

reality there is no foundation for it. The Red Indians of Newfoundland did not call codfish "baccalao," that being a name given by the Basques, who were the earliest cod-fishers on the great Banks and coast of the Island, and named the Cod "baccalaos," and Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Nova Scotia, collectively, the "Baccalaos" or Codlands. Nor is there really any evidence to show that Cape Bonavista was the first land seen by Cabot. The various accounts of his voyage, which are sufficiently bewildering and contradictory, seem to indicate that there is a strong probability that the land first seen by Cabot was the coast of Labrador, close to the Straits of Belle Isle; so that he discovered Newfoundland and the continent of America at the same time. The chief evidence in support of this opinion rests on a map drawn by Cabot, though unfortunately not now in existence; but underneath it the engraver placed an inscription which has been preserved, and which records that "he discovered that land which no man before that time had attempted, on the 24th June 1497, about five o'clock in the morning. This island he called 'Prima Vista'—first seen. That island which lieth out before the land, he called of St. John, on this occasion, because it was discovered on the day of St. John the Baptist." The only island of any considerable size, standing apart from the land, in the latitude in which Cabot then was, is Newfoundland. Turning westward at this point, he ranged along the shore till he made the coast of Nova Scotia, and then bore up for England, where the news of his discovery made a profound sensation. The following year he made a second voyage, still hoping to discover the strait which would conduct him to the Indian Seas; and on this occasion he sailed along the whole coast of North America, from Labrador to Florida. By both these achievements he made himself the discoverer of continental America; for at that date Columbus had discovered only some of the West India Islands. Were justice done to his memory the whole of the northern continent should be called "Cabotia," for he first surveyed its coasts and attempted to colonize its shores. The southern portion of the continent should bear the name of Columbia.

It is but fair to state that another opinion regarding Cabot's "Prima Vista" is held by some competent judges, who maintain that the first land made by the adventurers in the *Matthew* was Cape North, the northern extremity of Cape Breton Island, and