

Article

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PROVIDENCES TOUCHING ISABELLA AND
COLUMBUS.

Introduction. The father of Isabella.

John the second, the father of Isabella, had been for years the king of Castile. After a long reign, with little honor, in those unpropitious times, when the authority of the sovereign was often disputed by powerful nobles and corrupt favorites, his life ended July 21st, 1454.

This significant remark is made of him by the historian: "Penetrated by remorse at the retrospect of his unprofitable life, and filled with melancholy presages of the future, the unhappy prince lamented to his faithful attendant, Cibdareal, on his death-bed, that 'he had not been born the

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son of a mechanic instead of king of Castile'".

This is sufficiently descriptive of the father of Isabella, who was the third child living to succeed him. Her mother, bearing the same name as herself, came from the royal family of Portugal. She was king John's second wife. It is difficult, indeed, to decipher the actual character of this woman of noble birth. But she has, in history, to bear the responsibility of having gained her crown, through the great constable of Spain, Alvaro de Luna, and then to have repudiated his further help, ^{probably} and crushed him.

Little by little she had turned the king, her husband, against him, and at the last, when, like Pilate of old, he sought

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to wash his hands of the crime of the constable's murder, she watchfully kept ^{the King} ~~him~~ from countermanding his orders, until the cruel execution of his favorite had been effected.

Prescott's remarks, *touching* this operation, betrays, I think, a doubtful mind, concerning this royal mother, when he says: "Had it not been for the superior constancy or vindictive temper of the queen, he, the king, would probably have yielded to the impulses of returning affection."

Providences of birth and mother's
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months old at the time of her father's death.

It seems remarkable, though by no means impossible, that the mother of Isabella ^{at one time} could have been a wicked woman. Whatever our conclusions, with reference to her conduct, and her temper at ^{that} ~~the~~ period of her life; we must remember that men and women change, especially so, under the influence of religion, where the Holy Spirit acts upon the conscience and the heart. The Jacob we first met, acting treacherously towards his brother, and falsely to his father, is not the Israel that prevailed with God at Bethel. Saul of Tarsus, witnessing the death scene of the noble Stephen, and hailing men and women to prison and to martyrdom, because they believed in

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Jesus, is not, ~~indeed~~, the same character as Paul the Apostle ^{to} the Gentiles. And surely this devoted mother, when with her little children she sought retirement in the ^{quiet} ~~little~~ town of Arevalo, in order to get away from the seductions and flattery, and the contentions and falsehood of a corrupt court; ^{also} in order [^] to bring up her children under natural and holy influences, that they might be properly educated, grandly developed, and established in character, before being called upon to meet the dreadful trials of life, which this mother could not fail to anticipate; certainly this mother is a far different woman from the gay and ^{Self-asserting} ~~character~~ character that might have befitted the Court of Portugal, or the ambitious, selfish and vindictive wife

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of the king of Castile.

The mother, perhaps, like so many others at the very hour of the birth of the child, when she went down into the dark valley and shadow of death, ^{Hagar-like} [REDACTED] looked up and cried to Him, who is the father of the fatherless, and the comforter of the distressed. She, doubtless, then, or at some time near that period, gave her heart to the Lord; so that she could, as she certainly did, carefully instruct her children, "in those lessons of practical piety, and in the deep reverence for religion, which distinguished Isabella's maturer years."

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But, where are the Providences ? We must remember that royalty was not yet

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effete, and that there was something strong and nutritious in royal blood. The inheritance of this child of generations of development, of education, of all the refinement that there was; of high purposes and lofty ambition, were hers, by birth-right. Her career could not have been foreseen, except by a prophesy. There were many obstacles between herself and the throne; and the mother could hardly have had a suspicion that the third child, by any natural processes, could ever reach that exalted station, - unless the Lord, who had been leading her out of the turbulence of sin into the quiet paths of peace, had been whispering to her some of the presages and promises of the future.

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abella's ^{weak} ~~weak~~ and vascilating father, who might have sold her to some favorite Prince, at the price of that Prince's estates. Still, her half-brother, Henry, - was little, if any, better. He succeeded his father to the throne of Castile; and, indeed, exceeded his parent in the commission of sin. Yes, he was an easy-going, kindly man, at the first; and, fortunately, or Providentially, did not seek to bring Isabella to Court until she was ^{almost} ~~already~~ a woman, and one, ~~then but sixteen~~, of a very determined purpose; and, perhaps, through her mother, already of a wonderful political bias.

