

torian muſt acknowledge Sebastian Cabot to have ſhown himſelf, on that occaſion at leaſt, both an impoſtor and a traitor.

Not ſo, however, with a certain Italian commentator, who declares this courſe and repeated acts of the ſame kind on the part of Cabot to have been perfectly legitimate and admirable. As to Dr. Dawson, having in mind either the preſent inſtance of treachery, or one preciſely like it attempted by Cabot againſt England when in the employ of Edward VI., he meekly obſerves that "it muſt be remembered how common it was in thoſe days for ſailors to paſs from the ſervice of one prince into that of another, and neceſſarily ſome negotiations muſt have preceded every ſuch transfer" (monograph of 1897, p. 185). The leſs ſaid about this explanation the better.

V.

In connection with Cabot's quatercentenary, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava delivered a patriotic addreſs in Briſtol¹ and wrote an elaborate article for a New York magazine.² They are ſuch as to prompt the ſuppoſition that, being abſorbed by official duties, his Lordſhip, who is a diſtinguiſhed man of letters, not having time to make the required ſearches himſelf, may have entrusted to ſome one elſe the taſk of preparing the material for his eloquent Cabotian diſquiſitions. At all events, the monograph contains a number of hiſtorical novelties and, to ſay the leaſt, questionable averments. Let us cite a few :

"Cabot ſucceſſfully negotiated for King Henry an agreement with the King of Denmark in reference to matters affecting the Engliſh trade in Ireland."

This ſtatement occurs for the firſt time in Anſpach's *History of Newfoundland*, written ſo recently as 1819 (p. 25), and is ſupported by no authority whatever. Further, there are no traces of anything of the kind in a ſingle known document, printed or manuſcript, whether in England or in Denmark or in the *Hanseerectorate*, which ſhould contain information on the ſubject if the ſtatement was true.

"Sebastian Cabot was born in Briſtol."

He ſaid ſo to Eden, in his old age, in England ; but it is one of the many falſhoods uttered by him whenever it was to his intereſt. To be a grantee of letters patent under the Tudors, as well as now, it was neceſſary to be of full age ; that is, 21 years old. As Sebastian figures as grantee in the letters patent of March 5, 1496, conjointly with his father and brothers as ſecond ſon, he was

¹ *London Times*, June 27, 1897.

² *Scribner's Magazine*, July, 1897, pp. 72-75.