

## BEAUTY'S LAMENT.

BY MISS M. E. HORTON, (Forest Grove.)

I stand upon the dampened sand  
Which marks old Ocean's sway,  
And with wistful eyes I gaze  
I watch the king of day,  
As sleeping from his south home,  
And hastening toward the West,  
With confidence supreme he sinks  
Upon old Ocean's breast.  
And light he cometh as they meet  
In broken bars o'er on my feet.

The tide holds back the restless wave,  
The rocks appear to view,  
Frightful with life of varied forms  
A numerous, a beautiful crew,  
The hermit-crab looks with cunning leer  
Thou hides in its borrowed cell,  
And the star-fish clings with tenacious hold  
To the rock it loves so well.  
The sea-weed's plumes with grace and ease  
Most lowly bend to the passing breeze.

In each briny pool by the shell-cased rock  
The polyp its beautiful fringe has spread.  
Sorely, Nature has given all delicate tints  
To this fragment of the ocean bed.  
I feel, as I gaze in glad surprise  
Upon the scene spread out to me,  
That beauty has made her dwelling place  
Amid the silence of the sea.

Where, unseen by man, unconfined by walls,  
She reigns supreme 'mid Ocean's halls.

The thought has scarcely taken shape  
When there appears from out the spray  
A beautiful form of noble mien  
Of spirit and not of clay.  
One hand she holds over the sea,  
The other toward the land,  
Saying, "I am the Creator's eldest born  
And it is at his command  
I paint for you the ocean's shell  
And the flowers of the land as well.

"Yes, I paint with care each leaf, each flower,  
Making the world a beautiful stage  
From year to year, where man may set,  
At will, the foot or sage.  
May be a blessing to his race,  
Lining eyes on Heaven's verge;  
Or, to his fellow-man may be,  
The surest, deadliest scourge;  
My hand or slight each lesson given  
To draw his wandering thoughts to Heaven.

"I thought to make this home for man  
In beauty like the world above,  
To bind his heart with silken cords  
To the one whose heart is love.  
But sin into my Eden came  
Quenching the soul's celestial light,  
And now, where'er I turn my gaze,  
I see its deadly, withering blight,  
I try, but ah! I try in vain,  
I cannot hide sin's fearful stain."

HISTORICAL ADVENTURES  
ON THE PACIFIC COAST.\*

BY MISS F. P. VICTOR.

## THE SPANISH DISCOVERERS.

The history of the Northwest Coast, very little understood, and extending over a period of more than three hundred years, is one so adventurous and romantic that even the most inveterate novel-reader could not fail to find in it the same elements of dramatic situations and wonderful events that give to fiction its charms. We are not accustomed to think of Oregon as Spanish territory; and yet such it was, according to the laws of discovery three hundred and fifty years ago, though it had only been seen from the deck of a Spanish sailing craft.

The history of Spain, during the latter part of the fifteenth and the first half of the sixteenth centuries, surpasses in brilliancy of achievement that of any other nation or period since the beginning of the Christian era. The intellectual darkness that had brooded over Europe for a thousand years, gave way to a fresh and glorious dawn in the fourteenth century, which was followed by a vigorous revival of commerce, art, and learning, creating the world anew out of the ruins of past civilizations. Charles V., of Spain, was the most fortunate of the monarchs of Christendom, whom the new impulse of events benefited. Portugal had been taking the lead as a maritime power, when a single individual appeared who transferred the ascendancy to Spain, who, thenceforward for a long

period of time, possessed the most powerful navy and the most adventurous people of that adventurous period.

The main impulse which led to the greatness of Spain, was one that prevailed among all the maritime powers of Europe—the desire to discover a sea-route to India, and to facilitate a commerce which hitherto had been carried on overland by a class of merchants whom we should denominate peddlers.

Pope Nicholas V., as early as 1454, had issued a bill for the encouragement of Portuguese commerce, giving them exclusive right of navigation of all waters, and the conquest of all lands discovered by them in their search for an entrance to the Indian seas. The geographers of the fifteenth century had very artless ideas of the size and shape of the earth. They knew, however, that oceans bounded the continents, and they had a prophetic sense that some communication existed between those great seas of whose real extent they were yet very ignorant.

