

receive two hundred guilders, as an indemnity for his loss. If he should be successful in his quest the directors promised to reward him according to their discretion.

The old theory of the passage was strictly adhered to, both in the contract and Hudson's detailed instructions. He was to seek the passage "around the north side of Nova Zembla," and was to think of discovering no other routes or passages.

Hudson made himself master of the whole plan he was to carry out, aided by memoranda of the sailing instructions used by Barentz on his first voyage, and a "Treatise of Iver Boty, a Groenlande translated out of the North Language into High Dutch in the year 1560."¹

Plancius had given him Waymouth's journal,² and Hondius,³ the geographer, supplied him with translations of certain Dutch papers.

Plancius's fixed belief as to a northeasterly route was called in question by Hudson, who showed him letters and maps of his friend Captain John Smith, in which the latter explained that there was a sea leading into the western ocean, north of the English colony.

On Saturday, April 4, 1609, the daring mariner took command of the Half-Moon, the vessel furnished by the Amsterdam chamber, and sailed from Amsterdam. The Half-Moon, or Crescent—as she is often erroneously called, the Dutch word not admitting of such interpretation—has been variously called a yacht, a Dutch galliot, and a Vliec boat, the latter deriving its name from the river Vliec, where such boats are used, the name passing into the English fly-boat. She was an awkward, clumsy brig, with square sails upon two masts; a fairly safe craft, but a slow sailer, of "forty lasts," by a Dutch measurement, or eighty tons burden. The Half-Moon had been carefully equipped, and was manned by sixteen men, eight Englishmen and eight Hollanders. Hudson left the Texel on April 5, and by May 5 was in the Barentz sea, and soon afterwards among the ice in Costin Sarch, in Nova Zembla, where he had been the year before.

The crew, being of two nationalities, quarreled continually. The seamen of the East India company, not being used to such extreme cold,

¹ Boty, better known as Ivar Barlsen, was steward to the bishopric of Gardar, in the East Bygd, and a native of Greenland. His principal work was the *Sailing Directions*, used by Hudson, the oldest work on Arctic geography. This treatise has been published, with an introduction and notes by Rev. Dr. Decosta, under the title of *Sailing Directions of Henry Hudson*.

² Captain George Waymouth commanded an expedition sent out by the East India company in 1602 to seek for a passage by the opening seen by Davis, but it had no success. "Waymouth discovered George's island and Pentecost harbor, and carried with him to England five of the natives."

³ In 1597, Jodocus Hondius put upon record his intention of bringing out globes, but none are known to exist anterior to the seventeenth century.