

already touched a portion of the continent of Asia when on his first voyage he reached Cuba, in November, 1492.* From this point, as his son Don Fernando, and his friend the Cura de los Palacios, relate, he proposed, if he had provisions enough, "to continue his course westward, and to return to Spain either by water, by way of Ceylon (Taprobane) *rodeando toda la tierra de los Negros*, or by land, through Jerusalem and Jaffa."† Such were the projects by which the admiral, in 1494, proposed to circumnavigate the globe, four years before Vasco de Gama, and twenty-seven years before Magellan and Sebastian de Elcano. The preparations for Cabot's second voyage, in which he penetrated through blocks of ice to 67° 30' north latitude, and endeavored to find a northwest passage to Cathai (China), led him to think at "some future time of an expedition to the north pole" (*á lo del polo arctico*).‡ The more it became gradually recognized that the newly-discovered land constituted one connected tract, extending from Labrador to the promontory of Paria, and as the recently-found map of Juan de la Cosa (1500) testified, beyond the equator, far into the southern hemisphere, the more intense became the desire of finding some passage either in the south or in the north. Next to the rediscovery of the continent of America and the knowledge of the extension of the new hemisphere southward from Hudson's Bay to Cape Horn, discovered by Garcia Jofre de Loaysa,§ the knowledge of the South Pacific,

* In a portion of Columbus's Journal, Nov. 1, 1492, to which but little attention has been directed, it is stated, "I have (in Cuba) opposite, and near to me, Zayto y Guinsay (*Zaitun* and *Quinsay*, Marco Polo, ii., 77) of the Gran Can."—Navarrete, *Viages y Descubrim. de los Españoles*, t. i., p. 46. The curvature toward the south, which Columbus, on his second voyage, remarked in the most western part of the coast of Cuba, had an important influence, as I have elsewhere observed, on the discovery of South America, and on that of the Delta of the Orinoco and Cape Paria. See *Examen Crit.*, t. iv., p. 246-250. Anghiera (*Epist.*, clxviii., ed. Amst., 1670, p. 96) writes as follows: "Putat (Colonus) regiones has (Parie) esse Cubæ contiguas et adhærentes: ita quod utræque sint Indiæ Gangetidis continens ipsum. . . ."

† See the important manuscript of Andres Bernaldez, Cura de la villa de los Palacios (*Historia de los Reyes Catolicos*, cap. 123). This history comprises the years from 1488 to 1513. Bernaldez had received Columbus into his house, in 1496, on his return from his second voyage. Through the special kindness of M. Ternaux Compans, to whom the History of the Conquista owes much important elucidation, I was enabled at Paris, in Dec., 1838, to make a free use of this manuscript, which was in the possession of my distinguished friend the historiographer Don Juan Bautista Muñoz. (Compare Fern. Colon, *Vida del Almirante*, cap. 56.)

‡ *Examen Crit.*, t. iii., p. 244-248.

§ Cape Horn was discovered by Francisco de Hoces in February, 1526