calls a small island *St. Bartolomé*.

On the 14th the fleet came to an island called *Ayay* by the Caribs, who, as usual, fled on the approach of the ships, leaving their captives to escape to the white men. While here, the Spaniards have their first fight with the Caribs. A canoe-load of Indians suddenly appears around a point and drop their paddles in amazement at the array of great winged vessels. A boat cuts off their retreat and overturns the canoe, but the Caribs continue shooting their arrows while in the water, and one of these arrows, which may have been poisoned, fired by a Carib woman, wounds a Basque so severely that he dies a few days later. Columbus calls this island *Santa Cruz*, and to the north names *St. Thomas* and *St. John*.

Coming to a group of numerous islets, the Admiral calls the largest *St. Ursula*, and the fifty or more others the *Eleven Thousand Virgins*. Columbus noted that these islands, unlike the others, were destitute of trees.

Sailing westward, the fleet arrived at the southeastern coast of the large island which was called *Buriquen*, or *Borinquen*, by the Indians. Columbus coasts along the southern shores of this island for a distance of about one hundred miles, and on the 19th enters a port on the west coast, now known as *Agua-dilla*, not far from *Mayaguez*. The Spaniards watered their ships at a spring, and are much impressed with the regular arrangement and neat appearance of the native village, all the people of which have fled. Columbus names the island *San Juan Bautista*, or *Saint John the Baptist*, soon changed to *Puerto Rico*.

Early Thursday morning, November 21, 1493, the ships steer due west, and before night come in sight of a range of high mountains, which the Indians say is *Haiti*. Columbus had not previously visited the eastern coast of the island, so the next morning he sent ashore the remaining Indian, the other

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three having died, of those he had carried away from Samaná, in order to ascertain the direction of the settlement at Navidad. This Indian had been baptized and received into the church, and was finely dressed and ornamented, so that he was expected to become a very useful intermediary for the Spaniards. The young warrior was only too glad to tread his native soil again, and the Admiral waited in vain for his return.

Columbus then turned towards the northern coast, and soon came to the large bay which he had named the Gulf of Arrows, and later known as the Bay of Samaná. The fleet anchored at Cape Angel for the night, and engaged in friendly and profitable barter with the natives. The next day the Admiral hastened westward, passing familiar landmarks he himself had named: Lover's Cape, Cape of Good Weather, Puerto de Plata, and Golden River, where he saw the mermaids, which had its origin in the golden Cibao, the Cipango of Marco Polo, the mountains of which were plainly visible.

On the 25th the fleet anchored at Monte Cristi, only eight leagues from Navidad, expecting to obtain some tidings about the colony. In this they were not disappointed. The landing party found two decomposed corpses bound upon two rude crosses, the one being a youth and the other an old man. The next day two more bodies are found on the bank of the river, one of which bore a beard, which showed that they were not Indians. Filled with forebodings of disaster to his men, the Admiral hastened on to Navidad, and anchored off the reefs on the night of November 27th. Two cannon are fired, but all is dark and still on shore. Finally, about midnight, some Indians come off in a canoe, crying "Almirante!" The Admiral receives them, and recognizes one as the nephew of Guacanagari. They offer Columbus two golden masks, and tell him that some of his men had died from disease; others had quarreled and gone off into the interior with a train of females, while the rest had been killed in battle with Caonabo, the fierce mountain cacique, aided by Mayrionex, and the fortress of Navidad reduced to ashes. Guacanagari tried to aid his white friends, and suffered the loss of his village, and was himself wounded. Many of the Spaniards did not believe this account, and, with Father Boil, were for putting the chieftain to death; but subsequent investigation tended to show that the garrison left at Navidad had brought their destruction upon themselves by insubordination to their officers, and cruel and outrageous treatment of the Indians.

It being necessary to disembark his motley horde of adventurers and establish another settlement, Columbus determined

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to seek a better location, such as he had seen at Puerto de Plata. Sailing now to the eastward, on December 7th, the fleet, with difficulty, rounded Monte Cristi and reached the River of Thanks; when, the wind remaining contrary, the Admiral put about to a port three leagues back; where he unloaded his ships and laid out a town, which he called Isabella, in honor of the Queen. The place was abandoned a few years later, but its site has been located at the mouth of the Bajo-Bonico, about sixty miles west of Puerto Plata, where the outlines of the Admiral's house, the church, and storehouse are yet discernible.

The neighboring swamps bred fever, from which many of the Spaniards died. Neither hidalgo nor nameless adventurer cared to work or tried to adapt themselves to the new environment. Rations ran low, and there were not enough golden ornaments to suddenly enrich everyone. These settlers, like so many other gold-seekers, came to realize that the precious metal does not grow on trees, but is laboriously dug out of the earth or gathered from the sands of the rivers. Disappointment and despondency gave rise to dissension and sedition, headed by Bernal Diaz, the royal comptroller; Firmin Cedo, the assayer; and Father Boil, the papal legate.

