

of Cathay. It may be conjectured that it was not far from the year 1477 that the family of Cabot transferred its *penates* to this port in the extreme west of Europe; for the second son, Sebastian, whom I suppose to have been born in 1472 or 1473, was then only a child.

"But in 1480, the 15th July, we see a ship and its consort, of eighty tons burden, belonging to the merchant Jay the younger, and conducted by the most skilful mariner in all England, setting forth from Bristol to go west from Ireland to seek the island of Brésil; and, on the 18th of the September following, the news reaches Bristol, that, after a cruise of two months, the expedition had returned to a port of Ireland without having found the island sought. This *magister artis scientificus marinarius totius Angliæ*, I persuade myself, is no other than John Cabot himself.

"But from a doubt let us pass to a certainty. We have arrived now at the year 1491; and we know this time, appositely, that there then commenced a series of consecutive explorations, which employed, each year, two, three, four caravels, proceeding from the port of Bristol to sail under the direction of John Cabot, the Genoese, for the discovery of the isle of Brésil and of the Seven Cities: this is what the Spanish ambassador Pedro d'Ayala sends officially to his government in a despatch of the 25th of July, 1498, on occasion of the departure of a great expedition confided to this Genoese. '*Los de Bristol ha siete años que cada año han armado dos, tres, quatro caravelas para ir à buscar la isla del Brasil, y las Siete Ciudades, con la fantasia deste Genovés.*'"

"At last, on the fourth voyage of this septennial series, in the month of June, 1494, the search is no longer in vain: in one of the legends accompanying the great elliptical *Mappe-Monde*, published in 1544 by Sebastian Cabot, then grand pilot of Spain, the following indisputable declaration is inscribed, both in Spanish and Latin, and is pointed out by an express reference [in the body of the map], for what relates to Tierra de los Bacallaos: 'This land was discovered by John Cabot a Venetian and Sebastian Cabot his son, in the year of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, mccccxciiii (1494), the twenty-fourth day of June (at 5 o'clock) in the morning; to which land has been given the name of 'The land first seen': and to a great island, which is very near the said land, the name of 'St. John' has been given, on account of its having been discovered the same day.'

^a His words are:—"The men of Bristol have for the last seven years sent out every year two, three, or four caravels in search of the Island of Brazil and the seven cities, according to the fancy of this Genoese."