

known in 1523 was Cullacan, a small place near the eastern side of the entrance to the Gulf of California. The enterprising Cortes despatched several fruitless expeditions for the purpose of extending his dominions, and at length succeeded in planting a colony at La Santa Cruz, at the southern extremity of the peninsula. Of the voyage made by him in the arm of the sea between California and the continent, the accounts are conflicting, and involved in considerable obscurity. However, it is certain he ultimately cleared up every doubt as to the continuity of that country with America in the north-east. After a succession of failures by several adventurers, the Spaniards came to the conclusion that neither wealthy nations nor navigable passages between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans were to be found north of Mexico; unless beyond the fortieth degree of latitude. They then desisted in their efforts, and did not resume them for upwards of forty years. The English having thrown off their allegiance to the head of the Roman Catholic Church, misunderstandings began to arise between them and the Spaniards, with reference to the monopolising policy pursued in certain sections of the New World. The English Government repeatedly protested against the exclusive regulations laid down, and their just demands were as persistently rejected. Their right to occupy vacant portions of America being refused to be recognised, Queen Elizabeth did not scruple to sanction the violation of laws which she declared to be utterly unjustifiable. In December, 1577, the most celebrated naval captain of the age, Francis Drake, sailed from Plymouth with five small vessels, ostensibly on a voyage to Egypt, but really on a hostile cruise against the dominions and subjects of Spain. He safely navigated three of them through the Straits of Magellan; but scarcely had he accomplished this arduous task, when his little fleet was reduced by a storm to a schooner of a hundred tons burden, with a crew of sixty men; but, in defiance of this misfortune, he determined upon persisting in his enterprise. He sailed northward, and is reported to have pushed his investigations as far as

the Bay of San Francisco. This statement seems based on rather questionable authority, and has originated much dispute, sufficiently authentic evidence not having been brought forward to substantiate the supposition that Drake had seen any part of the coast hitherto undiscovered. Official surveys were ordered, and the Captain-General of California, Sebastian Vizcaino, struggled bravely to effect settlements at San Diego, Monterey, and other points of the coast, with a view of facilitating the trade with India; but his perseverance was unavailing, and after his death no further measures were adopted, either by individual Spaniards or their government, to add to their territory in those regions until one hundred and sixty years had elapsed.

In 1774 the British legislature was anxious to ascertain definitively whether a northern passage existed between the two oceans; and it was decided that two vessels should sail simultaneously for the North Pacific and Baffin's Bay. Captain Cook, who about this time returned from his second circumnavigation of the earth, volunteered to command the expedition, and his offer being accepted, he started from Plymouth on the 12th July, 1776, in his old ship, the *Resolution*, accompanied by the *Discovery*, under Captain Charles Clerk. As Captain Cook has the merit of being the first European who landed upon Vancouver Island, by his discovery of Nootka Sound, we propose extracting an admirable description from Robert Greenhow's "History of Oregon and California, &c.," to which excellent work we are indebted for much valuable matter. "He was instructed to proceed by way of the Cape of Good Hope and Otaheite to the coast of New Albion, endeavouring to fall in with it in the latitude of 45°. He was there to put into the first convenient port, to recruit his wood, water, and refreshments, and then to sail northward. . . .

"The application of the name of New Albion showed that the British government had no intention to resign the rights supposed or pretended to have been acquired by Drake's visit to that region. In order to revive and fortify these claims,