

... now possessors.

24. The situation of Columbus was daily becoming more and more critical. In proportion as he approached the regions where he expected to find land, the impatience of his crews augmented. The favourable signs which increased his confidence were 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 watted 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 controversy.

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.

25. The great Roman orator, Cicero, in his celebrated treatise on Friendship, remarks with truth that it increases happiness and diminishes misery by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our sorrow.

Indent the paragraph

"Journey of Columbus"

While travelling, the situation of Columbus was becoming precarious. As the favourable signs of finding land were not met, the tensions in his crew had increased.

But, they held themselves and kept on gliding in the watery deserts. Their ships were in such a weak state that their long journey became dangerous and difficult. They were arguing themselves whether to sail till their destruction or to return back or who would be responsible in case of any accident.

No one would listen to Columbus, as he was a foreigner. He might be pushed into the sea and shown as an accident.

Columbus was aware of the mutinous environment of the crew. He continued to maintain peacefulness through his words, while he threatened the defiant ones who wanted to hamper the journey.

original
Precis words = 350

Seems a bit long: Mistakes identified.

Precis u = 109 words