

the Madrid Academy,¹ maintains that the long-lost and much desiderated Giovan portrait—the prototype of which all Columbian likenesses of any value are copies, has been found already. He holds that the Yanez portrait is nothing less than that Giovan jewel. He adduces many circumstances which serve to thicken other proofs of his position that do demonstrate thinly. Let us trust that this discovery of the great discoverer, which was as unlooked for as his own discovery of America, may prove as undubitable.

In the Yellowstone National Park there are springs strongly impregnated with mineral matter. In one of these, if a man be immersed, as we dip a wick to make a tallow candle, he soon becomes marble all over, through and through—in a word, his own statue. It has been suggested that this wonderful spring should be utilized as an economical mode of immortalizing members of Congress, and procuring statues of indisputable accuracy for filling the temple of glory which has been opened in Washington. Our superabundance of statesmen would thus be reduced, as many a celebrity might be led to speedy suicide, in order to be seen by posterity still at his best and fullest.

However this may be, it cannot be sufficiently regretted that these wonder-working waters were not discovered by the discoverer of America. In that case we might have had his own form and features eternized in a prototype—yes, an autotype beyond all question or cavil; and, best of all, one that would never need to be *whitewashed*, at least not in the Washington sense of the term.

Certain New York spiritualists, having secured the aid of Leonardo da Vinci, profess to have just supplied the world with the first authentic likeness of Confucius. It may be they will produce a Columbus with claims to accuracy which will rival what you bring us. But outside the gallery of spirit-art you need fear no rivalry.

Our special thanks are due to you, sir, for this genuine likeness, because so many counterfeits are abroad. We thank you

¹ *Boletín*, 1, pp. 3, 253.