

pear from Las Casas's manuscript history, which I have examined, that this was the same "carta de marear" which the admiral showed to Martin Alonso Pinzon on the 25th of September, 1492, and on which many prominent islands were delineated. Had Columbus, however, alone followed the chart of his counselor and adviser, Toscanelli, he would have kept a more northern course in the parallel of Lisbon; but instead of this, he steered half the way in the latitude of Gomera, one of the Canaries, in the hope of more speedily reaching Zipangu (Japan); and subsequently keeping a less high latitude, he found himself, on the 7th of October, 1492, in the parallel of  $25^{\circ} 30'$ . Uneasy at not discovering the coast of Zipangu, which, according to his reckoning, ought to lie 216 nautical miles further to the east, he yielded, after long contention, to the commander of the caravel Pinta, Martin Alonso Pinzon, of whom we have already spoken (one of three wealthy and influential brothers, hostile to him), and steered toward the southwest. This change of direction led, on the 12th of October, to the discovery of Guanahani.

We must here pause to consider the wonderful concatenation of trivial circumstances which undeniably exercised an influence on the course of the world's destiny. The talented and ingenious Washington Irving has justly observed, that if Columbus had resisted the counsel of Martin Alonso Pinzon, and continued to steer westward, he would have entered the Gulf Stream, and been borne to Florida, and from thence probably to Cape Hatteras and Virginia—a circumstance of incalculable importance, since it might have been the means of giving to the United States of North America a Catholic Spanish population in the place of the Protestant English one by which those regions were subsequently colonized. "It seems to me like an inspiration," said Pinzon to the admiral, "that my heart dictates to me (*el corazon me da*) that we ought to steer in a different direction." It was on the strength of this circumstance that in the celebrated lawsuit which Pinzon carried on against the heirs of Columbus between 1513 and 1515, he maintained that the discovery of America was alone due to him. This inspiration, emanating from the heart,

*Esta carta es la que le embio Paulo Fisico el Florentin la qual yo tengo en mi poder con otras cosas del Almirante y escrituras de su misma mano que traxeron á mi poder. En ella le pinto muchas islas. . . .*" Are we to assume that the admiral had drawn upon the map of Toscanelli the islands which he expected to reach, or would "tenia pintadas" merely mean that "the admiral had a map on which these were painted . . . ?"