



Frontispiece to 2.^d Voyage.



THE
SECOND AND THIRD VOYAGES
OF
COLUMBUS.

Embellished with Copper Plates,



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SECOND VOYAGE
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ALL the necessary measures being taken at Court for this second expedition, Columbus took his departure for Seville. Thither volunteers, of all classes, flocked from all parts, allured by the thirst of gold; soldiers, mechanics, labourers, tradesmen, all were eager to share the wealth of the new-discovered world, and their noisy claims to preference were not easily adjusted. Columbus, for the present, selected only fifteen hundred men, of all descriptions, whom

he embarked on board seventeen vessels of different sizes. Besides provisions and other necessaries, he took on board (for the improvement of the new colonies,) some horses, asses, and other animals, which have since multiplied so exceedingly in America: he also furnished himself with all sorts of tools, and commodities for trade: and, the fleet being fully equipped, he set sail from the road of Cadiz, on the 25th of September, 1493, steering for the Canary Islands.

On the 28th, being 100 leagues distant from Spain, they saw abundance of turtle-doves, quails, and and other small birds, passing from

the Azores, to winter in Africa. They ran afterwards four hundred leagues due west from the Canary Islands, with a prosperous gale.

On Saturday, the 2d of November, in the evening, the Admiral perceiving a great alteration in the sky, which was soon followed by torrents of rain, concluded he was near some land, which attracted those vapours. He ordered his men, in consequence, to take in almost all the sails, and to keep a sharp look-out: nor was this precaution useless; for, at day-break, they descried, about seven leagues to the westward, a high mountainous island, which the Admiral named Dominica, on account of its

being discovered on a Sunday. Much about the same time, they espied three other islands; and the crews, assembling on deck, returned thanks to God for their wonderful success, in having sailed eight hundred leagues, in the space of twenty days, without the smallest accident. There being no convenient place for anchorage on the east side of Dominica, they stood for another of the islands, which the Admiral called *Mariegallante*, after his own ship, and of which he took possession, with the usual formalities, in the name of the King and Queen of Spain.

On Monday, November the 4th, he sailed from hence northward, by

another great island, which he called St. Mary of Gaudaloupe, in consequence of a promise he had made to a convent of that name. Some men were sent a-shore in the boat, but there, as in the other islands already discovered, the inhabitants fled at their approach. The Spaniards went up to a sort of town, where they found only some children, to whose arms they tied a few baubles, in token of friendship. They saw geese not unlike those of Europe, and abundance of very large parrots. There were also pompions and pine-apples, of exquisite flavour, growing wild, and in the huts they found different kinds of strange fruits, cotton, ham-

mocks, bows, arrows, and other rude implements, which they left untouched, to convince the natives of their friendly disposition. Next day the Admiral sent two boats on shore, with orders to take, if possible, some of the savages, from whom he might derive some information. They returned with two young men, who said they were natives of another island, and had been taken prisoners by the Caribbees of Guadaloupe. The boats going a-shore a second time for some Spaniards, who had been left behind, found six women who had fled to them, and desired to be carried on board; these the Admiral presented with beads and bells,

and dismissed much against their inclinations. The poor creatures were no sooner landed, than the Caribbees robbed them of all their newly-acquired ornaments, in sight of the Spaniards. The next time the boat's crew landed, these women leaped into the boat, imploring protection from the cruelty of the islanders, who, they signified, had eaten their husbands, and kept them in slavery. When brought to the Admiral, they informed him that there were, towards the south, many islands and a large continent, from which, in former times, canoes came to barter; and they pointed out the situation of Hispaniola. The Admiral landed

soon after, and entered some of the Indian houses, where he found a great deal of cotton, spun and unspun, together with abundance of human bones and skulls, hung up in baskets. He observed that those Caribbees were better accommodated with lodging, furniture, and provisions, than the natives of the islands he had discovered in his first voyage.

On the 10th of November, he weighed anchor, and sailed with the whole fleet towards the north-west, in quest of Hispaniola. On his way he discovered and named most of the islands, known at present under the name of Windward Islands, and

among them Montserrat, so called by him on account of its height, the inhabitants of which, he understood from his Indians, had all been devoured by the Caribbees. In like manner the Admiral discovered the Virgin Islands, and he anchored in a bay, where his men caught skate, pilchards, and chad; they saw besides falcons, and shrubs like wild vines. On the east side of the bay, they visited some well-built houses, with a square in their front, from which was a spacious road down to the sea, flanked on both sides with cane towers, the tops of which were curiously interwoven with greens; and at the end of it, next to the

sea, stood a lofty gallery, or balcony, large enough to hold ten or twelve persons.

On Friday, the 14th, the Admiral arrived in the Bay of Samana, on the north side of Hispaniola, where he sent on shore one of his Indians, who was a native of that part, and who, during his stay in Spain, had been converted to the Christian faith. From hence, continuing his course for the town of Nativity, he came to an anchor in the port of Monte Christo, where some of his men discovered, near a river, the bodies of two men, with a rope made of a kind of broom about their necks, and their arms extended upon a piece of

wood, in the form of a cross. This circumstance was considered as a bad omen, although it was impossible to discover whether they were Spaniards or natives.

