

right of first discovery, nor could anyone deny her that of first occupation."

However unfortunate to Russia the omission may have been, it is not impossible to imagine the Royal Printer shrinking from so formidable a task. To detail the names alone is no ordinary exploit.

The territory with which I have to deal, that portion of the New World washed by the shores of the North Pacific Ocean, was discovered at a much later date than any other part of the North American torrid and temperate zones. No point was more remote from Europe and it could only be reached by doubling Cape Horn or the Cape of Good Hope. Balboa, while exploring the Isthmus of Panama on 29th September, 1513, was probably the first to get a glimpse of the great ocean lying to the West. On November 27th, 1520, Magellan sailed through the straits now called after him on to the bosom of the Mar Pacific, the peaceful sea, and in September, 1577, Drake was the first Englishman to sail Pacific waters. I have to deal with the North Pacific, however, and discoveries of a much later date.

Anything like a full relation of the early discoveries of the North Pacific navigators must not be undertaken, however one is tempted to expatiate on the events of a period so crowded with tales of hardship, daring and romance. Only a brief reference is possible, but brief as it may be, it is absolutely necessary. The following then are some of the events of greater importance to be borne in mind:

The Russians crossed Siberia to Kamchatka in 1697. In 1728-29 Behring established the separation of the continents as far North as 67° on the Asiatic Coast. In June, 1741, Behring sighted land in $58^{\circ} 28'$ North Latitude, and Tchirikoff in Latitude 56° . From 1741 to 1768 there were many Russian voyages to the Aleutian Islands and the Alaskan Peninsula. The Spanish Government sent three exploring expeditions along this coast between 1774 and 1779, touching points on the mainland up to the 60th degree of Latitude. La Perouse, for the French Government, made the mainland near Mount St. Elias in 1786. United States vessels first traded on the Northwest Coast in 1788. The first survey of the West Coast was made by Captain Cook in 1778, when he explored from 44° North