

III

ENGLAND BECOMES THE MISTRESS OF THE SEAS

The name of Raleigh stands highest among the statesmen of England who advanced the colonization of the United States.—*George Bancroft.*

13. The New World Claimed by Spain.—Thus far our story has been chiefly about Spain. It was Spain that sent out Columbus and Magellan; it was a Spaniard who stood in the waters of the Pacific and took possession of the great ocean in



The Line of Demarcation.

the name of the king; they were Spanish generals who conquered the West Indies, the greater part of South America, and Mexico; they were Spanish explorers who first made their way into the wild regions of North America. Spain thought the New World belonged entirely to her. She indeed agreed that Portugal might have Brazil,¹ but all the rest of South America and all of North

America she claimed as her own. But her claims amounted to nothing unless she could defend them with her sword, and other nations were already disputing them.

14. England Claims a Part of the New World.—The country that was to give Spain the most trouble in the New World

¹ In 1494 Spain and Portugal, in accordance with the wishes of Pope Alexander VI, made a treaty agreeing that a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands should be known as the "Line of Demarcation," and that all "heathen lands" east of this line should belong to Portugal, while all "heathen lands" west of the line should belong to Spain. In 1500 Cabral, a Portuguese captain, started to India by the route round the Cape of Good Hope, but he swung too far westward and touched the coast of Brazil. Since the new-found land was east of the Line of Demarcation, Brazil was claimed by Portugal.