

CHAPTER II.

AN ARCTIC GOLD FEVER.

FROBISHER was a learned and able man. He lived in the days of the famous maiden queen of England, Elizabeth. "There were giants" in her reign, and Frobisher was one of them. He was known to fame in his day as a hero in the defeat of the great Spanish Armada, but better known as an arctic explorer.

In early life he became an enthusiastic admirer of Sebastian Cabot and his adventures. He was sure that a north-west passage to India could be found, and that he was the man to find it. He declared that this was the only great thing which remained to be done. No wonder, then, that he gave his time and strength to secure the means of accomplishing it, by converting others to his own faith. Fifteen years he went about preaching "Cathia" as the promised land, and the north-west as the way to it. Men's ears were dull and their "shoulders" cold toward him. But Frobisher's zeal did not abate. Opposition is the flint which strikes fire from some men. The sparks of enthusiasm which the smitten Frobisher emitted soon set the nation on fire. In 1576 Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, took up his cause. Under his patronage, three vessels were equipped