Next day, a number of Indians came aboard with great confidence, and pronounced several Spanish words, they had learned from the settlers, so that the apprehensions the Admiral had at first conceived began to vanish. Next day, however, put an end to his doubts; for when he anchored near Port Nativity, some Indians came alongside in a canoe, and inquired for him by name; being satisfied that he was there, they went on board, and pre-

sented him with two masks, as a compliment from the Cacique Guacanagari, his former friend. From these people, he had the mortification to learn that the greatest part of his settlers were dead, and the rest gone to other countries. Although the Admiral suspected treachery, he concealed his suspicions for the present, and that same night dismissed the messengers with some trinkets for their Prince.

When he entered Port Nativity, he saw nothing but ruin and desolation; the town was burned to the ground, and not a soul appeared on the beach; he sent some of his people on shore to gather information

and they found the bodies of eleven Spaniards, who seemed to have been dead a month. While he was lost in sorrow, and prompted to resentment by this unfortunate event, he was visited by Guacanagari's brother, who came down attended by some Indians. By means of an interpreter, he told the Admiral, that he had scarcely set sail on his return to Spain, when those he had settled in the country began to quarrel among themselves; every man endeavouring to amass as much gold as he could find, and indulging in every kind of excess and extravagance; that Peter Gutierres and Escovedo, having killed one Jago,



had, with nine others, retired into the dominions of a Cacique, called Cannabo, Lord of the Mines, who put every one of them to death, and afterwards came down, with a great number of men, to destroy the town. At that time, James de Arana, with ten men, were left to guard the fort, the rest having dispersed themselves about the island. Cannabo stole upon them by night, set fire to their houses, and they fled to the sea, where eight of them perished; the other three were slain on shore. Guacanagari himself, who had joined the Spaniards, was obliged to fly, after having received a dangerous wound, which confined him even then

to his house, and prevented him from waiting on the Admiral.

This story exactly agreeing with the intelligence brought by some Spaniards, who had been sent into the interior of the country, and had actually seen Guacanagari wounded at his own house, determined the Admiral to set out, the next day, on a visit to that faithful friend. He was received with all the marks of cordiality and concern; the Cacique repeated the tale of woe, with tokens of unfeigned sorrow, and shewed his own wound, and those of his men, received in defence of the Spaniards, and which appeared inflicted by Indian weapons. The

melancholy explanation being over, the Cacique presented the Admiral with eight strings of small beads, composed of white, green, and red stones, a string of gold beads, a regal crown of the same metal, and three small calabashes, full of gold-dust, weighing about two pounds. In return for these valuable presents, the Admiral gave him toys to the value of three reals (about fifteen pence), which he seemed to prize highly. Though he was extremely ill, he insisted on accompanying his guest to the fleet, where he was entertained with that attention his friendship deserved. He was greatly startled at the sight of the horses;

he soon, however, grew accustomed to every thing about him, and was afterwards instructed in the mysteries of the Christian religion, which he at first had made some scruple to embrace.

The Admiral, unable to bear the sight of this place, which had been the scene of so many disasters, sailed to the eastward, with the whole fleet, on Saturday, the 7th of December: next day he passed the small islands of Monte Christo, and anchored opposite an Indian town, where he resolved to plant a colony.

In consequence, all the men designed for settlers were landed in a plain, together with provisions and

proper tools ; and he began by building a tower, he called Isabella, in honour of the Queen. This was judged a very convenient spot, as it was under a rock, on which a fort might be erected ; the harbour was capacious, and at a small distance ran a river of pure water, which might easily be conveyed through the town by canals ; and beyond it lay an extensive plain, from which, the Indians said, the mines of Cebao were not very distant. The Admiral was indefatigable in the variety of pursuits which the building of the town and the framing of regulations for the settlement rendered necessary. When things were in a pretty good state of

forwardness, he sent Alonzo de Hoieda, with fifteen men, in quest of the gold mines; and on the 2d of February, he sent back to Spain twelve ships of his fleet, under the command of Captain Antonio de Torres.

Hoieda soon returned, and reported that, after a march of six days, during which he had crossed mountains almost impassable, and met at every league Caciques who entertained him with much hospitality, he had arrived at the mines of Cebao, where he actually saw the Indians take up gold from a small river. This information was extremely agreeable to the Admiral, who was just recovered from a severe fit of illness, occasioned

by excessive fatigue, and he resolved to visit the mines in person, having first secured one Bernarde de Pisa, who had been the ringleader of a conspiracy against him. To guard against similar attempts, he left a strong force for the protection of the settlement and of the five vessels he had kept: this force he put under the command of his brother James, and set out for Cebao on the 12th of March, carrying with him the necessary materials to build a fort in that province, for the security of the Spaniards, who should be left to gather gold among the Indians. The better to intimidate these savages, he made a grand parade of his troops,

whom he ordered to march through the villages in military array, with their arms and accoutrements, trumpets sounding and colours flying. He took his road along the river that runs by Isabella, crossed another not so large, and took his night-quarters in a pleasant plain, extending to the foot of a craggy chain of hills. Next day, having widened the road through those hills, he entered another large plain, in which he travelled five leagues, and spent the night on the banks of a great river, which the men crossed on floats and in canoes. In his march he passed by many Indian towns, and the whole way was diversified with

pleasing mountains covered with wild vines, aloes, cassia, and the tree which produces scammony.

