

The next voyage of note was that of *John Cabot* †. This remarkable man came to England in the life time of Henry VII., and settled at Bristol. His reputation as a skilful Pilot must have been of mark, since that monarch, nowise esteemed for liberality, engaged him in his service forthwith. There exists a patent, dated March 5th, 1496, granting to him and his three sons, Louis, Sebastian, and Sancius, "permission to go in quest of unknown lands, and to conquer and settle them."

The voyages of the father and the sons, were frequent, and to various places, though chiefly to the north; it is impossible now to assign to each his rightful share, from the confusion in which a similarity of names has involved the record of their fortunes. Either John, or Sebastian, in 1497, gave the name of *Primabista*, to Newfoundland. Sebastian, after the father, was the most eminent of the family; the one or the other is reputed to have reached the latitude of $67^{\circ} 30'$, in 1517, but whether to the east or west of Greenland, is unknown; if this voyage actually took place to the west, he must have attained the neighborhood of Resolution Island, preceding *Trobisher* and *Hudson*, nearly a century, in their great discoveries.

The Cabots quitted the service of England about this time; Sebastian returned in 1548, and on the accession of Edward VI., was created Pilot Major, and placed at the head of "The Society of Merchant Adventurers," with a pension for life of 500 marks. This munificent provision, equal to three or four thousand pounds now, great as it was, entitles us to consider it from the silence of his contemporaries, as worthily bestowed. This able man expressed it as his opinion, that the northern regions of the new continent were all islands, an opinion, now known to be correct.

† There is much dispute about this; some refer the name and discovery to *La. brador*, Newfoundland being at the time well known; in proof of this, they adduce an entry from the privy purse expenses of Henry VII.,—"10th of August, 1497, to him that found the new Isle, £10." All the discoveries of the Cabots are matters of doubt, because after the death of Edward VI., his pension when it was renewed in 1577, was not to him only; one Wm. Worthington was joined in it—it is supposed all Cabot's maps and charts were placed in his hands, and by him surrendered to Philip of Spain, by whom they were destroyed. The voyage to the north, in 1517, which was undertaken in connexion with Sir Thos. Pate, by order of Henry VIII.,—the arrival at $67\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, the naming of sundry places, is by some treated as altogether apocryphal, by others as a voyage to the South;—we think such a voyage north did take place, though great doubt is thrown upon it, by the destruction we have alluded to; yet the belief of its performance among the early mariners, certainly the best judges, almost removes that there was a life of Cabot appeared—London, 1831,—but we have not seen it; when and where he died, we do not know. Burroughs, 1556, speaks of him thus—"The good olde gentleman, Master Cabots, (he is called Kabotta in the patent,) gave to the poore most liberale almes, wishing them to praye for the good fortune of the Serchthriste, our Princesse."—He must have been a Jack indeed, for though then 79 years of age—"For very joy that he had to see the towardness of our intended discovery, he entered in the dance himself, among the rest of the young and lusty companie."