

during one of which he explored the coast of Brazil, taking possession of the country for the King of Portugal. It was still supposed that all these lands that had been discovered were islands or headlands of Asia, and for many years the great object of search was some channel leading through them to China or India. The name America was first given to that part of South America explored by Vespuccius. Afterwards, when later discovery showed that the other lands were connected with this country, the name was extended until it included both North and South America.

The French and the English.—Although Spain and Portugal claimed all the newly-discovered lands, France and England very soon began to assert their rights in the New World. The cod fisheries on the Banks of Newfoundland attracted their attention. Among the French fishermen, who were the first to visit these noted fishing grounds, were some Bretons, whose home was in the north-west of France. It is from these people that Cape Breton Island is said to have taken its name.

A Colony on Sable Island, 1518.—A Frenchman named De Lery made a vain attempt to form a settlement on Sable Island, that dangerous sand ridge a hundred miles south of Cape Breton. A few wild cattle found here many years later seem to have been the only remains of his colony.

Verrazano, 1524.—During the reign of Francis the First of France a noted corsair named Verrazano, while searching for a passage to China, explored the coast of North America from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Cape Fear, taking possession of the country for his French master, and giving it the name of New France.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY.

1. What oceans lie on the north, east, and west of Canada? What country lies on the south?
2. When it is noon at Sydney, C.B., what time is it at Victoria, B.C.?
3. How many acres does a square mile comprise?
4. How many square miles in the Dominion of Canada? What proportion of the British Empire does Canada comprise?