

continue the search along the African coast, and to return to Portugal with their present acquisition of knowledge, and with the evidences of their discovery. Prince Henry, who had been the means of fitting out the expedition, was so delighted with the account of this first discovery that he immediately planned a scheme of colonisation. Vessels left Lisbon with a number of labourers fitted out for settling, who had been persuaded to go by tempting inducements, and who carried with them a varied stock of domestic animals, and all kinds of grains and plants suitable for cultivation. This expedition was placed in charge of Bartholomeu Perestrello, who was also appointed governor of the island. Thus was the father-in-law of Columbus engaged in the important pioneer work of discovery. He was the first coloniser and planter in newly discovered western ocean lands.

But Perestrello failed in the cultivation, and after three years abandoned the governorship which had been vested in him. Some short time afterwards, Columbus and his wife Philippa came here to reside, in order to get a living out of the wild property bequeathed to him by his father-in-law. But he gained nothing by it, unless, perhaps, some increase of knowledge, and the birth of his son Diego in Porto Santo.

We remained for a short time sounding and dredging in the vicinity of Porto Santo, which appears, on nearing it, like two islands. As we