

APPENDIX II.

CABOT NOT A ROMAN BUT AN ANGLICAN CATHOLIC.

"But Cabot, as well as Columbus, was a Roman Catholic"—such is the argument of last resort in this controversy, if such it can any longer be called, respecting the true discoverer of America at the close of the 15th Century. I have asked in print again and again, and for years, without any satisfactory answer, if it is compatible with communion of the "Holy Roman Church" to repeatedly set at defiance a papal Bull or Bulls? For this is just what John Cabot did, and the most bitter "Protestant" could not "protest" against the authority and arrogant assumptions of Rome in a more determined and defiant manner. But this is not all. In the 15th Century Rome still recognized the existence and independence of the national Churches, as of Spain, France, England, Germany, and others, which had not then been merged into a single organization with a new creed, and a single form of worship, and a hierarchy wholly subservient to "Our Lord the Pope." The Church of England, *Ecclesia Anglicana*, had, when Cabot sailed westward in 1497, its rights and privileges, secured by Magna Carta and recognized in that instrument by English Archbishops and Bishops, by the clergy, the court, the people, despite the bull of Pope Innocent IV, who excommunicated in vain all who accepted this great charter of English freedom. This independence of the papal prerogative and the behests of Rome England stontly maintained, and still maintains, and it is so that the "Holy Roman Church" in England to-day is not the independent Church of England, of Magna Carta, with the Archbishops and Bishops occupying in unbroken succession from the Catholic Bishops of old its sees, its sanctuaries, its revenues and its domains, but is an "Italian Mission" intrusive, alien, out of touch with the people, the institutions, the laws and liberties of the land, where it is and where it must ever be a dwarfed and feeble exotic. It is the same with us. The Holy Roman Church, for such is its name as found in the Creed of Pope Pius IV.,—an un-