On the 14th of March, they arrived at a river, which they called the river of gold, because there they gathered some dust and grains of that metal. After passing this large body of water with some difficulty, they found on the opposite side a large town, but all the houses were shut against them by the inhabitants, who had barred their doors with canes which they considered as an impregnable defence. On the next day, they passed several towns, fortified in a like manner, and being rather short of provisions, they halted at

night at the foot of the mountains on the frontiers of Cibao, and sent to Isabella for a fresh supply. On receiving this, they entered the province of Cibao, and found the country rough and stony, yet yielding plenty of grass, and watered by several rivers abounding with gold, which is washed down from the mountains. There were scarcely any trees, except on the banks of the rivers, where pines and palm-trees were found.

Columbus immediately ordered a fort to be built, in a very strong though pleasant situation, distant about eighteen leagues, northward, from Isabella. This he called the

Castle of St. Thomas, and left in it, as commander, Peter Margarite, with a garrison of fifty-six men, among whom were workmen of all sorts, to finish and repair the fort, which was built with clay and timber, and of force sufficient to resist the attempts of any number of Indians.

After giving the proper directions for the finishing and maintaining of the works, the Admiral set out on his return for Isabella; and, this time, the natives flocked to meet him, offering to barter their provisions, consisting chiefly in garlic and a sort of bread made of rasped roots. On Sunday, March the 29th, he arrived at the new colony, where he found

melons already fit to eat, though the seed had not been in the ground above two months. Cucumbers came to perfection in twenty days; and a wild vine of the country being pruned produced large and excellent grapes. Next day, a peasant gathered ears of wheat, which he had sown in the latter end of January. The growth of all other kinds of vegetables was equally rapid.

On Tuesday, 1st of April, a messenger from St. Thomas brought intelligence that the Cacique Canabo was making preparations to attack the fort. Columbus, well knowing the pusillanimity of the Indians, who could not stand even the

sight of a horse, was not much alarmed at this intelligence: he nevertheless sent a reinforcement of seventy men to St. Thomas, with orders to make the roads more passable, and to find the fords of the rivers.

In the mean time, he completed his town, and having furnished it with all the conveniencies then known in Europe, he determined to send out all those Spaniards, who were not absolutely necessary to its safety, and who enjoyed a good state of health, to traverse the island, that they might reconnoitre the country, accustom themselves to Indian diet, and strike terror into the natives.

They were assembled to the number of four hundred men, under the command of Hojeda, who was directed to take them to Cibao, and place them under the orders of Margarite, who was entrusted with the expedition, while Hojeda was himself to take the command of fort St. Thomas. In the first days of their march, they punished some Indians and even some Caciques, who had been guilty of petty offences, such as thieving, &c. more by terror than by severity, and in one instance a Spaniard on horseback, by his simple appearance, routed four hundred Indians, and liberated four of his countrymen, they had taken prisoners.

In the mean time, the Admiral, no longer apprehensive of any exterior disturbance, and having fitted out his vessels for a new expedition, appointed a council to govern the settlement, composed of four members, at the head of whom he placed his brother James, as President.

In this cruíze, which lasted four months, Columbus made but few important discoveries. He, however, touched for the first time at Jamaica, which he thought more pleasant and more populous than any island he had yet discovered. He then sailed round Cuba, which he ascertained to be an island, and coasted the greatest part of Hispaniola ; his

progress, in this part of his voyage, was often impeded by strong currents, and by a vast number of little low sandy islands, some of which scarcely appeared above water. To a cluster of these, on the north-east side of Cuba, he gave the name of Queen's Garden. The perils which he had here to encounter obliged his people to keep a constant lookout; yet, notwithstanding all their care, the vessels frequently ran aground, and were not got off without much danger and difficulty. These fatigues nearly proved fatal to the Admiral, always foremost in those arduous duties, and he was seized with a pestilential and lethar-

gic fever, which deprived him of the use of his senses. His people availed themselves of his situation to return to Isabella, where they arrived in the latter end of August; but it was not till the 29th of September, that he recovered the use of his reason; and though his fever was then gone, his weakness continued five months afterwards.