Columbus, of course, was blamed for the misfortunes of the colony, and hoping to better their condition, he sent out two parties, commanded by Ojeda and Garbolan, respectively, to make a reconnoissance in the interior of the island. These young officers penetrated into the Cibao and Niti, where they found abundance of gold in every stream, Ojeda himself picking up a nugget weighing nine ounces.

On Sunday, February 2, 1494, Antonio de Torres is started back to Spain with twelve of the ships, taking with him about five hundred of the invalids and malcontents, a number of Indian men, women, boys, and girls, whom the Admiral designated "Cannibals," and the gold accumulated since their arrival, including the gold masks and Ojeda's nugget.

Leaving his weak brother Diego in command at Isabella, Columbus, on March 12th, set out for the golden Cibao at the head of four hundred men, bravely attired in armor and trappings, with standards and trumpets, and all the horses they could muster. The trail leading through the first range of mountains to the beautiful interior plain, afterwards named the *Vega Real*, was so narrow that the cavaliers, with their own hands, enlarged it for the passage of the horses. Columbus called it "*El Puerto de los Caballeros*," and as "Gentlemen's Pass" it is known today. On the border of the Cibao, by the

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Rio Yanique, a fort was constructed and named *Santo Tomás de Yanico*, the location of which is still pointed out. St. Thomas was garrisoned with fifty-two men, under command of Pedro Margarite, which, as usual with the Admiral's appointments, was an unfortunate selection.

March 29th, Columbus returned to Isabella, and on the 24th of April he set sail, in the three caravels he had retained, for the south coast of Cuba; to determine whether it was a great island, as many Indians affirmed, or an eastern projection of the continent of Asia, as he himself believed. After sailing westward from Cape Maisi about three hundred leagues, according to his computations, Columbus had his notary draw up an *Acta*, in which every man and boy aboard the three ships declared under oath, and before witnesses, that Cuba was indeed a part of the continent of Asia. This curious document has been preserved, and begins as follows:

"On board the caravel '*Niña*,' which is also called the '*Santa Clara*,' Thursday, the 12th of June, in the year of Our Lord's Birth 1494, the most noble Señor Don Christopher Columbus, High Admiral of the Ocean Sea, Viceroy and Perpetual Governor of the Island of San Salvador and of all the other islands and mainland of the Indies, discovered or to be discovered, etc., etc., demanded of me, Fernando Perez de Luna, one of the notaries public of the city of Isabella, on behalf of their Majesties," etc.

In July, 1898, a Spanish cruiser named Cristobal Colon fled westward along this same coast, pursued by the warships of a power destined to drive Spain from this island, her last foothold in the New World.

The Admiral even thought of continuing his course to the west and circumnavigating the globe by doubling the Golden Chersonesus, crossing the Gulf of Ganges, and by a new route, either around Africa or going up the Red Sea and so overland to Joppa and Jerusalem, reach Spain.

On this voyage Columbus discovered Jamaica, which he named *Santiago*; and returned to Isabella by the south coast of Haiti. At every port he entered the natives told of a much grander land to the south and west, abounding in gold and pearls.

Intending to complete his investigation of the Caribbee Islands, Columbus left Cape Engano, the east point of Haiti, and steered to the southeast. After touching at the island of Mona, the Admiral suddenly fell into a deep coma, with loss of all his senses and faculties, resembling death itself. The masters and pilots, much alarmed, turned their vessels about

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and hurried to Isabella, which place they reached on the 29th of September.

Columbus remains in a stupor for several days, and when he regains consciousness it is to gaze upon the face of his beloved brother Bartholomew, who had recently come to Hispaniola in charge of three caravels. During the absence of the Viceroy, Margarite and Fray Boil had fomented trouble and rebellion under the weak administration of Don Diego, which ended by them and the malcontents seizing two of the vessels brought out by Don Bartolomé, and sailing away to Spain to lay their complaints before their Majesties.

Torres, who had just brought out four ship-loads of supplies, returns to Spain; and Diego Colon is sent along to help settle the division of the world between Spain and Portugal. There being so little gold to satisfy the greed of the home government, the Admiral fills the ships with what he knows will be equally acceptable, viz., five hundred captive Indians consigned to the Bishop, Juan de Fonseca, to be sold as slaves in the markets of Cadiz and Seville. Many writers hold up their hands in holy horror at this procedure of Columbus; but his action was commonplace and in accord with the Christian as well as pagan customs of the day. From time immemorial it has been the practice of man to torture and kill his captive, to hold him for ransom, to keep him in bondage, or to eat him. Two hundred and fifty years later, in the New World, the White Man, in the name of Christ and Justice, burnt his own people accused of being infidels or witches; and three hundred and fifty years later, human beings were still being held in slavery all over the Americas.

