

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The number of accessions in 1917-1918 has maintained the average of previous years. The great world-war has had little effect upon the dispersing and the disposal of books. Owners of libraries have continued to die and the exigencies of probate courts have required the marketing of their collections. In fact, the war, with the financial rewards of war work, has stimulated rather than retarded the sale of books, and embryo bibliophiles who only needed sufficient capital to become earnest collectors rushed into competition with wealthy Philistines who regarded books chiefly as intellectual wallpaper. Prices in New York auction rooms last winter ruled higher than ever before. The first edition of Milton's "Comus," which brought \$4,000 at the Huth sale in 1915, went for \$9,200 when sold with the Huntington duplicates last February. Mr. W. H. Hagen's copy of the 1640 Shakespeare's "Poems" brought \$5,010, although nearly everyone thought seven years ago that the Hoe price of \$2,700 was excessive. Another book, John Skelton's "Poems," which was purchased from a prominent dealer a short while ago for \$1,100, brought \$9,700 at this sale. Mr. Hagen's prophecy that his books were worth more than bonds was true, for his library must have sold for three times what he paid for it.

Americana, although showing few titles of commanding value, generally sold for record prices. George Fox's "A New England Firebrand Quenched," 1679, brought \$360, an increase of fifty per cent over the previous high price. William Coddington's "Dem-

onstration of True Love," 1674, fetched the record figure of \$420. A Brooklyn collector, who invested heavily in Americana within the past few years, sold his books last winter for double what he had paid for them. Religious tracts of the Mathers, without any particular historical value, worth perhaps \$25 each a short while ago, sold repeatedly for \$400 and \$500. Money apparently was plentiful and collectors could not wait for desired volumes to turn up at some future sale.

The share of the Antiquarian Society in all this literary spoil was not noticeable, although this fact is due to the foresight of early collectors in providing this Library with most of the American rarities, as well as to our lack of income. It has been in the acquisition of large numbers of comparatively unimportant titles—books and pamphlets which are disregarded by present collectors—that we have made the greatest strides in the past year, as in the past ten years. Nearly five hundred early American titles have been added to our imprint collection, including tracts and discourses, reports of eighteenth century societies, chap-books, examples of pioneer presses, and three additions to our already large collection of New England Primers.

Among the more interesting titles were "The Debates and Proceedings of the Convention of the State of New-York," New York, 1788; Pelatiah Webster's "A Sixth Essay on Free Trade and Finance," Philadelphia, 1783; Humphrey Marshall's "An Address to the People of Kentucky," Philadelphia, 1796; "The Beginning, Progress, and Conclusion of the Late War," with the map, London, 1770; and an anonymous tract "Continued Corruption, Standing Armies, and Popular Discontents Considered," London, 1768, in which the author, William Bolla, attempted to heal the breach between the English colonies and the mother-country. An interesting pamphlet secured is "A Letter to George

Washington, President of the United States," by Jasper Dwight of Vermont, printed at Philadelphia, 1796. In this virulent controversial tract, William Duane, the real author, attacked the character of Washington in a way unfamiliar to modern ears. "Posterity will in vain search for the monuments of wisdom in your administration," Duane asserts, and then continues, "Examining in order to discover the true features of your character, the declarations of your former enemies and present friends will be minutely examined, who assert that your attachment to the revolution was not the result of a love of republican freedom, but of disappointed ambition,—that had you obtained promotion, as you expected, for the services rendered after Braddock's defeat, your sword would have been drawn against your country." He finds "the name of Washington sunk from the elevated rank of the Solons and Lycurguses to the insignificance of a Venetian Doge or a Dutch Stadtholder."

By far the most important gift of the year came from Mrs. Josephine S. Gay of Brookline, the widow of our late member, Frederick Lewis Gay. It was always Mr. Gay's wish that no part of his library should ever be sold, and although he left no specific directions regarding the disposition of his books, it was fairly well understood by his brother, Ernest L. Gay, and his librarian, John H. Edmonds, what libraries should be the gainers as a result of his years of collecting. After the unexpected death of Ernest Gay, the books were presented to the various libraries by Mrs. Frederick L. Gay, according to the following plan: Harvard received the bulk of the collection, including the Civil War and Commonwealth Tracts, and most of the leading books on New England history and colonization; the Massachusetts Historical Society received the works of John Cotton, Thomas Shepard and other early divines, and the Transcripts from English Records; and the American Antiquarian

Society received the newspapers, almanacs, American imprints and many tracts and historical works.

Among the more important titles received by this Library are the following:

- EDWARD JOHNSON, A HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND, LONDON, 1654.
 A. MONTANUS, *Die Unbekante Neue Welt*, AMSTERDAM, 1673.
 CHARLES MORTON, THE SPIRIT OF MAN, BOSTON, 1693.
 BENJAMIN WADSWORTH, GOOD SOULDIER A GREAT BLESSING, BOSTON, 1700.
 JOHN HALE, A MODEST INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE OF WITCHCRAFT, BOSTON, 1702.
 N. BAYLEY, ENGLISH AND LATINE EXERCISES, BOSTON, 1720.
 JUDAH MONIS, A GRAMMAR OF THE HEBREW TONGUE, BOSTON, 1735.
 AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPEDITION TO CARTHAGENA, LONDON, 1743.
 BOSTON WEEKLY NEWS-LETTER, 1747.
 A PATENT FOR PLYMOUTH IN NEW ENGLAND, BOSTON, 1751.
 SAMUEL HOPKINS, HISTORICAL MEMOIRS RELATING TO THE HOUSATUNNUCK INDIANS, BOSTON, 1753.
 A CONFESSION OF FAITH IN NEW ENGLAND, NEW LONDON, 1760.
 A DIALOGUE BETWEEN SIR GEORGE CORNWELL AND MR. FLINT, BOSTON, 1769.
 LETTERS TO THE EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH, BOSTON, 1769.
 FRANCIS BERNARD, SELECT LETTERS ON THE TRADE AND GOVERNMENT OF AMERICA, LONDON, 1774.
 THOMAS JEFFERSON, SUMMARY VIEW OF THE RIGHTS OF BRITISH AMERICA, PHILADELPHIA, 1774.
 HENRY CLINTON, OBSERVATIONS ON THE ANSWER OF CORNWALLIS TO CLINTON, LONDON, 1783.
 BOSTON DIRECTORY FOR 1796 AND 1798.
 J. WHITE, NARRATIVE OF EVENTS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, CHARLESTOWN [1833].
 COTTON TUFTS' MANUSCRIPT DIARY, 1769.
 BELCHER NOYES' MANUSCRIPT DIARY, 1775 AND 1782.
 SET OF THE PELHAM CLUB MEZZOTINTS.

Most of the books in the Gay library were beautifully bound and bear evidence of his care and discrimination. He collected books for the love of them and for historical study, and not for mere possession. Mr. Gay was a keen student of the colonial history of New England, and although he wrote little himself, he aided and initiated a considerable and valuable amount of historical publication. His library was a remarkable collection, noteworthy in that so many of

the fields which it embraced were covered so thoroughly. Perhaps the most important volume that he ever acquired was the Record-book of the Council for New England beginning in 1622, which priceless manuscript he generously presented to the Society in 1912. During the ten years of his membership, he was one of our warmest supporters and most constant benefactors. The Society is glad to have, in the books from his library, a reminder of one who was a patron of all worthy literary undertakings that concerned subjects near to his heart, who was always ready to share his treasures with others, and who was one of the last of the group of old-time collectors who sought rare books with the enthusiasm of the bibliophile rather than to show the power of money.

A summary of the accessions for the year ending October 1, 1918, arranged in the same statistical form as in former Reports, shows that there have been added to the Library 3,089 books, 4,709 pamphlets, and 253 maps, broadsides and miscellaneous items. The newspapers acquired comprise 310 bound volumes, included in the above total of books, and 4200 unbound issues.

