

1596.

Spitzbergen. William Barentsz undertakes to pass to China north of Nova Zembla ; but after discovering Spitzbergen, which he took to be an island, and which the English regard as part of Greenland, he lost his ship in the ice, and wintered in Nova Zembla. He then endeavored to reach Cola, in Lapland, but died on the way, still convinced that twenty leagues north of Nova Zembla there is no ice, nor any thing to prevent a ship penetrating to China. In fact, if we may credit the author of the account of the shipwreck of a Dutch ship in 1653, on Quelpaerts Island, who states that whales were found in the sea of Corea still bearing in their body Gascon harpoons, such as are used in the whale-fishery on the coast of Greenland, we cannot doubt the justness of Barentsz's conjecture.

1598.

Sebald de
Wert's
Island.

James Mahu, Simon de Corde, Sebald de Wert, and some other Hollanders, attempting to pass through the Straits of Magellan, were forced by head winds to return, without any of them reaching the Pacific except the ship which carried William Adams, an Englishman, as first pilot of the squadron, and which was wrecked on the eastern shore of Japan. Sebald de Wert, on leaving the straits, discovered, February 24th, three islands, which bear his name. He puts the latitude at $50^{\circ} 50' S.$ Some authors assign this discovery to the year 1600.

Sable Island.
Acadia.

The Marquis de la Roche, a Breton, receiving from Henry IV., of France, a commission to continue the explorations begun by Jacques Cartier, discovered, this same year, Sable Island and a part of the coast of Acadia. It is pretended that Sir Humphrey Gilbert, already mentioned, lost three ships on Sable Island in 1581.

1599.

New Mexico.
San Juan.

John de Oñate makes extensive conquests in New Mexico. He builds the city of San Juan, and discovers a number of mines.