

black as the Otomacs and other tribes, whose complexion is the darkest. Were they albinos, such as have been found heretofore in the isthmus of Panama? But examples of that degeneration are very rare in the copper-coloured race; and Anghiera, as well as Gomara, speaks of the inhabitants of Paria in general, and not of a few individuals. Both describe them as if they were people of Germanic origin;* they call them 'Whites with light hair;' they even add, that they wore garments like those of the Turks.† Gomara and Anghiera wrote from such oral information as they had been able to collect.

These marvels disappear, if we examine the recital which Ferdinand Columbus drew up from his father's papers. There we find simply, that "the admiral was surprised to

* "Æthiopes nigri, crispi lanati; Pariaë incolæ *albi*, capillis oblongis protensis flavis."—Pet. Martyr, *Ocean.*, dec. 1, lib. vi., (ed. 1574). "Utriusque sexus indigenæ albi veluti nostrates, præter eos qui sub sole versantur." (The natives of both sexes are as white as our people [Spaniards], except those who are exposed to the sun.)—Ibid. Gomara, speaking of the natives seen by Columbus at the mouth of the river of Cumana, says: "Las donzellas eran amorosas, desnudas y blancas (las de la casa); los Indios que van al campo estan negros del sol." (The young women are engaging in their manners: they wear no clothing, and those who live in the houses are white. The Indians who are much in the open country are black, from the effect of the sun.)—Hist. de los Indios, cap. 74. "Los Indios de Paria son blancos y rubios."—(The Indians of Paria are white and red.) Garcia, *Origen de los Indios*, 1729, lib. iv. cap. 9.

† "They wear round their head a striped cotton handkerchief."—Ferd. Columb., cap. 71. (Churchill, vol. ii.) Was this kind of head-dress taken for a turban? (Garcia, *Origen de los Ind.*, p. 303). I am surprised that people of these regions should have worn a head-dress; but, what is more curious still, Pinzon, in a voyage which he made alone to the coast of Paria, the particulars of which have been transmitted to us by Peter Martyr of Anghiera, professes to have seen natives who were clothed: "Incolas omnes genu tenus mares, foeminas surarum tenus, gossampinis vestibibus amictos simplicibus reppererunt; sed viros more Turcorum insuto minutim gossypio ad belli usum duplicibus." (The natives were clothed in thin cotton garments; the men's reaching to the knee, and the women's to the calf of the leg. Their war-dress was thicker, and closely stitched with cotton after the Turkish manner.)—Pet. Martyr, dec. ii., lib. vii. Who were these people described as being comparatively civilized, and clothed with tunics (like those who lived on the summit of the Andes), and seen on a coast, where before and since the time of Pinzon, only naked men have ever been seen?