Isabella's character is one of the few bright spots in the dark picture of Spanish discovery and conquest; but the fine phrases of indignation, credited to her by partial and sentimental historians, come with ill grace from a Queen who permitted her subjects to deal in Guinea negroes and Canary Islanders, who had driven the Jewish people from their homes in Spain, and who, at that time, held and sold as slaves thousands of Moorish men, women, and children. As for the unctuous and grasping Ferdinand, no one would ever accuse him of allowing feeling or sentiment to stand between him and the prospect of turning an honest penny by traffic in human souls.

Columbus made Bartholomew *Adelantado*, or lieutenant-governor, and his good sense and force of character greatly assisted his brother in controlling the unruly subjects in the colony.

seventy-four

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The Indians had been so badly treated and outraged by roaming bands of soldiers, that the warlike Caonabo collected his people and openly attacked St. Thomas. Had it not been for the treachery or loyalty (as you choose to view it) of Guacanagari, who refused to league with the other *caciques*, it is probable that the Spaniards would have been exterminated. This effeminate chieftain warned Columbus of the uprising, and hastened the inevitable doom of his race. Ojeda, with but nine horsemen, puts a pair of shining handcuffs on Caonabo and carries that gallant *cacique* off behind him on the back of his horse to Isabella; and Columbus invades the Vega Real with two hundred foot, twenty horse, and twenty bloodhounds, and puts to flight an army of Indians estimated by some of the Spaniards to be more than one hundred thousand.

As an evidence of their subjection, and to raise a revenue for the colony, Columbus imposed a head tax upon the natives. Every Indian, male and female, between the ages of fourteen and forty years, was tagged with a metal check, and required to furnish their masters, every three months, with a Flemish hawk's-bell full of gold, or an *arroba* (twenty-five pounds) of cotton.

At this time, Juan Aguado is sent out to partly supersede the Viceroy; and soon after, both men sail to Spain to settle their differences at Court. The Admiral, on the *Niña*, reached Cadiz on the 11th of June, 1496, after a tedious and perilous voyage, during which that stout-hearted savage, Caonabo, had died.

From here, Columbus sent dispatches by Pedro Alonso Nino, who was just starting out for Hispaniola, to his brother Bartholomew, directing him to begin a settlement on the south coast of the island, near some mines on the river Hayna, disclosed by a *caciquess* to her lover, Miguel Diaz.

Previous to this, on April 10, 1495, a royal proclamation had been issued, in violation of the rights of Columbus, giving Spaniards permission to settle in Hispaniola, and permitting private voyages of discovery. On the remonstrance of the Admiral, this was rescinded in so far as it was prejudicial to him; and, in addition, all his former titles and grants were confirmed. Before again sailing for the Indies, the Admiral made a deed of entail and will, in which he indicated the line of succession in his family; and directed the distribution of the vast revenues he expected his grants to produce.

During the next year, Ferdinand and Isabella were busily engaged in the business and functions attending the marriage of Prince Juan and Princess Juana with scions of the house

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of Austria; and shortly afterwards the Crown Prince, the only son, died; so it was not until the year 1498 that ships, men, and supplies could be furnished their Admiral of the Ocean Sea for another voyage to the Indies.

“It will not be out of place to relate what I heard happened in Spain to Columbus, after he had discovered the Indies; although it had been done in ancient times in other ways, but was new then. Columbus being at a party with many noble Spaniards, where, as was customary, the subject of conversation was the Indies, one of them undertook to say: ‘Mr. Christopher, even if you had not found the Indies, we should not have been devoid of a man who would have attempted the same that you did, here in our own country of Spain, as it is full of great men clever in cosmography and literature.’ Columbus said nothing in answer to these words, but having desired an egg to be brought to him, he placed it on the table, saying: ‘Gentlemen, I will lay a wager with any of you, that you will not make this egg stand up as I will, naked and without anything at all.’ They all tried, and no one succeeded in making it stand up. When the egg came round to the hands of Columbus, by beating it down on the table he fixed it, having thus crushed a little of one end; wherefore all remained confused, understanding what he would have said: that after the deed is done, everybody knows how to do it; that they ought first to have sought for the Indies, and not laugh at him who had sought for it first, while they for some time had been laughing, and wondered at it as an impossibility.”—*La Historia del Mondo Nuovo*—1565.



By Theodor de Bry. *Americae*, vol. 4, 1594.

COLUMBUS MAKES THE EGG STAND ON END

