

# COLUMBIAN REPOSITORY.

HUGH McQUEEN, Editor.

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## TERMS.

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From Random Recollection of the H. of Lords.  
**LORD BROUGHAM.**

Those who have been in the House any time, and paid ordinary attention to what is passing around them, it is no difficult matter to anticipate the time or occasion on which Lord Brougham will rise to address their Lordships. If any pointed allusion be made to him by any Peer on the opposite side, and he have not already addressed the House, you may rest assured that the noble and learned Lord will get up the moment the Peer who is speaking has resumed his seat; for though no man is more frequent or fierce in attacks on others than his Lordship, he is one of the most sensitive persons I ever knew to the attacks made on himself, and he is perfectly miserable until he has returned the blow with tenfold force on his hapless adversary. On other occasions you may tell with unerring certainty when Lord Brougham is about to speak. When anxious to address their Lordships himself, he gives the most manifest signs of impatience for the conclusion of the speech which some other noble Lord is delivering at the time.—When, to use a homely but expressive term, you see him filigetting, while some Peer on the opposite side is speaking, no matter whether or not any allusion has been made to him—the odds are two to one that he rises when the other sits down. If you see him sitting with one leg over the other, and his face to the bar instead of to the Woolsack,—the presumption increases one hundred per cent. that he is the next person to address their Lordships; but if, in addition to these symptoms of his mind labouring with some tumultuous emotions of which he is anxious to rid himself, you see his head droop as if his face were half buried in his breast, and observe him give a hasty scratch at the back of his head, accompanied with two or three twitches of his nose; if, on any occasion you observe all this, while an Opposition Peer is speaking—and you will not observe it on any other—you may rely on his Lordship's succeeding the present speaker with as much confidence as you repose in the rising of to-morrow's sun.

When Lord Brougham rises to speak, the stranger is so forcibly struck with his singular personal appearance, as to be altogether inattentive to the first few sentences of his speech. His lofty forehead—his dark complexion—his prominent nose—the piercing glare of his rolling eye—the scowl of his brow—the harshness of his features generally—the unsprightly condition of his dark grey hair, and his attenuated appearance altogether—cannot fail in the first instance to attract the eye, and arrest the attention, to the exclusion of any thought about what he is saying. This is to a certain extent the case, whatever be the model of mind in which he rises. But when he gets up to repel a personal attack, or under feelings of strong party excitement—and few men feel more strongly on party questions—there is an abruptness and energy in his manner, which contrast so strongly with the conduct of other Peers, that the stranger feels for a few moments quite confounded.

When Lord Brougham rises to make a long speech on any important question, without having been called up in consequence of allusions made to himself, or under the influence of unusually strong party feelings, he invariably commences in a comparatively low and subdued tone. On such occasions he lays down general principles, the immediate bearing of which on the question before their Lordships it is difficult to perceive. As, however, he proceeds, you gradually begin to see the object which the noble Lord is aiming at, and also to perceive the forcible application of the principles he has laid down to that object. As he begins to apply these principles to the question before the House, their singularly forcible bearing on the view of the question which he takes, flashes so vividly on your mind, that you are no less surprised at your own obtuseness in not having before perceived it, than you are struck with the splendid talents of the man who has thus with the greatest manifest ease to himself, been pressing into his service the universally admitted dictates of morality—the most obvious maxims of a sound philosophy—and the great truths on which the Constitution of the country is based. All his preliminary considerations and general principles are, as it were, at last concentrated into a focus, and brought to bear on the question before the House with a perfectly overwhelming force. And when he has thus reached the marrow of his subject, you see a visible difference in his manner of speaking; his energy and animation increase; he speaks with greater rapidity, and his action becomes much more violent.

