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c/ B. 2 -

A G Vine Tibbits

¶ Epistola Christofori Colom: cui etas nostra multũ debet: de Insulis Indie supra Gangem nuper inuẽtis. Ad quas pergrendas octauo antea mense auspiciis ⁊ ere inuictissimorꝫ Fernãdi ⁊ Helisabet Hispaniarꝫ Regũ missus fuerat: ad magnificum dñm Gabrielem Sanchis eorundẽ serenissimorꝫ Regum Tesaurariũ missa: quã nobilis ac litteratus vir Leander de Cosco ab Hispano idiomate in latinum cõuertit tertio kal's Maii. M.cccc.xciii Pontificatus Alexandri Sexti Anno primo.

QUoniam suscepte prouintie rem perfectam me ꝓsecutum fuisse gratum tibi fore scio: has constitui exarare: que te vniuscuiusq; rei in hoc nostro itinere geste inuenteq; admoneant: Tricesimo tertio die postq̃ Gadibus discessi in mare Indicũ peruenì: vbi plurimas insulas innumeris habitatas hominibus reperi: quarum omnium pro felicissimo Rege nostro preconio celebrato ⁊ vexillis extensis contradicente nemine possessionem accepi: primeq; earum diui Saluatoris nomen imposui: cuius fretus auxilio tam ad hanc: q̃ ad ceteras alias peruenimus. Eam ꝓ Indi Guanahanin vocant. Aliarũ etiam vnam quanq; nouo nomine nuncupaui: quippe aliã insulam Sancte Marie Conceptionis. aliam Fernandinam. aliam Ysabellam. aliam Ioanam. ⁊ sic de reliquis appellari iussi. Cum primum in eam insulam quam dudum Ioanam vocari dixi appulimus: iuxta eius littus occidentem versus aliquantulum processi: tamq; eam magnam nullo reperto fine inueni: vt non insulã: sed continentem Chatai prouinciam esse crediderim: nulla tñ videns oppida municipiaue in maritimis sita confinib? preter aliquos vicos ⁊ predia rustica: cum quorꝫ incolis loqui nequibam. quare sĩ mul ac nos videbant surripiebant fugam. Progrediebar vltra: existimans aliquã me vrbem villasue inuenturũ. Deniq; videns q̃ longe admodum progressis nihil noui emergebat: ⁊ hmõi via nos ad Septentrionem deferebat: q̃ ipse fugere exoptabã: terris etenim regnabat bruma: ad Austrumq; erat in voto cõtendere:

nec minus venti flagitantib⁹ succedebāt constituī alios nō operīri successus: ⁊ sic retrocedens ad portū quendā quem signaueram sum reuersus: vnde duos boies ex nostris in terrā misi: qui inuestigarēt esset ne Rex in ea prouincia vrbesue alique. Di per tres dies ambularunt inuenerūtq; ĩnumeros populos ⁊ habitationes: paruas tñ ⁊ absq; vllo regimine. quapropter redierunt. Interea ego iam intelexeram a qbusdam Indis quos ibidē fusceperā quō hmōi prouincia insula quidem erat: ⁊ sic perrexi orientem versus eius semp stringēs littora vsq; ad miliaria. cccxxii vbi ipsius insule sunt extrema: hinc aliā insulam ad orientē prospexi distantē ab hac Joana miliarib⁹ liiii. quā protinus Hispanam dixi: in eamq; concessi ⁊ direxi iter quasi per Septentrionē quemadmodum in Joana ad orientez miliaria. dlxiiii que dicta Joana ⁊ alie ibidē insule ꝯfertilissime existunt. Nec multis arcꝯtutissimis ⁊ latis nec aliis quos vnq̃ viderim cōparandis portibus est circundata. multi maximi ⁊ salubres hanc interfluunt fluuii: multi quoq; ⁊ eminentissimi in ea sunt montes. Omnes be insule sunt pulcherrime ⁊ variis distincte figuris: puie: ⁊ maxima arboꝝ varietate sidera lambentiū plene: quas nunq; foliis priuari credo. Quippe vidi eas ita virentes atq; decoras ceu mēse Maio in Hispania solent esse: quaꝝ alie floētes alie fructuose: alie in alio statu ꝯm vniuscuiusq; qualitatē vigebant: garriebat philomela ⁊ alii passeres varii ac inumeri mēse Nouembris quo ipse per eas deambulabā. Sunt preterea in dicta insula Joana septē vel octo palmaꝝ genera q̃ proceritate ⁊ pulchritudine quēadmodū cetere oēs arbores: herbe: fructusq; nras facile exuperāt. Süt ⁊ mirabiles pin⁹ agri ⁊ prata vastissima: varie aues: varia mella: variaq; metalla ferro excepto. In ea aūt quā Hispanam supra dixim⁹ nuncupari maximi sunt mōtes ac pulchri: vasta rura. nemora. campi feracissimi seri pasciq; ⁊ pdendis edificiis aptissimi. Portuū in hac insula cōmoditas ⁊ prestantia flumiñ copia salubritate admixta hoim: q̃ nisi quis viderit: credulitatez superat. Hui⁹ arbores pascua ⁊ fructus multū ab illis Joane