Providence of afflictive

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Several marriages were planned for her, each one with a view to accomplishing some

political end. The ^{worst} offered her was, indeed, the most remarkable. She resisted all efforts of her brother to bring about any marriage, without her consent. She had hitherto resisted successfully; claiming that the Infantas of the kingdom could not be wedded without the formal consent of the nobles of the realm. Fortunately this was the recognized fact; and the nobles in Castile, Aragon and thereabout, were sufficiently powerful to prevent even the king from accomplishing ^{such} selfish purposes. But, as I have said, at last the corrupt Henry negotiated a marriage of his sister Isabella with the brother of the Marquis of Vilena. His name was Don Pedro Giron. He was the great-master of ^a half military and half religious order

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of Calatrava; corrupt as ~~he~~ could be, even eminent, in that household of corrupt royalty, for his licentiousness; yet, strange to say, he was bound by the oath of celibacy.

In order to marry Isabella, ^{to Giron} through the solicitation of himself and his powerful alies, ^{at last} the Pope had relieved him from his oath and obligation.

Here is the strange record: "That with this person, then so inferior to her in birth, and so much more unworthy of her in every other point of view, -Isabella was now to be united. On receiving the intelligence, she confined herself to her apartment, abstaining from all nourishment and sleep for a day and night; and imploring Heaven, in the most piteous manner, to save her from this dishonor, by her own

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death, or that of her enemy." A lady friend of high rank, cried out : "God will not permit it! Neither will I." Thereupon, this friend, showed a ^{dagger} [redacted] which she had concealed. This, she solemnly [redacted] vowed to plunge into the heart of the master of Calatrava, as soon as he appeared.

Don Pedro Giron, having received his ^{coveted} dispensation from the Pope, and having resigned ^{the} [redacted] offices of rank in ^{his} [redacted] order, and made magnificent preparations for a grand wedding, which he ^{felt} [redacted] sure would soon come to pass. He had actually started out upon the journey from his residence to the City of Madrid, with an escort of friends and men-at-arms, -which would befit the bridegroom of a royal mistress.

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first evening after he left Almagro, at a little village called Villa-rubia, - he became deathly sick. Four days after the attack, ~~which~~ ^{which had} all the severity of our recent Asiatic Cholera, - he perished. It is said that he died cursing his fate; that he could not have been spared just a few weeks longer; that he might accomplish the fell desires of a wicked heart.

The Scripture problem in this man's case was speedily fulfilled : "He sowed to the wind, and he reaped the whirlwind," and the beautiful bride of promise was saved ^{from the degradation} without a shadow being cast upon her own fair fame.

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PROVIDENCES AMID BATTLE AND DISASTER.

The sudden cloud which had hovered darkly over Isabella, the Lord dissolved; but that which hung over her unfortunate country waxed heavier than ever. There was no hope left to terminate the conflict otherwise than by arms. The troops of Henry met those of the young Alfonso^{his brother} at Olmedo, where Juan the second, had ^{before} seen his subjects arrayed against him.

Here could be seen that indomitable prelate, the arch-bishop of Toledo; a scarlet mantel with a white cross thrown over his armor, leading his battalions into the fray, and repeatedly re-forming their broken lines. By his side rode young Alfonso, armed cap a pie, playing as best he could his little part in the bloody drama. The king, believing himself beaten, like Fred-

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eric the Great, at his first battle, fled. Both parties fought with extreme determination, and ~~the battle was a drawn one~~, when the darkness put an end to the fighting, it was ^{merely} a drawn battle.

The battle was not renewed; both armies, one under a child, the other under an imbecil, gave themselves up to all the ^{unholy} delights of ^{unbridled} revelry and license. In vain for months ^{functionaries of} ~~the~~ the church tried to intervene. The confederated rebels declared they would depose their king, if they liked, and had a right to do so, and that their affairs lay entirely outside the jurisdiction of the Holy See.

It seemed as if the people of Castile were bent upon self-^{all classes of} ~~destruction~~ ^{destruction}, yea, annihilation. District fought against district, street against street; ~~the~~ members of

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the same family met in a hundred provincial frays; not a highway was safe in full daylight, and fighting prevailed near the gates of the cities.

The Holy Brotherhood, or Santa Hermandad, a militia police maintained by the cities of Castile, in order to defend themselves and their rights in such times as these, tried in vain to interfere. They were successful in some instances, but woefully resisted in others, and their failures made the darkness of the times still darker, and gave new courage to the savage elements.

