

John Mandeville. He describes India and China, Ceylon and Sumatra. The comprehensive scope and the individuality of his narratives (like the itineraries of Balducci Pigoletti and the travels of Roy Gonzalez de Clavijo) have contributed considerably to increase a disposition toward a great and general intercourse among different nations.

It has often, and with singular pertinacity, been maintained, that the admirable work of the truthful Marco Polo, and more particularly the knowledge which it diffused regarding the Chinese ports and the Indian Archipelago, exercised great influence on Columbus, who is even asserted to have had a copy of Marco Polo's narratives in his possession during his first voyage of discovery.* I have already shown that Christopher Columbus and his son Fernando make mention of the Geography of Asia by Æneas Sylvius (Pope Pius II.), but never of Marco Polo or Mandeville. What they know of Quinsay, Zaitun, Mango, and Zipangu, may have been learned from the celebrated letter of Toscanelli in 1474 on the facility of reaching Eastern Asia from Spain, and from the relations of Nicolo de Conti, who was engaged during twenty-five years in traveling over India and the southern parts of China, and not through any direct acquaintance with the 68th and 77th chapters of the second book of Marco Polo. The first printed edition of these travels was no doubt the German translation of 1477, which must have been alike unintelligible to Columbus and to Toscanelli. The possibility of a manuscript copy of the narrative of the Venetian traveler being seen by Columbus between the years 1471 and 1492, when he was occupied by his project of "seeking the east by the west" (*buscar el levante por el poniente, pasar á donde nacen las especerías, navegando al occidente*), can not certainly be denied; † but wherefore, in a letter written to Ferdinand and Isabella from Jamaica, on the 7th of June, 1503, in which he describes the coast of Veragua as a part of the Asiatic Ciguare near the Ganges, and expresses his hope of seeing horses with golden harness, should he not rath-

* Navarrete, *Coleccion de los Viages y Descubrimientos que Hicieron por mar los Españoles*, t. i., p. 261; Washington Irving, *History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, 1828, vol. iv., p. 297.

† *Examen Crit. de l'Hist. de la Géog.*, t. i., p. 63 and 215; t. ii., p. 350. Marsden, *Travels of Marco Polo*, p. lvii., lxx., and lxxv. The first German Nuremberg version of 1477 (*Das buch des edeln Ritters un landtfarers Marcho Polo*) appeared in print in the life-time of Columbus, the first Latin translation in 1490, and the first Italian and Portuguese translations in 1496 and 1502.