differunt. Hec preterea Hispana diuerso aromatis genere. auro-
metallisq; abundat. cuius quidem ⁊ oium aliaꝝ quas ego vidi ⁊
⁊ quaꝝ cognitionẽ habeo incole vtriusq; sexus nudi semper ince
dunt quẽadmodũ edunt̃ in lucem: preter aliquas feminas: q̃ fo/
lio frondeue aliqua aut bombicino velo pudenda operiunt: qd̃
ipse sibi ad id negocii parant. Carent ii oẽs (vt supra dixi) quo/
cũq; genere ferri. carẽt ⁊ armis vtpote sibi ignotis nec ad ea sũt
apti: nõ ꝓpter corporis deformitatem cũ sint bene formati: sed
qa sunt timidi ac pleni formidine. gestant tm̃ pro armis aruindi/
nes sole pustas: in quaꝝ radicib⁹ hastile quoddã ligneũ siccũ et
in mucronem attenuatũ figunt. neq; iis audẽt iugiter vti: nã se
pe euenit cũ miserim duos vel tres hoĩes ex meis ad aliquas vil
las vt cũ eaꝝ loquerent̃ incolis: exiisse agmen glomeratũ ex In
dis: ⁊ vbi nros appropinquare videbant fugã celeriter arripuis/
se despreti a patre liberis ⁊ econtra. ⁊ hoc nõ q̃ cuipiam eoꝝ dã
num aliqd̃ vel iniuria illata fuerit: imo ad quoscũq; appuli ⁊ qui
bus cũ verbum facere potui: quicqd habebã sum elargitus: pan
num aliaq; ꝑnulta nulla mihi facta versura: sed sunt natura pa
uidi ac timidi. Ceteꝝ vbi se cernunt tutos oĩ metu repulso: sunt
admodum simplices ac bone fidei ⁊ in oib⁹ que habẽt liberalissi
mi: rogantibus qd̃ possidet inficiat̃ nemo: quin ipsi nos ad id poscẽ
dũ inuitãt. Maximũ erga oẽs amorẽ preferunt: dant queq; ma
gna pro paruis: minima ꝛ re nihiloue ꝓtenti. ego attm̃ prohibui ne
tã mina ⁊ nulli⁹ precii bisce darent̃: vt sunt lancis. parapsidũ.
vitriq; fragmenta. itẽ clauí ligule. quanq̃ si hoc poterãt adipisci
videbãt eis pulcherrima mũdi possidere iocalia. Accidit. n. quẽ
dam nauitam tantũ auri põdus habuisse pro vna ligula quanti
sunt tres aurei solidi ⁊ sic alios pro aliis minoris precii: p̃sertim
pro blanquis nouis: quibus dã nũmis aureis: p qb⁹ habẽdis da
bant quicquid petebat vẽditor: puta vnciam cũ dimidia ⁊ duas
auri: vel triginta ⁊ quadraginta bombicis pondo: quã ipsi iam
nouerant. itez arcuum. amphore. hydrie. doliiq; fragmenta bom
bice ⁊ auro tanq̃ bestie comparabant. quod quia iniquum sane