In the midst of this chaos, an event happened which was felt to mark the end of at least one act of that horrible drama.
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He died on the 5th of July, 1468, at a where a short time before he had been crowned village near Avila.

THE TREATY OF TOROS DE GUI SANDO.--
PROVIDENTIAL.

The death of Alfonso disconcerted entirely all the plans of the confederacy. All eyes were now turned toward Isabella. She had remained at her older brother's court for sometime, and when the troops of her younger brother, Alfonso, occupied Segovia, after the battle of Almedo, she had fled to him, glad to leave that most dissolute court ^{which} ~~that~~ Spain had ever seen.

Now the archbishop of Toledo came to her at the time in a nunnery of Avila, where ^{safety,} she had retired. She was only seventeen, and a woman, yet strong men like the archbishop, believed that she could ^{now} ~~be~~ ^{in her decisions} ~~be~~ their chief. There appeared for the first time on a great occasion, that wisdom which was

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17.
In four clear-cut averments,
her distinctive characteristic. She answered the arch-bishop; that she would not lead a mere faction in civil war; enough Castilian blood had been ^{already} shed; her brother Henry, was the rightful king; she would mediate between him and his subjects and restore peace.

Astonished by so much good sense and determination in one so young, the leading barons, at last, reluctantly accepted her mediation. To make peace with Henry was at no time difficult. The articles of peace were: amnesty, the queen ^{his wife} to be sent back to Portugal; ~~I~~sabella herself to be princess of the Asturias, the Asturian being, in a political respect, like the Wales of England; a cortes to be convened in order to reform abuses, and confirm the title of the Infanta. It was also stipu-

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lated that Isabella, the heir of Castile and Leon, should ^{never} ~~not~~ be constrained to marry anybody against her wishes, and yet that ^{if she married} she should ^{have} ~~the consent~~ the consent of her brother.

An interview took place between brother and sister, at Toros de Guisando, in New Castile. The king embraced his generous sister with apparent affection; the nobles present took an oath of allegiance to her, and kissed her hand. All these preliminaries were soon approved by the cortes ^{now} ~~the~~ assembled at Ocaña.

PROVIDENCE IN THE WOOING.---

Isabella, now the recognized heir of the crown, entered into a new period of her life which was characterized by wooings and matrimonial combinations. One of her wooers was the duke of Guienne, the brother of the French king, Louis XI; an-

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other, her own cousin, Ferdinand of Aragon.

At the first glance it must appear ^{in Ferdinand's case} that nothing could be more advantageous for the two neighboring kingdoms, comparatively insignificant by separation, than to coalesce by this great matrimonial opportunity, and form a powerful domain. Isabella's sound intelligence certainly perceived that. Moreover her cousin was ^{conciliating} young, vigorous, handsome and of most ^{very} ~~good~~ address. This ^{very} Ferdinand, the firm, sensible, and, as far as that cousin was concerned, tender maid, ^{had} resolved to marry and no other.

But there were other interests awake which tried to assert themselves, and to force upon her another husband. It did

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But there were other interests awake

which tried to assert themselves, and to

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not suit the marquis of Villena that Aragon should reign in Castile. He, therefore, concocted another scheme, and, as a matter of course, ^{if early enough in the field} obtained the poor king's sanction. This scheme consisted in a marriage-alliance between Isabella and the old King of Portugal on the one side, and the Infanta, Juana, ^{to} the old king's son on the other. This was not the first time that ^{the aged} Alfonso of Portugal had been offered to Isabella's acceptance. As a child of thirteen years already she had refused him, declaring with a spirit which announced ^{even then} the superior woman, that the Infantas of Spain could not be married without the consent of the cortes. This time again she refused. Villena and his king ^{in their anger} would have used violence; but the citizens of Océana, where the princess resided, would

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have made short work with any force sent to seize her person. The whole nation had somehow taken a passionate interest in her affairs at that time. Grave Castile was as full of songs as Paris in cheery days. The old Portugal king, who had sent the arch-bishop of Lisbon to do his wooing, ^{for him} was ridiculed with all the fun that the nation could circulate; the young prince of Aragon was praised and congratulated, as if he had been the idol of the whole people.

Isabella had engaged herself by the treaty of Toros de Guisando not to marry without the consent of her brother. But he also had taken the pledge not to compel her to any union. This article, and many others, that brother had ^{wilfully} broken; and ^{so} she found herself in consequence, released

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as if he had been the idol of the whole
people.

