

bucaneer, arrived in the Pacific Ocean in the fall of the year 1578; and during the following winter, having plundered the Spanish towns on the coast and the vessels he encountered on the ocean, he turned his thoughts to England. To avoid the Spanish ships, which would probably assemble in sufficient force to intercept his return round Cape Horn, he resolved upon the route by the Cape of Good Hope. To avoid the westerly winds which prevail in the lower latitudes, he sailed north as far, perhaps, as the 42nd or 43rd degree of latitude. His crew here suffering from the cold, he again turned toward the south, and, running along the coast, found a good harbor, now San Francisco, in latitude 38 degrees. Here he remained some time, preparing his vessels for the voyage home. We pass over, as entitled to little belief and no consideration, the idle offer by the Indians and the equally idle acceptance by Drake, in the name of Elizabeth, of the sovereignty of the country. Certainly it is scarcely possible to imagine titles founded upon weaker grounds than the discoveries of Cabrillo, Ferrello, and Drake. But if Drake's voyage be a basis of the British claim, Ferrello's is a better of the Spanish, for it was thirty-six years anterior, and *prior tempore potior est jure*.

Juan de Fuca, in the service of Spain, in 1692, discovered and sailed through the straits, in latitude 48 degrees, which now bear his name. The account given of this voyage was many years considered fabulous, and of the existence even of De Fuca there was no other evidence than some letters of an Englishman named Lock, written from Venice in 1596. The veracity and general accuracy of De Fuca, however, have been vindicated by the researches of subsequent navigators. And when Vancouver, in 1792, sailed through these straits, which had been pointed out to him by the American Captain Gray, he was forcibly reminded of the description of De Fuca; and further investigations developing further points of resemblance, he perpetuated his own conviction of the original discovery of De Fuca, by giving his name to the straits, which they bear to this day.

In 1603, a more imposing expedition was fitted out under Viscaino, which did little more than make minute examinations of the coast which had been visited by Cabrillo and Ferrello.

In 1770, Portola made an establishment at Monterey, in latitude 36°; and in 1776 the bay of San Francisco was settled, in latitude 38°, the most northern town in California.

We now approach a period when the spirit of adventure, stimulated by the desire and hope of gain, and directed by nautical skill and science, made more rapid and accurate advances in the exploration of the hitherto almost unknown shores of Northwestern America. These were carried on almost simultaneously, under the authority of Great Britain and Spain. Prior to 1774, the period to which our attention is now directed, no Spanish navigator had examined the coast north of 43° or 44°, the limits of the discovery of Cabrillo and Viscaino. In that year, the Spaniards, aroused to renewed activity by the settlements which the Russians were pushing from the north, entered upon the execution of their long-cherished purposes of extending their dominion north of California. For the accomplishing of this object, so dear to Spain, as the means of enlarging her own possessions, to the exclusion of the rest of the world, several expeditions were undertaken in the years 1774 and 1775. They were directed to proceed as far north as the 65th degree of latitude, and minutely to examine the coast south to the 43rd, to which point it had been explored a century and a half before by Cabrillo and Viscaino. Juan Perez, the officer in command of the first expedition, in 1774, did not advance beyond the 54th degree; thence, sailing south, he examined the coast to 49½°, where he discovered a commodious bay, to which he gave the name of Port San Lorenzo. There he remained some time, trading with the natives. This was the first visit ever made to this part of the coast by Europeans. San Lorenzo was four years afterward entered (discovered, as he alleges) by Cook, and called King George's Sound. Its present name is Nootka Sound, which derives all its celebrity from becoming the subject of an important negotiation between the British and Spanish governments. Captain Cook himself admits that he was preceded by these Spaniards, though he comes to the conclusion they had not been at Nootka. He tells us that some account of this voyage had reached England before he sailed. In the following note, referring to the conduct