

We can see in McMullin : " Cabot sailed from the port of Bristol about the middle of May, 1497 ; and following very nearly the same course now pursued by vessels making the voyage from Great Britain to North America, discovered, on the 26th of June, the Island of Newfoundland, etc."

Roberts : " An expedition from Bristol, under the leadership of John Cabot, reached the continent at a point which is now Canadian territory." And he adds this note : " Probably a point on the Labrador coast, though some authorities hold it to have been the gulf coast of Nova Scotia. "

Clement in his manual of Canadian History writes : " In 1497, Henry VII commissioned a Venetian navigator, John Cabot, to sail north westerly, in the hope that in that direction perchance a way to Asia might be found. But, it has never been made quite clear what part of our coast he visited."

Among the writers of the nineteenth century, there are those to whom the discovery of Cabot's planisphere has given prudence, there are those also who have seized upon that document as if it were sure, irrefutable, worthy of faith. Among them we see celebrated men like Harrisse, Mgr Howley, S. E. Dawson, Prowse, J. P. Howley, Mgr O'Brien, Harvey, Bryant, Dr Kohl, Deane, D'Avezac, and how many others? Each one advocates his favorite thesis. The result is that, with such a conflict of opinions, it is impossible to distinguish truth from error.

At all events we must concede, and many may be of that opinion, that Harrisse is the historian who has written the most on Cabot ; he has collected several documents and he has used them with knowledge. His last work published in the English language, in London, is the work of a man who knows the subject he is treating : if, after this, his testimony be not worth more than that of an obscure historian, it is entirely useless to advance an opinion based on his. Let him refute this who feels able to do so. Harrisse pretends that the Cabotian map has been interpolated, for some unknown reasons, and that Sebastian Cabot is not always credible, since he has often disguised the truth, when it served his interests to do so. Cabot often contradicts himself, and he often commits some very apparent anachronisms. His map has been made out of a French map published three years previous ; as well, after all, as the whole of his cartographical work on America is modeled on the maps of which that of Cartier is the prototype.

To close this study, I do not think I can do better than to quote the opinion of two men very well known by all the historians. One is a Canadian, of Scottish descent, the other