Isabella had engaged herself by the
treaty of Toros de Gussando not to marry
without the consent of her brother. But
he also had taken the pledge not to compel
her to any union. This article, and many
others, that brother had broken; and she
found herself in consequence, released

from her own obligations. She thereupon ^{strongly} resolved to accept the suit of her cousin of Aragon.

PROVIDENCE IN THE MARRIAGE.

At that time ^{the people} all around the Infanta ^{were} ~~undoubtedly~~ under the influence of secret aragonesse persuasion. Ferdinand's father was not content to let things take their own course. In the eyes of this shrewd politician the union of the two crowns was too important a matter to be left to ^{uncertainties} ~~the~~.

Isabella, prudent and considerate as usual, took secretly the advice of her nobility, which was the same as ^{the voice} ~~the~~ of the populace. ^{under such pressure} The articles of marriage were ^{being done} soon signed and sworn to by Ferdinand; on the seventh of January, 1471, at Cervera, in Catalonia. He promised respect for the laws and customs of Castile; to alienate no crown property; to make no appointments,

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in Catalonia. He promised respect for the
laws and customs of Castile; to allocate
no crown property; to make no appointments

whether civil or military, without her consent and approbation; to leave to her exclusively the nomination to all ecclesiastical benefices; to fix his residence in Castile, and never to leave the kingdom without his wife's consent. All public ordinances had to be signed by both consorts. He was to prosecute the war against the Moors. The same treaty settled upon Isabella a dower superior to any ever received by a queen of Aragon.

But all these proceedings had been ^{all along} faithfully reported to the enemy, Villena, ^{that sweet little piece} In vain had Isabella gone to Madrigal to spend the days of her marriage negotiations under the protection of her mother. This move itself had been foreseen by her wily enemy. When she arrived in Madrigal she

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found another hostile spirit, the bishop of Burgos the nephew of the marquis, established there as a spy upon all her movements. All her surroundings were bought up by the enemy. Her attendants, male and female, made their reports to the bishop; not a soul among them in whom she could trust. This was another kind of bishop from our mitred-captain of the Almedo-battle.

The spy soon had to communicate the most alarming news, viz, the certainty of the betrothal, and Villena understood that the time had come to play his last card. He resolved upon getting ~~Isabella~~ into his possession by force. For that service another bishop was detailed, with a sufficient guard, and it was this time the arch-bishop of Sevilla. Fortunately for Isabella's warning, the arrival of this troop was preceded by a letter from King Henry himself to his loyal burghers of

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Madrigal, menancing them with his royal displeasure if they were bold enough to defend his sister Isabella against him.

however,

These good people [^]came straight to her, and tremblingly explained their perplexity, agonized as they were between their love for her, and their fear of the king.

But Isabella had her own bishop, who hitherto had never failed her, either in counsel or in deed. She contrived to let him know her desperate situation, and also ^{informed} ~~the~~ the admiral of Castile, Henriquez. The prelate rapidly collected a body of horse, and reinforced by the troops of the admiral, he reached Madrigal before Villena's bishop had come, and, before the dismayed eyes of ^{Bishop} Burgos, he bore his royal charge away, amidst the joyous shouts of the pop-

inches 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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ulation of Madrigal. The happy cavalcade soon made their entrance into Valladolid, where they and their royal charge were received with an indescribable enthusiasm.

Meanwhile envoys had been sent to the young Ferdinand, who was at the time in Saragossa, to let him know how critical was the out-look, and how necessary his presence. At the news brought by the envoys, the old king, ^{John,} ~~was~~ was exceedingly perplexed. He was making war against the rebellious Catalans, and not a very successful one either; he could not spare a man. Moreover he had but a trifling sum of money, and indeed was menaced with multiplied desertions from his army. To send any troops with his son was to give ^{own vital} up his enterprises. Yet, could he send him

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unprotected to Castile? The envoys had hardly been able to slip over the frontier, which they had found guarded by a churchman of Osma, (another bishop,) whom they had believed a friend; but one who had been ^{loyalty} bribed by Villena, and by the duke of Medina ~~Coeli~~. The country to be traversed was ^{strictly} patrolled by Henry's royal troops to prevent just such a trip as that which the young prince was requested to undertake; a line of forts belonging to the hostile family of Mendoza studded the frontier.

Ferdinand finally put an end to all uncertainty by declaring himself ready to cross the frontier ⁱⁿ disguise, with a small escort. This ^{Prince} ~~man~~, who showed himself afterwards the shrewdest politician of his age, began his ^{checkered} career by a ^{hairbreadth} love adventure;

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 love with ^{then} him ^{prospectively} even as much political as
 conjugal.