"It is only on a great political question, and one on which he feels very strongly, that Lord Brougham is to be heard to any advantage. Those who have heard him for the first time on such a subject as the repeal of the newspaper duties,—or on a proposed reform in the administration of the laws, &c.—go away wondering what people see in him to admire. On such occasions he reasons well, displays extensive information, considerable thinking powers, and an eloquent and energetic style; but they can see nothing either in his matter or in his manner to entitle him to the reputation of the most effective speaker of the age. It is otherwise when he rises to repel a personal attack, or to speak on any question of party politics. On such occasions you see in his very countenance the consciousness of superior powers. His knit brow, his piercing eyes, the air of supreme scorn towards those who differ from him, which his whole aspect exhibits,—concur with the sentiments to which he gives expression to show you that his whole soul is thrown into his speech. It is then, and only then, that you witness any real display of his amazing power. He then stands forth an intellectual gladiator, fighting not with one or two opponents only, but with every Peer of any weight who has taken a different view of the subject from himself. He is often called to order for violating the rules of the House; but this only aggravates the evil it was intended to remedy. The more he is interrupted in his attacks on an opponent, the more furious in his manner and the less measured in his language does he become. He is not only not to be put down, however general and decided the feeling of the House, may be against the course he is pursuing, but he will not be diverted from his resolution of inflicting the full measure of intended severity on his victim by any means which he chooses to adopt. So long as he is interrupted only by particular Peers, he confines his furious attack to the opponent against whom he was directing his withering sarcasms, and on whom he was heaping his ridicule, at the time of the interruption,—except during the few moments he may step out of his way to apply the lash to those who have called him to order; but when the cry of 'Order' has become general, and the confusion so great as to drown his voice, he suddenly pauses until the confusion has subsided, and then pours forth the overflowing phials of his wrath against the Opposition generally. The most striking instance I have witnessed of this occurred last session, in the course of the debates on the Municipal Corporation Bill. On that occasion, because some slight interruption was offered to him, he became violent in an extraordinary degree, even for himself, and told their Lordships in terms which did not admit of two constructions, that they were a mob.

"He can, however, be, and often is, refined in his sarcasms, when speaking on topics on which he does not feel strongly. On such occasions I have often seen him display a rich vein of quiet humour, which could not fail to tell with effect on an audience like the House of Lords, and which often produces general laughter. He himself, however, is hardly ever seen to indulge in a smile. "In Lord Brougham's angrier moods there is something terrible even in his looks and manner. His eye, as already mentioned, flashes with indignation, his lip curls, his brow has a lowering aspect, and the tones of his voice and the violence of his gesture, have something in them which, altogether irrespective of what he says, cannot fail to make an adversary quail before him. And this indignation is not artificial or assumed, like the zeal an advocate manifests for his client, and the indignation with which he denounces the conduct of the opposite party. In Lord Brougham, as already mentioned, it is as real as it is violent. Like all violent feelings, however, it is only of transitory duration. The moment he has resumed his seat, often, indeed, as soon as he has given utterance to the last indignant expression, it passes away, and is no more thought of. In fact his dislikes are too suddenly conceived, as well as too violent, to be, in the nature of things, lasting.

"When the noble Lord rises to speak on a party question, it is impossible to guess from any one sentence what will follow. He makes every thing he says bear either directly or indirectly on the positions he seeks to establish; but he is so capricious in his choice of topics, and in his illustrations of those topics, that he lugs in matter which no other man would ever dream of in speaking on the subject before the House.

