

The situation of Columbus was daily becoming more and more critical. In proportion as he approached the reason where he expected to find land, the impatience of his crews augmented the favourable signs which increased his confidence where decided by them as delusive; and there was danger of their rebelling and obliging him to turn back, when on the point of realizing the object of all his labours. They beheld themselves with dismay still wafted onward over the boundless wastes of what appeared to them a mere watery desert surrounding the habitable world. What was to become of them should their provisions fall? Their ships were too weak and defective even for the great voyage they had already made, but if they were still to press forward, adding at every moment to the immense expanse behind them, how should they ever be able to return, having no intervening port where they might victual and refit? Were they to sail in until they perished, or until all return became impossible? In such case they would be the authors of their own destruction. On the other hand, should they consult their safety and turn back before too late, who would blame them? Any complaints made by Columbus would be of no weight; he was a foreigner, without friends or influence; his schemes had been condemned by the learned and discountenanced by people of all ranks. He had no party to uphold him, and a host of opponents whose pride of opinion would be gratified by his failure. Or, as an effectual means of preventing his complaints, they might throw him into the seas. and give out that he had fallen overboard while busy with his instruments contemplating the stars, a report which no one would have either the inclination or the means to controvert. Columbus was not ignorant of the mutinous disposition of his crew, but he still maintained a serene and steady countenance--soothing some with gentle words, endeavouring to stimulate the pride or avarice of others, and openly menacing the refractory with signal punishment, should they do anything whatever to impede the voyage.

The title: Dangerous voyage of Columbus

The condition of Columbus was very bad because he did not get any success on the voyage. Moreover, his ship was not in a position to continue the journey. If he moved further, the chances of returning could be fewer since he did not know about any port to repair it. Conversely, if he returned, he could be saved. However, he decided to continue his voyage, even though his crew members were not in his favour. In fact, he knew that they could fulfill their desire by pushing him into the sea, and they could also avoid any investigation, but he kept motivating them and clearly threatened those who thought of disrupting the voyage.

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