With a few companions, apparently merchants, he stole into the neighboring kingdom. Wherever the party stopped, the prince, in the garb of a menial, served them at table, behaving, for all the world, like our ^{ancestor} English Alfred; and as he was young, probably thought sometimes that the ^{mere} fun of the escapade ~~was~~ was worth half the kingdom of Castile. While this eccentric company was thus speeding from Sarago~~sa~~ to the next Castilian town, where a sympathetic garrison was to meet them, a showy embassy from the king of Aragon traversed the frontier at another point, with all the noise and circumstance of a

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Royal cavalcade, and attracted upon itself the undivided attention of the bishop of Osma, and the entire patrol of the frontier.

In spite of this powerful diversion, and of their own superb acting, (for it was the by-play of courtiers, and the salary was a kingdom,) the party seem to have been ^{at times} not a little nervous; for they left all their precious money in an inn where they had tarried on the road. Late on the second night, with that triumphant exultation which every human being must have experienced at least once in his life, when, after doubt and labor, and occasional despair, he heaves a sigh at the sight of the goal he has at last reached, they stood before the battlements of Burgo, a

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the goal he has at last reached, they
stood before the battlements of Burgos, a

little town whose garrison was then commanded by the count of Treviño, one of the most reliable of Isabella's friends.

While they stood shivering before those battlements preparing to demand an entrance ^{missile} ~~stone~~, a ~~stone~~ grazed our political Romeo's head, a stone which came very near dividing Castile from Aragon forever; it had been fired from the battlements by one of the sentinels, who, not knowing what to ^{make} do ^{of} with this nocturnal party, informed them of his doubts in this martial style.

Ferdinand

But soon ~~the~~ prince was recognized, and the garrison received him with an enthusiasm which rewarded them all for their fatigues, and their more prolific fears.

But that little town became no Capua for Ferdinand; for, before dawn, he was on

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But that little town became no Capua
for Ferdinand; for, before dawn, he was on

his way again, this time under a strong escort, and did not stop until he had reached Dueñas, in the Kingdom of Leon, where he was received with joyful demonstrations by nearly the entire nobility.

remained

But Isabella's little court ~~was~~ at Valladolid, ^{which city is} ~~not~~ not far from Dueñas. It is ^{developed} easy to imagine the happy feeling there at the news of the young wooers' arrival.

How does a merchant feel when a ship laden ⁿ with goods, the best part of his fortune, after stormy weeks, almost despaired of, suddenly reaches ~~the~~ port?

Isabella at once wrote to her brother; she always did ^{promptly} what was discretely becoming. She informed him of the presence of Ferdinand, of her intention to marry him; demonstrated that the wretched secrecy of

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all that had been done, was none of ^{her doing} her fault; and promised, in her name and that of her future spouse, perfect respect and allegiance to her king ^{and brother}.

On the fifteenth of October, Ferdinand came to Valladolid, and the arch-bishop of Toledo, whom it is pleasant to see ⁱⁿ ~~playing~~ ^{that which} a different part from ~~he~~ he played at Almedo, introduced the young prince to his charming mistress. He was only eighteen, very handsome, with a cheerful, easily-smiling face, a pleasant voice and con-
~~descending~~ ^{descending} manners. She was a year his senior. Her type was a rare one among those dark-haired, olive complexioned spanish ladies; as if nature herself had put upon her a stamp of peculiar excellence, she shone ^{a beautiful blonde with dark} ~~eyes~~ eyes, and

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 ce, she shone ~~with~~ eyes, and

~~light~~ chestnut hair, intermingling ~~in~~ tinges of red; She had its usual accompaniment, a clear complexion. Kindness and intelligence, quiet resolution and thoughtful sympathy were the natural expression of those exceptional eyes. She had a commanding presence, being above the middle height. The historians of her country speak of her almost, as in later times, people have spoken of Mary, queen of Scots. But what a difference between the busy, intelligent, fruitful and unblemished ^{personal} life of the one, and the light, sensuous, ill-starred, tempest-tossed existence of the other. Let us add only that Isabella was thoroughly educated. She spoke the Castilian language with peculiar correctness and grace, and even expressed herself easily in the Latin tongue.

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on approach

There was [^]noticeable in her demeanor
 a modest dignity, which announced her at
 the same time a true woman and a ^{veritable} queen.

