

BRITISH COLUMBIA—HISTORICAL.

In the early part of the 16th century, a treaty had been concluded between Spain and Portugal, at that time the two great maritime powers of Europe, by which the former were to possess all seas and territories west of a meridian line passing some 300 leagues west of Cape Verde Islands, while the

The English people, who but recently had repudiated the Papal power, was by no means inclined to consent to this partition of the unknown world by the Court of Rome, and the Spanish Ambassador was informed by the Minister of Queen Elizabeth that she "did not understand why her subjects should be debarred from traffic in the Indies. As she did not acknowledge the Span-

The Gulf of Mexico and the southwestern shores of the Atlantic soon saw English sailors, free-traders and free-booters, who not only made discoveries for themselves, but unhappily, took the Spanish vessels and plundered their colonies.

Sir Francis Drake, in 1578, in his first voyage round the world, entered the Pacific, from which his countrymen



HUDSON BAY FORT, VICTORIA, B. C., AS IT APPEARED IN 1860.

former were to have all the privileges of discoveries east of that point.

The Spaniards were the first Europeans who had set eyes upon the coasts of the Pacific, and the Pope was expected to confirm the agreement, but there was another power in Europe, which, although not at that time of great importance, was destined in the future to eclipse their's entirely.

lards to have any title by donation of the Bishop of Rome, so she knew no right they had to any places other than those they were in actual possession of." We may be sure that out-spoken words like these found an echo in the hearts of the sturdy mariners of her day. Very willing were they to enter with ardour upon a career of discovery in the West.

had been debarred by their dread of the Straits of Magellan. Anxious to avoid these Straits himself, he, when returning home, sailed west and northwest, in hopes of reaching home that way, but when he had gained the 42d (by some asserted the 48th) parallel of latitude, the adverse winds and the foggy weather of winter had such a depressing effect upon his crew—so long used