

North America—the exact site being still a matter of controversy.

John Cabot returned to Bristol with the news of his discovery, and was received with much honor. Henry VII., a parsimonious king, recognized the enterprise of the Italian navigator by giving a largesse of £10 “to him that founde the new isle,” a geographical designation showing the current belief of those men that such discoveries as Columbus’s and Cabot’s were islands or lands adjacent to the rich countries of Asia. A Venetian, Lorenzo Pasqualigo, wrote to his brothers at Venice: “A Venetian has come back and says he has discovered, 700 leagues off, the mainland of the Grand Cham, and that he coasted along it for 300 leagues and landed. He is called the great Admiral, great honor being paid to him, and he goes dressed in silk. The discoverer of these things has planted a large cross in the ground with a banner of England and one of St. Mark, as he is a Venetian, so that our flag has been hoisted very far away.”

The king was much pleased by Cabot’s success, and gave him new letters patent authorizing him to fit out a second expedition for fresh exploration in the “lande and isles of late founde by the said John in our name and by our commandments.” Sebastian, also, probably sailed with his father in this expedition, which consisted of five well-armed ships, victualled for a year and manned by three hundred men. It left Bristol some time in the July of 1498, but while it is now generally believed by the best investigators that Cabot coasted the shores of North America from Labrador or Cape Breton as far as Cape Hatteras, we have no details of this famous voyage, and are even ignorant of the date when the fleet returned to England. It is probable that John Cabot died during the voyage, and from this time forward his son Sebastian appears alone in historic records.

The actual site of landfall will always be a matter of controversy unless some

document is found among mu-ty archives of Europe to solve the question to the satisfaction of the disputants who were hot over the claims of a point near Cape Chidley, on the coast of Labrador, of Bonavista, on the east shore of Newfoundland, of Cape North, or other point on the island of Cape Breton. One of the weightiest essays on the question has been written by Dr. S. E. Dawson, who, with much learning and critical acumen, argues in favor of Cape Breton—the most eastern point of the island of that name—and the isle of Scatari, as Cabot’s landfall.

Catalogue Canada Revenue Stamps.

BILL STAMPS.

OF the issues commonly known as Bill Stamps, there is three distinct issues, and vary with each issue. The first issue is of a blue color in all values issued, the head of the Queen being in a design somewhat square within a perpendicular oval.

The second issue is considered the most beautiful of revenues. In design the Queen is portrayed in an oval frame with surrounding ornament engraving up to the nine cent denomination; from ten to fifty cents, the engraved framework is octagonal, while in the dollar varieties, ovals again are used, and the printing is in two colors.

In the third issue, the Queen appears in mourning. By bearing this fact in mind, any collector can readily place all three issues of the Bill stamps. In size, all are as postage issues. They were withdrawn in 1872, and were used as a tax on notes.

1864

1 cent, blue.....	8
2	6
3	4
4	40
5	20
6	4