

CHAPTER II.

Conquest of Rome by the Goths—Conquest of Egypt and Northern Africa by the Arabs or Moors—They found Morocco—Pass over into Spain and subdue it—Scandinavians infest the shores of Gaul and Britain—They discover the Faroe Islands and Iceland—Iceland colonised by the Danes and others—An Iceland colonist discovers Greenland—Settlements made near Cape Farewell—Supposed discovery of America by Greenland settlers—Portuguese discover the Azores—Cabot's discovery of the continent of North America—Voyages of early European navigators to America—Fisheries on the Grand Bank of Newfoundland—Settlement of Acadie by the French—War between England and France—Naval actions in the Atlantic.

AFTER the conquest of Italy by the *Goths* under Alaric, A.D. 410, the Western Empire—overrun by hordes of barbarians—was broken up into small disconnected states, without the means of forming a combination to resist the common enemy. Amidst this general confusion a cloud of darkness overspread all the civilised regions bordering on the Mediterranean; commercial relations were suspended; no attempts were made to extend the bounds of geographical knowledge. On the contrary, even much that had been acquired was lost, and the very existence of the great ocean, which