

tries and seas of the East, of the West, and of the North, under our banners and ensigns, with five ships of what burthen or quality soever they be, and as many mariners and men as they will take with them in the said ships, *upon their own proper costs and charges*, to seek out, discover and find, whatsoever Isles, Countries, Regions or Provinces of the heathen and infidels, whatsoever they be, and in whatsoever part of the world which before this time have been unknown to all Christians.

We have granted to them and every of them and their deputies, and have given them our license, to set up our banners and ensigns, in every village, town, castle, isle or mainland, of them newly found, and that the said John and his sons and their heirs may subdue, occupy and possess all such towns, cities, &c. by them found, which they can subdue, occupy and possess as our vassals and lieutenants, getting to us the rule, title and jurisdiction of said villages, towns, &c. Yet so that the said John and his sons and their heirs, of all the fruits, profits and commodities growing from such navigation, shall be bound and held to pay us, in wares or money, *the fifth part of the capital gain* so gotten for every voyage, as often as they shall arrive at our port of Bristol (at which port they shall be obliged only to arrive) deducting all manner of necessary costs and charges by them made, we giving and granting unto them and their heirs and deputies that they shall be free from all payments of customs on all such merchandise as they shall bring with them from the places so newly found. And moreover we have given and granted to them and their heirs and deputies that all the firm land, islands, villages, towns, &c. they shall chance to find may not without license of the said John Cabot and his sons, be so frequented and visited, under pain of losing their ships and all the goods of them who shall presume to sail to the places so found. Willing and commanding strictly all and singular of our subjects as well on land as on sea, to give good assistance to the said John and his sons and deputies, and that as well in arming and furnishing their ships and vessels, as in provision of food and buying victuals for their money, and all other things, by them to be provided necessary for the said navigation, they do give them all their favors and assistance.

Witness myself at Westminster 5th March in the eleventh year of our Reign.

The eleventh year of the reign of Henry the Seventh began August 22, 1495, and ended August 21, 1496. The date of this patent is therefore March 5, 1495-6; or a little more than a year before the expedition sailed under this grant.