"One remarkable feature in his speeches is, the amazing extent of information they evince. "He is an eloquent speaker; but his eloquence has a character of its own. I know of nothing in ancient or modern oratory which can be said to resemble it. His sentences are usually of great length. It is nothing uncommon to see in his speeches, sentences which take more than a minute in the delivery. His style is consequently involved; but independently of the tendency of sentences of such extreme length to become involved, you will often see in one of their parenthesis within parenthesis.—These sentences are, however, so constructed, that one never fails to perceive his meaning. You are struck with his amazing command of language,—the more so, perhaps, from the original character of his diction, and the manifest ease with which he imparts that character to it. It is not fine or smooth; it is rough and rugged, and yet, generally speaking, it is perfectly correct of its kind. "He is a man of very hot and hasty temper. The least thing irritates him. I am not sure if, all circumstances considered, this infirmity of temper ought to be matter of regret to the public, whatever it may be to himself. It is certain that the most splendid of his oratorical efforts in both Houses of Parliament, have been made when under the dominion of the most angry feelings.—His presence of mind never, in such cases, forsakes him, while it gives him an acuteness of perception—however strange it may seem—and inspires him with a boldness and fervour of manner, which he never evinces when speaking in a more tranquil mood. I do not recollect to have ever seen him in what is called a greater passion, than on the evening, in the Session of 1834, when his Local Courts Jurisdiction Bill was thrown out. He knew when he entered the House, from the strong muster of Peers on the Opposition side, that its rejection was inevitable, though he had not before anticipated such a result.—Before rising to reply, he retired from the Woolsack for about ten minutes into one of the ante-rooms, to take some refreshment. His return was waited with a breathless silence. The quick step with which he re-entered the House, as well as the indignant piercing glances he darted along the Opposition benches; before he opened his mouth, indicated the turbulent passions which agitated his bosom. There was a universal impression that he was about to hurl his denunciations, with unusual force and fury, at the devoted heads of those who had taken the most active part in opposing the measure. The event proved the impression was not unfounded. So great was the passion into which he had worked himself, that before he had got through a third of his speech, he was literally foaming at the mouth. His castigation of Lord Wynford, who that evening headed the opposition, was terrible.—Every sentence he uttered seemed like a thunderbolt, hurled at the heads of those who opposed the bill. Lord Wynford bore his share with the most exemplary fortitude for a time; but at length his powers of patient endurance became exhausted, and literally writhing under the merciless severity of the Lord Chancellor, he rose from his seat, difficult as it was for him to stand, and called aloud with great warmth of feeling, for the enforcement of the fifteenth standing order of the House. And yet, notwithstanding the violently excited feelings under which Lord Brougham spoke on this occasion, I do not, as already stated, recollect to have witnessed a more splendid display of his surprising powers of mind.

"It is in reply that the noble Lord appears to greatest advantage. In making a set speech, be the subject what it may, he is comparatively nothing. It is opposition or collision alone that can call his powers of mind into full action. His quickness in detecting the weak points of an adversary, is then as surprising as is the skill with which he unravels the most ingeniously spun webs of sophistry. It matters not how often he be interrupted; that, as I have before stated, never discomposes him in the slightest degree. If such interruptions be in the shape of any remark on what he is saying, his readiness and felicity in retorting never fail to astonish all who hear him. And he retorts with equal effect on all of them, should five or six, or more, noble Lords on the opposite side, interrupt him consecutively by one remark immediately following another. "The most trifling circumstance leads him into digressions. If he see, or fancy he sees, a smile playing on the face of a political opponent, he will suddenly abuse in the midst of his most eloquent passages, and launch his bold and bitter invectives at his head for his alleged want of manners; or it may be he will cover him with his ironical praise, which is quite as withering as his fiercest invective.

"I have spoken of the restlessness of his mind; it is a part of this restlessness to delight in collision. It would not be enough for him that his great powers were kept in constant exercise by co-operation with other persons; it is necessary to his enjoyment of existence that he come into collision with the minds of others. He ought never to be—and, were he to consult his own individual gratification, he never would be—on the side of the strongest party; opposition is the sphere in which Nature intended him always to move, and the stronger and more powerful the party opposed to him, the better for his own gratification; the more formidable the power with which he conflicts, the more strikingly does he display his transcendent talents, and the greater is his enjoyment of life. Other minds find happiness in repose; his only in the excitement and turmoil of battle. He bitterly regrets his having been transplanted to the Lords; in the Commons he found comfort in the repeated scenes of turbulence and uproar which the floor of that house exhibits; the gravity, and dignity, and quiet of the Upper House are a never-failing source of misery to him. "His moral courage is great; nothing can daunt him. In the House of Commons, in its unreformed days, he was as obnoxious as could be, to four-fifths of the members. Did this dishearten him? Not in the least. He spoke as boldly, and fought as resolutely, as if four-fifths had been with him. "It is the same in the Lords. He knows he is hated by the Opposition, and even by several Peers on his own side of politics, with an intensity which even Cobbet himself never surpassed in his enmities, bitter as they were. He knows that every thing he utters is thoroughly disliked, often as much because of the quarter whence it comes, as on its own account; yet he is not in the least disheartened. He sets to work as cordially and boldly as if he were the idol of their Lordships, and as if every thing which fell from him were music to their ears, and were greeted with the most cordial cheers.

