

bus, in a work "On the five habitable zones of the earth," which has now become extremely rare, says that in the month of February, 1477, he visited Iceland, "where the sea was not at that time covered with ice, and which had been resorted to by many traders from Bristol."* If he had there heard tidings of the earlier colonization of an extended and continuous tract of land, situated on the opposite coast, *Helluland it mikla*, *Markland*, and the good *Vinland*, and if he connected this knowledge of a neighboring continent with those projects which had already engaged his attention since 1470 and 1473, his voyage to Thule (Iceland) would have been made so much the more a subject of consideration during the celebrated lawsuit regarding the merit of an earlier discovery, which did not end till 1517, since the suspicious fiscal officer mentions a map of the world (*mappa mundi*) which had been seen at Rome by Martin Alonzo Pinzon, and on which the New Continent was supposed to be marked. If Columbus had desired to seek a continent of which he had obtained information in Iceland, he would assuredly not have directed his course southwest from the Canary Islands. Commercial relations were maintained between Bergen and Greenland until 1484, and, therefore, until seven years after Columbus's voyage to Iceland.

Wholly different from the first discovery of the New Continent in the eleventh century, its rediscovery by Christopher Columbus and his explorations of the tropical regions of America have been attended by events of cosmical importance, and by a marked influence on the extension of physical views. Although the mariners who conducted this great expedition at the end of the fifteenth century were not actuated by the

* While this circumstance of the absence of ice in February, 1477, has been brought forward as a proof that Columbus's Island of Thule could not be Iceland, Finn Maguusen found in ancient historical sources that until March, 1477, there was no snow in the northern part of Iceland, and that in February of the same year the southern coast was free from ice. *Examen Crit.*, t. i., p. 105; t. v., p. 213. It is very remarkable, that Columbus, in the same "*Tratado de las cinco zonas habitables*," mentions a more southern island, Frislanda; a name which is not in the maps of Andrea Bianco (1436), or in that of Fra Mauro (1457-1470), but which plays a great part in the travels, mostly regarded as fabulous, of the brothers Zeni (1388-1404). (Compare *Examen Crit.*, t. ii., p. 114-126.) Columbus can not have been acquainted with the travels of the Fratelli Zeni, as they even remained unknown to the Venetian family until the year 1558, in which Marcolini first published them, fifty-two years after the death of the great admiral. When came the admiral's acquaintance with the name Frislanda?