

once awakened, was soon followed by an extension of geographical knowledge. When Diego Ribero returned, in the year 1525, from the geographical and astronomical congress which had been held at the Puente de Caya, near Yelves, for the purpose of settling the contentions that had arisen regarding the boundaries of the two empires of the Portuguese and the Spaniards, the outlines of the new continent had been already laid down from Terra del Fuego to the coasts of Labrador. On the western side of America, opposite to Asia, the advance was, of course, less rapid, although Rodriguez Cabrillo had penetrated further northward than Monterey as early as 1543; and notwithstanding that this great and daring mariner met his death in the Canal of Santa Barbara, in New California, the pilot, Bartholomeus Ferreto, conducted the expedition to the 43d degree of latitude, where Vancouver's Cape Oxford is situated. The emulous enterprise of the Spaniards, English, and Portuguese, directed to one and the same object, was then so great, that fifty years sufficed to determine the external configuration or the general direction of the coasts of the countries in the Western hemisphere.

Although the acquaintance of the nations of Europe with the western part of the earth is the main subject of our consideration in this section, and that around which the numerous relations of a more correct and a grander view of the universe are grouped, we must yet draw a strong line of separation between the undoubted first discovery of America, in its northern portions, by the Northmen, and its subsequent rediscovery in its tropical regions. While the Califate still flourished under the Abbassides at Bagdad, and Persia was under the dominion of the Samanides, whose age was so favorable to poetry, America was discovered in the year 1000 by Leif, the son of Eric the Red, by the northern route, and as far as $41^{\circ} 30'$ north latitude.* The first, although accidental, incitement toward this event emanated from Norway. Toward the close of the ninth century, Naddod was driven by

* Parts of America were seen, although no landing was made on them, fourteen years before Leif Ericksson, in the voyage which Bjarne Herjulfsson undertook from Greenland to the southward in 986. Leif first saw the land at the island of Nantucket, 1° south of Boston; then in Nova Scotia; and, lastly, in Newfoundland, which was subsequently called "Litla Helluland," but never "Vinland." The gulf, which divides Newfoundland from the mouth of the great river St. Lawrence, was called by the Northmen, who had settled in Iceland and Greenland, Markland's Gulf. See *Caroli Christiani Rafn Antiquitates Americanae*, 1845, p. 4, 421, 423, and 463.