"He never studies his speeches beforehand. This is evident from the allusions which he makes to every thing of importance which transpires in the House respecting the question before it. These allusions are not slight or few; but very often form the staple of his speeches. Yet, though an extempore speaker, he never betrays the least difficulty, or shows the slightest symptoms of being at a loss, as to how he should proceed. His mind is so fertile, his resources in argument, illustration, sarcasm, denunciation, invective, abuse, are so ample that the only difficulty he feels is, to select the best matter which presents itself, and to know when he ought to stop. The readiness and fertility of his mind, often lead him to overstep the side of the question which he espouses, with arguments and illustrations. He is never at a loss for words; they flow on him as copiously as his ideas; they seem to come, like Shakespeare's spirits, from the vast deep,—without being called.

"But though the noble Lord does not prepare his speeches beforehand, he does on some great and particular occasions carefully study some parts of them. "His voice possesses great flexibility. In its more usual tones there is something approaching to harshness; but in all his important speeches he varies it to such an extent as to touch on almost every conceivable key. In its lower tones it is soft and sweet, and often, when pitched on a higher key, it has much of its intonations. Few men have an equal command over their voice. He raises and lowers it at pleasure. In his more indignant moods it has uncommon power and compass, and admirably suits the bold, impetuous character of his manner and eloquence.

"His gesture is as varied as his voice. On ordinary subjects he is calm and gentle in his manner; but when he becomes excited—on which occasions, as before mentioned, he throws his whole soul into his speeches—his action becomes violent in no ordinary degree. "I have said that his speeches never cost him a mental effort; neither does the delivery seem to require any physical exertion. I never saw him, even after the longest and most energetically delivered speeches, exhibiting symptoms of exhaustion; I have seen him sit down after the delivery of speeches which occupied the attention of the House for three or four hours, during which time he may be said to have been speaking in a voice of thunder, and with a corresponding violence of action, and yet appear as fresh and vigorous in body as well as in mind, as when he rose to address their Lordships. A few years since, when a member of the other House, he spoke for nearly seven hours, without intermission, on the subject of a reform in our courts of law, and yet so little appearance of fatigue was there in his manner, that any one who had entered the House ten or fifteen minutes before he resumed his seat, might have inferred he had only just commenced.—Speaking seems, in a physical as well as mental sense, to be a sort of pastime to him; it certainly is not a task.

"Though now in his fifty-seventh year, Lord Brougham, until lately, looked as healthy and as strong in constitution as ever.

From Irving's Life of Columbus.  
**FIRST LANDING OF COLUMBUS IN THE NEW WORLD.**

It was on the morning of Friday, 12th October, 1492, that Columbus first beheld the new world. When the day dawned, he saw before him a level and beautiful island several leagues in extent, of great freshness and verdure, and covered with trees like a continual orchard. Though every thing appeared in the wild luxuriance of untamed nature, yet the island was evidently populous, for the inhabitants were seen issuing from the woods, and running from all parts to the shore, where they stood gazing at the ships. They were all perfectly naked, and from their attitudes and gestures appeared to be lost in astonishment. Columbus made signal for the ships to cast anchor, and the boats to be manned and landed. He entered his own boat richly attired in scarlet, and bearing the royal standard; whilst Martin Alonzo Pinzon, and Vincent Yanez his brother, put off in company in their boats, each bearing the banner of the enterprise emblazoned with a green cross, having on each side the letters F. and Y. surmounted by crowns, the initials of the Castilian monarchs Fernando and Ysabel.