erat vetui: dediq; eis multa pulchra ⁊ grata que mecū tulerā nul
lo interueniente premio. vt eos mihi facilius ꝓciliarem fierentq;
xpicole ⁊ vt sint proni in amorem erga Regē Reginā principēq;
nostros ⁊ vniuersas gentes Hispanie ac studeant perquirere co/
aceruare eaq; nobis tradere quib? ipsi affluunt ⁊ nos magnope
re indigemus. Nullam ii nouerunt idolatriam: imo firmissime cre
dūt oēm vim: oēm potentiam: oīa deniq; bona esse in celo: meq;
inde cum his nauibus ⁊ nautis descēdisse: atq; hoc animo vbiq;
fui susceptus postq; metum repulerant. Nec sunt segnes aut ru/
des: quin summi ac perspicacis ingenii: ⁊ homines qui transire
tant mare illud nō sine admiratiōe vniuscuiusq; rei rationē red/
dunt: sed nunq; viderūt gentes vestitas neq; naues hmōi. Ego
statim atq; ad mare illud peruenie prima insula quosdā Indos
violenter arripui: qui ediscerent a nobis ⁊ nos pariter docerent
ea quoq; ipsi in iisce partibus cognitionem habebant: ⁊ ex voto
successit: nam breui nos ipsos: ⁊ ii nos tum gestu ac signis: tum
verbis intellexerunt: magnoq; nobis fuere emolumento: veniūt
modo mecum qui semper putant me desiluisse e celo: quāuis diu
nobiscum versati fuerint hodieq; versentur. et ii erant primi qui
id quocunq; appellabamus nuntiabant: alii deinceps aliis ela/
ta voce dicentes: Venite venite ⁊ videbitis gēres ethereas. Quā
ob rem tam femine q̄ viri: tam impuberes q̄ adulti: tā iuuenes
q̄ senes deposita formidine paulo ante ꝓcepta nos certatim vise
bant magna iter stipante caterua: alīs cibum: aliis potum affe/
rentibus maximo cum amore ac beniuolentia incredibili. Habet
vnaqueq; insula multas scaphas solidi ligni: ⁊ si angustas. lon/
gitudine tñ ac forma nostris biremibus similes: cursu aūt velo/
ciores. Reguntur remis tantūmodo. Hæ quedaz sunt magne:
quedam parue: quedā in medio consistūt. Plures tñ biremi que
remiget duodeuiginti transtris maiores: cū quibus in oēs illas
insulas: que innumere sunt: traiicitur. cumq; iis suam mercatu/
ram exercent ⁊ inter eos comertia fiunt. Aliquas ego harum bi/
remiū seu scaphaz vidi q̄ vehebant septuaginta ⁊ octuaginta re

miges. In omnibus iis insulis nulla est diuersitas inter gentis effigies: nulla in moribus atq; loquela: quin oẽs se intelligunt adinuicem: que res perutilis est ad id qd̃ serenissimos Reges nostros exoptare precipue reor: scz eorꝫ ad sctãm xp̃i fidem pversionem. cui qdem quantũ intelligere potui facillimi sunt et proni. Dixi quẽadmodũ sum progressus antea insulam Joanam per rectum tramitem occasus in orientem miliaria. cccxxii. sm quã viã ⁊ interuallum itineris possum dicere banc Joanam esse maiorez Anglia ⁊ Scotia simul. nãq; vltra dicta. cccxxii. passuũ milia in ea parte que ad occidentem prospectat due: quas nõ petii: super sunt prouincie quaꝫ alterã Indi Anan vocant cuius accole caudati nascuntur. Tendunt̃ in longitudinez ad miliaria. clxxx. vt ab his quos vebo mecũ Indis percepi: qui oĩs has callent insulas Hispane ꝓbo ambit? maior est tota Hispania a Colonia vsq; ad fontem rabidum Hincq; facile arguit̃ q̃ quartum eius latus quod ipse per rectã lineã occidentis in orientem traieci miliaria continet. dxl. Hec insula est affectanda ⁊ affectata nõ spernenda In qua ⁊ si aliaꝫ oim vt dixi pro inuictissimo Rege nostro solenniter possessionem accepi: earũq; imperium dicto Regi penitus cõmittitur: in oportuniori tñ loco atq; omni lucro et cõmertio condecenti cuiusdã magne vlle: cui Natiuitatis dñi nomen dedimus: possessionem peculiariter accepi: ibiq; arcem quandam erigere extemplo iussi: que modo iam debet esse pacta: in qua homines qui necessarii sunt visi cũ omni armoꝫ genere ⁊ vltra annum victu oportuno reliqui. Jtem quandã caranellã ⁊ pro aliis construendis tam in hac arte ꝓ̃ in ceteris peritos: ac eiusdẽ insule Regis erga eos beniuolentiam ⁊ familiaritatẽ incredibilez Sunt enim gentes ille amabiles admodum ⁊ benigne: eo q̃ Rex predictus me fratrẽ suũ dici gloriabat̃. Et si aĩum reuocarent et iis qui in arce manserunt nocere velint: nequeunt: qa armis carent: nudi incedũt ⁊ nimiũ timidi: ideo dictã arcem tenẽtes duxerat pñt totã eam insulam nullo sibi ĩminẽte discrimine populari: dummõ leges quas dedim? ac regimen nõ excedãt. In oib?

