

that the donor, in his letter of presentation (Nov. 26, 1835), described the Columbian portrait as "a copy from an original in the Gallery Medicis (sic), at Florence, for Thomas Jefferson."

It was a pleasure to ascertain that Jefferson's favorite hangs just where he would have it—in the hall of that Society which has done most to elucidate the annals of the country over which Jefferson presided, and of the continent which Columbus revealed.

In 1814, Mr. Delaplaine, father of our townsman, was publishing in Philadelphia his *Repository of Distinguished Americans*. He made strenuous efforts to obtain for his frontispiece a drawing from the Jeffersonian portrait. Failing in this endeavor, he was forced to have recourse to a painting by Macella, copied from some fancy portrait,¹ cased in plate armor, and lettuce ruffs with features as divergent as the costume from the genuine type.

Investigations of every sort regarding Columbus are now seasoned by special seasonableness, inasmuch as we have already entered the last decade before the fourth centennial anniversary of the great discovery—an era that will be celebrated from pole to pole.

In tracing the Jeffersonian portrait of Columbus, I first became aware that no monograph on the general subject of Columbian portraits was discoverable in English, and scarcely in any language. The only article I found was a gossip letter in a New York daily paper from Irving in his old age, which showed that he had never given the subject more than superficial attention. In Poole's corpulent *Index* to seven thousand volumes of periodicals, you can detect no single paper concerning portraits of Columbus. My treatment of the theme, then, is tilling a virgin field.

My investigation has brought me into correspondence with all the world. Among those to whom I owe special thanks are General B. Alvord, of Washington; Professor Norton, of Harvard University; Mary Cowden Clarke; the United States ministers or consuls in Mexico, Lisbon and Genoa; Chief Justice Daly, of New York; H. A. Homes, W. C. Todd, Bela Hubbard,

¹ Larousse—"Purely fanciful." *Jefferson's Works*, vol. vi, pp. 343, 375.