



Life and achievements of Christopher Columbus

John Stevens C. Abbott

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1879 Excerpt: ...of the islands of the famous Carib cannibals. Their arrows were sharp-pointed with bone, and the tips poisoned with the juice of a certain herb. In strong predatory bands they ravaged other islands, killing the aged, retaining the most beautiful girls as servants and companions, and cooking and eating the young men. Human limbs were found suspended from the beams of the houses, as a" undergoing some process of preparation for food. In one of the houses the bleeding head of a young man was seen, recently cut off. Other portions of a human body were roasting before the fire. Dr. Chanca writes: "These women also say that the Caribbees treat them with cruelty as would scarcely be believed. They eat up the children which they bear to them, and only bring up those which they have by their natural wives. They say that man's flesh is so good that there is nothing like it in the world."--Select Letters of Columbus, Second Voyage, p. 31. A captain of one of the caravels, with eight men, had, without permission, ventured on an exploring tour, and was missing. Columbus was greatly alarmed. He had reason to fear that they had been cut off by these fierce savages. After waiting anxiously through the day and the succeeding night, and hearing no tidings of them, he sent parties in various directions, to blow trumpets and fire guns. But the search was fruitless. Many of the natives were caught sight of; but they fled, with fleet steps, as soon as approached. The chivalric Alonzo de Ojeda volunteered to take forty men and make a thorough exploration of the island. The little band pushed far into the interior. They waded large streams, and forced their Mr. Goodrich indignantly rejects the idea that any cannibals existed in the Indies. He writes: "This is t...

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