The fact of Portugal having the exclusive right to all discoveries of water or land, was the reason that Columbus appealed first to the Portuguese monarch for an outfit to explore the unknown oceans to the west of Europe; and it was a serious error on the part of that government that his proposition was not accepted. Had it not been that an intelligent woman shared the throne of Spain, Columbus might have had to look farther for aid to his enterprise; but Isabella of Castile had power to persuade Ferdinand of Arragon, and the discovery of America was accomplished.

This done and proven, it became necessary that Spain should possess the same rights to water and land that had been granted to Portugal; and then occurred the partition of the ocean. This was effected by a treaty, at Tordesillas, in 1494. The Portuguese were entitled to possession and dominion of all the seas and territories, not already belonging to a Christian prince or people, which they should discover, east of a meridian line passing three hundred and seventy leagues west of Cape Verd Islands. The Spaniards were given equal authority over all seas and lands, not already Christianized, west of the line of partition. The possibility of their meeting was not considered by the high contracting parties; nor did either entertain a doubt of the right possessed by the Pope to give away the largest portion of the earth's surface.

Under this arrangement, both Spain and Portugal continued to prosecute their search for a passage to the Indies; and five years after the treaty of Tordesillas, the Portuguese rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and reached India, thus achieving a distinction and power for which they had long striven with commendable enterprise. Meanwhile, only a new and wilderness country had rewarded the adventures of the Spaniards. Even an unlooked-for contingency arose with regard to this new world—for the Portuguese, extending their discoveries to the farthest limit the conditions of their treaty allowed, touched upon the coast of Brazil, and thus actually acquired territory on the continent that had been discovered by the Spaniards. On the other hand Spain, covetous of the treasures of the East Indies, was indefatigable in endeavors to find some strait leading from the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico into the Indian Ocean, which was believed to lie just beyond the group of islands named by them the West Indies—the treaty of partition having neglected to set a limit to discoveries in a western direction which might interfere with

discoveries in an eastern! though the crafty Spaniards had not forgotten to avail themselves of the omission.

When, in 1513, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Governor of the colony of Darien, led by guides who assured him that from the summit of a certain high mountain he could see two oceans at one time, beheld the blue expanse of the Pacific, (which he mistook for the desired Indian Ocean) the history of this Pacific Coast began to be shadowed out. Making an excursion, which in that day must have more than equalled the more modern one of Lieut. Strain, the noble Spaniard descended to the shore of this unknown sea, and wading into it waist-deep, took possession of it and of all lands washed by it, for the Government of Spain. It was this act, three hundred and sixty-four years ago, which made Oregon a Spanish possession, and gave Spain the sovereignty of the Pacific!

But the dominion of an ocean which could not be entered from the Atlantic was not only unprofitable, but tantalizing to the last degree. Satisfied at last that no communication existed between the two oceans, by sea or strait, in the neighborhood of the isthmus, the Spaniards continued their examinations of the coast southwards, until in 1520, Fernando Magellan, a Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain, discovered and passed through the straits at the southern end of the South American continent, that bears his name; thus opening, indeed, a route to the East Indies—but one that from its length, and from the perils of the Straits of Magellan, could never afford the facilities for commerce enjoyed by the Portuguese. The ambition of Spain had received a check, but not for long. Her vessels crossed the Pacific, and, very naturally, came in conflict with Portugal in the Indian Ocean, where, no line being set, they were sure to meet. As Portugal had claimed Brazil, so Spain claimed the Molucca Islands, which Portugal was fain to purchase at a sum over three millions of dollars.

