

HALF THE UNION TO HONOR MEMORY OF COLUMBUS OCT. 12

Debt We Owe to Discoverer More Appreciated as Time Goes On.

Date Famous In History Now a Legal Holiday In Twenty-four States.

WITH half the world at war and the United States safely out of it, we ought to feel our debt of gratitude to Christopher Columbus increased a hundred-fold when on Oct. 12 will be celebrated the four hundred and twenty-second anniversary of his discovery of America. Columbus day, as Oct. 12 is called, is a legal holiday in these twenty-four states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Washington. Among other countries which observe the day are Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and Peru.

First to Prove Old Theory.
It is true that the idea that the earth is round, over which Columbus is said to have brooded years in secret, was not first his. It was taught by

Ferdinand casts doubt on this statement. Even the date of the birth of Columbus has not been fixed with absolute accuracy. Although in his diary he writes freely of the forty years he followed the sea, the seven years he impounded the throne of Spain and the early period of his home leaving, yet so does this data conflict with known dates that one must conclude he either made wilful errors or was very careless. No one any longer believes that he was born in 1436. But whether the year of his birth was 1446, 1447 or 1451 is still disputed.

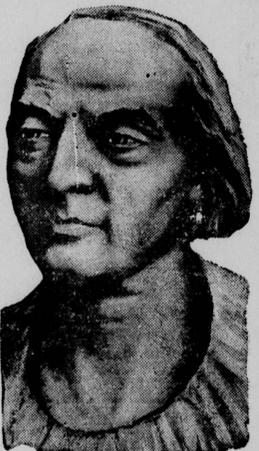
The authority for this last date, now accepted by many as correct, is based upon a note for 48 lire and 13 centesimos that Columbus and his father gave in payment for a cask of wine. On this note it is set forth that Columbus was of age when he made it. The note was executed in favor of a Genoese merchant named Bellesio and was but recently found in the archives of the Italian city.

Columbus is thought to have attended the University of Pavia and then to have gone to sea under a distant relative.

About 1470 he escaped from the wreck of his ship in a naval battle and went ashore at Lisbon. There he made maps and charts. He married the daughter of the governor of Porto Santo, an island near Madeira. From the papers of his wife's father he conceived



COLUMBUS STATUE IN CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK.



POPULAR PICTURE OF COLUMBUS—NO AUTHENTIC LIKENESS KNOWN.



COLUMBUS AND INDIAN MAIDEN—MONUMENT AT COLON, PANAMA.

Aristotle three centuries before Christ and had been repeated by many philosophers and scientists whose works it is known Columbus studied.

But Columbus was the first working idea of its meaning and the ultimate effective one.

It is true also that Columbus did not wholly prove his theory, for he did not sail around the earth. He thought that he had proved because he thought America was India. He mistook the Antilles for Malaysia and believed that by sailing through them he must come to the mainland of the east.

It is true, therefore, that he did not know he was discoverer of the new world—that is, the new world as we understand it. His epitaph declares that he gave a new world to Castile and to Leon, but there was no suspicion when that eulogy was written that he had given them an unknown world.

The new world of Columbus' epitaph was not a new continent, but an extended world of trade and influence with Zhipango and the Great Khan. Farthest India was none the less new to Leon and Castile, though they were quite aware of its being. It remained for John Cabot to make the discovery that Columbus had found a new continent and for Ferdinand Magellan to demonstrate that he had revealed a new hemisphere and thus an actual as well as virtual new world.

Conflicting Statements.
A mass of conflicting testimony befores the history of Columbus' life. A dozen cities claim to have been his birthplace. Although that honor is now commonly accorded to Genoa, Columbus has been given four distinct nationalities, one being Jewish. He had himself stated in several places in his diary that he was a Genoese, and thus he was called by his intimates. But, curiously enough his own son

ed the project of opening a route to India. After waiting on the Spanish court for seven years, during which time he served against the Moors, he obtained aid from the king and queen through Juan Perez de Marchena, superior of the convent of La Rabida.

Columbus' Memorable Voyage.
Columbus sailed from Palos Aug. 3, 1492. His flagship, the Santa Maria, was ninety foot keel and less than 100 tons burden, with four masts, two square and two lateen rigged. It was decked over and carried guns. The Pinta and the Nina were smaller and undecked. Martin Alonso Pinzon and Francisco Martin Pinzon commanded one, Vincente Yanez Pinzon the other.

The expedition numbered 120 souls and carried provisions for a year. The whole cost of the discovery of America was 1,282,500 maravedis, or about \$50,000.

On Friday, Oct. 12, 1492, seventy-one days out from Palos, Rodrigo Triana sighted land. By Columbus' reckoning and description it is now thought to be Watling Island, one of the Bahamas group. Columbus called it San Salvador (Holy Saviour). He discovered also Conception, Fernu, Isla Loxa, Haiti and Cuba, which last he took at first for Zhipango (Japan) and later for the mainland of India. He thought Haiti was Solomon's Ophir. He left thirty-nine men there in a fort built from the timbers of the Santa Maria, which was wrecked.

