

divide the honors between them. I can find nothing more suitable with which to prelude the navigation of the Cabots, and the inspiring motives, than the statement in after years made to the Pope's Envoy in Spain by Sebastian Cabot. He says: "When news that Don Christopher Colonus (Genoese) had discovered the coasts of India, whereof was great talk in all the court of King Henry VII, who then reigned, insomuch that all men, with great admiration, affirmed it to be a thing more divine than human, to sail by the west into the east, where spices grow, by a map that was never known before. By this fame and report there increased in my heart a great flame of desire to attempt some notable thing." Whether his father was moved to the same extent and by the same desire as his son we are not informed. It is known that Sebastian Cabot was well versed in cosmography, and on his removal to Spain, some time after making his voyages for England, was commissioned pilot-major for Spain, an office he held for several years. The Cabots appear to have fully appreciated the bearing upon great circle sailing, caused by the shortening of the degrees of longitude as we move further north or south from the equator. Bearing in mind that Columbus had sailed nearly due west on the latitude of the Canary islands, discovering land after sailing 33 days and 3200 miles, the Cabots rightly reasoned, that by sailing from Bristol in England, on latitude 53 degrees north, they would come to the coast of Asia, the land that Columbus was supposed to have discovered, in about two-thirds of the time, and two-thirds of the distance, that characterized the voyage of Columbus. When this plausible theory was by them explained to King Henry, he quite readily granted a patent to John Cabot and his sons, upon apparent liberal terms and conditions, to undertake a westerly voyage of discovery. They were to sail from, and return to, the port of Bristol; must sail under the flag of England, and take possession of all lands discovered for the