

TOPICAL ANALYSIS (THE GREAT VOYAGERS).

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| LEIF ERICSON. | 17. His People. | { Home. |
| | | { Achievements. |
| | 18. Voyage. | { Object. |
| | | { Equipment. |
| | | { Route. |
| | 19. Results. | { Discovery. |
| | | { Upon his own country. |
| | 20. Norse Sagas. | { Upon civilized world. |
| | | { Ignorance of geography. |
| | 21. Condition of his Time. | { Revival of learning. |
| { Water-route to India. | | |
| { City of Genoa. | | |
| 22. His Home. | { Early life. | |
| | { His belief. | |
| 23. His Plan. | { Errors in his calculations. | |
| | { His native city. | |
| 24. His Disappointments. | { King John of Portugal. | |
| | { Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. | |
| | { Queen Isabella's aid. | |
| 25. Success. | { Equipment; start. | |
| | { Course. | |
| | { Discouragements. | |
| 26. The Voyage. | { Land sighted. | |
| | { Claim made. | |
| 27, 28. Discovery. | { Stormy weather. | |
| | { Reception in Spain. | |
| 29. The Return. | { Settlement on Hayti. | |
| | { South America discovered. | |
| 30. Three Other Voyages. | { His poverty; his grave. | |
| | { A new world revealed. | |
| 31. Last Days. | { Enlightenment of mankind hastened. | |
| | { Nativity and home. | |
| 32. Results. | { Conditions of his voyage. | |
| | { Equipment. | |
| 33. John Cabot. | { Land discovered. | |
| | { Voyage and explorations. | |
| 34. His Voyage. | { Shorter route across Atlantic. | |
| | { Basis of England's claim. | |
| 35. Sebastian Cabot. | | |
| | | |
| 36. Results. | | |
| | | |
| 37. Results. | | |
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EXPLORATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS.

THE NAME OF THE CONTINENT.

40. Some years after Columbus' discovery, Amerigo Vespucci (called in Latin, Americus Vesputius), an Italian navigator, employed first by Spain, afterward by Portugal, made several voyages to the New World. While in the service of Portugal, in 1501, Vespucci explored the coast of Brazil far enough to discover that that country was not part of India, as the northern lands visited by Columbus and the Cabots were still supposed to be. His explorations proved the existence of a new continent in the southern hemisphere. The news created almost as great an impression in the Old World as had Columbus' supposed discovery of a western route to Asia. Müller, a German printer, who published Vespucci's description of this new southern continent, suggested that the country be called "Terra Americi," the Land of Americus. The suggestion was seized upon by geographers, and the name America, first restricted to South America, was afterward applied to the entire continent.

SPANISH EXPLORATIONS.

41. Spain's Advantage.—The discoveries of Columbus were magnificent triumphs for Spain, and gave her an advantage over the other nations of Europe in the race of discovery and exploration that now followed. Portugal was Spain's greatest rival on the seas. To prevent the two nations from quarreling over the new lands in the west, the Pope issued a decree fixing a dividing line between their possessions. He selected a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands, and declared that all heathen lands west of this meridian should belong to Spain; all east of it, to

Portugal. (See, from map, page 24, how this decision was another point in Spain's favor.) Every bold Spanish captain was now eager to win wealth and distinction by the conquest of new countries for his sovereign. Inspired by the heroic example of Columbus, they despised the fears that so recently



Spanish Explorations.

chilled the bravest hearts. Not strange seas, nor trackless forests, nor hostile savages could check these daring explorers.

42. Florida Discovered.—Ponce de Leon had accompanied Columbus on his second voyage, and was afterward made governor of one of the West India Islands. Having been deposed from his office, the old man brooded over his disgrace, and longed for the strength and glory of his younger days. The Indians had told him that in the distant lands across the sea was a spring that could make forever young those who bathed in its waters. De Leon believed the story, and at his own expense fitted out an expedition to search for the wonderful fountain. On Easter Sunday, 1512, he came in

sight of land, which he named Florida, from the Spanish *Pascua Florida* (Flowery Easter).

Years afterward he returned to establish a colony. His men were attacked so fiercely by the Indians that they had to hurry to their ships, and Ponce de Leon was mortally wounded by an arrow. Sad that the old man should receive his death wound in the beautiful land where he had expected to gain immortal youth!

