

12. Ferdinand and Isabella, informed of the return and discoveries of their admiral, awaited him at Barcelona with honour and munificence worthy of the greatness of his services. The nobility came from all the provinces to meet him. He made a triumphal entry as a prince of future kingdoms. The Indians brought over as a living proof of the existence of new races in these newly-discovered lands, marched at the head of the procession, their bodies painted with divers colours, and adorned with gold necklaces and pearls. The animals and birds, the unknown plants, and the precious stones collected on these shores, were exhibited in golden basins, carried on the heads of Moorish or Negro slaves. The eager crowd pressed close upon them, and wondrous tales were circulated about the officers and companions of Columbus. The admiral himself, mounted on a richly charger presented by the king, next appeared, accompanied by a numerous caparisoned cavalcade of courtiers and gentlemen. All eyes were directed toward the man inspired of Heaven, who first had dared lift the veil of Ocean. People sought in his face for a sign of his mission and thought they could discern one. The beauty of his features, the majesty of his countenance, the vigour of eternal youth joined to the dignity of age the combination of thought with action, of strength with experience, a thorough appreciation of his worth combined with piety, made Columbus then appear (as those relate who saw him enter Barcelona) like a prophet, or a hero of Holy Writ or Grecian story.

"None could compare with him," they say ; "all felt him to be the greatest or most fortunate of men."

Ferdinand and Isabella received him on their throne, shaded from the sun by a golden canopy. They rose up before him, as though he had been an inspired messenger. They then made him sit on a level with themselves, and listened to the circumstantial account of his voyage. At the end of his recital, which habitual eloquence had coloured with his exuberant imagination, the king and queen, moved to tears, fell on their knees and repeated the *Te Deum*, a thanksgiving for the greatest conquest the Almighty had yet vouchsafed to sovereigns.



## THE CEREMONY OF TRIUMPH

Monarchs of Barcelona received Columbus with great honour on account of his discovery of new lands. High officials from all the provinces gathered to see him. During the ceremony, he entered with immense pride, accompanied by his naval officers, displayed the treasures, animals, plants, and indigenous people that he brought from the new land, as a proof of his achievement. The crowd was filled with excitement. When he appeared like a hero, impressed them with his personality. Monarchs gave him a welcome of honour and granted him place to sit with themselves. They listened attentively to the story of his voyage. At the conclusion of the meeting, they expressed their deepest gratitude for his remarkable accomplishment.

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