iis insulis vt intellexi quisq; vni tm̃ iugi acquiescit: preter prin
cipes aut reges: q̃bus viginti hĩe licet. Femine magis q̃ viri la
borare videntur. nec bene potui intelligere an habeãt bona pro
pria: vidi enim q; vnus habebat aliis impartiri: presertim dapes
obsonia ⁊ hmõi. Nullum apud eos monstrũ reperi vt plerisq; exi
stimabant: sed hoies magne reuerentie atq; benignos. Nec sunt
nigri velut ethiopes. habent crines planos ⁊ demissos. non de
gũt vbi radior solaris emicat calor: pmagna nanq; hic est solis
vehementia: propterea q; ab equinoctiali linea distat. Vbi viden
tur gradus sex ⁊ viginti ex montiũ cacuminib? Maximũ quoq;
vigeẗ frigus: sed id q̃dem moderantur Indi tum loci cõsuetudi
ne tum rerũ calidissimar quib? frequenter ⁊ luxuriose vescunt̃
presidio. Itaq; mõstra aliqua nõ vidi neq; eor alicubi habui co
gnitionem excepta quadã insula Charis nuncupata: que secun
da ex Hispania in Indiam transfretantib? existit. quã gens que
dam a finitimis habita ferocior incolit. Hi carne humana vescũ
tur. Habent predicti hiremiũ genera plurima q̃bus in oĩs Indi
cas insula a traiiciunt. depredant. surripiunt quecũq; pñt. Nihil
ab aliis differunt nisi q; gerũt more femineo longos crines. rtũ
tur arcub? ⁊ spiculis arundineis f ris vt dixim? in grossiori par
te arte mutatis bastilib?. ideoq; habent̃ feroces: quare ceteri Indi
inerrauisto metu p'ecrunt̃: sed hos ego nihili facio plus q̃ alios
Hi sunt q cohearent cũ quibusdã feminis: que sole insulã Mateur
nin primã ex Hispania in Indiã traiicientib? habitant. Ne aũt
femine nullũ sui sexus opus exercent: vtuntur enim arcubus et
spiculis sicut de earꝝ iugibus dixi. muniunt sese laminis eneis
quar maxima apud eas copia existit. Aliã mihi insulã affirmãt
supradicta Hispania maiorẽ: eius incole carẽt pilis. auroq; inter
alias potissimũ exuberat. Huius insule ⁊ aliar quas vidi hoies
mecũ porto qui hor que dixi testimoniũ perbibẽt. Denique vt no
stri discessus ⁊ celeris reuersionis compendiũ ac emolumentum
breuibus astringã hoc pollicior: me nostris Regibus inuictissi
mis parvo eor fultũ auxilio: tantũ auri daturũ quantũ eis fue