Nor were Spain's American possessions so unprofitable as at first they seemed. From 1518 to 1535, she ran a high course of conquest and glory. Peru and Mexico had emptied their treasures into her lap. Cortez, in less than three years, had discovered, vanquished and robbed the wealthy Mexican empire. Colonies were established on the coast of South, and then of North America. Ships traded from these to the Phillipine Islands without the necessity for the long home-voyage through the perilous straits. Adventure, and the thirst for gold and glory, were run mad. The subjects of his most Catholic and Christian Majesty practiced the most revolting cruelty and injustice toward the inhabitants of subjugated America. Though a terrible stain on their history, the murder of a whole population of peaceful natives sat lightly enough on their consciences. They might, to encourage devotion, have a mass said for the good of Pagan souls; but on Pagan bodies they had no compassion. The story of Spanish conquests in the early part of the sixteenth century must ever read like the most exciting fiction, so far does it surpass the ordinary acts of men in its daring, its romance, its cruelty, and its wonderful dramatic effects, as well as in its world-creating results.

When Mexico had been despoiled by Cortez and his followers and imitators, he proceeded, under instructions from Charles V., to commence a careful search of the coasts of North America for the much-desired shorter passage to the Indies, which had not yet been given up—which was not given up two hundred years later. While vessels were

building for this service on the Pacific Coast, the search was going on upon the Atlantic side of the continent with no encouraging results, except to prove the vast extent of the New World. It was not until 1628 that the survey of the western coast was begun, under Cortez as grandee of Castile, Captain-General of New Spain (Mexico), and Marquis of the Valley of Oaxaca, and the port of Tehuantepec, with the right to enjoy forever, and his children after him, the government of all the countries he should discover and conquer—at his own expense. Kings have always known how to drive hard bargains, and none better than Charles V. In addition to these honors and privileges, Cortez was to have one-twelfth of all the gold, silver, pearls, and other riches derivable therefrom; and he was to treat the natives with kindness, and convert them to the Christian faith!

The Mexican ports occupied by the Spaniards in 1532, were Tehuantepec, Acapulco, and Culiacan at the entrance to the Gulf of California. During this year Cortez sent out two ships, built in his own port of Tehuantepec, under the command of a kinsman named Mendoza. A serious mutiny among his men obliged him to send home one of the vessels and the greater number of his men, when he had proceeded no farther north than the 27° of latitude. The vessel was stranded near Cape Corrientes, when the crew were murdered by the natives; and the vessel seized by the commander of the port of Culiacan, who was an enemy to Cortez. The other ship, with Mendoza in command, proceeded on her voyage, but was never heard of more.

The following year Cortez despatched two other vessels in search of Mendoza, but these were equally unfortunate. One ship's crew mutinied, murdering their commander, and being murdered in turn by the natives. A few survivors escaped with the vessel to Culiacan, where it was confiscated, as a previous one had been. The other vessel only discovered the Revillagigedo Islands, and returned in 1534 to Tehuantepec. So far, Cortez found the expenses of discovery to outrun the profits; but still determined to persevere, he himself explored the Gulf of California in 1535, leaving a colony on the peninsula, which, after one year's experience of its desert nature, abandoned it, and returned home.

Yet one more effort Cortez made to ascertain what laid to the north of the Gulf of California, which had been named by him the "Sea of Cortez," but his Lieutenant, Ullsa, who had charge of the fleet of three vessels, accomplished nothing more than a quite thorough survey of the Gulf and Peninsula of California, and the discovery of the *Isle of Cedars*. This expedition came to an end in 1540; and in this year also, Cortez returned to Spain hoping to secure the aid of the Government in his enterprises; but failing, died there, seven years later.

One of those romantic episodes so frequent in the history of the Spanish discoveries, happened about this time. In 1539 there had appeared at Culiacan four persons, survivors of the expedition of Penfilo Navarez against the Florida Peninsula in 1527. For ten years they had wandered—living as wanderers may, in forest, marsh and desert, until finally they had made their way from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Their advent in Culiacan created much wonder, even among so adventurous a class as the Spanish immigrants to Mexico; and eagerly were their narratives listened to. When questioned by the Viceroy, they could give no account of civilized peoples, or countries rich in gold and silver that they had seen; but

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