

Among the navigators who succeeded Cabot we are told that Cortes Réal discovered the Gulf of St. Lawrence. But probably that honour belongs to Denys, of Honfleur, who in 1606 made a map of those waters. We have also a record of discoveries by Verrazzanno and others. Jacques Cartier, so well remembered in Canada, made his first trip in 1537, his last in 1548. This French navigator ascended the St. Lawrence and established the claim to the discovery of Canada, as it was long afterwards known, and from which the Dominion took its name.

In 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert crossed the ocean to Newfoundland, of which he took formal possession in the name of Queen Elizabeth. One of his three small vessels foundered near Cape Breton, not many leagues from the landfall of Cabot, when the commander and all hands perished.

Champlain, the founder of the city of Quebec, made eleven voyages between 1603 and 1633. This date may be described as the approximate period when the voyage across the Atlantic had become an ordinary matter.

The first Colony of Englishmen landed in New England November 1620. From that date to the end of the seventeenth century the trade of the Colonies steadily and rapidly increased, and many ships were engaged in the transatlantic service. The English ships at the beginning of the eighteenth century, according to a statistical return, numbered 1,358; compared with modern vessels they were of small size, the largest did not exceed 157 tons.

England and Scotland united to form Great Britain in 1707, and the union gave an immense impulse to commerce. As time advanced, the size and accommodation of the ships were increased. The eighteenth century was remarkable for British maritime expeditions, and the development of the Colonies and shipping. The ocean was traversed by fleets of sailing ships to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, when a new power was brought into use, which completely revolutionised the means of crossing the Atlantic and navigating every ocean.

Early in the century some progress had been made in applying steam to navigation, but it was chiefly confined to rivers, estuaries, and inland waters. It was through the enterprise of Canadian merchants that the ocean was first crossed by steam power. The first ocean-going steam vessel was constructed at the city of Quebec. It was built by a joint-stock company, the designer being Mr. James Goudie, a native of the city, of Scottish descent, who died only four years ago. The vessel was launched in the spring of 1831, with