

er refer to the Zipangu of Marco Polo than to that of Pope Pius?

While the diplomatic missions of Christian monks, and the mercantile expeditions by land, which were prosecuted at a period when the universal dominion of the Moguls had made the interior of Asia accessible from the Dead Sea to the Wolga, were the means of diffusing a knowledge of Khatai and Zipangu (China and Japan) among the great sea-faring nations of Europe; the mission of Pedro de Covilham and Alonzo de Payva (in 1487), which was sent by King John II. to seek for the African Prester John, prepared the way, if not for Bartholomew Diaz, at all events for Vasco de Gama.* Trusting to the reports brought by Indian and Arabian pilots to Calicut, Goa, and Aden, as well as to Sofala, on the eastern shores of Africa, Covilham sent word to King John II., by two Jews from Cairo, that if the Portuguese would prosecute their voyages of discovery southward, along the west coast, they would reach the termination of Africa, from whence the navigation to the *Moon Island*, the Magastar of Polo, to Zanzibar and to Sofala, "rich in gold," would be extremely easy. But, before this news reached Lisbon, it had been already long known there that Bartholomew Diaz had not only made the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope (Cabo tormentoso), but that he had also sailed round it, although only for a short distance.†

* Barros, Dec. i., liv. iii., cap. 4, p. 190, says expressly that Bartholomew Diaz, "e os de sua companhia per causa dos perigos e tormentas, que em o dobrar delle passáram, lhe pazeram nome Tormentoso." The merit of first doubling the Cape does not, therefore, belong, as usually stated, to Vasco de Gama. Diaz was at the Cape in May, 1487, nearly, therefore, at the same time that Pedro de Covilham and Alonzo de Payva set forth from Barcelona on their expedition. In December of the same year (1487), Diaz brought the news of this important discovery to Portugal.

† The planispherium of Sanuto, who speaks of himself as "Marinus Sanuto, dictus Torxellus de Veneicis," appertain to the work entitled *Secreta fidelium Crucis*. "Marinus ingeniously preached a crusade in the interest of commerce, with a desire of destroying the prosperity of Egypt, and directing the course of trade in such a manner as to carry the products of India through Bagdad, Bassora, and Tauris (Tebriz), to Kafia, Tana (Azow), and the Asiatic coasts of the Mediterranean. Sanuto, who was the cotemporary and compatriot of Polo, with whose *Milione* he was, however, unacquainted, was characterized by grand views regarding commercial policy. He may be regarded as the Raynal of the Middle Ages, without the incredulity of the philosophical abbé of the eighteenth century." (*Examen Critique*, t. i., p. 231, 333-348.) The Cape of Good Hope is set down as Capo di Diab on the map of Fra Mauro, compiled between the years 1457 and 1459. Consult the learned treatise of Cardinal Zurla, entitled *Il Mappamundo di Fra Mauro Camaldolese*, 1806, § 54.