rit opus. tm vero aromatum·bombicis·masticis:q̃ apud Chium
duntaxat innenitur· tantũq̃ ligni aloes· tantum seruoꝝ hydo/
latrarum:quantum eorum maiestas voluerit exigere· item reu/
barbarum ⁊ alia aromatum genera quē ii quos in dicta arce reli
qui iam inuenisse atq̃ inuenturos existimo· qñquidem ego nul
libi magis sum moratus nisi quantum me coegerunt venti:pre/
terq̃ in villa Natiuitatis:dum arcez condere ⁊ tuta oia esse pro
uidi. Que ⁊ si maxima ⁊ inaudita sunt:multo tm maiora forent
si naues mihi vt ratio exigit subuenissent·Vex mul tum ac mira
bile hoc:nec nostris meritis correspondens:sed sancte Christia/
ne fidei:nostrorumq̃ Regum pietati ac religioni: quia quod hu
manus consequi nõ poterat intellectus:id h manis cõcessit di
uinus·Solet enim deus seruus suos:quicq̃ sua precepta diligũt
⁊ in impossibilibus exaudire:vt nobis in presentia contigit:qui
ea consecuti sumus que hactenus mortalium vires minime atti
gerant:nam si harũ insularꝝ quipiam aliquid scripserunt aut lo
cuti sunt:omnes per ambages ⁊ cõiecturas·nemo se eas vidisse
asserit·vnde propter dubitabatur fabula·Igitur Rex ⁊ Regina prin
cepsq̃ ac eorꝝ regna felicissima cunctecq̃ alie Christianorꝝ prouin
cie Saluatori dño nostro Jesu Christo agamꝰ gratias: qui tan
ta nos victoria munereq̃ donauit:celebrentur processiones·per
agantur solennia sacra:festaq̃ fronde velentur delubra· exultet
Christus in terris quemadmodum in celis exultat:quom tot po
pulorum perditas ante hac animas saluatum iri preuidet· Lete
mur ⁊ nos:cum propter exaltationem nostre fidei· tum propter
rerum temporalium incrementa:quoꝝ non solum Hispania sed
vniuersa Christianitas est futura particeps· Hec vt gesta sunt
sic breuiter enarrata. Vale·Vlis bone pridie Idus Martii·

Christoforus Colom Oceane classis Prefectus·

¶ Epigramma · R · L · de Corbaria Episcopi Montispalusii · Ad Inuictissimum Regem Hispaniarum ·

Iam nulla Hispanis tellus addenda Triumphis
Atq; parum tantis viribus orbis erat ·
Nunc longe Eois regio deprensa sub vndis ·
Auctura est titulos Betice magne tuos:
Unde repertori merito referenda Colombo
Gratia: sed summo est maior habēda deo ·
Qui vincenda parat noua Regna tibiq; sibiq;
Teq; simul fortem prestat & esse pium ·

A LETTER

OF

Christopher Columbus.

Aving now accompliſhed the undertaking upon which I ſet out, I know that it will be agreeable to you to be informed of all that I have done and diſcovered in my voyage. On the thirty-third day after I had left Cadiz, I reached the Indian Ocean, where I found a great many iſlands, peopled by innumerable inhabitants, of all which I took poſſeſſion, without reſiſtance, in the name of our moſt illuſtrious King, with public proclamation and hoiſting our colours. To the firſt of theſe iſlands, I gave the name of the Divine Saviour, truſting to whoſe protection I had reached it and all the reſt. Its Indian name, however, is Guana-hanyx. In like manner, I gave new names to the whole. One was named from Holy Mary of the Conception, another Fernandina, another Iſabella, another Joanna, and in like manner of the reſt. When we landed upon that iſland, which, I have juſt ſaid, was named Joanna, I proceeded along its ſhore, ſomewhat towards the weſt, and found it of ſo great an extent, without any apparent termination, that I conceived it not to be an iſland, but part of the Continent, a province of Cathay. However, you ſee neither cities nor towns ſituated on its ſhores, only a few villages and rural farms. I could not enter into converſation with its inhabitants; and, accordingly, as ſoon as they ſaw us they took flight. I advanced forward, thinking that I ſhould find ſome town, or country houſes; but, at length, perceiving that nothing new was likely to appear, however far we might go, and that our progreſs was carrying us directly north, which I was particularly deſirous to avoid, as winter was now ſet in, and the winds were beſides favourable for our voyage ſouthwards, the direction which I wiſhed, I determined to make no further ſearch, but returned to a harbour, whoſe ſituation I had marked. I notwithſtanding ſent from hence two of our men into the country, to inquire, whether there were any king or cities in the province.

