

course with the distinguished Genoese who occupied such high positions at the Court of England that several of them were entrusted by Henry VII. with diplomatic missions to the Pope and to the King of France. There were among them men like Agostino, Antonio, Benedetto and Francesco Spinola, the King's physician Zoane Battista de Tabia, Cipriano de Fornari, &c., &c.¹ It was the time of the discoveries accomplished by their countryman Christopher Columbus. His voyages across the ocean were doubtless a frequent subject of conversation with those enterprising Italians. Ayala, himself, certainly took great interest in the subject, as he had been one of the two commissioners sent by Ferdinand and Isabella to João II., the King of Portugal, in the autumn of 1493, regarding the Line of Demarcation fixed by the Papal Bull of May 4th.² We are authorised, therefore, to think that when Ayala thrice called John Cabot "a Genoese,"³ his information was derived from the men of that nationality whom he met so often, and is, consequently, entitled to credit.

The statements of the English historians of the 16th century relative to the same question require also to be examined in detail.

The *Epitome of Chronicles* published in 1559, is only the continuation of the chronicle of Thomas Lanquet or Lanquette extended to the reign of Elizabeth. The second part, in which is to be found the passage concerning Sebastian Cabot, is ascribed to Bishop Cooper, as the title reads: "Secondly, to the reigne of our soueraigne lord king Edward the sixt, by Thomas Cooper."

Cooper does not seem to have resided elsewhere than at Oxford, where he practised medicine,⁴ before

¹ *Ibidem*, Nos. 785, 787.

² *Supra*, p. 15, note 1.

³ Dispatch of July 25th, 1498. *Jean et Séb. Cabot*, doc. xliii, p. 329.

⁴ At the age of twenty-four years. Wm. NICHOLSON, *The English Historical Library*, 1696, 8vo, vol. i, p. 188.