

ship left, not strong, though it was a very rich one. All things considered, he resolved to go round to the Moluccas, and so follow the course of the Portuguese, to get home by the Cape of Good Hope: but being becalmed, he found it necessary to sail more northerly, to get a good wind; upon which design they sailed at least 600 leagues, which was all the way they made, from April 1, to June 3. June 5, being got into 43° of north latitude, they found the air excessive cold; and the further they went, the severity of the weather was more intolerable. Upon which score they made toward the land, till they came into 38° north latitude, under which height of the pole they found a very good bay, and had a favorable wind to enter the same."

He then describes the people, their habits, manners, customs, his transactions with them, and then says, "these circumstances, though trivial in themselves, are of consequence in asserting our first discovery of *California*."

He then describes an interview with people from the interior. "King, lords, and common people." "The King (says he) made a solemn offer of all his kingdom, and its dependencies, to the Admiral, desiring him to take the sovereignty upon him, and professing that he himself would be his very loyal subject. And that this might not seem to be mere compliment and pretence, he did, by the consent of his nobles there present, take off the illustrious crown of feathers from his own head, and fix it upon the Admiral's: at the same time investing him with the other ensigns of royalty, did, as much as in him lay, make him king of the country. The Admiral accepted of this new offered dignity, as her majesty's representative, in her name, and for her use; it being probable, that from this donation, *whether made in jest or in earnest*, by these Indians, some real advantages might hereafter redound to the English nation and interest in these parts." He describes their adoration of him and his people, by the offer of sacrifices, which were rejected with abhorrence. "The Admiral and his people travelled to some distance up in the country." He describes the animals—the multitude of deer and rabbits. "The earth of the country (says the writer) seemed to promise very rich veins of gold and silver, there being hardly any digging without throwing up some of the ores of them. The Admiral called it *Nova Albion*, partly in honor of his own country, and partly from the prospect of white cliffs and banks, which it yields to them that view it from the sea. At his departure hence, he set up a monument with a large plate, upon which were engraven her majesty's name, picture, arms, title to the country, the time of their arrival there, and the Admiral's own name. In this country, the Spaniards had never set footing, nor did they ever discover the land by many degrees to the southward of the place.

"Sailing from hence, they lost sight of land till October 13th, upon which day in the morning, they fell in with certain Islands, in 8° of north latitude."

From these accounts there is no evidence on which the British nation can claim a prior discovery of this coast.