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## ENGLAND'S TREASURE-ISLAND IN THE WEST.

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OLD BASTION—FORMERLY BELONGING TO THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY.

Pacific, he had sailed on an expedition past California and up the western coasts of America to the

It is nearly three hundred years since an English merchant at Venice met Juan de Fuca, an old Greek pilot, who had been in the service of Spain, and who, if his story were true, had done great things for his employers; for he said that, after the scare given to the Spaniards by the appearance of Francis Drake in the

northward, to see whether any North-West Passage from the Atlantic did really exist, and, if so, what measures could be taken to prevent the English from coming through it. He said, further, that in the latitude of  $47^{\circ}$  he had found the entrance to such a passage, and sailed in it for many days, describing the strait, and giving reasons for his certainty that it would be found to reach from one ocean to the other. Such a passage, corresponding to the Strait of Magellan at the other end of the Western Continent, was exactly what the English of that day were constantly hoping, though repeatedly failing, to find; and Lock, the English merchant, lost no time in laying Juan's offer to show them the way before Sir Walter Raleigh and other leading spirits of that adventurous age. But whether it was that they thought the old pilot's undertaking to make the whole passage in thirty days a little too confident, as undoubtedly it was, or for some other reason, his services were not accepted by the English; and, while Juan died in obscurity, his story met the fate of many better stories, and was disbelieved long before it had been disproved, just as Baffin's discovery of Baffin's Bay was for two centuries regarded by every one as a fiction merely