A larger number of genealogies than usual have been acquired, 158 titles in all, including most of the family histories of the past two years and many of the scarcer pamphlets and books published by early American genealogists. The rarest title obtained was the *Farmer Genealogy*, by John Farmer, Concord, 1813, one of the earliest known American genealogies.

Among the miscellaneous items noted in the year's accessions are a manuscript plan of the town of Barre, 1739, the gift of William A. Emerson, and the Manuscript diaries of Nahum Jones, covering the years 1795-1806, with a few preliminary entries of 1775-1786. Nahum Jones was a schoolmaster, who kept school at Rindge, N. H., Montgomery County and Herkimer County, N. Y., and Gerry (Phillipston), Winchendon, and Provincetown, Mass. He was an

observant man, and his diaries, especially those which relate to upper New York State, contain considerable local history. He kept a complete register of the names of all his scholars, showing that during ten years of teaching he taught 1456 scholars. These diaries were presented by Clara A. Jones, of Warwick, Mass.

The bookplate collection has received many additions during the year, chiefly through the activity of Rev. Herbert E. Lombard, although a remarkable lot of early American plates was received through exchange with William E. Baillie, of Bridgeport. The collection has finally been arranged and every plate is mounted on a card and immediately accessible. In the April number of the "Bookplate Quarterly," Mr. Lombard wrote an article on the Antiquarian Society's collection, which is so descriptive and concise, that it is herewith reprinted as part of this Report:

It may be said that, in a certain sense, the bookplate collection of the American Antiquarian Society began with the formation of the Society in 1812, for since then there have been in its stacks plates by Paul Revere, both signed and unsigned, together with other equally interesting early Americana. No systematic attention, however, was paid to bookplates till quite recently, when a member of the Society presented his collection, which, though composed largely of the work of modern engravers, contained many choice specimens from the earlier years.

"Since the receipt of this gift the collection has grown rapidly by purchase, gift and exchange. This is easily understood when it is remembered that some seventy-five plates by E. D. French, J. W. Spenceley, and S. L. Smith are owned or controlled, at least partially, by members of the American Antiquarian Society. Engravers have fully co-operated, that their work might be preserved in a great national library—the only one making a particular effort to secure a complete collection. Owners of coppers who are inaccessible to the commercial collector have responded almost without exception.

The purchase of the famous Terry collection increased the holdings of early American plates. This purchase also gave many duplicates valuable for exchange. The collection has

been further increased through the generous bequest of Mr. Nathaniel Paine, for years a councillor and constant benefactor of the Society. Mr. Paine was a collector of Americana in many lines, a member of the earlier and greatly lamented American Bookplate Society, and also of the Ex-Libris Society.

The collection is strongest in plates and labels of the United States, probably exceeding any other institutional collection in this line. The widest interpretation has been given to the word 'American' so as to include plates made by foreign artists for American patrons, thus making room for a few plates by Barrett, Downey, Eve, Sherborn, and Von Bayros.

Till this year no attempt has been made to secure other than United States plates. As a result, the Canadian collection is most inadequate, while the West Indian and South American collections are hardly worth mentioning. This condition has begun to improve in the Canadian field, as the result of the sympathetic attitude of several Canadian artists. Negotiations are now being carried on which, it is hoped, will open up the interesting field of Mexican plates as well.

In early Americana the most interesting examples are the seventeenth century dated labels. Of the eight thus far located the American Antiquarian Society has six, as follows: William Brattle (1677), Edward Thompson (1680), John Hancock (1687), Samuel Thompson (1688), John Hancock (1689), and Nicholas Lynde (1690). William Brattle was graduated from Harvard in 1680. This copy of his book-label is the only known impression of what is believed to be the earliest dated American plate.

Unlike Harvard and many of the other early foundations, the American Antiquarian Society had no appropriate plate or label for many years. In fact, its earlier labels are so poor that they have long been refused to collectors, in the hope that even their memory might perish. Isaiah Thomas, the founder and first president of the Society, had two plates by Revere, though unsigned. The second plate is the one familiar to collectors. The earlier Isaiah Thomas plate has been hitherto unnoticed by bookplate collectors. It follows Revere's Gardner Chandler plate, so far as concerns the mantling, the ribbon and the number space, with literal exactness. The name Isaiah Thomas underneath is engraved in lower case lettering so crude as to cheapen the plate.

Thomas must have disliked either the lettering or the thought of having his bookplate so closely resemble the Chandler arms, for he soon had another plate engraved, which is also in Revere's characteristic style, although much better than the first attempt. Incidentally, it may be well to note that it is the earlier plate by Revere that S. L. Smith has so

faithfully reproduced for Isaac Rand Thomas. While in the South, Isaiah Thomas used the label, "Isaiah Thomas, Charleston, S. C., July 8, 1769," of which the society has one of the only two copies located.

Passing without note a series of plates and labels used by the Society, we come to the famous double portrait plate made in 1905 by Wilcox, who also engraved the Widener plate at Harvard. This plate has been criticized, and probably justly, as "Eastlake," yet it is a dignified piece of work, in thought and execution not unworthy of a great learned society. Members of the Bookplate Society will be glad to know that S. L. Smith is at present at work on a plate for the Antiquarian Society.

All of Revere's plates are in the collection of the Society, except his own personal plate, of which but two copies are known. In earlier years the New England colleges had many good plates. The Society has practically complete collections of the plates of Harvard, Yale, and Dartmouth, along with many others of the older foundations.

Of the early American plates listed in Allen's "American Bookplates," the Society has about two-thirds. Among those less known are: No. 47, Baldwin; 65, Sam'l Bayard; 73, Belcher; 159, Child; 166, Clark; 225, Dolbeare; 234, Duer; 305, Gibbs; 325, Greene; 380, Hill; 428, Jeffry; 436, Johnston; 460, Kinlock; 511, Logan; 533, McComb; 565, Masterton; 581, Minturn; 605, Newberry; 631, James Otis, Jr.; 681, Pierpont; 692, Powell; 716 and 717, Randolph; 744 Ruff; 763, Schuyler; 782, Silvester; and 882, Van Rensselaer.

This would seem to the uninitiated to be a list of mere names just as to them the "Rose" or "William Dummer" would be only a name; but there are also the plates of presidents, governors, judges, and diplomats; of "signers"; of men who achieved and those who wrote of their achievements; of masters of finance and captains of industry; of historians, poets, and artists; of preachers, physicians, and lawyers. The story these old bookplates recall is the story of the nation's birth and progress.

While the specialty of the American Antiquarian Society is, of course, early American plates, it has complete sub-collections, or nearly so, of the work of French, Spenceley, Smith, Hopson, Macdonald, Bird, Mielatz, Cole, Thompson, Clark, Cheney, Garrett, Noll, Harrod, Alexander, and Azeant. In most instances the modern plate is either a print or a signed proof, but many times it is shown in both forms, while an occasional artist's drawing, or even the copper plate itself, adds increased interest. The Society has held two exhibitions, one of early American plates, the other of the bookplates of

S. L. Smith. In addition to all available literature, bookplate correspondence is preserved for future reference.

In recapitulation, the collection of the American Antiquarian Society is naturally strongest in United States plates and labels, containing some fifteen thousand, including a great many interesting early Americana. Of the early American plates and labels listed by Allen it has two-thirds. It has also the earliest known dated American label, that of William Brattle (1677). Of the eight known dated seventeenth century labels, it has six, each being a unique impression. There are about a thousand Canadian plates, and also a few plates from Mexico, South America, and the West Indies. The Society requests the co-operation of members of the Bookplate Society in its attempt to build up a permanent collection that shall be of value to artists and antiquarians in years to come."