After an interview, which lasted more
 than two hours, the young Ferdinand re-
 turned to Dueñas as quietly as he had come.
 The preliminaries ^{To his hopes} had been agreed upon,
 and the marriage itself took place on the
 nineteenth of October, at the temporary
 residence of the princess, the palace of
 Juan de Vivero. No less than two thousand
 persons attended the ceremony, the first
 witnesses of all were the ^{war-like} ~~arch~~ arch-
 bishop and the ^{before-mentioned} admiral of Castile, Ferdi-
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34.
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Here note a curious circumstance, which
more than many other instances, may show

how different those times were from our own.

In order that the marriage of those two should be recognized by the church "a dispensation" was necessary, as they were within the prohibited range of consanguinity. Isabella was well known and sufficiently appreciated by this time, and to think that she would ever marry, under any circumstances, against the canons of the universal church, could never enter anybody's head. The ship was going to founder just in sight of the harbor. Amid speech of ~~months~~^{months present}, and letters interchanged, there were many anxious consultations about this arduous and most perplexing matter, between the wily father, his son, Ferdinand, and that always, and in everything, reliable arch-bishop of Toledo.

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But why not ask the Pope for ~~the~~ ^a bull? First, these young people were clearly in a hurry; secondly, the Pope was expressly on the side of King Henry. Better not ask him, but forge the bull, thought the bishop, whom no difficulty, whether of a ^{maternal} martial or spiritual nature, ever daunted. But what would happen when the princess should learn at the last, that she had been married in contravention of the canons of the church? But the bishop had too many present cares to trouble about future ones; sufficient for the day ^{were} ~~the~~ the evils thereof. ^{boldly} ~~He~~ [^] forged the necessary paper. When Isabella afterwards knew of these edifying proceedings, she was much displeased; yes, very sore at heart, even when the genuine bull from a succeeding Pope had come to put all things to rights.

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The married pair now hastened to inform King Henry of all that had happened, ~~with~~ ^{accompanied by} the same promises and protestations as before, entreating his approbation.

The king, chilled by his defeat, answered, ^{and coolly} dryly, that he would advise with his ministers. it was a characteristic answer. He had advised under other circumstances, when it might have been to his advantage to act. But, in this case, there was little harm done by his advising with his ministers. The marriage, so auspicious to the future glory of the two kingdoms of Castile and Aragon, was already an accomplished fact.

+ + + + +
I PASS ON TO COLUMBUS!

It is worth while to make an effort to understand the state of the queen's mind

inches 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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It is worth while to make an effort to
understand the state of the queen's mind

in that moment when she firmly resolved that the great voyage of Columbus should be made. Up to that time the request made by this man, a stranger, an adventurer, had been a matter of business, like a hundred others that were daily brought under her cognizance.

A voyage to be undertaken! There were many of which she knew, sometimes bringing small results, sometimes none. The great expedition of Vasco de Gama around the Cape of Good Hope, was exceptional. The results of that voyage, it is true, had been immense; never had there been anything like it in the whole history of navigation; but there was thereafter a kind of public feeling that never would there be anything like it again. She probably had never connected the propositions of

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the Genoes~~s~~ with anything particularly great. The rulers of men have to think of so many things! But now, suddenly, the dead issue, which so often had been debated by her counselors in her presence, while perhaps she was thinking of some ~~preference~~ ^{departed} ~~to grant or withhold~~, that forgotten issue suddenly took living form. Twenty times or more, in the past, it had grazed her thoughts; now, all at once it took possession of them never to lose its grasp. The small scope in which her mind had seen the idea, expanded and became immense. The possibility of discovering a world! Yes, she understood well that it was only a possibility; but what a grand, momentous possibility!

Millions of children plunged in heathen
 darkness brought into the lap of the church
 by the daughter of Portugal! And then,
 to crown all, the Holy Sepulchre to be
 wrenched from the Turks, through the treas-
 ure^{es} sure to be found in those strange
 countries! And all ^{was promised} that was more than
 a possibility. She remembered now distinct-
 ly what she had heard in favour of the ^{proposed} ~~the~~
 enterprise. At the moment when her strong
 and generous mind, had thus come ⁱⁿ to poss-
 session of the true nature of what was ^{urged} ~~urged~~
~~urged~~, her resolution ~~urged~~ like an inspiration
 was instantaneous. Such things seen in
 vision she could not afford to neglect. ^{for}
 a woman like her to abstain, when such
 things could be done, would be a crime.
 Great ideas impose themselves imperiously

