

CHAPTER XI.

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS

RELATING TO THE

Settlement of America.

1447—Christopher Columbus, born in the Republic of Genoa.

1474—He communicates his impression in writing to Paul, the Physician, of Florence, that by sailing west, he could reach India.— He applied first to John the 2d of Portugal, to enable him to prosecute the enterprize. That monarch declined the proposal of Columbus, but at the same time taking advantage of his suggestions, ordered one of his own ships upon a voyage to anticipate that navigator, if discoveries were to be made in the west. The ship returned after a fruitless voyage, and served to throw ridicule upon the project of Columbus.

Disgusted with this base artifice, Columbus left Portugal, and sought at the court of Ferdinand, King of Spain, a better reception of his proposals. To the Queen Isabella, who offered to pawn her jewels to raise the 2,500 crowns required for the equipment of the enterprize, he owed the final success of his application, which was thrice rejected by the King.