The collection of American newspapers has received numerous additions, totalling 310 bound volumes and 4,200 unbound issues. It is in this department more than any other that the need for greater space is felt. The newspaper stack, built to accommodate the accessions of fifteen years, is now full after five years of unlooked for acquisitions. Five years ago it would have scarcely been thought possible that so many long files could have been located, much less obtained, but the preparation of a newspaper bibliography of the several States has taken the compiler thereof into many out-of-the-way places and revealed many unexpected stores. How to shelve the papers is now a problem. The arrival of even a dozen of these great folio volumes in the stack requires a reshifting often of hundreds of other volumes, so that the alphabetical order by States may be maintained. But the non-elasticity of steel is generally more than a match for the ingenuity of the library staff. A temporary solution of the difficulty is to take certain long files which are less likely to be used and store them in a room in the basement. This expedient may suffice for about two years, and then we shall have to take up seriously the enlargement of the stack, costing perhaps \$50,000, or stop the growth of the newspaper

collection. When one considers the great value of this collection, not only to students and historians, but also to the general public, it would seem that there could be few gifts which would reach so wide a circle of users.

The great mass of duplicate newspapers in the basement, as has been mentioned in the Council Report, has been finally disposed of. The work of sorting and arranging these files has taken a large amount of time for the past three years. It is both a relief and a satisfaction to have them go from this library as a collection, and especially to so serviceable an institution as the University of Michigan. Their bulk was impressive. They weighed ten tons and measured eleven hundred cubic feet, almost filling a freight car. Although there were many eighteenth century papers, most of the files were from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the close of the Civil War, in which later period newspapers were of far more historical value than during the earlier era when their columns were filled chiefly with foreign news and items only of interest to the local antiquarian. The Society has thus obtained a sum of money which will be invaluable in aiding it to complete its own files, and the University of Michigan Library has made an acquisition which will place it among the first ten newspaper collections in the country.

Among the important files obtained by the Library during the year are the following:

- CONCORD, COURIER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1799-1805.
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE COURIER, 1834.
- CONCORD, DAILY PATRIOT, 1871-1874
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE REPOSITORY, 1826.
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE JOURNAL, 1884-1891.
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE STATESMAN, 1851-1917.
- MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT MIRROR, 1813-1814.
- MONTPELIER, VERMONT WATCHMAN, 1847-1910.
- MONTPELIER, VERMONT CHRONICLE, 1875-1892.
- BRATTLEBOROUGH MESSENGER, 1828-1830.
- BOSTON, AMERICAN TRAVELLER, 1825-1826.

BOSTON INVESTIGATOR, 1843-1848.
CONCORD, YEOMANS GAZETTE, 1826-1827.
HINGHAM JOURNAL, 1850-1905.
NEW YORK, WEEKLY VISITOR, 1802-1803.
NEW YORK, AMERICAN, 1840.
NEW YORK, NEW YORKER, 1837-1841.
NEW YORK, STATESMAN, 1828.
NEW YORK, INDEPENDENT JOURNAL, 1785.
ALBANY FREEHOLDER, 1845-1851.
ALBANY ARGUS, 1833.
ALBANY MICROSCOPE, 1834-1836.
ALBANY, SIGNS OF THE TIMES, 1828.
MOUNT PLEASANT, WESTCHESTER HERALD, 1818-1823.
SALEM, CENTINEL, 1798.
SALEM, NORTHERN POST, 1816-1818.
PHILADELPHIA, AURORA, 1799-1800.
HARRISBURGH TELEGRAPH, 1832-1866.
HARRISBURGH, MINERS' JOURNAL, 1848-1849.
CHILLICOTHE, WEEKLY RECORDER, 1816-1821.
COLUMBUS, OHIO STATE JOURNAL, 1858-1860.
KNOXVILLE REGISTER, 1798.
SAN FRANCISCO, DAILY ALTA, 1850-1851.
SAN FRANCISCO, PRICES CURRENT, 1854-1856.
TRINIDAD MIRROR, 1905-1914.
TRINIDAD, PORT OF SPAIN GAZETTE, 1907-1913.
PARAMARIBO, SURIMAAMSCHÉ COURANT, 1825.

Among a small collection of rare pre-Revolutionary issues acquired is a copy of "The Antigua Gazette" of April 12, 1775. There seems to be very little known regarding the early history of printing at Antigua, one of the most important islands in the British West Indies. Isaiah Thomas in his "History of Printing in America," says "I cannot determine the year when printing was introduced to Antigua, but believe it was about 1748. I have not discovered that any press was erected on this island prior to the time when Mecom opened a printing-house, about 1748. It was at St. John that he first began business, and published a newspaper, entitled the Antigua Gazette. Mecom continued this publication six or seven years, and then removed to Boston, Massachusetts, his native place." The massive folio three-volume history of Antigua, by Oliver, makes no mention either of this paper or of the

beginnings of printing on the island. Nor is there any other reference to the subject except that which is given by Thomas.

It seems strange that no copy of the *Antigua Gazette*, during Mecom's editorship, has been hitherto located in any library. The issue obtained by the Society is entitled "*The Antigua Gazette*," April 12, 1755, no. 130, printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the Old Printing-Office on Kerby's Wharff, in St. John's. If the numbering was regular, this would show that the paper was started by Mecom about the first of November, 1752.

Additional light is thrown on the matter by a letter from Benjamin Franklin, his uncle, to Mecom's parents, Edward and Jane Mecom, November 14, 1752. Franklin evidently backed Mecom in the printing venture. He says, "Benny sailed from hence this day two weeks, and left our Capes the Sunday following. They are seldom above three weeks on the voyage to Antigua. That island is reckoned one of the healthiest in the West Indies. My late partner there enjoyed perfect health for four years, till he grew careless, and got to sitting up late in taverns, which I have cautioned Benny to avoid, and have given him all other necessary advice I could think of, relating both to his health and conduct, and I hope for the best. He will find the business settled to his hand: a newspaper established, no other printing-house to interfere with him, or beat down his prices, which are much higher than we get on the continent. He has the place on the same terms with his predecessor, who, I understand, cleared from five to six hundred pistoles during the four years he lived there. I have recommended him to some gentlemen of note for their patronage and advice."

Writing again to Jane Mecom, February 12, 1765, Franklin says: "Benny, I understand, inclines to leave Antigua." On June 28, 1756, Franklin again writes Jane Mecom giving her the reasons for his

nephew's removal and stating: "When I set him up at Antigua, he was to have the use of the printing-house on the same terms as his predecessor, Mr. Smith; that is, allowing me one-third part of the profits." The letter refers to Mr. Smith's "decease" and gives many details of Mecom's business arrangements with Franklin, and was followed by a letter of December 30, 1756, congratulating his sister on the safe return from the West Indies of her son. Franklin says: "He has also cleared the old printing-house to himself, and sent it to Boston, where he purposes to set up his business."

The identity of Mr. Smith is established by the imprint of a pamphlet only recently discovered and now for sale by a Boston book-dealer, "Occasional Poems," Antigua, printed by T. Smith, for the author [William Shervington], 1749.

The copy of "The Antigua Gazette," obtained by the Antiquarian Society, is made additionally interesting by the fact that it was owned by Benjamin Franklin and has his name, written presumably in Mecom's hand, on the first page.

