

Attempt to  
find a north-  
ern passage to  
China.

Captain John Wood and William Hawes, Englishmen, wishing to follow the passage indicated by Barentsz to reach China by the north, were arrested by the ice. Wood pretends in his journal that there is no passage between Nova Zembla and Greenland, and that these two lands are but the same mainland ; for, says he, if there were a passage there would be a regular current ; and he found only a tide, rising about eight feet, and running E. S. E.

1680.

Micissippi.  
Island of Bar-  
badoes.

Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, a native of Rouen, having undertaken to continue the exploration of the Micissippi, sent a Canadian named Dacan, accompanied by Father Louis Hennepin, a Flemish Recollect, to ascend this river from the Illinois River to its source. These two travellers went to 46° N., and were stopped by high falls, which extend entirely across the river, and which they named the Falls of St. Anthony of Padua.

That same year, and the next, Captain Sharp, a Hollander, having endeavored in vain to pass to the Pacific by the Straits of Magellan, the Straits of Le Maire, and Brouwer's Passage, sought a more southerly route, and found several ice-covered islands, much snow, and numbers of whales. After stopping some time on an island, which he called Duke of York's Island, he ran more than eight hundred leagues to the eastward, then as far west, and discovered an island, to which he gave the name of Barbadoes.

1681.

Pennsylva-  
nia.

Establishment of Pennsylvania, in the country which had borne the name of New Sweden. This country received its name from its founder, Sir William Penn, an Englishman, to whom Charles II., king of Great Britain, granted the country in 1680, and who, this year, 1681, led there some Quakers from England, of whom he was the chief. When he arrived there, he found a great number of Dutch and Swedes. The former were chiefly settled along the gulf, and the latter on the banks of the Delaware, or South River. It seems from one of his