

*adverso sita est*) he called St. John, because it was sighted by him (*ei aperta fuit*) on the festival of that saint, June 24, "as I believe" (*opinor*).

The map lately discovered and claimed to be the original of Cabot has the words *terra* (or *tierra*) *prima vista* as designating Cape North in Cape Breton, and an island near at hand marked *Y. S. Juan*, supposed to be the present Prince Edward island, though it has nothing of the shape of that island, nor is it in its proper position.

This supposed map contains also the inscription. I think that ought to be enough to deprive the map of being considered as Cabot's work. Again, if the words *prima vista* were on the original map at Cape North, how came they to be omitted by Adams or by the copyist from whom Adams took his map, if he did not copy from the original? Abbé Baudouin says: "We do not know from whom Adams copied his map. We know of two copies of that of Sebastian; one in the national library of Paris, and one due to *Chytheus (variorum in Europa itinerum deliciae Herborn 1594)*, but Clement Adams did not copy either of these. We must, therefore, admit a third copy of Sebastian which is not yet discovered." I would like to know if the point of Cape North is marked *Prima Vista* on these known copies, and if not, why not, if it is on the original.

Biddle, a lawyer of Pittsburg, wrote in 1831 a most exhaustive and excellent memoir of Sebastian Cabot. He was the first who attempted to shake the belief in the old tradition of Bonavista as the landfall. In studying the inscription on the map of Adams he noticed the mention of an island called St. John off the coast, and he could find no such island off the coast of Newfoundland near Bonavista. He saw on the said map an island marked St. John in the gulf of St. Lawrence; but he knew that Cabot could not have seen that island on the same day as that on which he sighted land, that is, in the supposition that he sighted land near Bonavista. Neither would the island of St. John as marked (now Prince Edward island) answer the description of "an island off the coast." Moreover, he says, this island was discovered and called St. John long after by Cartier in 1535. He then cast about for further data. "He finds," says Abbé Beaudouin, "on the map of Ortelius, 1570, an island of St. John off the coast of Labrador in latitude 56°. This he supposes to be the landfall." M. l'Abbé here refutes Biddle by saying his whole argument is built on a false basis. In the first place Cartier did not see Prince Edward island at all; it was a cape on the west shore of Newfoundland (now Cape Anguille) which he called St. John. Secondly, the map of Ortelius, which was not drawn from Cabot's but from Mercator's (1569), is his only authority. On