The war seems to have brought about a slight decrease in the use of the library, although this refers to the number of visitors rather than to the amount of correspondence. We have had far fewer university graduates working on doctoral dissertations and also fewer students from the various New England colleges. In every recent year at least half a dozen researchers, generally from the Western States, passed a portion of the summer vacation period in Worcester, engaged in studying historical records, but this has somewhat diminished. Correspondence, however, has increased. The curtailment of travel seems to have caused querists to rely more upon the mail for answer to their problems. The ordinary genealogical questions we do not attempt to look up, turning them over to professional genealogists, but historical queries which can be answered only from records in this Library we

deem it our duty to investigate, even at the expense of considerable time. A query from a historian in Minnesota which involved the exact reading of a single page of a seventeenth century manuscript required over four hours to obtain a correct transcript of the document. To assist a United States Senator who was preparing the biography of a national character we gave half a day's research in files of newspapers available nowhere else but at this library. The queries concern all sorts of subjects—the history of early manufactures at Pittsburgh, steamboating on the Mississippi, newspaper allusions to the Northeastern Boundary dispute, the paintings of John Greenwood, when did Esek Hopkins take command of the American navy, how many copies exist of Revere's View of Harvard College, who is the best authority on the Island of Nevis, where was Blackburn the painter born, what was the first American edition of Shakespeare, are but a few of recent examples which come to mind.

The war, too, has brought its queries—what would be the best books on American history for a camp library, what is the leading Greek newspaper for the numerous Greeks who are training for the national army; what paper in South America best covers the war. The correspondence arising from the attempt to provide a proper nomenclature for American naval vessels grew to considerable proportions and in at least two instances the newspaper files have been used by secret service agents in search of certain information.

Not until the United States entered the war did this Library attempt to gather material illustrating the world struggle. Our precedent of not preserving the literature of foreign countries, but restricting our energies to the gathering of material relating to America, seemed the proper course to follow. Moreover, the Clark University Library was amassing a collection relating to these foreign aspects of the war, which was second to none in the country.

Since April, 1917, however, the Society has endeavored to acquire every book, pamphlet and document it could obtain which concerned this country's part in the conflict, and not without some success. Not only will its newspaper files prove of value for the future study of the subject, but its collection of camp newspapers, covering the activities of thirty-four camps throughout the country, would be difficult to duplicate. Most of these camp papers have been given to the Library by Mr. Charles H. Taylor, Jr., of Boston, who has also sent us a large amount of the pamphlet literature of the war. Mr. Taylor has an unusual opportunity to obtain such material and his aid is hereby acknowledged as one of our greatest sources of help. Most of the members of this Society are in touch with public affairs, or receive some of the literature of the war, such as patriotic speeches, controversial tracts, pamphlet appeals for war charities, trench newspapers or even important manuscript material. Will they not send it to the library of the Society, where it will be properly arranged and classified to be of service to the historian who a generation or two hence will approach with impartial mind the study of the greatest conflict the world has ever known.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

Librarian.

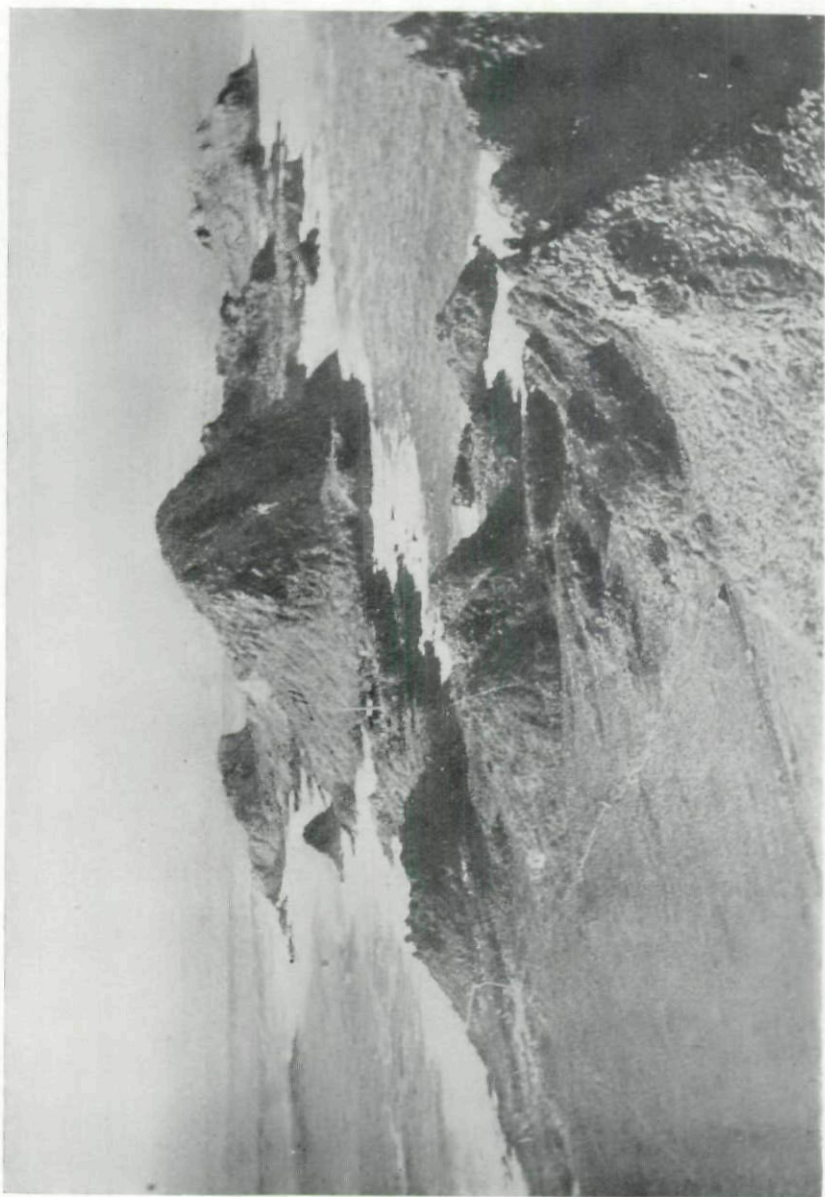


FIGURE 3. The Southeast Farallon which Drake named the Islands of St. James on July 24, 1579. He sent a boat's crew ashore to obtain seal meat. Landing is not an easy matter and there is only one point where the crew, if on the west side, could have landed. This is near the flag pole near the center of the photograph.

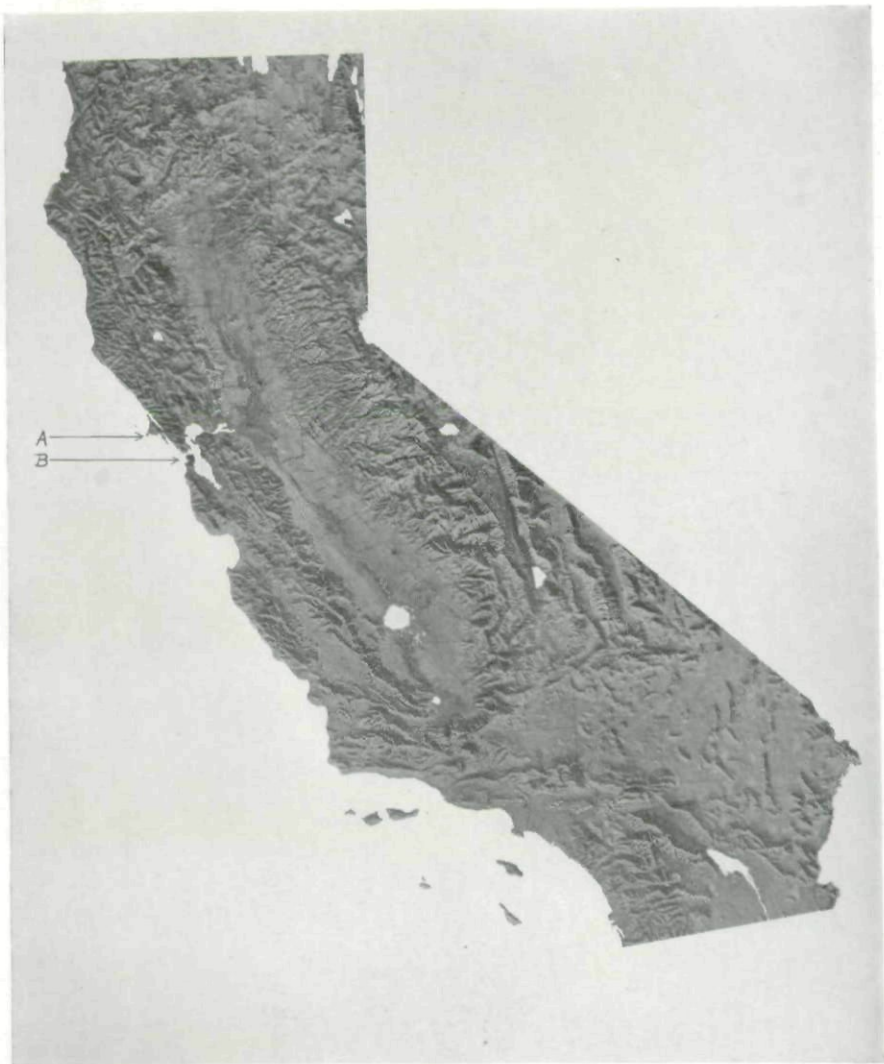


FIGURE 4

Relief map of California. A indicates Drake's anchorage B indicates San Francisco.

