



15804—Monument to Christopher Columbus, Madrid, Spain.

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Everywhere in Spain one finds memorials of Columbus—in the names of parks, of streets, of public squares; in statues, in tablets, and in monuments. And all this in spite of the fact that Columbus was not a native of Spain. We remember that it was almost by chance that the Spanish king and queen decided to back up the project which had already gone begging at this and several other European courts. But, thanks to a few learned friends in Spain, the interest of Queen Isabella was finally aroused to such an extent that she gave her assistance to the project of finding a direct western route to India; and Columbus started on his notable voyage of 1492, after years of anxious waiting. To this

man was due the many valuable possessions of Spain in the New World, from which she has realized almost priceless treasure in times gone by. She allowed her benefactor to die in want and from the hardships endured in her service, but now she honors his name and memory on every hand.

In Madrid, where the Paseo de Recoletos ends and the Paseo de la Castellana begins, is a little square named for our hero—the Plaza de Colon. Here we see the monument of our picture, which is the creation of Jeronimo Sunol. It was erected in 1885. The two streets adjoining this plaza, together form one of the most fashionable promenades of Madrid. It is lined with palaces and beautiful villas and gardens.