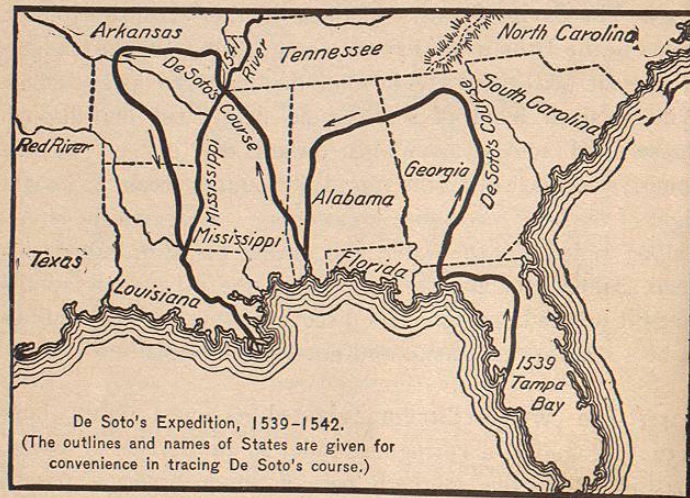
43. The Pacific Ocean.—Balboa, another Spanish explorer, sailed to the Isthmus of Panama, and heard from the Indians of a great sea which lay beyond the lands he had touched. With a small band of soldiers, he boldly set out through forests and across mountains toward the interior of the country. At last, from the top of a mountain peak, he caught sight of the blue waves of a great ocean. Reaching the shore, Balboa waded into the water, and waving his sword above his head, claimed for the king of Spain the ocean and all the lands it touched (1513). His discovery proved North America to be a separate continent, and not a part of Asia.¹

44. The World Circumnavigated.—Seven years later (1520), Magellan, a Portuguese sailor in the service of Spain, coasting along the southern part of South America, passed through the straits that bear his name, and sailed upon the ocean which Balboa had discovered. Magellan gave the name *Pacific* to the great ocean because he found it so peaceful during his voyage. Landing on one of the Philippine Islands, he was killed in a battle with the natives. One of his five ships with eighteen men finally got back to Spain by way of the Cape of Good Hope. This was the first circumnavigation of the globe. The question of the shape of the earth was thus settled forever,

¹ As to South America see § 40.

and a western route to India was found at last. (See map, page 24.)

45. Conquest of Florida. — Ferdinand de Soto had been a soldier under Pizarro in the Spanish conquest of Peru. Returning to Spain, he was ambitious to rival the exploits of his former leader. The name of Florida was at that time given to the whole of the southern part of what is now the United



States. De Soto determined to explore this vast region in the hope of finding gold. Landing on the western coast of the peninsula of Florida, he sent his ships back, and with 600 men, started through the forests and swamps toward the north. His men were dressed in gay uniforms and mounted on fine horses. They were supplied with every kind of weapon then known, and besides took with them bloodhounds to use against the Indians and chains to bind their captives. For three years De Soto's band wandered through the present states of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, in the

vain search for gold — their numbers constantly diminishing from attacks of the Indians and from wasting sickness.

46. Discovery of the Mississippi. — At last, in 1541, De Soto came in sight of the Mississippi River near where the city of Memphis now stands. For the first time the upper course of the great "Father of Waters" was seen by a white man.¹ Exposure and repeated disappointments, however, had broken the health and spirits of the adventurous Spaniard, and he died the next year. The Indians had feared De Soto, and to conceal his death from them, his body was buried at midnight in the mighty river he had discovered. His men wandered, and probably entered the present State of Texas; then returning to the river, they floated down to the Gulf, finally reaching the Spanish settlements in Mexico.

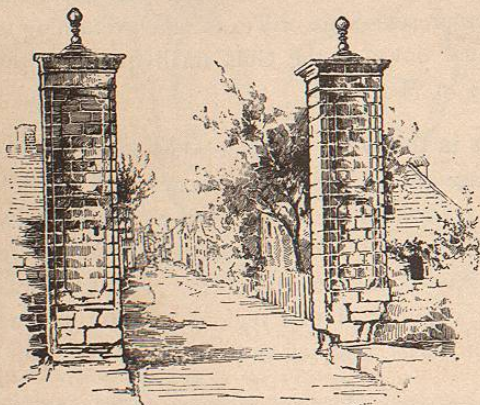
47. Explorations in the West. — While Magellan was making his famous voyage around the world, Mexico with its rich mines and ancient civilization (§ 2) was being conquered by the Spanish general, Cortez. From Mexico expeditions were sent out to explore the country to the north. Coronado was the most prominent explorer of this region. California was visited and the Pacific coast explored as far north as Oregon.