NOVA ALBION—1579

BY ALEXANDER G. MC ADIE

PREFATORY NOTE

It was my good fortune to know well the late Professor George Davidson, a high official of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and for many years Professor of Geography in the University of California.

While in command of the Survey brig *Fauntleroy*, he began the preparation of the Coast Pilot; and followed with much detail the voyages of early explorers. To Cook and Vancouver he gave special attention and indeed verified their positions. Nor did he withhold his admiration for the indomitable courage and perseverance of the early Spanish navigators. His paper covering the period from 1539 to 1603 is a classic.¹

In addition to Cook and Vancouver, there was another son of Albion who came a-roving to the Pacific coast when Spain was at the zenith of her power. He cast anchor in an open roadstead thirty miles west northwest of where the greatest city of the West Coast lies "serene, indifferent to Fate."

As a citizen of this metropolis it was natural that George Davidson should become intensely interested in the identification of the anchorage made by Francis Drake in 1570. He proved, I think, beyond question that

1. Drake did not reach the latitude of 48 degrees north, as claimed by many English writers and repeated in the last edition of the *Britannica*;
2. The most northern latitude reached by Drake was 43 degrees;
3. The *Golden Hinde* never sailed into the Bay of San Francisco, nor did Drake see the entrance to the Bay nor surmise that such a body of water existed in the vicinity of his anchorage. School textbooks are prone to state that Drake discovered the Bay.
4. In all probability, Drake cast anchor under the lee of Point Reyes; and this is the locality which he named Nova Albion, or New England, from a fancied resemblance of the white cliffs to those of his native shire.

¹U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Appendix No. 7. An Examination of some of the Early Voyages of Discovery and Exploration on the Northwest Coast of America from 1539 to 1603. Also Francis Drake on the Northwest Coast of America, *Trans. Geog. Soc. of the Pacific*, Vol. V, Series II, 1908.

In company with Professor Davidson and on many a lonely trip I have tried to follow Drake as he approached this anchorage; and in this paper bring forward and as evidence the conditions of the winds, the fogs, the landfalls as affected by the fogs; for all these must be much the same as in 1579.

When Drake and his men got back to Plymouth, they found that they had lost a day, even as Magellan had. According to their reckoning it was Sunday when they arrived, whereas those who had stayed at home, said it was Monday. It was suggested that perhaps the different climates which they had experienced caused the discrepancy. Now climate, which is the summed-up weather of a locality, has been held responsible for many sins of omission and commission, but to make the weather responsible for the loss of a day in the circumnavigation of the globe from east to west is calculated to arouse the ire of the most placid aerographer.

It is however undeniable that weather was responsible both directly and indirectly for many of the episodes of the voyage. Certainly it played an important part in determining the courses; and it may therefore be well worth while to examine critically the weather conditions as recorded, in the light of our modern knowledge of the fogs, winds, currents and temperatures along the coast of California. If we can prove the constancy of certain climatic factors, we may use these to great advantage in interpreting the narrative of the voyage. Indeed, they become extremely valuable evidence in identifying the courses and the various anchorages. It is therefore from the standpoint of the aerographer rather than historian that the writer approaches this subject.

First, we must prove the constancy of the great air currents; the fog formations and other characteristic physical features of the air circulation in these parts. Let us begin with the winds.

The winds have long been used as fitting symbol for things inconstant. Yet in many localities the wind

systems are more to be relied upon in running a course than the compass readings. I give below a note on the courses of the *Paramour Pink* under Edmund Halley and the non-magnetic ships of the Carnegie Institution.² I have no doubt that a course could be sailed today along the coast of California following the wind directions as given in "The World Encompassed" which would be much nearer the one taken by Drake than if we attempted to use the compass bearings.

The log or daily journal of this voyage has never been published, and perhaps was not kept. The instrument used for determining latitude was probably not reliable within a degree, and positions in longitude are guesses. We know that on April 16, 1579, Drake left Guatulco. The narrative based upon the notes made by Francis Fletcher says:

"setting our course directly into the sea, whereon we sayled 500 leagues in longitude, to get a winde; and betweene that and June 3, 1400 leagues in all, till we came into 42 deg. of North latitude, where in the night following we found such alternation of heat into extreame and nipping cold, that our men in generall did grievously complaine thereof, some of them feeling their healths much impaired thereby, neither was it that this chanced in the night alone, but the day following carried with it not onely the marks but the stings and force of the night going before to the great admiration of us all; for besides that the pinching and biting air was nothing altered, the very roapes of our ship were stiffe, and the raine which fell was an unnatural congealed and frozen substance so that we seemed rather to be in the frozen Zone than in any way neere unto the sun or these hotter climates . . . though seamen lack not good stomachs yet it seemed a question to many amongst us whether their hands should feed their mouthes, or rather keep themselves within their couverts from the

²Doctor Bauer in charge of the magnetic work of the Carnegie Institution, in the fourth Halley Lecture, delivered at Oxford, May 22, 1913, says: "Two sailing ships cruising in the Atlantic Ocean from port to port, the one in 1700 and the other in 1910, were forced by the prevailing winds to follow very closely identical courses. If however these two vessels had been directed to follow certain definite magnetic courses and if we may suppose that they had such motive power as to render them independent of the winds, then their respective paths would have diverged considerably . . . In brief while the sailing directions as governed by the winds over the Atlantic are the same now as they were during Halley's time the magnetic directions or bearings of the compass that a vessel must follow to reach a given port have greatly altered."

pinching cold that did benumme them The 5 day of June we were forced by contrary winds to runne in with the shoare which we then first descried and to cast anchor in a bad bay, the best roade which we could for the present meete with where we were not without some danger by many of the extreame gusts and flawes that beate upon us, whic if they ceased and were still at any time, immediately upon their intermission there followed most vile, thick and stinking fogges, against which the sun prevailed nothing till the gusts again removed them which brought with them such extremity and violence when they came that there was no dealing or resisting against them."

"In 38 deg. 30 minutes we fell in with a convenient and fit harborough In this bay we ankered the seventeenth of June, Our Generall called this country Nova Albion and that for two causes; the one in respect of the white banks and cliffes which ly towards the sea th other that it might haue some affinite euen in name also with our own countrie which was sometime so called."

The World Encompassed

by Sir Francis Drake, nephew of the navigator,
London 1682, p. 132.

Professor Davidson has identified Chetko Cove as the place of this first anchorage.

"In this place was no abiding for us and the winds directly bent against us, having once gotten under sayle againe commanded us to the southward whether we would or no."

It is here that mention of 48 degrees is made; but it would seem plain from the context that 43 was intended. There has been much argument over this. An error may have been made in the original entry or in the transcription. Certainly the figure 3 as generally written is not unlike an 8. It must be remembered too, that in any narrative compiled after the cruise the fact that the party remained for a period of 37 days in a locality whose latitude was 38 N. might have led to a slip of this character. Wherever the figure is written out, it is "fortie-three degrees toward the pole Articke."

