

is an American ; both have made special studies on the cosmography of ancient times. Very well posted up in the matters pertaining to the history of Canada and America, they have published works of great value and of authoritative weight. One is Mr. J. G. Bourinot, secretary of the Royal Society of Canada ; the name of the other is Justin Winsor : he has been for a long time librarian of the famous University of Cambridge.

Mr. Bourinot has written a history of Cape Breton, his native country. His work is conscientiously made, full of bibliographical references. He has particularly applied his studies to thoroughly characterize the voyages of the first discoverers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence : he follows them every where, and aided by documents as well as maps, his solutions are correct enough. In short, he is an authority for me. Well, let us quote what he says touching the question interested :

“ In a map of 1544, only discovered in Germany in 1843, and attributed to Sebastian Cabot, but not accepted by all historians as authentic, the northeastern point of the mainland of North America, presumably Cape North, is put down as “ prima tierra vista ” ; and there are not a few historical students who believe that this was actually the landfall seen by John Cabot in his first memorable voyage to this Continent. In the controversy which has gone for years as to the first land seen by Cabot and his son — whether the Coast of Labrador, or the northeastern cape of Cape Breton, or Cape Bonavista, or some other headland on the eastern shore of Newfoundland — many speculations and arguments have been, and will probably continue to be advanced in support of these various theories ; and the reader who wishes to come to some definite conclusion on this vexed subject only rises from the study of these learned disquisitions with the feeling that a great mass of knowledge has been devoted to very little purpose except that purpose be to leave the question still open, and give employment to learned antiquarians for all time to come ” (1).

Justin Winsor had before him all the maps of the sixteenth century, when, after having studied them thoroughly, he has written in his book entitled *Columbus*, the following appreciation of Cabot's life and works. That distinguished historian is not more affirmative than Mr. Bourinot :

“ Cabot was for over three hundred years considered as

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(1) Bourinot. History of Cape Breton. Transactions of Royal Society of Canada. 1891. vol. IX, p. 176 and 177.