



G. H. W. S. C.

Sebastian Cabot.

## CHAPTER III.

## UNSUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENTS.

THE idea of visiting America with the view of a peaceful and permanent settlement, rather than of conquest, seems to have originated with the English; for we read that, as early as 1536, a merchant of London, named Hore, in connection with several gentlemen of family and character, attempted to colonize Newfoundland. But, being in danger of starvation, they returned to England in a French fishing-vessel which they had seized.

Book I.  
Ch. 3.A. D.  
1536.Attempt  
to colo-  
nize  
New-  
found-  
land.

The next attempt was made by a party of Huguenots, in the reign of Charles IX. of France, with the hope of escaping religious persecution. Under the auspices of the celebrated Admiral Coligny, John Ribault, of Dieppe, in 1562, sailed with two ships, not for Canada, but for more genial regions, and approached the continent in the latitude of St. Augustine. Discovering the St. John's river, he sailed to the Port Royal entrance, a spacious inlet at the southern extremity of Carolina. Here he built a fort, left a colony, and returned to France for a reinforcement. But none could be obtained, in consequence of the civil wars, and the colonists were obliged to relinquish their ground. This was much to be regretted, since the colonists were animated by religious ideas, as were the pilgrims who settled New England at a subsequent period. The next band of Frenchmen were of a different stamp — mere adventurers, under the command of Laudonniere, averse to order and greedy of gain. Dis-

1562.  
Hugue-  
notic co-  
lony in  
Florida.

Book I. appointed in the hopes of sudden wealth, they in part  
Ch. 8. turned pirates, and alienated the natives by their unprin-  
A. D. cipled and dissolute conduct. They soon were reduced to  
1562 great extremity from famine, and were only saved from  
to actual starvation by the arrival of Ribault with provisions  
1565. and new adventurers. But Spanish exclusiveness and  
French jealousy would not permit the peaceful occupation of the  
under place, and Fort Carolina was taken, and the colonists were  
Laudon- murdered. These disasters happened in 1565, and, three  
niere. years afterward, the Spaniards were the only people who  
inhabited any territory which now belongs to the United

1565. States. The settlement of St. Augustine, for more than  
Settle- forty years, was the only European colony which proved  
ment of permanent, on the Atlantic coast, north of the Gulf of  
St. Au- Mexico.  
gustine.

English And it was not until the reign of Elizabeth, that the  
coloni- English made any serious effort to colonize the new world.  
zation zation under Elizabeth. The expedition of the Cabots in the reign of Henry VIII.,  
under under Elizabeth. and the voyages of Willoughby and Chancellor during the  
Elizabeth. reign of Mary, were for discovery rather than settlement.  
Navigators sought to discover either the north-west pas-  
sage to India, or the precious metals, which were supposed  
to exist even on the frozen shores of Labrador.

It was the fisheries of Newfoundland which suggested  
the first sober views of colonization to the English mind.  
1578. In 1578, Sir Humphrey Gilbert obtained a liberal patent  
Hum- of jurisdiction, for six years, over a territory extending  
phrey six hundred miles from any spot he might successfully  
Gilbert's colonize. But his voyages were a continued series of  
voyages. disasters, and he himself finally lost his life in a little  
bark of ten tons, in which he foolishly attempted to  
return to England, after the failure of his hopes.

His step-brother, who made an effort to realize his de-  
signs, was no less a person than the celebrated Sir Walter

Raleigh, one of the great wits who adorned the court of Book I.  
the "Virgin Queen"—a scholar, a courtier, and a soldier Ch. 3.  
—a man, indeed, of universal genius; but chiefly distin- A. D.  
guished for his spirit of reckless adventure. He obtained 1580.  
a similar patent to the one granted to Gilbert, and sent Sir Wal-  
Amidas and Barlow with two ships to the American ter Ra-  
coast. They landed, not on the barren shores of New- leigh's  
foundland, but in those genial regions where stately oaks, patent.  
flowering magnolias, and luxuriant vines, promised ferti-  
lity and invited to repose. This beautiful country they  
called Virginia, in honour of their queen; and so glowing  
and enthusiastic were the accounts they gave of it on their  
return, that a large expedition of seven ships was fitted  
out, in 1585, with sanguine colonists, under the command  
of Sir Richard Grenville. After various perils they  
reached the Roanoke, and their vessels returned to  
England.