Although this perilous voyage was not attended with important advantages, yet it afforded information both curious and interesting. In one of the channels which divide the Queen's Garden Islands, the Spaniards found a canoe with fishermen, who seeing the boat approach, made

signs for them to lie on their oars, until they had finished the business they were about, which was both novel and singular. They had tied strings round the tails of some small fishes, called Reves; these are taught to encounter other fish, to which they cling so fast, by means of a certain roughness, and viscosity in their skin, that the fishermen draw them up together; upon this occasion they caught a tortoise, and the reve was wound about its neck, where they generally fasten, to secure themselves from the teeth of their prey; and in this manner they will sometimes attack sharks of the largest size. The Indians having

drawn their line very leisurely, went on board the Admiral's ship, and presented him with the fish they had caught; for which he gratified them with a few baubles. Among some of the same islands, nearer to Cuba, they saw very large tortoises, in such number that they actually covered the sea; and, on the next day, the sun was darkened by a cloud of sea-crows, that came from the eastward, and lighted upon one of the islands, where they likewise saw abundance of pigeons and beautiful singing-birds; and afterwards such swarms of butterflies, that the day was obscured by them from morning till night, when they were

carried away by a deluge of rain. Whenever they landed, the pigeons and other birds, unaccustomed to the cruelty of the human species, allowed themselves to be approached near enough to be taken with the hand, and they also killed some seals while asleep on the shore. Near the coast of Hispaniola, the Spaniards saw a fish as big as a whale, with a great shell like that of a tortoise upon its neck; it bore its head, which was as large as a hogshead above water, and had a very long tail, resembling that of a tunny fish, and two large fins on each side.

The Indians, Columbus had occasion to see in this expedition, re-

sembled, in general, those he had already seen; sometimes they entertained his people with hospitality, at other times they would assume a warlike countenance, which, however, soon vanished, when the Spaniards shewed any symptoms of resistance. The Admiral, on his return to Isabella, found his brother Bartholomew, who had been sent to his assistance by their Catholic Majesties, with three ships, and the title of Adelantado, or Lieutenant of the Indies. Indeed, the company and assistance of Bartholomew could never have been more welcome to Columbus, who found himself involved in infinite trouble and vexa-

tion by the misconduct of Peter Margarite. This man, as we have seen, had been left by the Admiral at the head of three hundred and sixty foot and fourteen horse, with orders to traverse and reduce the island; instead of which, he encamped in a great plain, called Vega Real, distant ten leagues from Isabella; and from thence he sent insolent letters, and even orders to the Council, over which he wanted to domineer; foiled, however, in his attempts to usurp the supreme command, and dreading the return of the Admiral, he suddenly left the Island for Spain, without assigning any reason for his departure, or in

any way disposing of the men under his command. The consequence was that, every one being at liberty to follow his own inclinations, the troops dispersed into the country, robbed the natives of their effects, insulted their women, and, in short, committed such outrages as totally alienated the Indians from the Spaniards, and excited them to revenge.

The Cacique of Madelena, whose name was Gualiguana, was the first to take up arms against the intruding strangers; he attacked straggling parties, killed ten Spaniards, and burned a house in which were eleven sick people of the same na-

tion. Indeed, the natives had sufficient forces to expel their unwelcome visitors, had they but united for their common defence; for the island was divided between four principal Caciques or Kings, namely, Cannabo, Guacanagari, Behechico, and Guarconex, and each of these had under him seventy or eighty petty Lords or inferior Caciques, who were bound to assist him in the labours of agriculture, and in his wars, even with the whole population under their immediate orders. But want of union rendered their efforts unavailing. Guacanagari, preferring new connections to ancient ties, remained faithful in his

adherence to the Spaniards ; he supplied them with food, protected them with all his power, and even disclosed to Columbus the secret plans of his countrymen. This conduct naturally drew forth their resentment upon him. The other Caciques invaded his dominions ; Behechico killed one of his wives, and another was taken by Cannabo. Guacanagari lost no time in soliciting the protection of Columbus, who as willingly granted it ; they both set out from Isabella on the 24th of October, 1495, to encounter the Indians, who had assembled an army of one hundred thousand men, while the force of the Spaniards

consisted in two hundred, with twenty horses and as many dogs.

On the second day of his march, Columbus, being in sight of the enemy, formed his small army into two divisions; one of which he headed in person, the other he gave to his brother; with the intention of attacking the enemy (who were promiscuously scattered over the plains) in two places at once, to increase the terror and confusion among them. Accordingly, the Spaniards, after a discharge of their cross-bows and musquets, fell in, on two different sides, among the naked Indians, with their horses and dogs, charging with such fury, that the faint-hearted



multitude soon gave way in all directions. Many were killed in their flight, and a still greater number were made prisoners. Among the latter was Cannabo with all his wives and children. Undismayed by this reverse of fortune, the Cacique owned that he had killed twenty Spaniards, who had been left at Nativity with Peter de Arana, and that his intention was to treat in a similar manner the inhabitants of Isabella, which he had reconnoitred for that purpose, under the pretence of a friendly visit.

This victory, and the captivity of Cannabo, so intimidated the Indians, that, in the space of a year, Colum-

bus reduced the whole island to obedience, without having once more recourse to arms; the spirits of these poor people were so effectually subdued, that a single Spaniard might travel over the whole island with perfect safety, and be treated everywhere with respectful hospitality. To turn this disposition to the greatest advantage, the Admiral resolved to impose upon them a quarterly tribute, to be paid to the King of Spain. In consequence, every inhabitant of the district of Cibao, above the age of fourteen, was taxed at a large horse-bell full of gold-dust; and the rest at twenty-five pounds of cotton each. At this

time the inhabitants of Isabella had been reduced by disease to less than one-third of their original number, and the Admiral thought it expedient to return to Spain, to solicit fresh assistance, taking with him Cannabo, that he might be used as their Catholic Majesties should think proper.