A good reason for discrediting 48 is the time, 11 days, required to make the distance, for they hove to each night and probably did not average 50 nautical

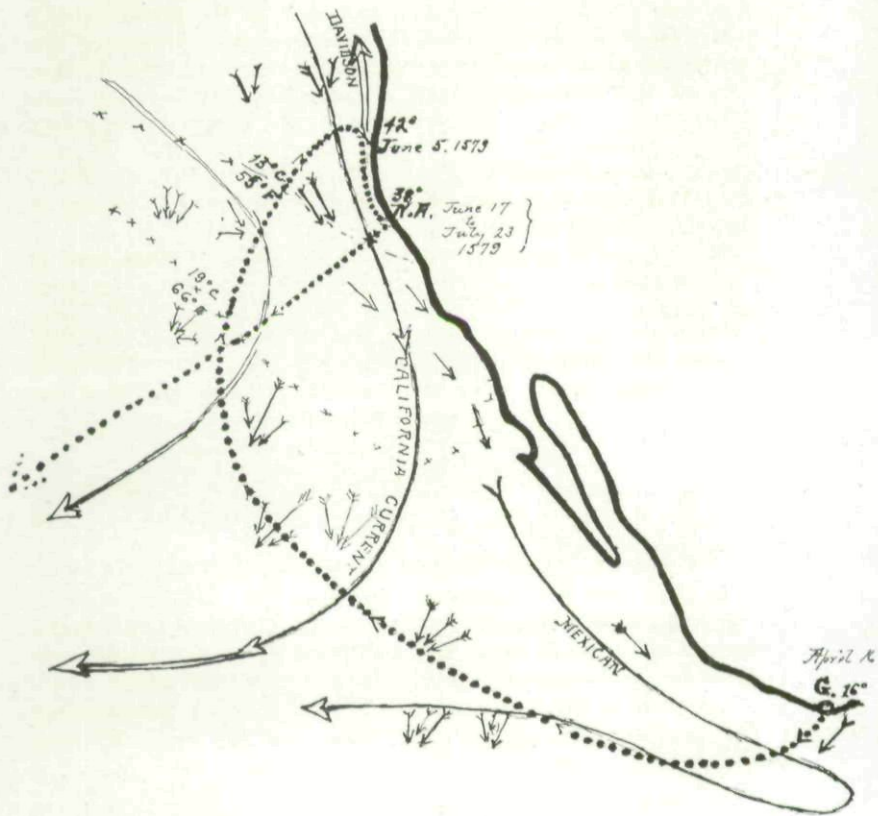


FIGURE 5

Drake's probable course and the prevailing winds, ocean currents, and air temperatures for June off the California Coast.

miles a day. Furthermore they were in the Davidson current, an inshore eddy return current which would carry them north. The *Golden Hinde* was somewhere between 100 and 120 tons burden and drew about 13 feet of water. There was not much spread of canvas and she was a poor traveller because her bottom was foul from long stay in southern waters, also she was heavily laden with stolen silver, had a crew of 60 souls, carried cannon and cannon balls and above all was leaking. The narrative says that they diligently searched the shore. Had they made 48 and diligently searched the shore, they could hardly have passed unnoticed Cape Flattery and the Straits of Fuca. And farther south, Gray's Harbor, Shoalwater Bay, Cape Disappointment and the mouth of the Columbia River.

It must be remembered that the prime object of all this northing was to discover the big river or passage through which they could sail from the South Sea into their "owne" ocean, the Atlantic. They dared not go south and retrace their course, for they feared the Spaniard now on the alert. To have found this short way home, to have outwitted the greatest seapower of the day, to have discovered and traversed the Anian Arcticus, why this would have eclipsed the glory of all previous explorers!

This conclusion is strengthened if we recall that some thirteen years later, the Greek pilot Apostolos Valerianos, or to give him his sailor name, Juan de Fuca, claimed that he did pick up the entrance to the Strait and actually entered it. There are many romantic incidents connected with early Spanish exploration of the Pacific coast; but it is doubtful if any surpasses the adventure of this sixteenth century Ulysses. Captain George Vancouver, entering the passage two centuries later, did well to name it after the old pilot.

Drake and his men then, according to the best evidence, turned southward, somewhere near the

43d parallel. The latitude was determined with an astrolabe and there was a probable error of a whole degree, perhaps even more in the reading. As they sailed south within sight of land, after leaving Chetko Bay, they saw or thought they saw *snow covered* hills. There are no peaks visible from the sea high enough to have a snow line at this time of the year, and there is no special evidence of an abnormal season. Drake's men made the not unnatural error of thinking that the dense white fog on the hilltops was snow. It is a common occurrence today for tourists on coasting vessels to call attention to what they think is snow on the mountains. It may be said that seamen like the crew of the *Golden Hinde* who had gone half-way round the world would surely recognize fog; but the fog formations in this section differ greatly from sea fogs elsewhere. In several technical papers, the writer has discussed the fogs of the Pacific Coast³.

Still working southward the little company worn out with the fierce and biting northwest wind, rounded the headland which we now know as Point Reyes, named by Vizcaino, on Epiphany day, twenty-four years later, *la punta de los tres Reyes*, after the three wise men.

The locality then in which we would place the anchorage is what is now quite appropriately known as Drake's Bay. On June 17, 1579, he landed and took possession in the name of his sovereign Elizabeth. After making proper military disposition of his force, which included the landing of the cannon, Drake hauled the *Golden Hinde* ashore, careened ship and then cleaned and caulked her bottom. Completing this he launched her again and took aboard supplies of fresh water and wood. He sailed thence on July 23 after a stay of thirty-seven days. He passed the North Farallon and farther south the Southeast Farallon, which he called the Islands of St James.

³The Rainfall of California, Univ. of Cal. Publications, 1913.

