

by Mexico and Peru, the French, for some years, neglected the discovery. At last, in the year 1523, Francis I. a sensible and enterprising Prince, sent four ships, under the command of Verazani, a Florentine, to prosecute discoveries in this country. The particulars of this man's first expedition are not known. All we can learn is, that he returned to France, and next year undertook a second. As he approached the coast, he met with a violent storm; but he came so near as to perceive the natives on the shore, making friendly signs to him to land. This being found impracticable, by reason of the surf upon the coast, one of the sailors threw himself into the sea; but, in endeavouring to swim back to the ship, a surge threw him on the shore without signs of life. He was, however, treated by the natives with such care and humanity, that he recovered his strength, and was allowed to swim back to the ship, which immediately returned to France. This is all we know of Verazani's second expedition. He undertook a third, but was no more heard of, and it is thought, that he and all his company perished before he could form a colony, or that the savages whom he may have visited, massacred him and all his followers. In 1534, eleven years after, Jacques, or James Cartier, a skilful navigator of St. Maloes, resumed the projects of Verazani. The two nations who had first landed in America, exclaimed against the injustice of treading in their footsteps. "What!" said Francis I. pleasantly, "shall the Kings of Spain and Portugal quietly divide all America between them, without suffering me to take a share as their brother? I would fain see the article of Adam's Will which bequeaths that vast inheritance to them." Cartier had with him two small ships, besides the one in which he sailed. After having approached Newfoundland, sailed round it, and discovered that it was an Island, he steered southward towards the continent of Canada, and entered a very spacious Bay, which, in consequence of the heat of the weather at the time, he denominated the *Baie des Chaleurs*. Here he was delighted with the beauty of the country, and the peaceable behaviour of the Indians whom he met, and with whom he entered into some traffic. This bay is the same which we find in some old charts under the designation of *Baie des Espagnols*. An ancient tradition prevailed in Europe, that this part of the country had been visited long before the French discoveries, by a party of Castilians, in search of mines; but finding nothing of the kind, they were often heard to exclaim the two words *ACA NADA*—meaning that there was nothing here. Since then the Indians had accustomed themselves to repeat those words to the French, who, from that circumstance, were naturally led to suppose that they meant and conveyed the name of the country. Hence it is conjectured, Etymologists have derived the name of Canada*. After having landed on several other places along the coast, and taken possession of the country in the name of the King of France, Cartier returned home to render an account of his successes and projects. These were approved of, and he was again sent out with a commission and a pretty considerable force. Though he sailed from St. Maloes in May 1535, it was not till the 10th of August that he arrived on the coast of Canada. That day being the festival of St. Lawrence, Cartier embraced the opportunity for

* Some have ventured to deduce the name from the Iroquois word *Kannata*, which is pronounced *Cannada*, and signifies a cluster of huts.