

design of attempting to discover a new quarter of the world, and although it would appear to be proved that Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci died in the firm conviction that they had merely touched on portions of Eastern Asia,\* yet the expedition manifested the perfect character of being the fulfillment of a plan sketched in accordance with scientific combinations. The expedition was safely conducted westward, through the gate opened by the Tyrians and Colæus of Samos, across the immeasurable dark sea, *mare tenebrosum*, of the Arabian geographers. They strove to reach a goal, with the limits of which they believed themselves acquainted. They were not driven accidentally thither by storms, as Naddod and Gardar had been borne to Iceland, and Gunlijörn, the son of Ulf Kraka, to Greenland. Nor were the discoverers guided on their course by intermediate stations. The great cosmographer, Martin Behaim, of Nürnberg, who accompanied the Portuguese Diego Cam on his expedition to the western coast of Africa, lived four years, from 1486 to 1490, in the Azores.

\* See the proofs, which I have collected from trustworthy documents, for Columbus, in the *Examen Crit.*, t. iv., p. 233, 250, and 261, and for Vespucci, t. v., p. 182-185. Columbus was so fully convinced that Cuba was part of the continent of Asia, and even the south part of Khatai (the province of Mango), that on the 12th of June, 1494, he caused all the crews of his squadron (about 80 sailors) to swear that they were convinced he might go from Cuba to Spain by land, "que esta tierra de Cuba fuese la tierra firme al comienzo de las Indias y fin á quien en estas partes quisiere venir de España por tierra;" and that "if any who now swore it should at any future day maintain the contrary, they would have to expiate their perjury by receiving one hundred stripes, and having the tongue torn out." (See *Informacion del Escribano publico, Fernando Perez de Luna*, in Navarrete, *Viages y Descubrimientos de los Españoles*, t. ii., p. 143, 149.) When Columbus was approaching the island of Cuba on his first expedition, he believed himself to be opposite the Chinese commercial cities of Zaitun and Quinsay (*y es cierto, dice el Almirante questa es la tierra firme y que estoy, dice el, ante Zayto y Guinsay*). "He intends to present the letters of the Catholic monarchs to the great Mogul Khan (Gran Can) in Khatai, and to return immediately to Spain (but by sea) as soon as he shall have thus discharged the mission intrusted to him. He subsequently sends on shore a baptized Jew, Luis de Torres, because he understands Hebrew, Chaldee, and some Arabic," which are languages in use in Asiatic trading cities. (See Columbus's Journal of his Voyages, 1492, in Navarrete, *Viages y Descubrim.*, t. i., p. 37, 44, and 46.) Even in 1533, the astronomer Schoner maintained that the whole of the so-called New World was a part of Asia (*superioris Indiæ*), and that the city of Mexico (Temistitan), conquered by Cortes, was no other than the Chinese commercial city of Quinsay, so excessively extolled by Marco Polo. (See *Joannis Schoneri Carlostadii Opusculum Geographicum*, Norimb., 1533, pars ii., cap. 1-20.)