

and from and to the port of Bristol only ;” expressions which show, that not only did those able geographers expect to find the “meta incognita,” or strait connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific, to the north of the newly discovered continent, since, unhappily, designated America, but that even at this time the voyage which subsequently opened the trade of Russia to England, and led the way to the discovery of that existing to the north of Asia, was had in contemplation by them.

A second patent, extending the power to six ships, was granted in 1498, and the following year a fleet of six vessels sailed from Bristol, two large and four small, one of the larger being fitted out by the King, and freighted by Londoners, the other probably by the Cabots themselves, and the smaller by merchants of Bristol.

With these, manned by 300 men, they crossed the Atlantic, and made land on the 24th of June, about five o'clock in the morning. The point then seen was called “Prima Vista,” and is with much probability conjectured to have been part of the island afterwards named Baccalao. From thence sailing