

THE LOST COLONY OF ROANOKE.

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IN North America we owe little to the Spaniards. Columbus did not discover the continent of North America, and in the United States and Canada we owe our laws and civilization to England and France. John Cabot, a sailor of Venetian descent, who had settled at Bristol, was sent by Henry VII., in 1496, on an expedition to discover a north-west passage to China. Cabot touched at Newfoundland and Labrador, then coasted down to Cape Florida. The English made the first permanent settlements within the present borders of the great Republic.

The fate of one of the colonies sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh seems to have passed from the minds of most people, but of late years a few persons in North Carolina have taken great interest in trying to trace its movement and find out what became of the colony of Englishmen that was left on Roanoke Island in 1587. As the first attempt at settlement on that island appears to be almost forgotten, a short account of it is here necessary.

In 1584, Walter Raleigh, who was then in high favor at court, received from Queen Elizabeth the grant of any lands that he might discover, that were not already owned by Christian princes, nor settled by Christian people. He sent out three several expeditions to explore and colonize the coast to the north of Florida; and on the country there discovered, Queen Elizabeth bestowed the name Virginia, and she conferred the honor of knighthood upon Raleigh in 1585. Though Raleigh was then busily employed in making preparations for the defeat of the threatened invasion of England by Philip of Spain, he still found time to fit out an expedition to the coast of America to make discoveries. The

first expedition was commanded by Philip Amadis and Arthur Barlow, who sailed with two barques from England on the 15th of April, 1584, O.S., and reached America in July of that year. After sailing along the coast for over a hundred miles, they found an inlet, or river, issuing into the sea. There they cast anchor, "within the haven's mouth, on the left hand of the same." They then went in boats to view the land and take possession of in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. Roanoke Island was the country taken possession of, and it was some distance from the place of anchoring. This colony only remained about two months, exploring and viewing the land; when they returned to England, carrying two of the chief Indians with them, Manteo and Wanchesse, who were returned to their own country with the next expedition; the former to be made lord of Roanoke, and the latter to become the inveterate enemy of the English.

The second expedition consisted of seven vessels, under the command of Sir Richard Grenville, a cousin of Sir Walter Raleigh. It sailed from England on the 9th of April, 1585, and reached Roanoke in the July following. In August, Sir Richard sailed for England, leaving a colony under Ralph Lane. This colony remained but a short time, and had many adventures and fights with the natives, while exploring Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds. After despairing of assistance from England, Lane embarked with his whole colony on the fleet of Sir Francis Drake, which called at Roanoke in the summer of 1586. In about a month after Lane sailed away from what he called his New Fort in Virginia, Sir Richard Gren-