As they approached the shores, they were refreshed by the sight of the ample forests, which in those climates have extraordinary beauty, of vegetation.—They beheld fruits of tempting hue, but unknown kind, growing among the trees, which overhung the shores. The purity and suavity of the atmosphere, the crystal transparency of the seas which bathe these islands, give them a wonderful beauty, and must have had their effect upon the susceptible feelings of Columbus. No sooner did he land, than he threw himself upon his knees, kissed the earth, and returned thanks to God with tears of joy. His example was followed by the rest, whose hearts indeed overflowed with the same feelings of gratitude. Columbus then rising drew his sword, displayed the royal standard, and assembling round him the two captains, with Rodrigo de Escobedo, notary of the armament, Rodrigo Sanchez, and the rest who had landed, he took solemn possession in the name of the Castilian sovereigns, giving the island the name of San Salvador.—Having complied with the requisite forms and ceremonies, he now called upon all present to take the oath of obedience to him, as admiral and viceroy, representing the persons of the sovereigns. The feelings of the crew now burst forth in the most extravagant transports.—They had recently considered themselves devoted men, hurrying forward to destruction; they now looked upon themselves as favorites of fortune, and gave themselves up to the most unbounded joy. They arranged around the admiral in their overflowing zeal. Some embraced him, others kissed his hands, those who had been most intemperate and turbulent during the voyage, were now the most devoted and enthusiastic. Some begged favours of him, as of a man who had already wealth and honours in his gift. Many abject spirits, who had outraged him by their insolence, now cringed as if he were at his feet, begging pardon for all the trouble they had caused him, and offering for the future the blindest obedience to his commands. The natives of the island, when, at the dawn of day they had beheld the ships, with their sails set, hovering on their coasts, had supposed them some monsters which had issued from the deep during the night. They had crowded to the beach, and watched their movements with awful anxiety. Their veering about, apparently without effort, the snitting and tuling of their sails, resembling huge wings, tilted them with astonishment. When they beheld the boats approach the shore, and a number of strange beings clad in glittering steel, or raiment of various colors, landing upon the beach, they fled in affright to their woods. Finding, however, that there was no attempt to pursue, nor molest them; they gradually recovered from their terror, and approached the Spaniards with great awe, frequently prostrating themselves on the earth, and making signs of adoration. During the ceremonies of taking possession, they remained gazing in timid admiration at the complexion, the beards, the shining armour, and splendid dresses of the Spaniards. The admiral particularly attracted their attention, from his commanding height, his air of authority, his dress of scarlet, and the deference which was paid him by his companions; all which pointed him out to be the commander. When they had still further recovered from their fears, they approached the Spaniards, touched their beards, and examined their hands and faces, admiring their whiteness. Columbus, pleased with their simplicity, their gentleness, and the confidence they reposed in beings who must have appeared to them so strange and formidable, suffered their scrutiny with perfect acquiescence. The wondering savages were won by this benignity; they now supposed that the ships had sailed out of the crystal firmament which bounded their horizon, or that they had descended from above on their ample wings, and that these marvellous beings were inhabitants of the skies.

The natives of the island were no less objects of curiosity to the Spaniards, differing as they did from any race of men they had ever seen. Their appearance gave no promise of either wealth or civilization, for they were entirely naked, and painted with a variety of colours.—With some it was confined to some part of the face, the nose, or around the eyes; with others it extended to the whole body, and gave them a wild and fantastic appearance. Their complexion was of a tawny or copper hue, and they were entirely destitute of beards. Their hair was not crisped like the recently discovered tribes of the African coast, under the same latitude, but straight and coarse, partly cut short above the ears, but so no locks left long behind and falling upon the shoulders. Their features, though obscured and disguised by paint, were agreeable; they had lofty foreheads and remarkably fine eyes. They were of moderate stature, and well shaped; most of them appeared to be under thirty years of age; there was but one female with them, quite young, naked like her companions, and beautifully formed.

As Columbus supposed himself to have landed on an island at the extremity of India, he called the natives by the general appellation of Indians, which was universally adopted, before the true nature of his discovery was known, and has ever since been extended to all the aboriginals of the new world. The Spaniards soon discovered that these islanders were friendly and gentle in their dispositions, and extremely simple and artless. Their only arms were lances, hardened at the end by fire, or pointed with a flint, or the tooth of bone of a fish. There was no iron to be seen among them, nor did they appear acquainted with its properties; for when a drawn sword was presented to them, they unguardedly took it by the edge. Columbus distributed among them coloured caps, glass beads, hawk's bells, and other trifles, such as the Portuguese were accustomed to trade with among the nations of the gold coast of Africa. These they received as inestimable gifts, hanging the beads round their necks, and being wonderfully delighted with their finery, and with the sound of the bells. The Spaniards remained all day on shore refreshing themselves after their anxious voyage, amidst the beautiful groves of the island they did not return to their ships until late in the evening, delighted with all that they had seen.

On the following morning, at break of day, the shore was thronged with the natives, who having lost all dread of what at first appeared to be monsters of the deep, came swimming off to the ships—others came in light-barks which they called canoes, formed of a single tree, hollowed, and capable of holding from one man to the number of forty or fifty. These they managed dexterously with paddles, and if overturned, swam about in the water, with perfect unconcern, as if in their natural element, righting their canoes with great facility, and bailing them with calabashes.