48. Texas was traversed from the Gulf of Mexico to its northwestern boundary in 1528 by Cabeza de Vaca and three companions, the sole survivors of an unsuccessful attempt to explore Florida. Having lost their ships off the Florida coast, they built a few rude boats and coasted along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico until they reached Texas. They landed somewhere near Galveston Island and passed through the country northwest as far as the Rio Grande River. Proceeding to

¹ Recent investigations indicate that the mouth of the Mississippi was entered in 1519 by Alvarez de Pineda, an explorer of the Gulf coast.

ward the Pacific coast, they were met by some Spanish soldiers who escorted them to the city of Mexico.

49. The First Permanent Settlement.— Pedro Menendez, hearing that a company of Huguenots, or French Protestants, had formed a settlement on the St. Johns River in Florida, resolved to expel the intruders and colonize the country for the king of Spain. He set sail with a large fleet and over two thousand people. Landing on the northeast coast of Florida, he laid the foundation of a town which he called St. Augustine. This was in the year 1565, and is important, as it



Old Spanish Gateway at St. Augustine.
(Called the "City Gate.")

marks the first permanent European settlement within the present limits of the United States. Some of the old stone houses built by Menendez' men over three hundred years ago are still standing.

Pushing through the woods with a band of soldiers, Menendez surprised the French fort and put to death the helpless garrison. Above the mangled corpses this inscription was placed: "Not as to Frenchmen, but as to heretics." When the news of the massacre reached France, a brave Frenchman named Gourges resolved to avenge the deed. He sold his property, purchased ships, and with one hundred and fifty men sailed secretly to Florida. A Spanish fort near the ruins of the former French settlement was surprised and taken, and

its garrison hung from the surrounding trees with this inscription above them: "Not as to Spaniards, but as to murderers." Gourges did not have enough men to warrant an attack on St. Augustine, so he sailed back to France.

50. Other Settlements.— Before the close of the sixteenth century other Spanish settlements were made at Ysleta,¹ on the Rio Grande, near El Paso, Texas, and at Santa Fé, New Mexico. The gold mines of Mexico and Peru now became so attractive to the Spaniards that they made little effort afterward to extend their explorations or settlements.

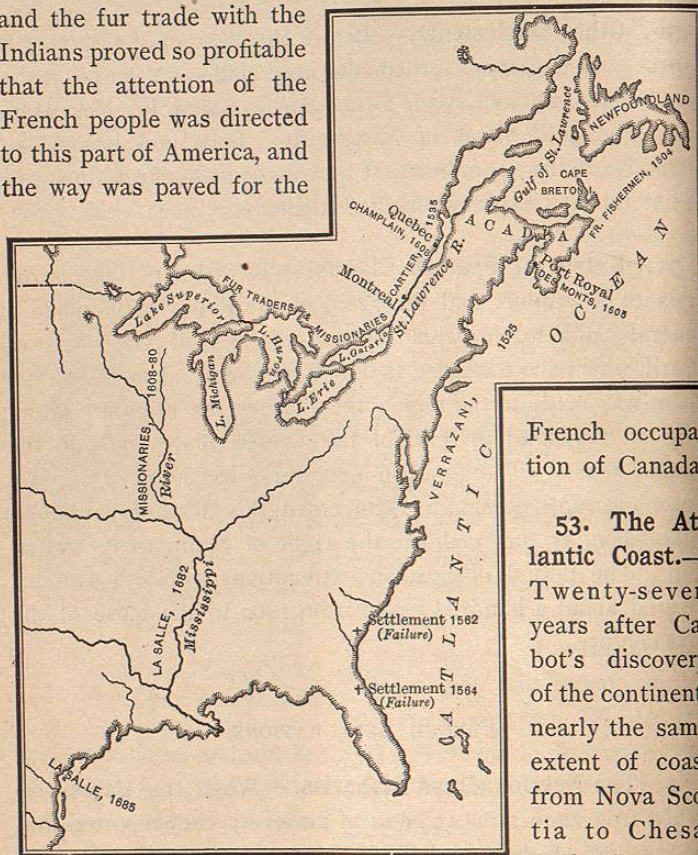
51. Extent of Spanish Claims.— By virtue of the discoveries of Columbus and the grant of the Pope, Spain made a general claim to the whole of the continent of America, save Brazil, which she conceded to Portugal (§ 41). A more definite claim was made to the region then known as Florida (embracing all the southern part of the United States) and to the Pacific coast. The Spanish explorers, De Leon, De Soto, Coronado, and others, had traversed this territory and had established, as they claimed, the right of Spain to its ownership. The period of Spanish explorations in North America covered about a hundred years, from 1492 to the close of the next century.