He accordingly set sail on the 10th of March, 1496. In this homeward-bound voyage he touched at Mariegalante and at Guadaloupe, with the intention of taking in a fresh stock of provisions, but there he was opposed by female warriors, who discharged several flights of arrows at his boats. On another point of the island, the husbands of these

amazons manifested the same hostile disposition, and had actually prepared an ambuscade in the woods, from which, however, they were soon driven by the fire from the ships. The Spaniards then landed without farther opposition, and found in the huts plenty of provisions. In one of them, they saw a man's arm roasting on a spit, which proved, beyond a doubt, that these people were cannibals, as they had been previously informed. The Admiral set sail from Guadaloupe, on the 20th of April. Nothing remarkable occurred in his passage, except his suffering so much from the dearth of provisions, that he

found some difficulty in preventing his people from feeding on the unfortunate Indians who were on board. He landed at Odeniera, a small port between Lisbon and Cape St. Vincent, and immediately set out for Burgos, where he was favourably received by their Catholic Majesties. He presented the King and Queen with specimens of the peculiar productions of the countries which he had discovered; such as birds, beasts, trees, plants, instruments, and utensils, together with several girdles and masks, adorned with golden plates. He also presented them with a large quantity of gold dust, and with grains of tha

metal of various sizes, from the bigness of a pea to that of a pigeon's egg.

Having vindicated his own conduct to the satisfaction of their Majesties, he earnestly begged to be sent back with supplies to the colony, which he had left in want of men, and of many necessaries; but notwithstanding all 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 Coronell. After his departure, Columbus continued to press the equipment of such a fleet as would be proper for him to

conduct to the West Indies; but this was long retarded by the negligence and evil intentions of Don John Fonseca, Archdeacon of Seville, who, being afterwards created Bishop of Burgos, proved an inveterate enemy to the Admiral, and was at the head of a party, who, in the end, brought him into disgrace with their Catholic Majesties.

END OF THE SECOND VOYAGE.

THIRD VOYAGE
OF
COLUMBUS.

COLUMBUS having forwarded the expedition with the utmost care and activity, set sail from the Bay of San Lucar de Barrameda, with six ships, laden with provisions and necessaries for the relief of the planters of Hispaniola, fully determined, at the same time, to discover the continent of Paria. He touched at Madeira, and several of the Canary Islands, and from Ferro, the most western of that cluster, he dispatched three of his ships to Hispa-

niola, while, with the rest, he sailed towards the Cape de Verd Islands, and from thence stood directly for the continent which he expected to discover.

On the 25th of June, the Admiral descried the island of Sal, and passing it came to an anchor, near another called Buona Vista, on which are six or seven houses for the accommodation of lepers, who repair thither to be cured. Columbus being desirous to know by what means leprosy could be cured in that place, learned that it was principally owing to the temperature of the air, and to the lepers feeding upon tortoises, with the blood of which they likewise

anointed themselves externally.—

These animals repair in great numbers to that island, from the African shore, to lay their eggs in the sand, during the months of June, July, and August, and are easily caught by being turned on their back when they are asleep.

On Saturday, the 30th of June, the Admiral sailed for the island of St. Jago, which he left on the Thursday following, steering to the south-west, and determined to continue in that course until he should be under the line, and then to steer due west, in search of some undiscovered country. He was, however, soon obliged to alter his intention,

and to sail due west, on account of the intense and unusual heat, which so alarmed his men, that they were under apprehensions of being burnt to death, together with their ships, owing to a very ancient prejudice respecting those burning regions.

Having sailed many days in a westerly direction, and being in want of provisions and water, the Admiral determined to stand northward, and to bear for Hispaniola; but one day, about noon, a sailor from the round-top saw land to the westward, at the distance of about fifteen leagues, and stretching to the eastward as far as the eye could reach. The Spaniards immediately sang the

Salve Regina, and other hymns, and three mountains appearing at the same time on the land, Coumbus gave it the name of Trinity.

In sailing round that land, which afterwards proved to be an island), in quest of a convenient spot to take in water and repair the ship, the Spaniards saw many houses and towns; and on the 1st of August they discovered the continent, at the distance of five-and-twenty leagues, which Columbus, mistaking it for another island, called then *Isla Santa*.

At last, on a western point of Trinity, which he called Punta del Arenal, the Admiral found a spot favourable to his purposes. In his

way he was followed by a canoe with five-and-twenty men, who stopped within cannon-shot, calling out, and talking very loud. What they said, of course, could not be understood, and the Admiral ordered his men to try to allure those savages to the ship, by showing them little brass basons, looking-glasses, and other toys, generally in high estimation among the Indians. This expedient proving ineffectual, he desired one of the men to ascend the poop, and to play on the tabor and pipe, while others were dancing round him. The Indians mistaking this for the war-whoop, or signal for battle, put themselves in a posture of

defence, and shot their arrows among the Spaniards. A discharge of cross-bows from the ship soon put an end to the unequal conflict, and compelled the savages to retire. They did not, however, appear much dismayed, for they went alongside of another caraval, without any seeming apprehension, and were civilly treated and dismissed by the Captain, who said they were well-shaped, and whiter than the inhabitants of the other islands.