On March 15, 1493, he returned to Palos. He was created don and admiral of Spain and accorded signal honors from the crown.

He made three more voyages, but the jealousy of the nobility toward him, as a foreigner, and the apathy of the court to his discovery, because it lacked the wealth anticipated, resulted in a series of misfortunes, which ended only with his life. Columbus died at Valladolid May 20, 1506, in want.

Portraits From Hearsay.
In view of all the conflict of evidence regarding his birthplace, citizenship and creed, it is small wonder that we have a hazy and possibly false idea of the personality of Columbus.

The portraits which are so numerous today can nearly all be traced back to an engraving called the Paulus Jovius cut, made from a painting that has been lost. And another factor of inaccuracy, the lost painting was not an original work, but was executed upon what the lawyers term "hearsay evidence."

AMERICAN NURSES ON WAY TO THE WAR



Photo by American Press Association. A former Hamburg-American liner renamed the Red Cross recently sailed from New York with 120 nurses and thirty doctors who will care for the wounded in Europe.

ence. It was painted early in the sixteenth century by the direction of a Spanish nobleman, who at that time was collecting a gallery portraying famous Spaniards.

The accepted likeness of the admiral is that of a strong, clean shaven face from which deep, expressive eyes look out under a broad brow. The heavy lines from the nose to the corners of the mouth are also characteristic of the popular portraits. But this is no picture of the man who discovered America.

Columbus had red hair. Also, as was the almost universal custom of the sailors of that period, he wore a beard. On this point is the evidence of Las Casas, his shipmate and historian. He states that "The admiral was a man of sturdy stature, rather above the average height, of a very ruddy complexion, with freckles and red hair when he was young. The latter soon turned white, which was also the color of his beard."

Book Was His Inspiration.
Unquestionably Columbus was a deep student of human nature, and while it may be that he was not as learned in books as he professed, there can be no doubt that he was a thorough, practical navigator. What remains of his library consists of only three books. The margins of these are scribbled with annotations, clear evidence that they were much read. Their well thumbed pages show that time after time Columbus must have pored over their contents.

One of these volumes, "The Travels of Marco Polo," spurred the great sailor to his destiny. It was this story of marvelous adventure by land and sea rather than the apocryphal conversation with the mythical pilot that incited the world famous voyage. Evident minds sought to take from him much of his glory, and they fabricated the story of the pilot.

The pilot was supposed to have been a sailor who, having made a long journey to the westward, one day passed an island in what was then the unknown sea. He is supposed to have imparted this information to Columbus and thus revealed to him the secret of the existence of a new world.

Columbus was a ready talker and may have spun some highly colored yarns. He seems to have anticipated that his record as a sailor would some time be brought into question.

But, as one writer says, all the more honor is due to Columbus because he rose from the lowest ranks to become the admiral of the oceans. All the more honor is his award if despite lack of early education and opportunity he made himself the most daring navigator the world has known.

Honored After Centuries.
That the people of both North and South America hold the discoverer in high esteem is attested by the many monuments erected to signalize his deed. But it is only in recent years that he has been so honored.

The first monument to Columbus erected in the United States stands in

Be'timore. A French officer, Charles Francis Adrien le Paulmer, Chevalier d'Amour, who came to America with Lafayette, built a shaft on his own estate in 1792, the year of the tricentennial of the discovery. It is a graceful shaft of English brick over forty-four feet high.

Within the last few years there has been an effort to recognize the 12th of October as a legal holiday in all states. "Columbus day," those behind the movement maintain, should be an anniversary included in the list of American celebrations observed by the whole country.



COLUMBUS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN, WASHINGTON, D. C.



ONE OF COLUMBUS' THREE SHIPS ON HIS VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY.

A Gotham genius has invented a hat that can be turned into an umbrella. The advantage is that nobody would be likely to borrow your hat and forget to return it.

On the first of the month, when the bills commence to come in, father is sure that home is the dearest spot on earth.

How empty are the fruits of war! Whoever finally gets the fortress of Przemyśl will have to keep on pronouncing it.

The king of Tonga island has declared his neutrality, thus complicating our war map by the introduction of a perfect stranger.

SAID OF SLAVERY.
Corrupted freemen are the worst of slaves.—Garrick.

Servitude seizes on few, but many seize on her.—Seneca.

By the law of slavery, man, created in the image of God, is divested of the human character and declared to be a mere chattel.—Charles Sumner.

That execrable sum of all villainies commonly called slave trade.—John Wesley.

Enslave a man and you destroy his ambition, his enterprise, his capacity. In the constitution of human nature the desire of bettering one's condition is the mainspring of effort. The first touch of slavery snuffs this spring.—Mann.

BUILDING IN ANTWERP DAMAGED BY BOMB



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