

journey to the interior taken by him some ten years before. Between the years, 1760 and 1776, a traveller named Alexander Henry, in company with Frobisher, one of the leading founders of the Northwest Company, took a journey as far into the interior as Lake Athabasca. Of this extended expedition the traveller published an account in 1809. A leading work of the period is that published by the great traveller, Alexander Mackenzie, afterwards knighted for his discoveries by George III. In the service of the Northwest Company he first descended the river which bears his name. He, first of white men, crossed the Rocky Mountains north of Mexico, and inscribed in vermilion letters, on a rock on the Pacific coast, the following words, "Alex. Mackenzie, from Canada by land, 22nd July, 1793." Another Northwest trader, Daniel W. Harmon, who, in 1800, penetrated the interior and lived successively on the Assiniboine River in the southern, and on Lake Athabasca in the northern department, and who even crossed the Rocky Mountains in the Peace River district, has left us a most absorbing volume published in 1820.

## V.

Leaving for a time the inward movement by the great lakes and the water-ways of the northwest country, we must notice a series of expeditions from Montreal, and a current of trade, no doubt induced by this Montreal stream, but counter to it. This was the movement to the interior made by the great English fur company from Hudson Bay. The Indians, from the whole Northern Department, who had formerly come by the line of connected lakes and rivers all the way from Athabasca down the Churchill River, and even from Lake Winnipeg by way of the Nelson, with their furs, were, as already mentioned, intercepted by the interlopers, as they were considered, from Montreal between the years, 1760 and 1770. To carry out their inland movement, to regain their diminishing trade, the Hudson's Bay Company selected Samuel Hearne, not only an intrepid officer, but a clever writer. His first expedition was to discover the Coppermine River, of which the Indians had told. His daring explorations have gained him the name of "the Canadian Park." In 1774 he established posts far inland,—one of them being Fort Cumberland, on the Saskatchewan. Hearne's book was published in 1795. Another adventurer, who, under the direction of the Hudson's Bay Company, carried on this aggressive work was Edward Umfreville, who has given us a work, "Present State of Hudson's Bay Company," which was published in 1790. The archives of the Hudson's Bay Company would undoubtedly afford ampler details of this period, which was a turning-point in the history of the monopoly.

## VI.

The discovery of the Pacific coast of America belongs to the later years of last century. The unfortunate French navigator, La Perouse, who, having left France in 1785, was never heard of after departure from Botany Bay on his homeward voyage, has a double interest for us. In the account of his travels, published by M. Millet-Mureau, in four volumes, at Paris in 1798, these points are given. The first is found in the introduction to the first volume, where there is a description of the attack upon the forts of Hudson Bay by the French in 1782. La Perouse, again, is said to have discovered a portion of the coast of