

to west over half of the globe. Columbus, misled by a long series of false inferences, extended this space to 240 degrees, and in his eyes the desired eastern shores of Asia appeared to advance as far as the meridian of San Diego in New California. He therefore hoped that he should only have to sail 120 degrees instead of the 231 degrees at which the wealthy Chinese commercial city of Quinsay is actually situated to the west of the extremity of the Spanish peninsula. Toscanelli, in his correspondence with the admiral, diminished the expanse of the fluid element in a manner still more remarkable and more favorable to his designs. According to his calculations, the extent of the sea between Portugal and China was limited to 52 degrees, so that, in conformity with the expression of the Prophet Esdras, six sevenths of the earth were dry. Columbus, at a subsequent period, in a letter which he addressed to Queen Isabella from Haiti, immediately after the completion of his third voyage, showed himself the more inclined to these views, because they had been defended in the *Imago Mundi* by Cardinal d'Ailly, whom he regarded as the highest authority.\*

\* As the Old Continent, from the western extremity of the Iberian peninsula to the coast of China, comprehends almost  $130^{\circ}$  of longitude, there remain about  $230^{\circ}$  for the distance which Columbus would have had to traverse if he wished to reach Cathai (China), but less if he only desired to reach Zipangu (Japan). This difference of  $230^{\circ}$ , which I have here indicated, depends on the position of the Portuguese Cape St. Vincent ( $11^{\circ} 20'$  W. of Paris), and the far projecting part of the Chinese coast, near the then so celebrated port of Quinsay, so often named by Columbus and Toscanelli (lat.  $30^{\circ} 28'$ , long.  $117^{\circ} 47'$  E. of Paris). The synonyms for Quinsay, in the province of Tschekiang, are Kanfu, Hangtscheufu, Kingszu. The East Asiatic general commerce was shared in the thirteenth century between Quinsay and Zaitun (Pinghai or Sseuthung), opposite to the island of Formosa (then Tungfan), in  $25^{\circ} 5'$  N. lat. (see Klaproth, *Tableaux Hist. de l'Asie*, p. 227). The distance of Cape St. Vincent from Zipangu (Nippon) is  $22^{\circ}$  of longitude less than from Quinsay, therefore about  $209^{\circ}$  instead of  $230^{\circ} 53'$ . It is striking that the oldest statements, those of Eratosthenes and Strabo (lib. i., p. 64), come, through accidental compensations, within  $10^{\circ}$  of the above-mentioned result of  $129^{\circ}$  for the difference of longitude of the *οἰκουμένη*. Strabo, in the same passage in which he alludes to the possible existence of two great habitable continents in the northern hemisphere, says that our *οἰκουμένη*, in the parallel of Thineæ, Athens (see p. 189), constitutes more than one third of the earth's circumference. Marinus the Tyrian, misled by the length of the time occupied in the navigation from Myos Hormos to India, by the erroneously assumed direction of the major axis of the Caspian from west to east, and by the over-estimation of the length of the land route to the country of the Seres, gave to the Old Continent a breadth of  $225^{\circ}$  instead of  $129^{\circ}$ . The Chinese coast was thus advanced to the Sandwich Islands. Colum