They showed great eagerness to procure more of the toys and trinkets of the white men, not apparently from any idea of their intrinsic value, but because every thing from the hand of the stranger possessed a supernatural virtue in their eyes, as having been brought with them from heaven; they even picked up fragments of glass and earthenware as valuable prizes. They had but few objects to offer in return, except parrots, of which great numbers were domesticated among them, and cotton yarn, of which they had abundance, and would exchange large balls of five and twenty pounds weight for the mere trifle. They brought also cakes of a kind of bread called cassava, which constituted a principal part of their food, and was afterwards an important article of provisions with the Spaniards. It was formed from a great root called yuca, which they cultivated in fields. This they cut into small morsels, which they grated or scraped and strained in a press, making it into a broad thin cake, which was afterwards dried hard, would keep for a long time, and had to be steeped in water when eaten. It was insipid but nourishing, though the water strained from it in the preparation was a deadly poison. There was another kind of yuca, destitute of this poisonous quality, which was eaten in the root, either boiled or roasted.

The avails of the discoveries were quickly excited by the sight of small ornaments of gold, which some of the natives wore in their noses. These the latter gladly exchanged for glass beads and hawk's bells; and both parties exulted in the bargain, no doubt admiring each others' simplicity. As gold, however, was an object of royal monopoly, in all enterprises of discovery, Columbus forbade all traffic in it without his express sanction; and he put the same prohibition on the traffic for cotton, reserving to the crown all trade for it, wherever it should be found in any quantity.

He enquired of the natives where this gold was procured. They answered him by signs, pointing to the south; and he understood them that in that quarter there was a king of great wealth, in so much that he was served in great vessels of wrought gold. He understood also that there was land to the south, the southwest, and the northwest; and that the people from the latter frequently proceeded to the southwest in quest of gold and precious stones, and in their way made descents upon the island, carrying off the inhabitants. Several of the natives showed him the scars of wounds, which they informed him they had received in battles with these invaders.

As they approached the shores, they were refreshed by the sight of the ample forests, which in those climates have extraordinary beauty, of vegetation.—They beheld fruits of tempting hue, but unknown kind, growing among the trees, which overhung the shores. The purity and suavity of the atmosphere, the crystal transparency of the seas which bathe these islands, give them a wonderful beauty, and must have had their effect upon the susceptible feelings of Columbus. No sooner did he land, than he threw himself upon his knees, kissed the earth, and returned thanks to God with tears of joy. His example was followed by the rest, whose hearts indeed overflowed with the same feelings of gratitude. Columbus then rising drew his sword, displayed the royal standard, and assembling round him the two captains, with Rodrigo de Escobedo, notary of the armament, Rodrigo Sanchez, and the rest who had landed, he took solemn possession in the name of the Castilian sovereigns, giving the island the name of San Salvador.—Having complied with the requisite forms and ceremonies, he now called upon all present to take the oath of obedience to him, as admiral and viceroy, representing the persons of the sovereigns. The feelings of the crew now burst forth in the most extravagant transports.—They had recently considered themselves devoted men, hurrying forward to destruction; they now looked upon themselves as favorites of fortune, and gave themselves up to the most unbounded joy. They arranged around the admiral in their overflowing zeal. Some embraced him, others kissed his hands, those who had been most intemperate and turbulent during the voyage, were now the most devoted and enthusiastic. Some begged favours of him, as of a man who had already wealth and honours in his gift. Many abject spirits, who had outraged him by their insolence, now cringed as if he were at his feet, begging pardon for all the trouble they had caused him, and offering for the future the blindest obedience to his commands. The natives of the island, when, at the dawn of day they had beheld the ships, with their sails set, hovering on their coasts, had supposed them some monsters which had issued from the deep during the night. They had crowded to the beach, and watched their movements with awful anxiety. Their veering about, apparently without effort, the snitting and tuling of their sails, resembling huge wings, tilted them with astonishment. When they beheld the boats approach the shore, and a number of strange beings clad in glittering steel, or raiment of various colors, landing upon the beach, they fled in affright to their woods. Finding, however, that there was no attempt to pursue, nor molest them; they gradually recovered from their terror, and approached the Spaniards with great awe, frequently prostrating themselves on the earth, and making signs of adoration. During the ceremonies of taking possession, they remained gazing in timid admiration at the complexion, the beards, the shining armour, and splendid dresses of the Spaniards. The admiral particularly attracted their attention, from his commanding height, his air of authority, his dress of scarlet, and the deference which was paid him by his companions; all which pointed him out to be the commander. When they had still further recovered from their fears, they approached the Spaniards, touched their beards, and examined their hands and faces, admiring their whiteness. Columbus, pleased with their simplicity, their gentleness, and the confidence they reposed in beings who must have appeared to them so strange and formidable, suffered their scrutiny with perfect acquiescence. The wondering savages were won by this benignity; they now supposed that the ships had sailed out of the crystal firmament which bounded their horizon, or that they had descended from above on their ample wings, and that these marvellous beings were inhabitants of the skies.

