

lowing passage :—"Spanish and Portuguese exercised a jealous and careful surveillance over all ships, of whatever country, and woe to the imprudent stranger who allowed himself to be surprised by them ! He was considered as a pirate, and treated without pity."

The French, and especially the Bretons, were in reality the only rivals of the English in the region of the Baccalaos, as the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the adjacent lands were called, from the abundance of codfish that were taken there. The first voyages of the Cabots were followed in 1501 and 1502 by expeditions, probably abortive, or, at any rate, without striking results, undertaken by Englishmen, in conjunction with Portuguese from the Azores. In 1503, Sebastian Cabot is believed to have undertaken a third voyage, when he brought home three savages, and a record has been found of the payment of one pound to a man that brought hawks from the new isle. In 1504, two pounds were paid "to a preste that goeth to the new Ilande," and in 1504-6, we find the first authenticated voyages of the Bretons and Normans. From 1506, we find a tolerably regular series of voyages, until, in 1527, John Rut, an Englishman, found in St. John's Bay nearly fifty ships, English, French, and Portuguese, while in 1543-45, during the months of January and February, at least two ships every day left the ports of Normandy alone for these regions. Into the later history of these rich fisheries, and the quarrels they have occasioned, it is not our province to enter.

In 1534, and again in 1535, 1541, and 1543, Jacques Cartier made voyages of exploration and