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clared by Queen Elizabeth, Sir Francis Drake, with the sanction of the authorities, started on his historic voyage to the Pacific with the object of harassing the Spanish fleet, which had hitherto held undisturbed control over the western coast of America. In 1577 this heroic buccaneer, who was the first Englishman to navigate the Straits of Magellan, sailed from Plymouth on his adventurous quest.

Drake, after hardships and losses

likely that this daring Englishman, whose romantic adventures will always live in the annals of British seamanship, paid very much attention to objects of less practical concern. His sole aim was to return safely with his plunder. With this end in view, rather than run the gauntlet of the Spaniards to the south, whom he well knew were burning to revenge the indignities suffered at his hands, Drake decided to return by way of the northwest passage, in the exist-



Hudson's Bay Company's Steamer Beaver.
The Beaver arrived at Astoria on April 4th, 1836.

which would have broken the spirit of a man less brave and determined, reached the Pacific and sailing north discovered California, which he named New Albion. His voyage, however, was not primarily one of discovery, but made rather with the object of plundering the richly laden galleons of Spain returning with spoils gathered from the ancient cities of South America, whose inhabitants were treated with such refined cruelty by their Iberian conquerors. It is, therefore, un-

ence of which he, in common with the mariners of his age, had a firm belief. Eventually he was forced to abandon his attempt and return by way of the Philippines and the Cape of Good Hope, thus completing the first voyage round the world.

The precise parallel of latitude reached by Drake on his northward voyage has been the subject of much discussion, more particularly in connection with the Oregon boundary. The chaplain of the