The ships being watered and repaired at Punta del Arenal, the Admiral steered westward for the continent then in view, which he still mistook for an island, expecting to

find a passage northward to Hispaniola.

On the 5th of August, while the ships lay at anchor off the coast, the boats were sent on shore, and the people found plenty of fruit peculiar to that climate ; a great quantity of wood, and some signs of inhabitants, who had fled at their approach.—Columbus pursued his way, and anchored again fifteen leagues farther down the coast. There a canoe with three men came aboard one of the caravals ; these, when carried to the Admiral, were civilly treated, presented with toys, and sent on shore at a place where stood a number of Indians, anxiously waiting to

know what would be the fate of their daring countrymen. These Indians were no sooner made acquainted with the friendly disposition of the Spaniards, than they crowded round the ships in their canoes, eager to barter for toys the same productions as had been already found in the newly-discovered islands.

These people had no targets, nor poisoned arrows, which are peculiar to the cannibal tribes. They drank a liquor as white as milk, and another of a rather dusky hue, which tasted like wine made of sour grapes; their dress consisted in cotton cloth of various colours, and they covered their heads with stuff of the same

kind ; they seemed in general more civilised and more tractable than the inhabitants of Hispaniola, and were particularly fond of brass trinkets and bells. As nothing of value appeared among them but some trifling pieces of gold that hung about their necks, the Admiral ordered six of them to be taken on board, and, proceeding to the westward, touched at two high islands inhabited by people who seemed richer in gold plates than those he had just left, and who gave him to understand, that this gold was produced in other islands to the westward, inhabited by cannibals. The women wore about their arms strings

of pearls, some of them very fine, and which, they said, were found in oysters, taken to the westward and northward of Paria. The Admiral having purchased some of them as a sample, and for a present to their Catholic Majeties, sent the boats, to make farther inquiry about this precious commodity.

The Admiral continued to sail to the westward, in hopes of finding an outlet, through which he could steer for Hispaniola, but the water growing every day more shallow, and a light caraval he had sent to reconnoitre, having reported, that what appeared a cluster of islands, was a continent, he tacked about to the

eastward, and with some difficulty passed the straits he had before discovered between Trinity and the main land.

After a tedious passage, during which he was often becalmed, and often carried out of his course by adverse currents, he came to an anchor, on the 20th of May, between Beaca and Hispaniola, from whence he sent some Indians with a letter to his brother, the Adelantado. He then stood to the eastward, and, on the 30th, entered the harbour of St. Domingo, where his brother had built a city so called, in memory of his father, whose name was Dominick.

By this time, he was almost blind with over-watching, and quite exhausted with fatigue; but he now flattered himself with the prospect of enjoying some repose in the new world he had discovered. But most grievously were his expectations disappointed; for he found the whole island in a complete state of anarchy and rebellion. The greatest part of those he had left were dead; one hundred and sixty were languishing under dreadful diseases; a great number had rebelled, with one Francis Roldan, whom he had left Alcade Major, or Chief Justice; and, what added not a little to his sorrow, the three ships he had dispatched

from the Canaries so long before, had not yet arrived.

The causes of these disturbances were many and various. The principal one, no doubt, was the bad character of the adventurers who had embarked in the undertaking. But the delays of the Court of Spain in sending proper supplies gave a specious pretence to their disaffection, by creating a scarcity, and giving rise to a suspicion that the colony was abandoned by the mother country. Complaints and murmurs were, as usual, the first symptoms of rebellion; these were mixed with loud invectives against the Lieutenant and his brother, whom the Spa-

niards detested as foreigners, and whose strict justice they resented as oppression and tyranny. Many attempts were made secretly against the lives of the two brothers, which they as often defeated by their vigilance; till at last the mutineers, finding treachery unavailing, had recourse to open violence, and rose in arms, with Roldan at their head. The example soon became contagious throughout the island, each petty commander set up as the independent ruler of his district, the natives were induced to take part in these quarrels, and were equally oppressed by all parties. The Lieutenant and his brother, unable to quell the in-

surrection by force, and being foiled in all their attempts to re-establish order by negotiation, used the utmost care, and the most unremitting vigilance to keep possession of a small district, with a certain number of followers of doubtful fidelity.

In this situation Columbus found his brothers; and although his unexpected arrival made some impression on the rebels, he had need of all his skill and firmness to restore tranquillity. He negotiated with the different parties, kept them in a continual state of suspence, made use of one to crush the other, and at last brought the more persevering in their guilt to condign punishment.

This example, which was absolutely necessary, had such an effect upon all classes of persons, that tranquillity was re-established throughout the whole island, and the Indians submitted without farther opposition. About this time such rich gold mines were discovered, that every man began to dig on his own account, paying to the king one-third of what he found; and their labour was so amply rewarded, that one man has been known to gather forty ounces in the day: and one lump of pure gold was found, that weighed one hundred and ninety-six ducats.

