

sailed to the westward from Tehuantepec—discovered land under the tropic of Cancer, and anchored in a small bay, where his men, having obtained some valuable pearls, were desirous of remaining for a time. This, Becerra would not permit; and while preparing to continue his voyage, a mutiny broke out and he was murdered. The pilot, Fortunio Ximenes, then took command of the vessel. After the death of their commander, the mutineers landed, and began to erect habitations on the shore of the bay; and while thus engaged, were surprised by the savages, and nearly all of them killed. The few who made their escape, succeeded in navigating the vessel to the port of Chiametla, on the coast of Jalisco, where she was also seized by Muño de Guzman.

When Cortez heard of these spoliations and seizures, he immediately instituted a suit against Guzman, in the royal court of Madrid, and obtained a decree in his favor. Guzman refused, however, to make any restitution; and Cortez collecting a body of troops, marched to Chiametla, in order to recover his vessels, and reestablish his authority in that country. On his approach Guzman fled, and Cortez being joined by three vessels that had been sent pursuant to his orders, determined to proceed, in person, to the country discovered by Belcerra, in the west, which was said to be exceedingly rich in pearls and precious stones.

Embarking with his forces therefore at Cheametla, he reached the bay where Becerra had been murdered on the third of May, and in honor of the day, which in the Roman calendar was the feast of the finding of the Holy Cross, he named the bay and the country Santa Cruz; and taking possession of it in the name of Spain, he immediately commenced preparations for establishing a colony.

On his return to Mexico, the following year, he learned that during his absence, he had been superseded in the government by Don Antonio de Mendoza. Still possessing the right, however, as *admiral of the South Sea*, to prepare and dispatch vessels on the Pacific, he determined to engage in another expedition to the north, in hopes of retrieving his fortunes. Therefore, recalling the colonists from Santa Cruz, he fitted out three ships for the expedition, and gave the command of them to Francisco de Ulloa. This expedition was the last made by the authority of Cortez.

Ulloa left Acapulco in July, 1539, and after losing one of his ships in a storm, sailed with the others to the harbor of Santa Cruz; having explored the Gulf of California, and sailed round Cape San Lucas, he proceeded on the western coast as far as latitude 30° north.

In 1527, a band of Spanish adventurers, under Panfilo Navarez, landed in Florida, in search of gold or of rich nations to plunder. This party were soon nearly all destroyed by the savages. The survivors, three Spaniards and a negro, after nine years' wanderings in the southern part of North America, reached Culiacan, near the Gulf of California, in 1536. The accounts they gave of rich nations, who, as they had been told by the savages, lived farther to the north, stimulated Mendoza, the successor of Cortez, to new exertions. He, therefore, sent two friars,

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