

Columbus.

On the morning of Friday, October 12th, 1492, Rodrigo Triana, a sailor on the *Pinta*, one of Christopher Columbus's vessels, first saw the land which Columbus sought. At present many people in many places are celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of that discovery; and most of them are giving Columbus great credit for his wisdom, his energy, his skill, and for many other qualities which enabled him to voyage across unknown seas in search of new worlds. But Mr. A. P. Dunlop undertakes in the *Arena* for this month to give quite another character to the great explorer. It is well known that in recent years attempts have been made to induce the papal authorities to canonize Columbus; and that on investigation the request was refused. Mr. Dunlop undertakes, and with some appearance of success, to show that the great navigator should be placed, not among the saints, but in the opposite category. It has been said that the land was first sighted by Rodrigo Triana, a sailor on the *Pinta*. The Queen had promised 10,000 maradevis to him who should first see land; but Columbus swindled Triana out of the money by pretending that he had seen a light on shore at ten o'clock the previous night. Clearly it was impossible that he could have seen the light, because the vessels were sailing briskly before a fair breeze all night, and the log shows that between ten o'clock at night and the moment in which the discovery was actually made, the vessel sailed fully fifty miles. Besides, the *Pinta* was considerably in advance of Columbus's own ship. The discoverer carried home the most abominably false accounts of the land he had discovered. He represented that gold was in common use among the natives, though in fact there was very little there. He said he inhaled the odour of rich spices in Asia, and the nightingales were so numerous as in their flight to darken the sky. He said there were two islands lying opposite one to the other, of which the one was inhabited solely by women of a warlike nature, and the other solely by men. He pretended that the land he had discovered was part of Cathay or China, and that he had sent an embassy to the "Grand Khau." But the worst part of his record is that of fiendish cruelty to the poor people whom he discovered. The West India island were peopled by simple confiding savages. Columbus's first work was to reduce them to slavery. Washington Irving says: "He had with him twenty bloodhounds, fearless and ferocious. When once they had seized their prey nothing could compel them to relinquish their hold. The horses, urged on by their cruel riders, bore down upon the unarmed and defenseless people striking them to the earth and trampling upon them. The horsemen dealt blows on all sides, with spear or lance, and the blows were not returned. None of those butchered and terrified Indians made the least resistance, while the bloodhounds, scarce more savage than their masters, sprang upon the naked bodies of the prostrate and the fleeing, dragging them to the earth and tearing open their bowels. Those who escaped the slaughter were sold to slavery worse than death." Since the world began no more horrible scenes of massacre and slavery have been witnessed than those which Columbus caused in the West India islands. So merciless was the slavery, so fierce the massacre, that in a few years the original inhabitants were completely exterminated, and the conquerors were compelled to import negroes to till the soil. Wherever the Spanish arms were carried there the most horrible atrocities were perpetrated. Blood flowed in torrents, and the name of religion was called in to sanctify massacres of the most revolting description. Columbus was the author of this policy of murder and slavery, and he was the worthy predecessor of Cortez and Pizarro.

A papyrus manuscript found in the den of an old hermit in a cave near Jerusalem in the year 1880, and which experts have all along believed to have been the handwriting of St. Peter, "the friend of Christ," was submitted to a committee of the Biblical Society of London in 1890. They have arrived at the conclusion that the work is in reality exactly what it purports to be, the last literary work of the great apostle. It is said that a "society of British literary voluptuaries" have offered £20,000 for the document.

A lady resident of Kingston preserved some blackberries this fall, and through being insufficiently corked they fermented. She emptied the entire lot into an enclosure where some ducks were being kept. The ducks ate freely of the berries and soon became very boisterous, quacking loudly and reeling around like intoxicated men, and not behaving themselves as well-bred ducks should. By and by they were entirely overcome, and lay over on their backs and like so many dead ducks. After a few hours, however, they revived and are now sadder, but wiser by their experience.

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