

company of adventurers, and all his vessels and their crews.

The fisheries were now rapidly increasing in importance. France and Spain had each at least 150 ships, while Portugal and England had only 50—those of the latter belonging principally to the ports of London, Bristol, Barnstaple, and Bideford; but their value was now felt throughout the country, and combined with the losses sustained from pirates to induce some attempt at colonization, and accordingly, in 1579, Queen Elizabeth granted a patent to Sir Humphrey Gilbert of Compton, in the county of Devon, Knight, “for inhabiting and planting of our people in America.”

He sailed, but met with unexpected misfortunes, the elements being not more propitious to the attempt than the jealousies of some among the adventurers, so that he was obliged to return, but finally left Plymouth on the 11th June, 1583, with 5 ships, and above 250 men, and arrived on the 11th July following off the harbour of St. John's.

His fleet consisted of the *Raleigh*, 200; the *Delight*, 150; the *Golden Hind* and the