The natives, though inclined to be friendly at first,  
were not pleased to see the strangers occupy their hunt-  
ing-grounds with the idea of a permanent settlement.  
Moreover, they were provoked by various acts of injustice.  
The governor, Lane, was also unequal to his duties, and  
permitted himself to be diverted from them by a foolish  
search for gold. The men, too, sighed to return, after  
the first flush of enthusiasm had passed. They dreaded  
famine, and they feared the Indians. Impelled by no  
lofty motives, they abandoned the settlement before the  
year elapsed, having induced Sir Francis Drake, who had  
visited them with twenty-three ships, to transport them to  
their native land.

Scarcely had they sailed, when three ships arrived, with  
new adventurers; and in the following year one hundred  
and fifty additional colonists were landed, over whom John  
White was appointed Governor. But they were soon 1587  
White  
Govern-  
nor of  
Virginia

1585.  
Lane's un-  
suc-  
cessful  
settle-  
ment.

Book I. reduced to great necessities, and the Governor returned to  
Ch. 3. England to solicit aid. His importunities were unfortunately disregarded; in consequence of the excitement which  
A. D. 1590. was produced by the fears of Spanish invasion. It was not until 1590, two years after the arrival of the last colonists, that White returned with the promised assistance. But he returned only to find a deserted colony. No traces remained of the settlers he had left on the island of Roanoke. They had all perished from famine, or the vengeance of the Indians.

Gosnold discovers Cape Cod. 1602. Two years after, Bartholomew Gosnold made a direct passage to America, avoiding the usual route of the Canaries and West India Islands, and landed on one of the Elizabeth Islands, near Nantucket. Having seen the country in June, he formed too favourable an idea of its fertility. From his representations, the historian Hakluyt, one of the Prebends of Westminster, induced some merchants of Bristol to found a colony; but nothing was done, except the further exploration of the New England coast.

Settlement of Port Royal. 1605. About the beginning of the seventeenth century, the King of France granted to one of his courtiers a vast tract of country, from the fortieth to the forty-sixth degree of north latitude, called Acadie; and four ships were sent out to the new territory, with a view chiefly of securing a monopoly of the fur trade. The results of the expedition were, the discovery of the rivers St. John and St. Croix, the examination of the coasts of Maine and Massachusetts, and the settlement of Port Royal, abandoned however in 1606.

James I. of England viewed with distrust and jealousy these movements of the French, and, to prevent their occupation of the country, encouraged his subjects in new and more extensive plans of permanent settlement. Un-

der his auspices, two new companies were formed, by whose efforts America was finally colonized. Their object was the possession of the country. The idea of a north-west passage to India was beginning to be regarded as chimerical, and more enlarged views of colonization supplanted the notions of the early visitants. Still, the difficulties to be surmounted, arising from the character of the wilderness to be reclaimed, and the hostility of the Indian whose hunting-grounds were invaded, were even yet not appreciated.

The benefits which had been expected to result to England and France had thus far proved delusive. Gold and silver had not been obtained, and many valuable lives had been lost. Great sums had also been expended in unprofitable speculation. It seems to be the destiny of nations to make real progress only through labour, sacrifices, and sorrows. Nothing had yet been obtained except sad experiences. These, however, served as lights to point out dangers which could be learned only by experiment. Men are ever doomed to pay dearly for their experiences. The early navigators did little else than stimulate curiosity and provoke adventure. They returned to Europe with only specimens of the furs and trees which subsequently were to prove important articles of commerce. There was one plant which they early introduced, however, whose value has been increasing with advancing civilization, as a source of wealth to the producer, if not of utility to the consumer. Sir Walter Raleigh was the first to teach the use of tobacco to the European world. Who can tell the ultimate results of the introduction of this wonderful plant? Is the world better or worse for this gift of Raleigh to the courtiers of Queen Elizabeth?

Book I.  
Ch. 3.  
A. D.  
1606.  
James I. grants a charter for the settlement of Virginia

Results of early voyages