They

They purſued their courſe for three days, and met with innumerable people and inhabitants, a paltry race, however, and without any government; ſo they returned. I had, in the mean time, been informed by ſome Indians, whom I found there, that the country was in fact an iſland. I accordingly proceeded towards the eaſt, always keeping along the ſhores, for three hundred and twenty-two miles, where the iſland is terminated. From hence I ſaw another iſland to the eaſt, diſtant from this of Joanna 54 miles, to which I immediately gave the name of Hiſpaña, and made for it. As I had before done at Joanna, I courſed along it to the eaſt, by the north, for 564 miles. Joanna, and the reſt of theſe iſlands, are aſtoniſhingly fertile. This one is ſurrounded by the ſafeſt and moſt admirable harbours which I ever ſaw: there are likewiſe in it many very lofty mountains. All theſe iſlands are very beautifully ſhaped, in a great diverſity of forms. They abound in the fineſt variety of trees, ſo lofty that they ſeem to reach the ſtars, never, I believe, without foliage; for, when I ſaw them, they were as beautiful and green as our trees in Spain are in the month of May; ſome in flower, others bearing fruit, others in a different ſtate, but each moſt ſuited to its quality. The nightingale, and innumerable other birds of all kinds, ſung amidſt their ſhades: and yet it was the month of November when I paſſed under them. In the above mentioned iſland of Joanna, there are moreover ſeven or eight kinds of palm-trees; which, for ſtature and beauty (as indeed may be ſaid of all their other trees, herbs, and fruits), far ſurpaſs ours. There are pines, too, of an admirable beauty, fields and meadows of the utmoſt extent, birds of many different ſpecies, honey of various flavours, metals of all kinds, except iron. In that one which, as I have already ſaid, I called Hiſpaña, the mountains are the higheſt, the country and woods are of great extent, the meadows very fruitful, and particularly well adapted for corn, paſture, or the ſituation of houſes. The convenience of the harbours in this iſland, and the abundance and ſalubrity of the rivers, muſt almoſt exceed the belief of thoſe who have not ſeen them. Its trees, paſtures, and fruits, are very different from thoſe in Joanna. It abounds beſides in various ſorts of aromatics, in gold and metals. Of this iſland, and of all the others which I have ſeen or obtained any knowledge of, the inhabitants go naked, both ſexes alike, juſt as they were born; except that ſome of the women have a leaf, or ſome ſort of cotton covering, which they themſelves

prepare

prepare for that purpose, about their middle. As I have already said, all these people are utterly without iron of any sort; they are also without arms, of which they know not the use, and indeed would be ill adapted to make use of them; not from any bodily defects, for they are well formed, but because they are remarkably timid and fearful. The only kinds of arms they possess are canes parched in the sun, on the roots of which they fix a sort of spearhead of dry wood sharpened into a point: yet these they do not often dare to use, for it frequently happened that when I had sent two or three of my men to some of the villages that they might have communication with their inhabitants, a whole body of Indians would come out; but no sooner did they see our men approach, than off they set, parents deserting their children, and children their parents without any scruple. Nor was this owing to any violence on my part, as I was particularly anxious that they should meet with no injury; on the contrary, among whatever people I landed, or whom I could bring to a conference, I always imparted to them, in quantities, whatever I happened to have, such as cloths and many other things, nor took any thing from them in return. But they are by nature of a very timid disposition. Whenever they know themselves to be in safety however, and get over their fears, they are an uncommonly simple and honest people, very liberal in bestowing whatever they possess. They never refuse a request; nay they themselves invited us to make demands of them. They have in truth a show of the greatest good will to all: they give things of great value for what is of scarce any, and are indeed content with very little or almost nothing in exchange. I however made a point that they should not be imposed upon by the very trifling and worthless articles which were apt to be given them, such as broken bits of earthenware, or of glass, likewise nails; although the truth is, if they might but obtain these, they thought themselves possessed of the most beautiful ornaments in the world. A sailor, on one occasion, got for one nail as great a weight of gold as would have made three golden nobles: and in the same way, for other articles of still less value, they gave whatever the purchaser was inclined to ask them. But because I felt this to be an unjust species of traffic, I forbid it; and gave them many useful and beautiful articles which I had brought along with me, without any return being asked, that I might render them more friendly to me, that I might gain them over to the Christian faith, that they

