

“ These regions are cauled *Terra Florida* and *Regio Bacclearum* or *Bacchallaos* of the which you may reade sumwhat in this booke in the voyage of the woorthy owlde man yet lyving, Sebastian Cabote, in the VI booke of the thyrdle Decade. But Cabot touched only in the north corner and most barbarous part hereof, from whence he was repulsed with Ise in the moneth of July ” (1).

Purchas has left a narration attributed to Cabot himself, in the following terms :

“ The map of *Sebastian Cabot*, cut by *Clement Adams*, relateth, That *John Cabot*, a Venetian and his sonne *Sebastian*, set out from Bristol, discovering the Land, called it *Prima Vista*, and the Island before it *S. Johns*. ” (2)

In the fourth volume of the *Encyclopediu Britannica*, we read the following words :

“ This year (1497), on St. John the Baptist's day, the land of America was found by the merchants of Bristowe in a ship of Bristol called the *Matthew*, the which said ship departed from the port of Bristowe, the second of May, and came home again 6th August following ”. And in a note at the bottom of the page : “ These important dates are from an ancient manuscript for several generations in possession of the family of Hill Court, Gloucestershire. ” (3)

But here is a last testimony which is worth its weight in gold. I suppose it has been overlooked by several historians who might have used it with profit. It is that of Ellis, an English writer, whose good faith cannot be suspected. Here is the passage I find in his work entitled : *Voyage to Hudson's Bay* :

“ In the Spring of the Year following being 1497, he (John Cabot) sailed from Bristol, with one Ship fitted out at the King's Expence, and three or four smaller Vessels freighted by the Merchants there, with coarse Caps, Cloth, Laces, etc., upon his Discovery ; in which upon the 24th of June, about Five in the Morning, he saw Land, which for that Reason he called *Prima Vista*, or, first seen, which was Part of Newfoundland and afterwards another Smaller Island, which he called *St. John's* ”. (4)

Therefore, it is not necessary to refer to Cabot's map to have an idea of the English discovery in America. Ellis

(1) Martyr. The Discoverer of the New World. Preface to the Reader, by Richard Eden.

(2) Purchas, His Pilgrimage, London, 1617, p. 915.

(3) Encyclopediu Britannica, vol. 4, p. 350.

(4) *A Voyage to Hudson's Bay, in the years 1746 and 1747*. By Henry Ellis. London 1748. p. 3-4.