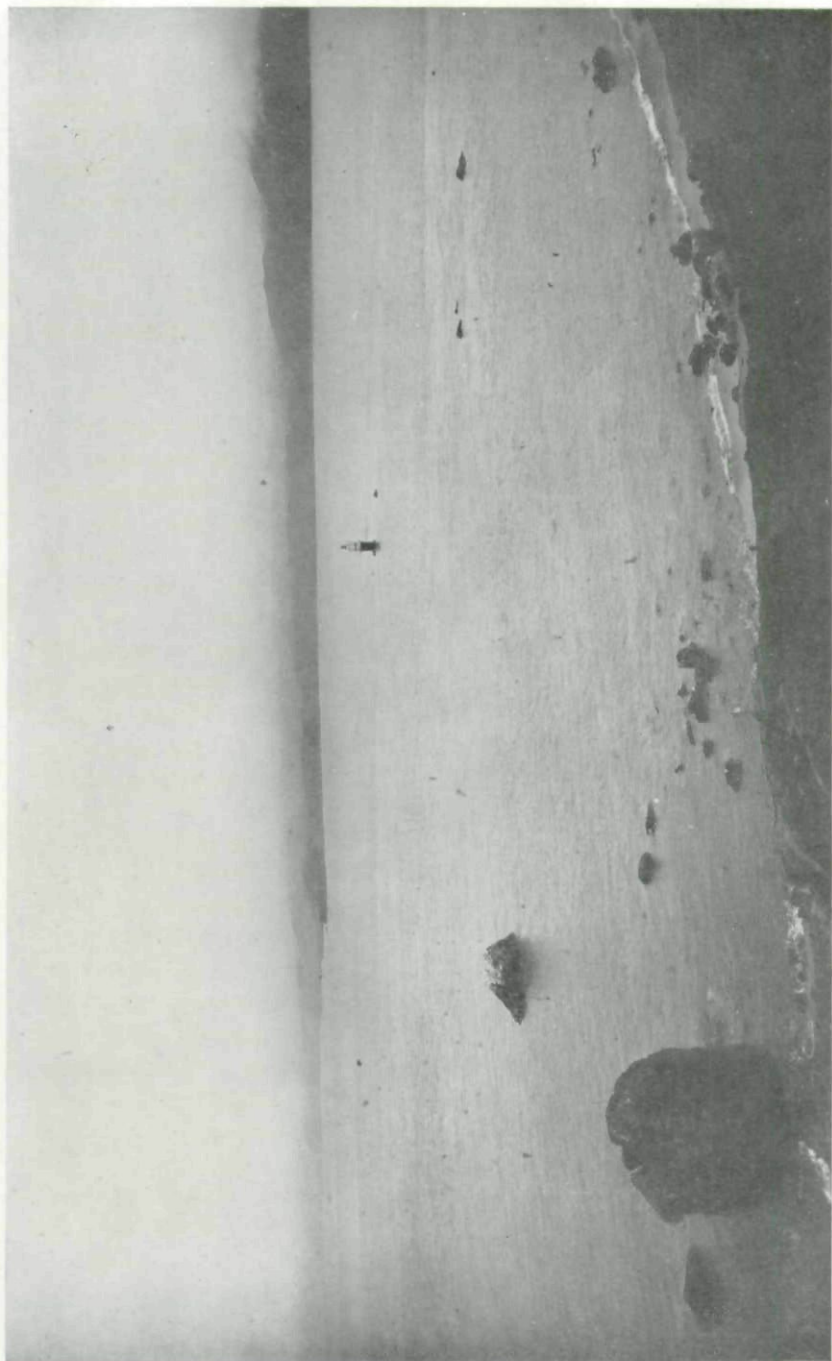


FIGURE 6. Entrance to San Francisco Bay—made with telephoto lens to show the whitish appearance of the upper limit of the fog, which Drake's crew mistook for snow.

Both of these are shown in the accompanying photographs.

In the photograph herewith may be seen the white cliffs referred to. Along the whole section of the coast there is nothing which resembles the description other than these. They lie towards the sea, facing south and in plain view of the natural anchorage after rounding the headland of Point Reyes and getting out of the stiff northwest wind and into quiet water. Furthermore from this anchorage one can make the North Farallon in about four hours and the Southeast Farallon in three hours more; and this is just what Drake did. The *Golden Hinde*, after cleaning and caulking could make with the northwest wind about four nautical miles in an hour. Sailing southwest on what is now called 225 degrees, and making the Farallon rocks, Drake passed by the entrance to the Bay of San Francisco about twenty miles out. He would not discern the entrance. One must go over the course to fully appreciate the conditions. The writer has done this many times and tried to pick up the entrance, and especially at the time of the year when Drake was there. Knowing exactly the location of the Golden Gate, he was never able to pick it up with the unaided eye. The landfall is deceptive and seems like a continuous horizon line. The crest of Tamalpais, the Sausalito hills, Angel Island, Alcatraz and the Berkeley Hills with Diablo in the background blend into one sky line.

Furthermore, in the summer months there is a valid reason why the entrance can not be seen, even when one is only a few miles outside. This is the fog which comes in with the regularity of clockwork on summer afternoons. I have described the character of this fog in several papers.⁴ It is not necessary to go into details here but it may be said that even if Drake had been close to the entrance he probably would have

⁴Bulletin I. Climatology of California, U. S. Weather Bureau, 1903; The Clouds and Fogs of San Francisco, 1912.

missed it. About the only time when the entrance can be picked up from outside is in winter after a southeaster, when the visibility is remarkably good.⁵

Drake left his anchorage on July 23 (old style) having remained 37 days. He passed the North Farallon rock and some hours later the Southeast Farallon sending a boat's crew ashore to get seal meat. The seals (or rather their descendants) are still there; and a little cove just under the big pinnacle rock known as Maintop is the spot where I think the crew must have landed, as it is the only place where a landing could be safely made from a small boat even in a smooth sea, and the sea is seldom smooth. Drake called these rocks "The Islands of St. James" and from here steered boldly west by south on the longest leg of his journey round the world. He knew that in time he would reach the Ladrones, the Philippines and Moluccas; and passing round the Cape of Good Hope come into the Atlantic. He had captured some Spanish "sea cards" from Don Francisco Xarate; and in fact was following the return route of the galleons to Spain. These charts also gave the Pacific Coast north as far as 43 degrees, a matter which must not be overlooked. Of course the possession of these cards robs the voyage of much of its glory. It is interesting to note that certain English historians, "sing small," as the Scotch say, about these cards. The very name, California, was on the charts previous to Drake's visit. [I may digress for a moment to refer to the fact not generally known that a former member of this Society, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, has credit for discovering the origin of the word California.⁶ But I regret to add that the good Doctor inclined to the belief that Drake anchored in San Francisco Bay.]

⁵One peculiarity of the fog in summer months is the clear zone from sea-level to a height of about 30 metres. At such times the seaman does not clearly realize the true conditions. The upper level of the fog is about 500 metres (1640 feet) and when viewed from a distance resembles a white blanket. The temperature at sea level in June is approximately 11 C. (55 F.) while at the top of the fog it is 27 C. (81 F.) or very much warmer and this means a heavy water vapor content and a density that results in the whitish aspect.

⁶Proc. Am. Antiquarian Soc., April, 1862.

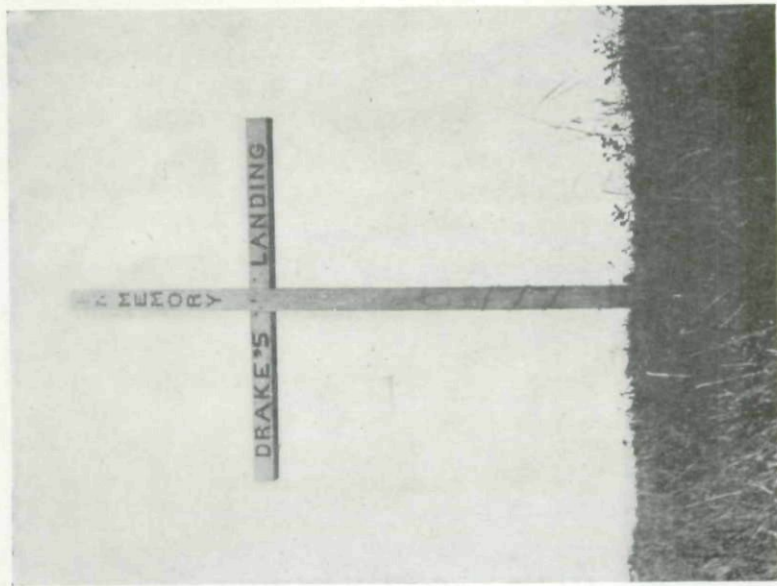


FIGURE 7. Wooden Cross erected by Bishop Nichols on the supposed site of Drake's landing. The cross is about three feet high.