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as duties upon great minds. She had taken advice before, when the idea had been a stranger; now the idea had become her own, and she took no further advice. All at once she bethought herself of Ferdinand's coolness, which she had observed with regard to the project. But that made her pause only for a moment. She had her own life to live, and such a clear-sighted woman could not have failed to see that Ferdinand had an inferior nature. She had always hitherto maintained her mental independence; and, if ever, ^{at all} she must do so now. But there was another greater hindrance, the everlasting ubiquitous difficulty of the political life of those times. She had no money. Well, she could pawn the jewels of the crown! Just as soon and just as long as anything, however unusual,

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She had no money. Well, she could pawn the
jewels of the crown! Just as soon and
just as long as anything, however unusual,

however strange, could be done to promote an enterprise which now appeared to her in the light of a holy duty, and to which her whole mind and heart were from this decisive moment given, that thing should be done.

This was Isabella's mental state when she suddenly, after one interview with San Angel, gave her royal word that the voyage should take place, ^{she at once} and became the active ^{heroic} protector and friend of that singular man who had, now in hope, and now almost in despair, followed the court for seven years in vain. "I undertake the enterprise for my own crown of Castile, Isabella cried, and will pledge my jewels to raise the necessary funds." Never had Isabel been so great; she was from that moment, as Washing-

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should take place, and became the active
protector and friend of that singular man
who had, now in hope, and now almost in dis-
pair, followed the court for seven years in
vain. "I undertake the enterprise for my
own crown of Castile," Isabella cried, and
will pledge my jewels to raise the neces-
sary funds. "Never had Isabel been so
great; she was from that moment, as Washing-

ton Irving says; "the patroness of the discovery of the new world."

But San Angel ^{now} assured her that she need not pledge her jewels, for he, himself, would advance the necessary funds.

The unfaltering resolve of this glorious woman found willing aid. Every statue, every memorial, every new honor given to enhance the fame of Columbus, brings into bolder relief the true greatness of Isabella queen of Castile.

② [Chapter 20]

In almost every particular Isabella ^{reaches} ~~the~~ ~~ideal~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~queen~~. ~~Our~~ ^{reaches} ~~the~~ ~~ideal~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~queen~~. The calm of her nature, that quality which the ancients considered as characteristic of their gods endued her with a majesty greater than that which royalty ^{confers} ~~can~~ ~~be~~ ~~derived~~ ~~from~~ mere extraneous splendor. ^{Such quality cannot} ~~be~~ ~~derived~~ ~~from~~ ~~mere~~ ~~extraneous~~ ~~splendor~~. ^{come} The solitude of her youth, where the new

43

ton Irving says; "the patroness of the

discovery of the new world."

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not pledge her jewels, for he, himself,

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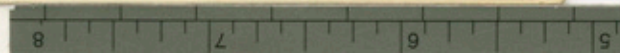
considered as characteristic of their gods

endued her with a majesty greater than

that which royalty can give from mere

extraneous splendor. But quality cannot

be taught. The solitude of her youth, where the new



„the second birth
 birth, doubtless came, had been a soil from
 which virtues had sprung; beginning early
 she went through many tribulations; and only
 in one case is it recorded that her equani-
 mity failed her. The clearness of her
 mental vision astonished her counsellors;
 no question arose that she could not ^{seize upon} ~~see~~
 and weigh in all its bearings. Her good
 sense or natural wisdom, never was duped
 by the most brilliant gifts offered, ~~by the~~
~~by the~~; once she declined even the crown
 of Castile, and posterity knows that she
 did well ^{then} to do so. Anything mean was re-
 pugnant to this great soul; when she was
 advised to obtain money, most necessary
 money, by means often employed by her pre-
 decessors, yet contrary to her sense of
 justice, though Ferdinand would have gladly

44

"The second birth"

birth doubtless came, had been a self from

which virtues had sprung, beginning early

she went through many tribulations; and only

in one case is it recorded that her spirit

may failed her. The clearness of her

mental vision astonished her counselors;

no question arose that she could not

and weigh in all its bearings. Her good

sense or natural wisdom, never was duped

by the most brilliant gifts offered,

once she declined even the crown

of Castile, and posterity knows that she

did well to do so. Anything mean was re-

frugant to this great soul; when she was

advised to obtain money, most necessary

money, by means often employed by her pre-

decessors, yet contrary to her sense of

justice, though Ferdinand would have gladly

45.

