

Six years later, in 1498—a most memorable year in the history of maritime enterprise,—Columbus discovered the firm land of South America and the River Orinoco. Vasco de Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and Sebastian Cabot rendered the existence of the northern part of a new continent a matter beyond dispute. The greatest of these adventurers, however, was treated with the blackest ingratitude by his Sovereign and country, when he returned worn out and enfeebled, and maligned by his enemies. Sebastian Cabot was even more unfortunate than the great Genoese. During his life he won neither fame nor money from the discovery which he had made. "He gave England," says the American historian, "a continent, and no one knows his burial place."

#### BRITISH MARITIME ADVENTURERS.

Spain entered into the work of American colonization under apparently the most favourable auspices. The country she won by the valour and the energy of her adventurers, possess precious metals, the most delicious fruits, and the richest soil, but the genius of her people is not adapted to found stable and prosperous colonies. The most prosperous countries on the Western continent owe their settlement to England and France. England's share in the work of colonization was exceedingly limited for some time after the voyages of the Cabots. To us who know her present position among the naval powers of the world, or reflect upon her glorious past, it may appear somewhat surprising that she should not have immediately taken the most active part in founding New England on this continent. Her people are naturally a maritime race, for in their veins flows the blood of those Norsemen and Vikings who roved from sea to sea in quest of achievements, which have been recorded in the most extravagant terms by the Sagas or Scalds, the poets of the North. England's love for the sea must be attributed not merely to her insular position but to that spirit of enterprise and daring which she inherits from the Norsemen. If she did not immediately enter upon the boundless field of action which the discovery of America offered, it was owing to internal causes, as well as to the fact that these northern countries, to whose discovery she would fairly make claim, seemed hardly to afford the same inducement for adventure and enterprise as the rich, sunny climes of the South, of which the Spaniard had the monopoly. But the deeds of Frobisher, Hawkins, Grenville, Drake and Gilbert soon testified to the natural genius of the people of England. To these and other men of Devon—England's "forgotten worthies,"—she owes her colonies, her commerce, her very existence. Many a stately galleon, laden with the riches of Mexico and Peru, became the spoil of the English adventurers, many of whom, it must be acknowledged, displayed all the characteristics of the Vikings—the sea-rovers of the North.

Whilst Hawkins and Drake were chasing the Spaniard and making the name of England a terror to despots and monopolists on the high seas, the adventurous, erratic Frobisher was trying to solve that

problem of the brave sailors the nineteenth North-west for gold into another brave enterprise the of the heroic ing interest; of a perma Humphrey found no few French, while Vista. The affixed the possession of oldest colony of Sir Hun the cockle-shell down into the

A promising men, its poet in our historian or the plished English that clever remember scientific pu had been un where so m when kings of the people thorough E of his coun carried awa men of tho type of adv had all the of his age. zation of the attention so named i voted and his country a broken-h