

tune of that navigator, he no doubt thought that he might still profit by it, should he find land at the West, although he must cause it to be looked for in a more northern direction, so as not to interfere with the claims of Spain.

At this time there was residing in the city of Bristol, John Cabot, as his name has been usually written in English, who was probably a native of Genoa, but who had been naturalized as a citizen of Venice, then the most considerable commercial city of the world. He had with him three sons who had arrived at manhood, whose names are mentioned in his first patent. John Cabot was undoubtedly a man of education and a lover of science, well versed in the geography and cosmography of those times, and no doubt was bold and enterprising. Some of the accounts state that he was aided by the king, but the patent clearly states that it was at his own cost and charges; and so he must have been a man of wealth, which he freely risked in the cause of adventure and for the glory of his adopted country.

As he was a native of the same city as Columbus, and like him had sailed as a shipmaster from Venice, it is not unlikely that they were acquaintances, and had conferred together on the subject of maritime discovery and the idea of reaching India by sailing westward.

The first certain intelligence we have of his proposed voyage is the patent from Henry VII., which is subjoined. This patent to John Cabot and his sons was printed in Latin and English by Richard Hakluyt in 1582, in his "*Divers Voyages touching the Discoverie of America*," reprinted in 1850 as the seventh volume of the Publications of the Hakluyt Society. The patent was also printed in 1711 in Latin, in Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xii. p. 595. The following copy is from the "*Life of Sebastian Cabot*," by J. F. Nichols, London, 1869, pages 24-6:

Henry by the grace of God &c. &c.

Be it known to all that we have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant to our well beloved John Cabot, citizen of Venice, to Lewis, Sebastian and Sanctus, sons of the said John, and to their heirs and deputies, full and free authority, leave and power, to sail to all parts, coun-