

**BOOTH'S NEW PICTORIAL UNITED  
STATES: A NEW PICTORIAL  
HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA WITH QUESTIONS  
FOR SCHOOLS**

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Booth's new pictorial United States: A New Pictorial History of the United States of America  
with Questions for Schools by J. B. Booth

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**J. B. BOOTH**

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Battle of Bunker's Hill.

**BOOTH'S NEW PICTORIAL UNITED STATES.**

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A NEW

**PICTORIAL HISTORY**

OF THE

**UNITED STATES**

OF

**AMERICA.**

**WITH QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOLS.**

BY J. B. BOOTH.

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*"Here the free spirit of mankind at length,  
Throws its last fetters off; and who shall place  
A limit to the Giant's unchain'd strength,  
Or curb his swiftness in the forward race."*

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Sailing of Columbus.

## CHAPTER I.

### THE DISCOVERY.

*The Northmen.—Columbus.—Vespucci.—The Cabots.  
—Ponce de Leon.—Verrazani.—Gomez.—Cartier.  
—De Soto.—Ribault.—Frobisher.—Drake.—Gilbert.*

It has been believed by many that America was not unknown to the ancients; and from certain passages in the works of some of the writers of antiquity, as well as from the coincidences in the languages and customs of the nations of the old and new continent, plausible reasons have been advanced in favour of this theory. Whatever knowledge, however, the inhabitants of Europe possessed of America, no traces of it existed at the period of the revival of letters; and it was generally

supposed that the Canaries, or Fortunate Islands, formed the western boundary of their world.

Towards the end of the tenth or the beginning of the eleventh century, the northern coast of America was discovered by the Northmen, who attempted to colonize it; but the colonists, being neglected by the mother country, were soon either exterminated by the hostilities of the savages by whom they were surrounded, or driven to preserve their lives by amalgamating with them.

For the knowledge of this great continent now possessed by the civilized world, we are, however, indebted to the genius and enterprise of Christoval Colon, a native of Genoa, better known to us by the name of Christopher Columbus\*. From a long and close application to the study of Geography, this great man had obtained a knowledge of the true figure of the earth, far beyond what was common to the age in which he lived. Another continent, he believed, necessarily, existed to complete the balance of the terraqueous globe; but he erroneously conceived it to be connected with that of India, or a continuation of the same continent. This error arose from the construction of the maps of that period, which represented the oriental countries of Asia as stretching vastly farther to the east than actual observation has proved them to extend. Having fully satisfied himself of the theoretical truth of his system, his adventurous spirit made him eager to verify it by experiment. For this purpose he applied to the senate of Genoa, developing his views, and representing the advantages which would accrue to the republic from the possession of a new route to the great source of opulence. The Genoese, however, treated the idea as absurd and chimerical, and rejected the proposal with contempt. Although disappointed in this first attempt, Columbus was not discouraged. He made application to the court of Portugal, which had, in that age, greatly distinguished

\* His real name was Colomb, but he latinized it into Columbus, and after his adoption by Spain, changed it according to the language of that country to Colon.

itself by favouring the spirit of discovery along the African coast. Here he met with an additional mortification, from an attempt to anticipate him in the enterprise, which, however, proved abortive at an early period. Disgusted with the treachery designed against him, he would not listen to the entreaties of the king of Portugal; but through his brother Bartholomew, he applied to Henry VII., of England, for support in his project. The voyage of Bartholomew was long, and the cautious prudence of the king great, so that he could not make known his favourable disposition to Columbus until the discovery was effected, and another snatched the wreath of glory which might have immortalized him.

As a last resource, Columbus now presented his scheme to the court of Spain. After eight years of anxious solicitation and contemptuous neglect, he at last obtained a gleam of royal favour on his bold and original project. The interest of Queen Isabella, who generously pledged her own jewels, that she might aid him, procured him three small vessels, with which he set sail from the port of Palos, in Andalusia, on the 3d of August, 1492. He steered directly for the Canaries, whence, after having refitted as well as he could, his crazy and ill-appointed flotilla, he again sailed on the 6th of September, keeping a due westerly course over an unknown ocean. Several days passed without a sight of land, and the anxieties of the sailors arising from this circumstance, were heightened by the variations of the compass, then first perceived. An open mutiny took place, which required all the courage and address of the great navigator to quell it. They pursued their course; but when thirty days had elapsed, without any indication of an approach to land, both officers and men joined in a second revolt.

Columbus was forced partially to give way to their remonstrances. He consented to return, if, after proceeding three days longer, nothing appeared to confirm his expectations. With these assurances they again proceeded, and, about midnight, on the 11th of October, Columbus, who was standing on the poop, discovered a