FRENCH EXPLORATIONS.

52. The Newfoundland Fisheries.— When the Cabots returned from their great voyages of discovery, they reported that the northern shores they had visited swarmed with fish to such an extent as sometimes to stay the speed of their ships. The men of Brittany, in France, were hardy sailors and great fisher-

¹ There is some ground for the claim that the settlement at Ysleta was made before that at St. Augustine.

men, and in a few years after the news of Cabot's voyage reached France the banks of Newfoundland began to be frequented by French fishing-vessels. Cape Breton Island was named in honor of the home of these fishermen. The fisheries and the fur trade with the Indians proved so profitable that the attention of the French people was directed to this part of America, and the way was paved for the



French Explorations and Settlements.

Verazzani, an Italian in the French service (1524). Verazzani claimed the country for the French king, and named it New France, ignoring the claims of England.

54. The St. Lawrence River.—Cartier, a native Frenchman, on the day known to the Catholics as St. Lawrence Day, entered a gulf which he called the Gulf of St. Lawrence (1535). He ascended the stream now known as the St. Lawrence River, and took possession of the country for the king of France. On a subsequent voyage he made an unsuccessful attempt to found a colony. Many years afterward the land which Cartier then claimed for his king became the great French stronghold in America.

55. Attempts at Settlement in the South.—The French Huguenots made two unsuccessful attempts to plant colonies: one in South Carolina, the other in Florida. The settlers called the first settlement Carolina in honor of the French King Charles, or Carolus IX. When their provisions were exhausted, they abandoned their fort and sailed back to France. The Florida colony on the St. Johns River was attacked by the Spaniards under Menendez (§ 49), and all the settlers were massacred.

56. The First Permanent Settlement.—Civil wars between Protestants and Catholics so distracted the people of France that it was more than fifty years after Cartier's unsuccessful colony on the St. Lawrence before another attempt was made to establish a French settlement in this region. In 1605, De Monts received from the French king, for the purpose of fur trade, a grant of land lying between the fortieth and forty-sixth parallels (from New Jersey to Nova Scotia). He established a colony at Port Royal (now Annapolis), Nova Scotia. This was the first permanent French settlement in America.

A more important settlement was made three years later (1608) by Champlain at Quebec. The founding of Quebec marks the beginning of French occupancy of Canada. The settlement soon became a city, and was the capital of the French possessions in America.

57. The Great Lakes.—The French fur traders and trappers gradually ascended the St. Lawrence. Keeping on good terms with the Indians, they pushed along the shores of the Great Lakes, until a line of trading-posts was established from the St. Lawrence to Lake Superior. To the heroism of the missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church, the conquest of the vast lake region for France is largely due. Their patient endurance and their self-devotion won the respect and affection

of the Indians, and gave to the French an influence over the savage tribes that was possessed by no other people.



La Salle.

from the Great Lakes. In 1682, La Salle, an explorer of the Great Lake region, resolved to sail down the Mississippi to its mouth, hoping to discover, by means of the great river, a passage across the continent to India; or, in any event, to establish a fort at the mouth of the river, thus securing control of its commerce as well as possession of the country for his king. Floating down the river with a few companions, he reached the broad bosom of the Gulf of Mexico. La Salle was impressed with the importance of his achievement, as with solemn ceremonies he claimed for the crown of France all the

country drained by the great river and its tributaries. He named the vast region Louisiana, in honor of Louis XIV.

La Salle resolved to plant a French colony at the mouth of the Mississippi. Returning to France, he told his story to the King. Four ships were given him, with men and supplies, to establish the settlement he desired. Sailing back by way of Florida, he missed the mouth of the Mississippi, and landed at Matagorda Bay, on the coast of Texas (1685). After several vain attempts to reach the Mississippi by land, La Salle was assassinated by one of his own men. A settlement made by his followers on the Texas coast perished.

The mouth of the Mississippi was again visited in 1699 by Iberville, who made a settlement at Biloxi, in the present State of Mississippi, afterwards removing it to Mobile. New Orleans was founded in 1718.

