



The first voyage of Columbus.

so obscure and neglected was he when he passed away that no note was taken of his death, and to this day it is not certain where the great man lies buried.

8. What Columbus Accomplished.—Columbus went down to his grave believing that he had found a short route to India, but in this he was, of course, mistaken. In the search for that route, Portugal had won when Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope and sailed on to India. But Columbus did something far greater than to discover a new route to India—something that he had not set out to do, something he never knew that he had done—what he had discovered was not a new water route, but a **NEW WORLD**.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Give an account of the early youth of Columbus.
2. What caused the cities of Europe to lose their trade with the Orient? Of what did the trade consist? Why did Europe need this trade?
3. What notions did men have about the size and shape of the earth? Describe a fifteenth-century map of the world.
4. In what manner did the Portuguese sailors find their way to India? Give an account of the voyage of Dias; of Vasco da Gama.
5. What were the ideas of Columbus in respect to the shape and size of the earth? By what route did he think India could be reached? Give an account of his efforts to secure ships and men for a westward voyage.