might

might be well affected towards our King, Queen, Nobles, and the whole Spaniſh people, and ſearch out for thoſe things in which themſelves abound, and of which we are much in want, and, laying up ſtores of them, have wherewithal to enter into traffic with us. They have no idolatry amongſt them; but ſeem to have a firm perſuaſion, that all force, power, and all good things, are from Heaven, from whence indeed they imagined that I had come down with my ſhips and ſailors; as I diſcovered from them, after they had ſo far loſt their apprehenſions as to converſe with us. They are neither ſluggiſh, nor rude; on the contrary, they are of an intelligent and piercing mind; and the relations which thoſe of them who ferry acroſs the ſeas give of the various particulars which they have ſeen, are very diſtinct and lively. But none of them had ever before ſeen any people clothed, or ſhips ſuch as ours. As ſoon as I had come into that ſea, I carried off by force from the firſt iſland which I reached, a few of the inhabitants, who might be inſtructed by us, and inſtruct us in the courſe of our voyage, concerning the matters with which they were converſant; and the plan turned out remarkably well. In a very ſhort time, we underſtood them, and they us by geſtures and ſigns, and even words; and they were of great uſe to us. They never, however, gave up the impreſſion, however long they remained with us (and indeed they ſtill are with us) that I had lighted down from Heaven; and they ſpread the notion wherever we landed, calling out with a loud voice, which was repeated from one to another, Come, Come, and you will ſee a race of ethereal people! The conſequence has been, that, laying aſide their fears formerly entertained, vaſt crowds of men and women, children and adults, young and old, came round us from all quarters; ſome offering us meat, others drink, with the utmoſt and moſt incredible kindneſs. All theſe Iſlands poſſeſs many boats made of ſolid wood, and although very narrow, yet reſembling our boats both in length and form, only conſiderably more rapid in their courſe. They are managed by oars only. Some of them are large, others ſmall, and others again of a middling ſize. With the larger ones they paſs from one iſland to another, and carry on a traffic throughout them all, innumerable as they are. I have ſeen ſome of theſe boats or barges which carried ſeventy or eighty rowers. In all theſe iſlands there is no diverſity in the appearance of the people; their manners and ſpeech are alike, ſo that they all underſtand one another; a circumſtance peculiarly

liarly important for the purpoſe which our moſt Serene King had principally in view, their converſion, I mean, to the holy faith of Chriſt. As far as I can make out, they are very far from being diſinclined to it. I already mentioned how I coaſted along the iſland Joanna 322 miles to the eaſt; and I am perſuaded, from what I ſaw and heard, that this iſland is greater than England and Scotland together. It contains two other provinces which I did not ſee, one of which the Indians call Anan, where there are men with tails, and that province is 180 miles long, according to the report of thoſe Indians whom I carry along with me, and who are very well acquainted with theſe iſlands. The circumference of Hiſpaña I take to be greater than that of all Spain, *a Cologna uſque ad fontem rabidum,* if I may reckon as a fourth of the whole, that ſide, which I paſſed along in a right line from weſt to eaſt, about 540 miles. On this iſland of Hiſpaña, although I had ſolemnly taken poſſeſſion of all theſe iſlands in the name of our invincible King, I yet fixed upon a ſpot more advantageous than any other for commerce, and every opportunity of wealth, with a view to the erection of a metropolis, to which I have given the name of our Lord's Nativity, and of which, in a more peculiar manner, I have taken poſſeſſion for the King. There I immediately gave orders for the building a fort, which will ſoon be finiſhed, in which as many men as may be neceſſary, with all ſorts of arms, and more than a year's proviſion, may be left. Here likewiſe I ſhall eſtabliſh a carpenter's workſhop, and leave people ſkilled, not only in this, but in other arts, partly on account of the great friendſhip and kindneſs which I have experienced from the King of this iſland, the inhabitants of which have been moſt amiable and well-affected; and the King has even gloried in ſtyling me his brother. If they ſhould change their diſpoſitions, they yet cannot hurt thoſe who are left in the fort, however deſirous they might be of doing ſo. They have a great dread of arms, are themſelves naked, and remarkably timid, ſo that the poſſeſſors of the fort may in fact be ſaid to poſſeſs the whole iſland, without any hazard to themſelves, if they will keep within the laws and regulations which I have preſcribed for them. In all theſe iſlands, according to my information, no man has more than one wife, except the Chiefs and Kings, who may have as many as twenty. The women ſeem to work more than the men; and I have not been able to diſcover, whether there is any ſuch thing as ſeparate property; for I have always ſeen

