

of the natives to Cook, we have this important fact thus distinctly admitted: "Similar to the behavior of the natives of Nootka, on this occasion, was that of another tribe of Indians further north, in latitude $57^{\circ} 18'$, to the Spaniards, who had preceded Captain Cook only three years, in a voyage to explore the coast of America north of California."

In the following year, 1775, another expedition sailed for the same purpose of exploration. They saw the entrance of the strait said to have been discovered by De Fuca, (for the authenticity of De Fuca's narrative had not then been established,) which they were unable to examine in consequence of a violent storm, which drove them off the coast. One of the vessels, sailing south, Heceta, the commander, discovered a promontory called by him San Roque, (now Cape Disappointment,) forming the northern point of the mouth of Columbia River, "which was thus, for the first time, seen by the natives of a civilized country." The other schooner, under Bodega and Maurelle, sailed to the north as far as the 57^{th} degree, and, landing in a bay which they called Port Remedios, formally, and with religious ceremonies, took possession of the country in the name of their sovereign. Other points, along the whole coast, were visited by these exploring expeditions.

BRITISH DISCOVERIES.

Having thus briefly brought the account of the Spanish discoveries down to the year 1775, the committee proceeds, with equal brevity, to refer to the result of British voyages, to find a northwest passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean; for that was the leading object of all their expeditions—to discover a more direct route to India than the circuitous one by the Cape of Good Hope, or the more circuitous and dangerous one round Cape Horn. The genius, the skill, the enterprise, and the fate of Cook, have immortalized his name. Under his auspices, two ships, in 1776, sailed for the Pacific, to explore the coast, with a view to find the outlet of the northwest passage into that ocean. The date (1776) of Cook's sailing is important, as showing that he could lay no claim to the discovery of any part of the coast previously (in 1774—75) visited and discovered by the Spaniards. The object of Cook's voyage (the discovery of a northwest passage) it is important to keep constantly in view, as it precludes the idea, now so strongly urged, that it was any part of his design to take possession of or to make settlements on any part of the territory now covered by the claim of the United States. That no such result was anticipated from the expedition is incontrovertible, from the instructions given to Cook by the lords of the admiralty. After reciting that it is "His majesty's pleasure that an attempt should be made to find out a passage by sea from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean," and giving minute directions for their voyage to Otaheite, the instructions proceed: "and having refreshed the people belonging to the sloops under your command, and taken on board such wood and water as they may respectively stand in need of, you are to leave those islands in the beginning of February, or sooner if you shall judge it necessary, and then proceed in as direct a course as you can to the coast of New Albion, endeavoring to fall in with it in the latitude of 45° north, and taking care, in your way thither, not to lose any time in search of new lands, or to stop at any you may fall in with, unless you find it necessary to recruit your wood and water." After strictly enjoining him "not to touch upon any part of the Spanish dominions," etc., the instructions proceed: "Upon your arrival on the coast of New Albion, you are to put into the first convenient port, to recruit your wood and water, and procure refreshments, and then to proceed northward along the coast as far as the latitude of 65° , or further if you are not obstructed by lands or ice, taking care not to lose any time in exploring rivers or inlets, or upon any other account, until you get into the before-mentioned latitude of 65° , where we could wish you to arrive in the month of June next." "When you get that length, you are very carefully to search for and to explore such rivers or inlets as may appear to be of a considerable extent, and pointing toward Hudson's or Baffin's Bays." "You are also, with the consent of the natives, to take possession, in the name of the King of Great Britain, of convenient situations, in such countries as you may discover, that have not already been discovered or visited by any European Power, and to distribute among the in-