

probably have supervened in both cases. It is to the same causes which procured for the Romans a dominion over the world—the Roman spirit and character—and not to external and merely adventitious chances, that we owe the influence exercised by the Romans on our civil institutions, our laws, languages, and culture. It was owing to this beneficial influence, and to the intimate alliance of races, that we were rendered susceptible to the influence of the Greek mind and language, while the Arabs directed their consideration principally only to those scientific results of Greek investigation which referred to the description of nature, and to physical, astronomical, and purely mathematical science.” The Arabs, by carefully preserving the purity of their native tongue, and the delicacy of their figurative modes of expression, were enabled to impart the charm of poetic coloring to the expression of feeling and of the noble axioms of wisdom; but, to judge from what they were under the Abbassides, had they built on the same foundation with which we find them familiar, it is scarcely probable that they could have produced those works of exalted poetic and creative art, which, fused together in one harmonious accord, are the glorious fruits of the mature season of our European culture.

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PERIOD OF OCEANIC DISCOVERIES.—OPENING OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—EXTENSION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, AND THOSE EVENTS WHICH LED TO OCEANIC DISCOVERIES.—COLUMBUS, SEBASTIAN CABOT, AND GAMA.—AMERICA AND THE PACIFIC.—CABRILLO, SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO, MENDAÑA, AND QUIROS.—THE RICHEST ABUNDANCE OF MATERIALS FOR THE FOUNDATION OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY IS PRESENTED TO THE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE.

THE fifteenth century belongs to those remarkable epochs in which all the efforts of the mind indicate one determined and general character, and one unchanging striving toward the same goal. The unity of this tendency, and the results by which it was crowned, combined with the activity of whole races, give to the age of Columbus, Sebastian Cabot, and Gama, a character both of grandeur and enduring splendor. In the midst of two different stages of human culture, the fifteenth century may be regarded as a period of transition, which belongs both to the Middle Ages and to the beginning of more recent times. It is the age of the greatest discoveries in space, embracing almost all degrees of latitude and all elevations of the earth's surface. While this period doubled