

sea. The English attempt in the latter part of the sixteenth century, under Raleigh's influence, to occupy Roanoke island and adjacent regions, but without definite extension westward, was in due time followed by successive royal patents and charters, beginning in 1606 and ending in 1665, which appropriated the hospitable parts of the continent stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. For a north and south extension these grants almost exactly covered the whole length of the Mississippi, since the parallel of 48° , which formed the northern limit, and that of 29° , which made the southern, were respectively a little north of the source of the great river and just seaward of its deltas.

The charter of Acadia, granted by the French King three years before the first of the English grants, covered the coast from the 40° to the 46° , and was thus embraced in the pretensions of the English King, but his rival refrained from giving any westward extension, beyond what was implied in "the lands, shores, and countries of Acadia and other neighboring lands."

It is interesting to determine what, during this period of sixty years, mainly in the first half of the seventeenth century, were the notions, shared by the English King and his advisers, of the extent of this munificent domain, with which he and they were so free.

A few years before the first of these grants was made to the Plymouth Company, in 1606, Hakluyt had laid before the world, in Molineaux's great *Mappe-Monde*, the ripest English ideas of the new world, and these gave a breadth to North America not much different from what it was in reality. The Pacific coast line, however, was not carried above Drake's New Albion, our modern upper California. This left the question still undetermined, if one could not travel on a higher parallel dry-shod to Asia, as Thomas Morton, later a settler on Boston Bay, imagined he could.