While Columbus was thus indefatigably employed in appeasing the

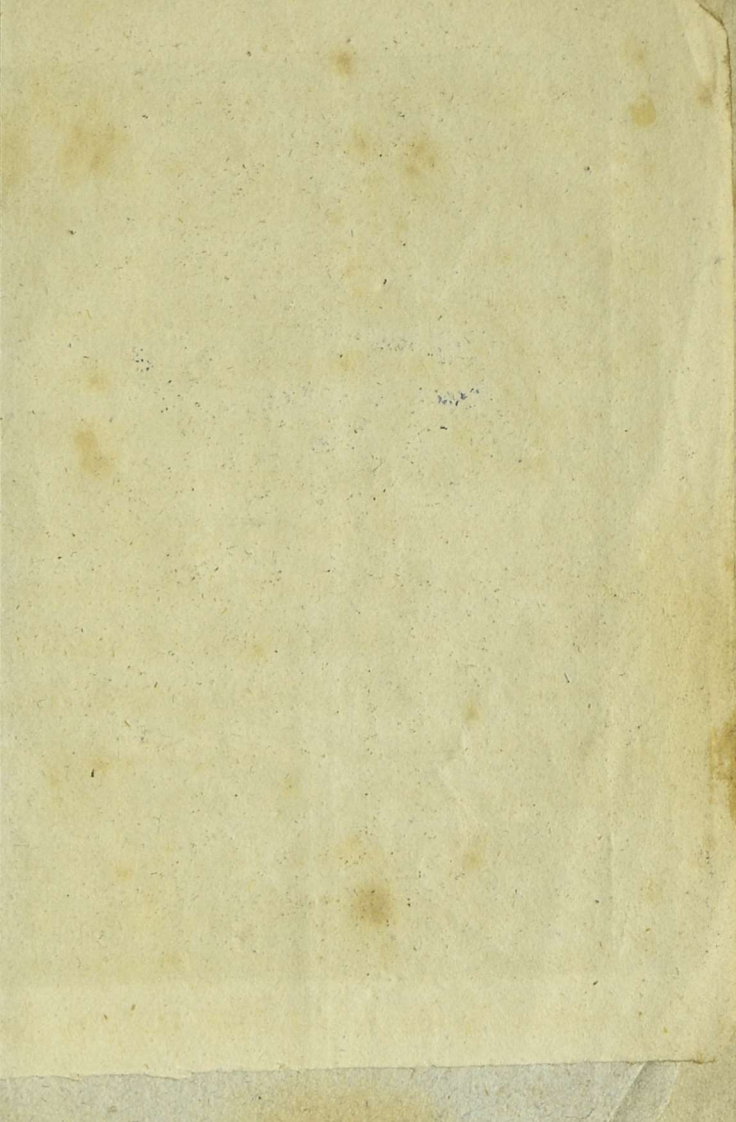
troubles of Hispaniola, and securing its prosperity, he little dreamed of the storm which was preparing against him at home. During the continuance of the troubles, numerous complaints had been sent to Spain, against the three brothers, who were represented as needy foreign adventurers, who, to satiate their avarice, oppressed the Castilians and the Indians, and embezzled the pay of the troops and the riches of the island. Columbus's enemies, who envied his successes and his reputation, had found too fair an opportunity of ruining the man they detested, to let it escape. They accordingly had recourse to

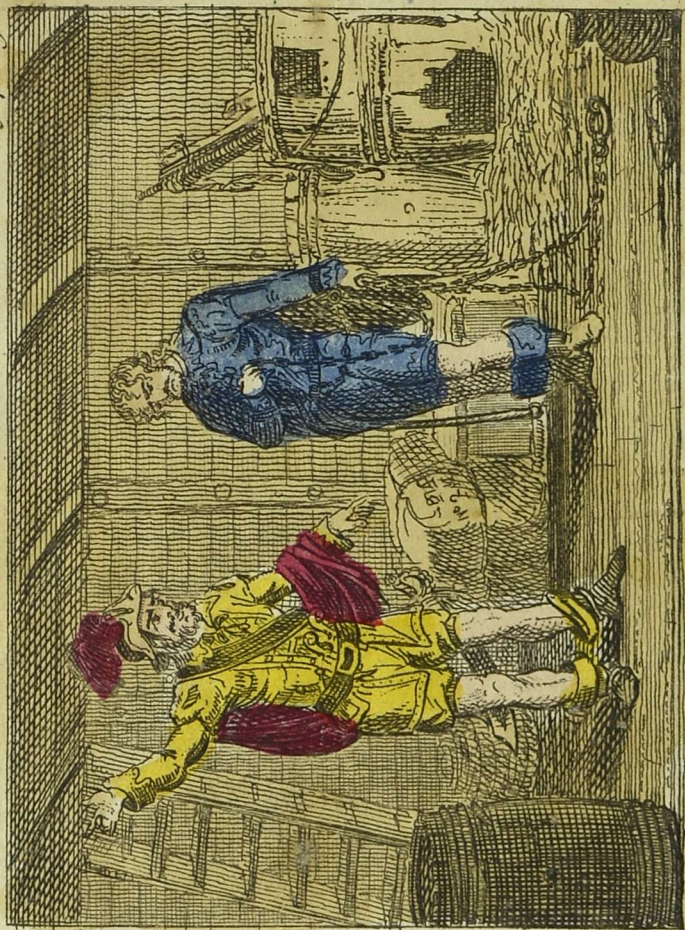
all the exaggerations of malice, and to all the misrepresentations of party rancour; even the mob urged with loud outcries their demand for justice; till, at last, their Catholic Majesties were induced to send an Inspector-General to Hispaniola, to inquire into the conduct of the Admiral, and to supersede him in case he found him guilty. The person chosen for this office was one Francis Bovadilla, a Knight of the Order of Calatrava, but in very poor circumstances, who being furnished with full powers, arrived at St. Domingo in the latter end of August, 1500, while the Admiral and most

