

Barrow of folly, because they speak of him as a scientific and able seaman, there being no proof that he was any thing else than a merchant who dwelt in England.* Now when Hakluyt, in a writing of unquestionable authenticity,—the first royal commission just quoted,—found John Cabot intrusted with the command of a squadron of five ships, which was empowered to sail on a voyage of discovery to all countries and seas of the East, West, and North, he certainly cannot be accused of having committed any grievous infringement upon truth or probability when he described him as a seaman; and when, in another document of almost equal authority,—the inscription on the map by Clement Adams,—he observed it stated that he, along with his son Sebastian, were the first who discovered North America, are we to be told that he was guilty of excessive exaggeration, when he drew the inference which every discerning and impartial mind would be inclined to derive from the same facts, that the author of such a discovery must have been an excellent navigator and cosmographer? Nor is it a fair mode of reasoning to accuse Campbell and Barrow as guilty of a thousand absurdities, when they describe John Cabot as an “accomplished seaman, a skilful pilot, or an intrepid navigator.”† These writers, it is to be recollected, had before them the letters-patent in Rymer, and the inscription by Adams,—instruments which had in no way been perverted,—and from an examination of these they arrived at the conclusion, to which every reader is inevitably led, that he who possessed the inventive mind to plan this new course to India by the north-west,—who had in person commanded the expedition, and successfully achieved the discovery,—must have been, both as a practical and a scientific navigator, a man of no ordinary character and acquirements.

It is difficult, within the limits to which we must confine these remarks, to reply to the various accusations against Hakluyt, which are scattered throughout the pages of this Memoir; besides we do not profess to write a full vindication of that excellent author. He is arraigned of ig-

* Memoir of Cabot, pp. 46, 47, 50, 51.

† Memoir of Cabot, pp. 46, 50, 51.