

Thorne's Expedition, 1527.—During the reign of Henry VIII., the spirit of discovery and of foreign enterprise that had been dormant in England for thirty years, was once more aroused, and from that day to this it has never slept. The first expedition undertaken solely by Englishmen, was at the suggestion of Master Robert Thorne, of Bristol, who is said to have exhorted King Henry VIII., "with very weighty and substantial reasons to set forth a discovery even to the North Pole!" In compliance with Thorne's suggestion, as we learn from the "*Chronicles*" of Hall and Grafton, "King Henry VIII. sent two fair ships well manned and victualled, having in them divers cunning men to seek strange regions, and so they set forth out of the Thames, the 20th day of May, in the nineteenth yere of his raigne, which was the yere of our Lord 1527." Of this expedition not much is known. One of the ships having sailed very far north-westward, was cast away on entering into a dangerous gulf between the north of Newfoundland and Greenland, the other returned home in October; "and this," says Hakluyt, "is all that I can hitherto learn or find out of this voyage, by reason of the great negligence of the writers of those times."

"Trinitie" and "Minion," 1536.—Of the disastrous cruise of the "*Trinitie*" and the "*Minion*," in 1536, the sad history has been preserved. This voyage, says the old chronicler already named, was set on foot by "Master Hore of London, a man of goodly stature and of great courage, and given to the studie of cosmographie." The undertaking being favoured by the king, a number of gentlemen were encouraged to accompany Hore in his voyage of discovery to the north-west parts of America, many of whom were of the Inns of Court and of Chancery. "The whole number that went in the two tall ships, were about six score persons, whereof thirty were gentlemen, which were all mustered in warlike manner at Gravesend, and after the receiving of the sacrament, they embarked themselves in the end of April 1536." A record of this voyage, of which we give only the briefest outline, was communicated to Hakluyt by Mr Oliver Dawbeney, merchant of London. The vessels had been several days at anchor on the coast of Newfoundland, before any of "the natural people of the country" had been seen; but at length Dawbeney "spied a boat with savages of those parts, rowing down the bay towards them." He called upon his companions below to come up and behold the strange sight, and they, obeying perhaps a natural instinct, under the circumstances, manned a boat to meet and to take the savages. No more impolitic step could have been taken. The natives returned, landed, and fled, and the pursuers found in their camp "a fire and the side of a beare, on a wooden spit." Soon after this the voyagers "grew into great want of victuals." Had they conciliated the savages, they need have suffered no inconvenience from this cause. As it was, "such was the famine that