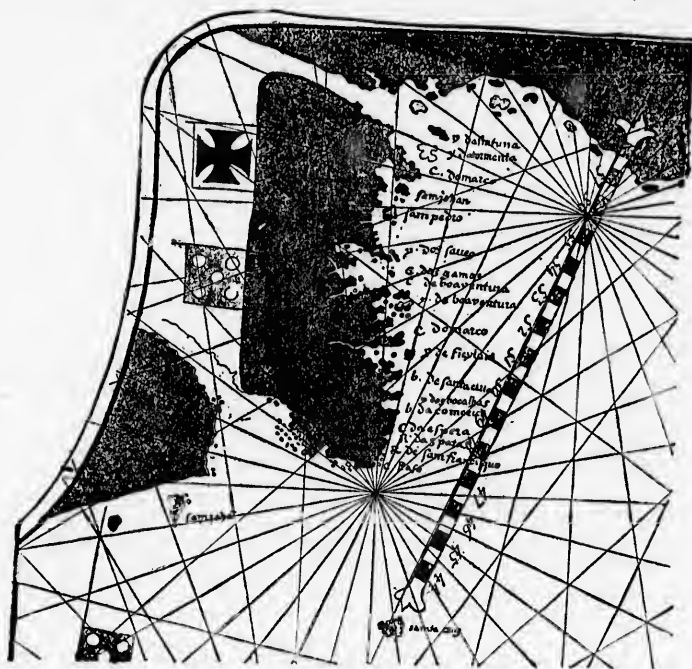


fairly recognized as a great continental waterway; and then the explorations which divulged its extent were from the north and down the stream.

The voyages of the Cabots and the Cortereals had been the outcome of a national rivalry which had sought for England and Portugal some advantage in the north to counterbalance that of Spain in the south. It will be remembered that the line of demarcation moved westerly by the treaty of Tordesillas had thrown, it was supposed, these



PEDRO REINEL'S CHART.

[From Fac-similes in Kunstmann, and in *Bull. de Géog. Hist. et Descriptive*, 1886, pl. lii.]

northern regions beyond the reach of Spain. Whether the Cabots had discovered at the north a gulf to correspond with the Mexican gulf at the south, and had found an expanse of water which had already coursed another great continental valley, and by which it was practicable to go a long distance