

Labrador in 1576; Sir Francis Drake in the following year sighted the snowy mountain tops of British Columbia; Sir Humphry Gilbert, in 1583, led an expedition of well-equipped and gallant colonists to the shores of Newfoundland and took possession of the Island, whose harbours were thronged by cod-fishing fleets from France, Spain, Portugal and England, in the name of Queen Elizabeth. He established English authority, enacted various laws, and proclaimed, under Royal charter, his possession of the soil for 600 miles in every direction from St. John's—a region which included New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and part of Quebec as they are in modern days. Considerable exploring work was done by the gallant Admiral, whose character of mingled truth and gentleness and dauntless courage fills such an attractive page in history. It was beautifully exemplified as he sat in the stern of his frail and foundering vessel, during the return voyage to England in the stormy winter season, and sank to his final rest with the words of consolation to his crew: "Cheer up lads, we are as near to Heaven at sea as on land."

Once more, as the century drew to its close, French enterprise began to re-assert itself and the mantle of the ill-fated De Roberval was taken up by a nobleman of Brittany, the Marquis de la Roche. In 1598 he obtained appointment from the King as Viceroy of New France and prepared an expedition of one ship which he filled with a crew gathered from the common prisons. It was an ill-beginning with a worse ending. He reached, in summer season, the shifting sands of Sable Island and found there plenty of good water and herds of wild cattle bred from those left by De Lery's settlement of eighty years before. It seemed an excellent place to leave his convict colonists at while he went on a further voyage of exploration. He landed them for a period, which he promised should be brief, and started for the mainland only to be swept out to sea by a sudden storm and back to France. There he was seized by a powerful rival