

sary, to discuss the question as to which power was the discoverer of different portions of this coast; but this much is admitted, or asserted by *American* writers, and is substantially correct—that in 1542, a Spanish Captain proceeded as far up the coast as latitude 44° N.; that in 1578, Sir Francis Drake reached the coast in latitude 48° N., and coasted it down to latitude 38° N., where he entered and refitted in a port which still bears his name; that in 1774, a Spanish vessel, fitted out by the Provincial Government of Mexico, saw points of the coast as far as latitude 54°; and that in 1778—9 our illustrious navigator, Cook, traced the coast from latitude 43° up to the Arctic Ocean, with the view of discovering an inland-sea leading from the Pacific to the Atlantic:—a survey which was more minutely gone over by Captain Vancouver in 1791—3. Much was added to the knowledge of the harbours and sounds of the coast by private adventurers in the fur trade sailing under the English flag; while by the American Government (then in its infancy, it is true,) nothing was done, and the American traders who visited the coast, did so stealthily, or by the connivance of the subordinate Spanish officers, whose venality has always been notorious.