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theſe people impart to each other whatever they had, particularly food, and things of that ſort. I found no monſters among them, as ſome have imagined, but everywhere men of a very eſtimable and benign aſpect. Neither are they black, like the Africans: their hair is ſmooth and long. Indeed, they do not live in a country where the ſolar rays are particularly powerful, being diſtant from the equator about ſix-and-twenty degrees. The cold is very ſevere on the tops of the mountains. Yet the Indians of theſe regions prevent its moſt diſagreeable effects, partly by the uſe of very high ſeaſoned food, of which they are extremely fond; and cuſtom inures them to the climate. There are then, as I have ſaid, no monſters, at leaſt that I ſaw; and the only information I received of any ſuch, was of the inhabitants of an iſland called Charis, which, to thoſe who are ſailing for India, follows ſecond in order immediately after the iſland of Hiſpaña. This people are looked upon by their neighbours as very ferocious, ſo as even to eat human fleſh. They have many various ſorts of boats, with which they paſs into all the Indian iſlands, and carry off whatever they lay their hands on. They differ in no reſpect in appearance from the other iſlanders, except that they have long hair like women. They make uſe of bows, and cane ſpears with whetted points, fixed, as I have already deſcribed, in the thicker part. From their ferocity, they are objects of great terror to the reſt of the Indians; but, for my part, they do not ſeem to me more formidable than the others. They cohabit with a race of women who are the ſole inhabitants of another iſland immediately ſucceeding Hiſpaña, as you ſail for India. Theſe women are not employed in the common occupations of their ſex, but, like their huſbands, carry bows and ſpears, and are protected by plates of braſs, with which their iſland abounds. I have been told that there is another iſland ſtill larger than Hiſpaña: its inhabitants have no ſpears, but, like all the others, are overflowing with gold. Some of the inhabitants of this, and of the other iſlands which I have ſeen, I have along with me, who confirm, by their teſtimony, the above particulars.

To conclude with ſumming up, in a few words, the advantages to be derived from this our ſhort voyage and ſpeedy return, I may fairly promiſe, that I can ſupply our invincible Sovereigns, if I am ſupported by their kind aſſiſtance, with as much gold as they can have occaſion for, and as great a quantity of aromatics and aloes and rhubarb, as their Majeſties may

think

think proper to require. I have no doubt that theſe will be collected in great abundance by the men whom I have left in the fort, for I myſelf made no longer ſtay than the winds forced me, except the time I remained in the city of the Nativity while the fort was building, and I was providing for the ſafety of thoſe who were to be left. Theſe are very great, and, as yet, unheard-of advantages: but they might be much further extended, if, as would be reaſonable, a ſupply of ſhips ſhould be given me. This great and wonderful field of diſcovery is far beyond our merit, and can correſpond only to the magnificence of the Chriſtian Faith, and to the piety and religion of our Sovereigns. It is not the accompliſhment of an human intellect, but is truly the gift of the Divine Mind. It is not unuſual indeed with God to liſten to the entreaties of his ſervants who love his precepts, even when they ſeem to be aſking impoſſibilities, as appears to have been his dealing with us, who have been permitted to perform what the powers of men had never before ſo much as bordered upon. For whatever may have been hinted in former times of the exiſtence of theſe iſlands, either in writing or in diſcourſe, it is certain that it was only by obſcure conjecture, and that no one ever aſſerted that he had ſeen them; and accordingly their exiſtence appeared merely fabulous. Let then our King and Queen, their Nobles, and all their happy realms, and indeed all the nations of Chriſtendom, return thanks to our Saviour the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, becauſe he has magnified us with ſo great bounty and victory: let ſolemn proceſſion and other holy offices be celebrated: and let the temples be veiled with feſtive boughs. Glory be henceforth to Chriſt on the earth, as there is glory in the Heavens, for he is advancing forth to bring ſalvation to the periſhing ſouls of the Heathen. Let us too rejoice, both on account of the exaltation of our Faith, and of the increaſe of our temporal advantages, in which not only Spain but all Chriſtendom will participate. This then is a ſhort narration of our performances. Farewell.—Liſbon, the day before the Ides of March.

Edinb. Review.

Colombo, Cristoforo.

Geographical Diffusion of Columbus's First Letter