

there were pines on the mountains of Cibao whose fruits are not fir-cones, but berries like the olives of the *Axarafe de Sevilla*; and further, as I have already remarked, Columbus* already separated the genus *Podocarpus* from the family of *Abietinæ*.

“The beauty of the new land,” says the discoverer, “far surpasses the *Campiña de Cordova*. The trees are bright, with an ever-verdant foliage, and are always laden with fruit. The plants on the ground are high and flowering. The air is warm as that of April in Castile, and the nightingale sings more melodiously than words can describe. At night the song of other smaller birds resounds sweetly, and I have also heard our grasshoppers and frogs. Once I came to a deeply-inclosed harbor, and saw a high mountain that had never been seen by any mortal eye, and from whence gentle waters (*lindas aguas*) flowed down. The mountain was covered with firs and variously-formed trees adorned with beautiful blossoms. On sailing up the stream, which empties itself into the bay, I was astonished at the cool shade, the clear, crystal-like water, and the number of the singing birds. I felt as if I could never leave so charming a spot, as if a thousand tongues would fail to describe all these things, and as if my hand were spell-bound and refused to write (*para hacer relacion a los Reyes de las cosas que vian no bastaran mil lenguas a referillo, ni la mano para lo escribir, que le parecia questaba encantado*).”†

We here learn, from the journal of a wholly unlettered seaman, the power which the beauty of nature, in its individual forms, may exercise on a susceptible mind. Feelings ennobled language; for the style of the Admiral, especially when, at the age of sixty-seven, on his fourth voyage, he relates his wonderful dream‡ on the shore of Veragua, if not more eloquent, is at any rate more interesting than the allegorical, pastoral romances of Boccaccio, and the two poems of *Arcadia* by Sannazaro and Sydney, than Garcilasso's *Salicio y Nemoroso*, or than the *Diana* of Jorge de Montemayor. The

* See vol. i., p. 282.

† Journal of Columbus on his first voyage (Oct. 29, 1492; Nov. 25-29; Dec. 7-16; Dec. 21). See, also, his letter to Doña Maria de Guzman, ama del Principe D. Juan, Dec., 1500, in Navarrete, *Coleccion de los Viages que hicieron por mar los Españoles*, t. i., p. 43, 65, 72, 82, 92, 100, and 266.

‡ Navarrete, op. cit., p. 303-304, *Carta del Almirante a los Reyes escrita en Jamaica a 7 de Julio*, 1503; Humboldt, *Examen Crit.*, t. iii., p. 231-236.