followed the advice, she frowned the ex-
peditious out of sight, in a moment. Her
constancy and endurance were wonderful. It
is undoubtedly true that during the Moorish
war, she did more work than ^{her} husband, and
that the sieges of Granada would have been
abandoned, ^{but for her of Granada and later}
understanding of the responsibilities of a
sovereign was such as only the greatest of
kings have possessed. Her courage was un-
der all circumstances, unflinching. History
records a circumstance, when, thinking her
presence necessary, she appeared suddenly and
almost alone among infuriated crowds, and
settled the pending quarrel, without ^{favor} or
favor. Her moderation was that of a noble
masculine nature; she desired victory, not
vengeance. The purity of ^{the purity of the court} ^{of King Henry}, was the

of King Henry, was the

46.

pride and perpetual delight of every true Spanish heart. Never was there a case when a counselor could ^{seasonably} smile at her opinion, never an occasion when a Spaniard doubted her word, and never an instance when a breath of scandal touched her fair fame.

But after this deserved tribute

[^] There is, unfortunately to her history, a sombre side; it is that of the ^{undoubted} ~~fact~~ bigotry, which ~~she~~ ^{apologists say she} imbibed from the lessons of her mother and her church. But there is probably in every

man something that belongs to him, and some thing that belongs to his age, or to the *still* circumstance in which he was born. She

allowed the inquisition to be introduced *and favored it. And* into her kingdom. She, like Russia of *The black pall of these wrongs darkens all Spain!* to-day, expelled the Jews. How could that *ordinarily so clear* ~~large~~ ^{large} ~~mind~~ ^{mind} so clouded?

Here was the fallacious bias!

[^] She had been taught from her childhood that

46.

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But after this character sketch

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to-day, expelled the Jews. How could that

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large ~~mind~~ so clouded?

There was the false view!

She had been taught from her childhood that

*that branch
of
the* *47* *Great hierarchy of Rome*
whosoever did not believe in ~~was~~
~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~with~~ a heretic, was allied to the
evil-one himself; and ~~is it~~ not our duty
to hate the evil one? A heretic to her
was hardly a human being; and such feelings
as love, friendship, pity, could not apply
to him; nay, applied to him they were un-
natural feelings, ^{unless he recanted} ~~to be suppressed~~ ^{feelings} they were
crimes. When Jerome of Prague was burn-
ed by the Council of Constance, he saw a
poor old woman approach the stake with a
sheet full of wood, to add to the heap!

"Sancta Simplicitas, ["] holy simplicity, ["] said
the martyr with his dying smile. And we,
also, may say in speaking of Isabella's
abnormal bigotry ^{concerning heresy} as we would of the slayers
of the Salem witches, Sancta Simplicitas!
^{But} ^{Let us say this in abeyance.}
Holy simplicity! [^] In their times Wash-
ington and Taylor could hold slaves; but

thank God, in our times, Lincoln and Grant
could free them.

the 15th century E4ternal
In ~~the~~ Isabella, for the sake of an ~~church~~ ^{church}

~~unity~~, could allow and favor
~~Holy~~ ^{Holy} officer, ~~the~~ ^{the} terrible
the ~~horrid~~ inquisition; but thanks be to

God an advanced understanding of the teach-
ings of Jesus gives to the kindred soul
of a Castelar, a juster idea of what is
best for the spread of true religion, and

what is needful for the advancement of the
Spanish people. *May a complete deliverance*

from the thralldom of bigotry & superstition

As Abraham Lincoln once said about a

General of his after Gettysburg. While

we are deeply ~~grateful~~ ^{grateful} for what was done,

let us not be hypercritical as to the rest.

I dare to assert that

No woman with Isabella's great soul would

whom God loves
to-day hate any man for whom Christ died.

Soon be consummated in beautiful Spain!

these words will

48

Thank God, in our times, Lincoln and Grant

could free them. External

In the century, for the sake of our

could allow and favor

the indignation; but thanks be to

God an advanced understanding of the teach-

ings of Jesus gives to the kindred soul

of a Caesar, a juster idea of what is

best for the spread of true religion, and

what is needed for the advancement of the

Spanish people. Many a noble

As Abraham Lincoln once said about a

General of his after Gettysburg. While

we are deeply grateful for what was done,

let us not be hypocritical as to the rest.

No woman with Isabella's great soul would

to-day hate any man for whom Christ died.

It is a noble and beautiful thing to be so generous in spirit.

So we are encouraged in spirit!