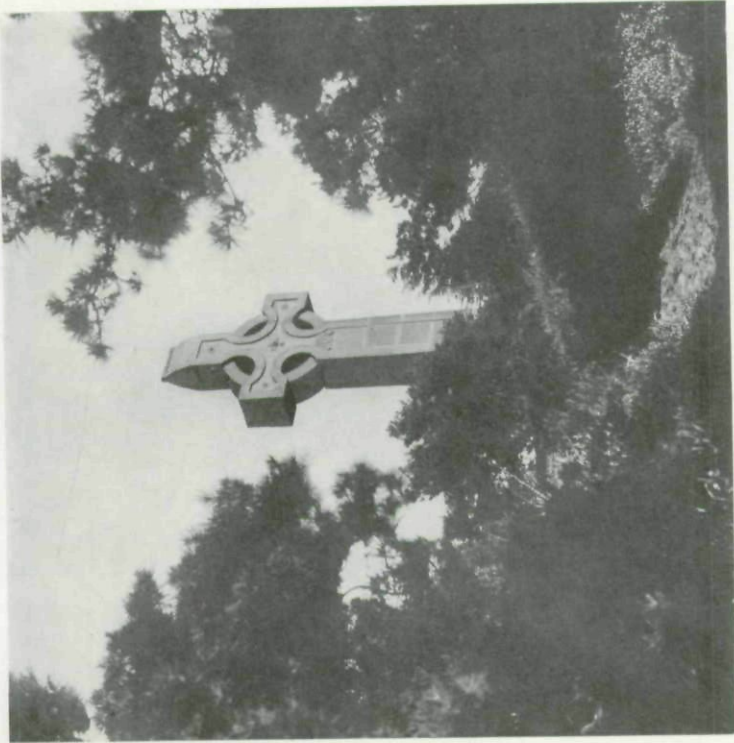


FIGURE 8. Stone Cross about forty feet high, erected in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and known as the Prayer-Book Cross in commemoration of the first use of the Book of Common Prayer in our Country by Drake, 1579. The gift of Mr. George Washington Childs.

It now remains for us to attempt to fix the location of the Portus Novae Albion by a closer study of the weather conditions for that period of the year when Drake was there. This is the more necessary since the anchorage has been challenged on the ground of climatic conditions.

In the Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. XV, p. 431, under the heading Sir Francis Drake it is stated:

"The one doubtful point is the account of the climate, which is described with much detail as excessively cold and foggy, (Vaux, pp. 133-118). This is now said to be an exaggeration; but to speak of the climate near San Francisco or anywhere on that coast in July in these terms is not exaggeration but a positive and evidently wilful falsehood credulously inserted by the original compiler of 'The World Encompassed'."

On the contrary the description fits the facts. In 1902 I made an abstract of the weather records at Point Reyes for the 37 days corresponding to those spent by Drake under the lee of this headland.⁷ It is plain that the fog and wind conditions are remarkable and in accord with the experience of Drake's party. Professor Davidson surveying there in 1859 noted in his journal that the fog hung over the promontory of Point Reyes for 39 consecutive days and nights. The sun was invisible for the first nine days and on shore it was visible only at mid-day for the next thirty days.⁸ How well that description tallies with the narrative where it says "neither could we at any time in the whole fourteen days together find the aire so clear to be able to take the height of sunne or starre."

We give on a Meteorological Chart of the North Pacific for June the probable course of the *Golden*

⁷Taking a five year period or 185 days in all, there were 97 days of fog. With regard to wind we note that on May 18, 1902 the average velocity was 32 metres per second (72 miles an hour). For a given day the average velocity was 35 metres per second. The greatest wind for one hour was 164 kilometres (102 miles) while in a period of seventy-two hours the wind blew 7565 kilometres or 4701 miles, that is, it would go around the world in sixteen days if continuous. I had personal experience of these high winds in different years both afloat and ashore.

⁸Coast Pilot, 1889, p. 232.

Hinde. Appended are copies of the map of Hondius, 1595, in the British Museum, and the Port of New Albion, both taken from Davidson's earlier paper on the Identification of Drake's Anchorage, read before the California Historical Society in May, 1891.

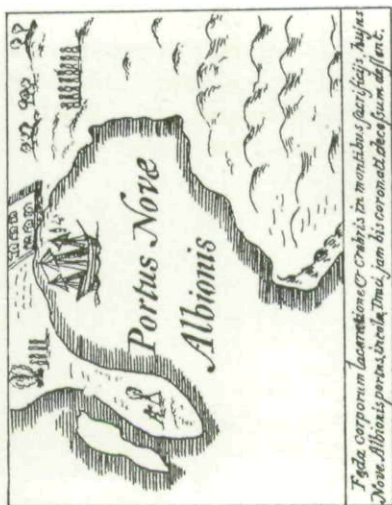
Port of New Albion

Drake 1579.

From the side plan on the map of

Hondius, 1595.

British Museum.



By heretic lacrationes of their bodies and by frequent sacrifices in the mountains, the inhabitants of this part of Nova Albion deplore the departure of Drake now twice renewed.

FIGURE 10. Hondius Map, showing Nova Albion.

Copy of part of the

Map of Hondius, 1595.

British Museum.

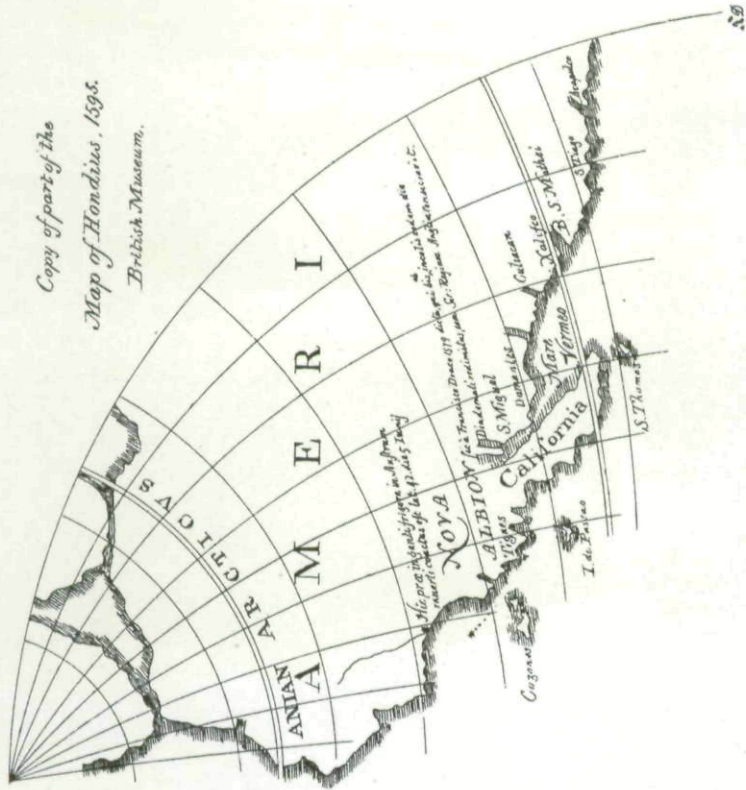


FIGURE 9. Copy of part of a Map of Hondius, 1595.

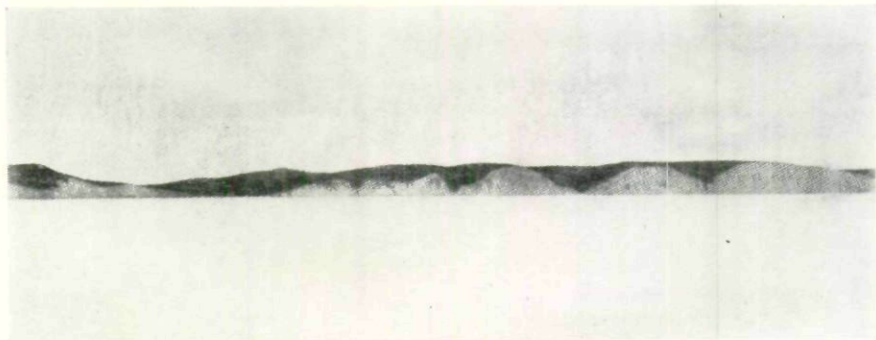


FIGURE 1

"The white banks and cliffes which ly towards the sea." These white banks led Drake to call the locality Nova Albion. The photograph was made from the deck of a vessel drawing about the same depth of water as the *Golden Hinde* and anchored near the supposed anchorage of Drake in June, 1579. The original negative was destroyed in the earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906.



FIGURE 2

One of the Farallon Rocks which Drake probably rounded on July 24, 1579.

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