

East. The Portuguese had discovered a route to the East round Africa, and now the Spaniards had found another round South America. It remained only to find one shorter still, either to the north of Europe or else to the north of this new continent called America. The search for a north-eastern passage was not attempted until some years later. That for a north-west passage began in 1525 and during the succeeding decade one Spanish, two English, and two French expeditions were equipped for the purpose of finding it. The French attempts led to the discovery of the St. Lawrence.

The Spanish expedition was sent out in 1524, when Stephen Gomez, who had sailed with Magellan, was directed by the Emperor Charles the Fifth to find a passage in the north which should serve better than the one discovered by Magellan in the south. The northern passage would be nearer to Spain and it would also enable vessels to avoid a double journey through the tropics. Following the Spanish fishing fleet to the Banks, Gomez, like Fagundes, passed on into the Gulf by the southern entrance, but whether like the Portuguese he went no farther than the island of Anticosti we do not know. In any case he seems to have missed the river. On issuing from the Gulf Gomez coasted the Atlantic shore southwards to a point somewhere near Cape May. Thus he almost reached the latitude which had been already attained by vessels coming north from the Spanish Main, and in fact in the following year the intervening bit of coast was explored by a Spanish vessel the crew of which set up crosses to mark the Spanish claim. Explorers of this nationality had now virtually visited the whole coast from Florida to Gaspé, but still both the river St. Lawrence and the north-west passage remained undiscovered.

The two attempts made by English vessels to find the north-west passage had no results of importance. In 1527 two ships were sent out, apparently with this object in view, but one went down in a storm off Newfoundland and the other returned home in October after having paid a visit to the coast of Cape Breton. A fresh expedition some nine years later was equally fruitless. After some time had been spent at Cape Breton and

Never
wer
Fre

year
sove
part
of th
havi
Frat
Step
Giov
First
was
ran s
too f
Fifth
battl
time
for a
enabl
his m
west
in the
of the
from
until