COLUMBUS: OR, A HERO OF THE NEW WORLD, AN HISTORICAL PLAY. WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUTHOR

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Columbus: Or, A Hero of the New World, An Historical Play. With the Compliments of the Author by Daniel S. Preston

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DANIEL S. PRESTON

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AN HISTORICAL PLAY

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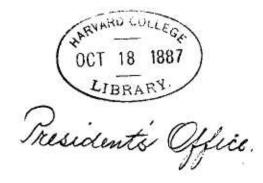
COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUTHOR

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The Inicherbocker Press

1887

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FOR DEDICATION-AT ELMWOOD.

It was a day when one had joyed
To mount and far with Launfal roam,
To snatch deep blisses, unalloyed,
From Dreamland—or from Poet's home.
The sun, in autumn's broadest glow,
Transfigured all the tranquil scene,
From sun to daisied turf below,
And phantom-haunted porch between.
Through the sweet ocean of the air
The boughs dropped many a yellowing fleet;
In rivalry of plume, as fair,
Chirped the gold robins at their feet.

I paced beneath the elms. They sung To memories of an earlier year, Of hearts that throbbed, of fancies young, And of a Voice—so deep, so clear. Its accents winged our feet to scale That Tuscan ladder of the stars, Attuned each purgatorial vale, And rifled Hades of its jars.

For Elmwood's shade, for Dante's cheer, Take the frail offering that I bringNo darlings of the autumn year, The palest pansies of the spring. Yet where the pansy once hath grown May fancy's passion-flower be sought, And asphodels may bloom anon That breathe the Alpine air of Thought.

PREFACE.

Next, perhaps, in a cherished pursuit, to the attainment of success may be counted the circumstance that we have been counted worthy of it. It was the opinion of one whose fame will be lastingly connected with whatever is loftiest in Scenic Art, that this play, upon the stage, might have enjoyed its passing triumph.

Whether or not too favorable, there lay in this award an appreciation which might have moved the envy of tired hands, and which must have been emphatically grateful to a writer at the outset of his career.

The eventuality of such an appeal being, through circumstances beyond his control, precluded, the author commits himself to the indulgence of the reading public. He would solicit their frendly interest in the fortunes of a personage among the most illustrious in history, whose name is enrolled not only as a Hero of the New World, but among those rarest of all heroes, whose laurels have been won in fields aloof from the stain and dust of carnage.

He has, as but now intimated, to solicit, both from press and readers, that measure of forbearance which may be conceded to the unpractised.

So far as regards the character of the chief agent of his drama, he would say that, while he has endeavored to endow him with fair honesty of purpose, it would have been, perhaps, neither in accordance with history, nature, nor the legitimate demands of Art, to have delineated an ideal without defect.

If, further, a word may be permitted him with regard to the construction of his plot, which turns, in some sort, upon the miraculous, he would premise that he allows to the fancy of the reader, that which he claims also for himself, the widest degree of liberty in the interpretation of such events.

INNSBRUCK, THE TYROL, May, 1887.

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FRANCESCO DE BOBADILLA, Commander of Calatrava.
PEDRO DE MARGUERITE, Knight of Campostello.
ALONZO DE OJEDA.
ALONZO DE VILLEJO, Commanding under Bobadilla.

CRISTOVAL COLUMBUS, Mariner.
DIEGO COLUMBUS, the Younger, his Son.
BARTHOLOMEW COLUMBUS,
DIEGO COLUMBUS, the Elder.

Brothers to Cristoval.

MARTIN ALONZO PINZON,
FRANCESCO MARTIN PINZON,
VINCENTO YANEZ PINZON.