59. Extent of French Claims.—After the failure of the French settlements in South Carolina and Florida, the French claim to the Atlantic coast south of the Penobscot River, based on Verazzani's explorations, was abandoned to other nations. The explorations of Cartier, De Monts, Champlain, La Salle, and the French missionaries and traders gave to France possession of a vast crescent-shaped region from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Lake Superior, thence down the Mississippi Valley, from the source of the river to its mouth. The French continued their explorations in this territory until their possessions in America were wrested from them by the English in 1763 (§ 202).

ENGLISH EXPLORATIONS.

60. Indifference of the English.—After the discoveries of the Cabots the English lagged behind the Spanish and French in the exploration of the New World. They were disappointed at the failure to find the gold, silks, and spices of India. More-

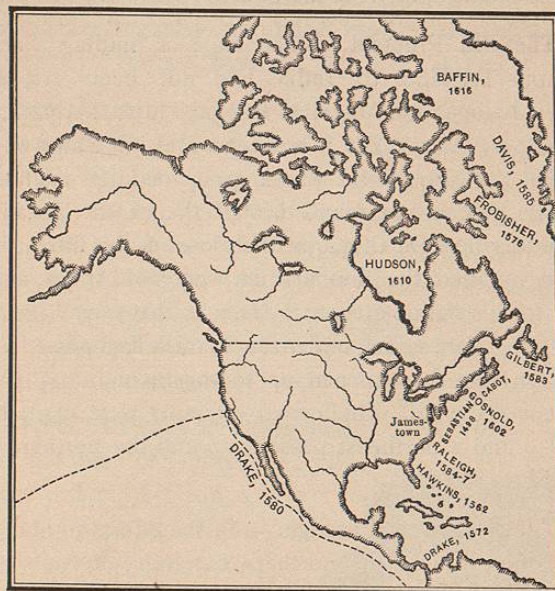
over, the Roman Catholic rulers of England hesitated to set aside the Pope's decree giving the new continent to Spain. Until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, nearly a hundred years after the Cabots' great voyages, no other noteworthy attempt at exploration of the western continent was made by the English.

61. Description of the Florida Coast.— Sir John Hawkins was an English sailor and slave-trader, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth as a reward for his services in a great naval battle with the Spaniards. On one of his slave-trading expeditions he sailed along the whole coast of Florida. This was in the same year as the founding of St. Augustine. Delighted, as Ponce de Leon had been, with the beauty of the country, he wrote a full and careful description of it, and took back with him samples of tobacco, potatoes, and other products of the soil. This was the first account of Florida by an Englishman.¹ Hawkins hoped to draw the attention of his countrymen to this beautiful region, that English colonies might be planted there. Attempting to reach Florida on a subsequent voyage, he was driven by storm to the Mexican coast, where he was attacked by a Spanish fleet, and all but two of his ships were captured or destroyed.

62. Sir Francis Drake and the Pacific Coast.— Sir Francis Drake had served under Sir John Hawkins, and was commander of one of the two ships that barely escaped the Spaniards on the coast of Mexico. From that day he swore vengeance on the subjects of Spain. Setting sail from England with two vessels, Drake attacked one Spanish settlement after another. He landed on the Isthmus of Panama, and

¹In Hawkins's narrative appears the following quaint mention of the use of tobacco: "The Floridians, when they travel, have a kinde of herbe dried, which, with a cane and an earthen cup in the end, with fire, and the dried herbs put together, do sucke thro the cane the smoke thereof, which smoke satisfyeth their hunger, and therewith they live four or five days without meat or drink."

from near the spot where Balboa made his great discovery, caught sight of the Pacific Ocean. Falling on his knees, he prayed that he might at some time sail a ship on that sea. On his next voyage, with a larger fleet, Drake sailed through the Straits of Magellan and out into the Pacific Ocean.



English Explorations.

Many Spanish ships loaded with treasures from the mines of Peru fell into his hands.¹ Coasting toward the north as far as California, he entered a "convenient and fit harbor" (probably San Francisco Bay). He found the natives very friendly. They insisted on crowning Drake as their king, and he modestly accepted the honor for the queen of England, naming the

¹One treasure-ship alone, captured by Drake, was valued by the Spaniards at three million dollars. The memory of the English "Dragon," as he was called, was detested by the Spaniards for centuries afterward.