people of distinction were at the Conception.

The new Inspector, finding nobody at St. Domingo who could be a check on his conduct, took possession of the Admiral's palace, and converted his effects to his own use. He then assembled all the disaffected, and, declaring himself Governor, sent for Columbus, to whom he briefly communicated their Majesties orders, and then, without delay or legal information, sent him and his brother James on board a ship, where they were put in irons, under a strong guard, and entirely excluded from all communication with any person whatever. Perhaps

the Lieutenant, who was at the head of a considerable force, might have rescued his brothers, and avoided the fate with which he was himself threatened ; but Columbus ordered him to submit quietly, and to surrender himself to the authority of their Majesties, now vested in the person of the new Governor. This peaceable demeanour had, however, no effect on Bovadilla, who had no sooner secured their persons, than he laid strict injunctions on Andrew Martin, the Captain of the ship, to deliver the Admiral in irons to his old enemy, the Bishop Don John Fonseca, by whose directions he had acted. This affair thus settled, the





new Governor began to squander the King's revenue among his creatures, to embezzle the treasure, countenance all manner of profligacy and extravagance, oppress and plunder the Indians, and, in short, to destroy all the wholesome regulations which had been established by Columbus.

To return to the Admiral, he declined the favour offered by the Captain, who, being ashamed of the situation in which he was, would have knocked off his irons; but Columbus insisted upon wearing them during the whole passage, saying, he was determined to keep them as a memorial of the reward he had ob-

tained for his services: nor did he ever change his opinion in this particular, for he always preserved his fetters in his own chamber, and they were, at his request, buried in the same coffin with his body.

On the 20th of November, 1500, he wrote a letter to their Catholic Majesties, giving an account of his arrival at Cadiz, and of the treatment he had experienced. Orders were immediately sent for his release, accompanied by most gracious letters from their Majesties, in which they expressed their sorrows for his sufferings, their detestation of Bovadilla's unjustifiable conduct, and promised him that he should be

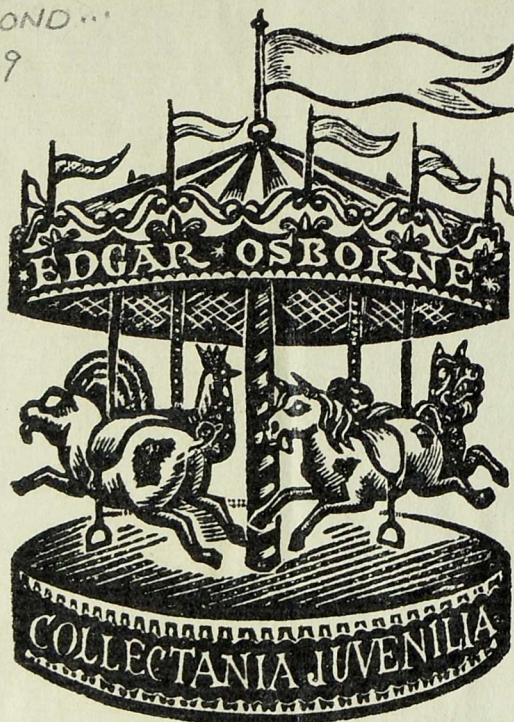
shortly dispatched again to the New World, and restored to his well-earned honours. Agreeably to these assurances, Columbus, on his arrival at Granada, met with a most favourable reception from the King and Queen, who promised him ample satisfaction. In the mean time, they ordered his affair to be examined, and the accusations proving groundless and malicious, he was most honourably acquitted. A new Governor was appointed to Hispaniola, in order to redress the Admiral's grievances, to oblige Bovadilla to restore his property, which he had unjustly seized, and to deal with the rebels according to the nature of

their offences. While this new Governor was settling the affairs of the island, it was resolved to send Columbus at the head of another expedition. To this he was at first much adverse, both on account of the fatigues, and of the many injustices he had experienced. He would not, however, resist the pressing solicitations of their Majesties, and once more sacrificed his own feelings to his sense of public duty.

END OF THE THIRD VOYAGE.

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SECOND...
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