

For the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

**A Forerunner of the Empire.**

"We sailed wherever ships could sail,  
We founded many a mighty state."  
—Tennyson.

As we look back on the year that has passed since last Empire Day, one event stands out clearly as most interesting to the whole empire. That is the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to all the British dominions beyond the seas. Their journey lasted about eight months; they travelled over 45,000 miles, of which 33,000 were by sea, and, with the exception of Port Said, they set foot on no land where the Union Jack did not fly. One of the orators who spoke at the reception given to the Royal travellers on their return, by the City of London, called their journey "that majestic voyage which is the most illustrious that has ever been chronicled in history." "In old days," he went on, "our monarchs had neither the means nor the wish to travel. In very old days they had not an empire to travel over."

But how many people have had to travel first, that the foundations of the empire might be laid? Over strange, unexplored seas, and through dangerous ways, the love of adventure—always strong in the British people, the desire for gain, and the necessity of finding new homes have led them, until it has come about that the Prince of Wales had to travel nearly 50,000 miles to visit all his father's dominions.

The very beginning of this sailing and exploring was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth,

"When Drake went down to the Horn,  
And England was crowned thereby."

In the year 1577 there set sail from Plymouth the first English ship, and the first English sailors that ever went round the world. The leader of this expedition, Francis Drake, was born in Devonshire about the year 1545. He served his apprenticeship on a coasting vessel, and, when about twenty, made a voyage to Guinea. After that he served under Captain John Hawkins, one of the famous sailors of the time, and made several voyages to the West Indies. He earned a great reputation for skill and bravery in fighting the Spaniards. On one of his voyages he landed on the Isthmus of Panama, and, penetrating the forest, he climbed a tall tree on the top of a very high hill. From the tree-top he could see the Pacific ocean, and with great solemnity he prayed God "to give him life and leave once to sail an English ship in those seas."

After he returned to England from this voyage, he was presented to Queen Elizabeth, who received him kindly, and showed him such favor as encouraged him

to carry out his great enterprise. The world had been circumnavigated once by Spaniards, who were led by the famous Portuguese sailor, Magellan. But Magellan was killed in the Philippines when the voyage was only half over. The account of Drake's voyage was published by his nephew, under the title of "The World Encompassed," and it begins by saying: "That valiant enterprise, accompanied with happy success, which that right rare and thrice worthy captain, Francis Drake, achieved, in first turning up a furrow about the world, doth not only overmatch the ancient Argonauts, but also outreacheth in many respects that noble mariner, Magelhaens, and by fane surpasseth his crowned victory. But hereof let posterity judge."

On the 13th of December, 1577, Drake set sail from Plymouth with five little ships and 164 men. His own ship was called "The Pelican," but her name was afterwards changed to "The Golden Hind." The first place they touched at was Mogador, on the Barbary coast. Here the Moors seized one of Drake's sailors and carried him off, but, when they found he was an Englishman, they gave him presents and sent him home to England. From Mogador the ships sailed down the coast of Africa, stopping for four days at Cape Blanco, taking in water and provisions. Then they went to the Cape Verde Islands. They landed and took provisions on board at the Island of Mayo, and soon afterwards they fell in with and captured a Portuguese vessel. On the Island of Fuego a volcano was throwing up flames, but the next island, Brava, is described as a sweet and pleasant abode, with trees abundant and always green, figs always ripe, and silver streams of sweet and wholesome water. On the 17th of February, 1578, they crossed the equator, and here the ships were becalmed for nearly three weeks. They had heavy thunder storms, and it was fifty-five days before they saw land again; then they reached the coast of Brazil, and sailed down the coast of South America. At the mouth of the La Plata they found many seals, and killed some for food. Keeping on to the south they anchored in a bay in 47° south latitude. Two of the ships were missing, and after Drake had taken his little fleet to a better harbour still farther south, he sent Captain Winter in the "Elizabeth" to find and bring them in, which was done.

The natives of these parts wore no covering but skins of animals, but painted themselves all over white and black. They traded with the Englishmen, and there is a story that one of them ran off with the admiral's scarlet and gold hat. On the 20th of June the ships anchored in Port St. Julian; here two of the best men were shot with arrows by the natives and died. Here, also, Drake found that one of his officers was guilty of