

coast have at one time or another been sacked or taken either by our own cruisers or by the numerous buccaneers who used to infest the whole of this coast as well as the West Indies at this time. These buccaneers were principally French and English who had banded themselves together against their common enemy the Spaniards and who at the present day would be considered neither more nor less than pirates ; but in those days the Spaniard was considered fair game for all freebooters, and their colonies and trade, both in the West Indies and the Pacific Ocean, were much harassed by them. The names of Morgan, Dampier and Oxenham were amongst the most daring and adventurous, and Sir Walter Scott has beautifully expressed the dread in which these buccaneers were held wherever they were known, in his charming poem, "Rockeby," when he says :--

" Panama's maid shall oft turn pale
When Risingham inspires the tale ;
And Chili's matrons long shall tame
The wayward child with Bertram's name ! "

I have not come across either the names of Bertram or Risingham amongst those of the buccaneers, but "what is there in a name ?" Dampier, who had been formerly one of Morgan's followers, and about three hundred others, after seeing the success which attended the sacking of Panama, determined to cross the Isthmus again and try their ventures in the South sea, and so well did they succeed that in the course of a short time they had a fleet of four or five ships, and the bay of Panama was the scene of many a barbarous act and plundering expedition. After