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As Columbus supposed himself to have landed on an island at the extremity of India, he called the natives by the general appellation of Indians, which was universally adopted, before the true nature of his discovery was known, and has ever since been extended to all the aboriginals of the new world. The Spaniards soon discovered that these islanders were friendly and gentle in their dispositions, and extremely simple and artless. Their only arms were lances, hardened at the end by fire, or pointed with a flint, or the tooth of bone of a fish. There was no iron to be seen among them, nor did they appear acquainted with its properties; for when a drawn sword was presented to them, they unguardedly took it by the edge. Columbus distributed among them coloured caps, glass beads, hawk's bells, and other trifles, such as the Portuguese were accustomed to trade with among the nations of the gold coast of Africa. These they received as inestimable gifts, hanging the beads round their necks, and being wonderfully delighted with their finery, and with the sound of the bells. The Spaniards remained all day on shore refreshing themselves after their anxious voyage, amidst the beautiful groves of the island they did not return to their ships until late in the evening, delighted with all that they had seen.

On the following morning, at break of day, the shore was thronged with the natives, who having lost all dread of what at first appeared to be monsters of the deep, came swimming off to the ships—others came in light-barks which they called canoes, formed of a single tree, hollowed, and capable of holding from one man to the number of forty or fifty. These they managed dexterously with paddles, and if overturned, swam about in the water, with perfect unconcern, as if in their natural element, righting their canoes with great facility, and bailing them with calabashes.

They showed great eagerness to procure more of the toys and trinkets of the white men, not apparently from any idea of their intrinsic value, but because every thing from the hand of the stranger possessed a supernatural virtue in their eyes, as having been brought with them from heaven; they even picked up fragments of glass and earthenware as valuable prizes. They had but few objects to offer in return, except parrots, of which great numbers were domesticated among them, and cotton yarn, of which they had abundance, and would exchange large balls of five and twenty pounds weight for the mere trifle. They brought also cakes of a kind of bread called cassava, which constituted a principal part of their food, and was afterwards an important article of provisions with the Spaniards. It was formed from a great root called yuca, which they cultivated in fields. This they cut into small morsels, which they grated or scraped and strained in a press, making it into a broad thin cake, which was afterwards dried hard, would keep for a long time, and had to be steeped in water when eaten. It was insipid but nourishing, though the water strained from it in the preparation was a deadly poison. There was another kind of yuca, destitute of this poisonous quality, which was eaten in the root, either boiled or roasted.

The avails of the discoveries were quickly excited by the sight of small ornaments of gold, which some of the natives wore in their noses. These the latter gladly exchanged for glass beads and hawk's bells; and both parties exulted in the bargain, no doubt admiring each others' simplicity. As gold, however, was an object of royal monopoly, in all enterprises of discovery, Columbus forbade all traffic in it without his express sanction; and he put the same prohibition on the traffic for cotton, reserving to the crown all trade for it, wherever it should be found in any quantity.

He enquired of the natives where this gold was procured. They answered him by signs, pointing to the south; and he understood them that in that quarter there was a king of great wealth, in so much that he was served in great vessels of wrought gold. He understood also that there was land to the south, the southwest, and the northwest; and that the people from the latter frequently proceeded to the southwest in quest of gold and precious stones, and in their way made descents upon the island, carrying off the inhabitants. Several of the natives showed him the scars of wounds, which they informed him they had received in battles with these invaders.