

discovered and explored by Sir Francis Drake, that he had made a formal claim to all the territory comprehended within those limits in the name of Queen Elizabeth.

2d. Purchase from the natives, before the United States were an independent power.

3d. "That upon the river Columbia, or upon rivers that flowed into it, West of the Rocky Mountains, her subjects had formed settlements coeval with, if not prior to the settlement by American citizens at its mouth." These, if we understand the correspondence, are the evidences of title on which Great Britain rests her claim to this Territory. And never was a great nation driven to such miserable expedients, to cover that inordinate ambition, which, not satisfied with half the world, seeks to add this little Territory to her unwieldy Colonial Empire.

Hackluyt, who made the first English collection of voyages, who lived in the time when Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the Globe, (while some of his crew were yet living,) informs us that he reached no higher point than 43.

Purchas, we take his words from the London edition of his voyages published there in 1617, 38 years after Drake's return from this famous expedition, and 21 years after his death (he died in January, 1596,) says, "Sir Francis Drake sailed on the other side of America to 40 degrees of Northerly latitude." And again "this our English Knight landed on this coast in 38 degrees."

In Lediard's Naval History of Great Britain, published in 1735, there is a compilation of all the authentic accounts of voyages then made. Speaking of the voyage of Sir Francis Drake, he says, "He, therefore, boldly resolved to attempt finding a passage by North America, and sailed to the North latitude of 2 or 3 and 40 degrees on that coast, to discover if there were any Strait on that side, by which he might return the nearest way home. But then meeting with nothing but severity of cold, thick clouds, and open shores covered with snow, though it was then the beginning of June, he came back."

I now come to the most minute and best written account of this voyage which exists; it is from a collection of voyages published by John Harris, D. D. F. R. S. published in London, in 1744:

Sir Francis Drake, (he says) after sailing up the coast of South America, attacking many towns, and making many prizes, reached the haven of Guatulco, (on the west coast of Mexico) and attacked and captured that town. The account continues—

"The Admiral now thinking he had in some measure revenged both the public injuries of his country, as well as his own private wrongs, upon the Spaniards, began to deliberate upon his return home; but which way he should take, was the question to be resolved: to return by the straits of the South Sea, (and as yet no other passage had been discovered) he thought would be to throw himself into the hands of the Spaniards, who would probably there wait for him, with a far greater strength than he could now cope with; for he had at this time but one