

and acquaintances in Italy, Spain and Portugal. These letters have no official authority, but contain the common talk of the people in regard of the current news of the expedition of the Cabots.

During the eighty years, succeeding the discoveries of the Cabots, England might lawfully have claimed the lands and regions of this discovery, by right of discovery. England, however, never attempted to take permanent possession of her American discoveries, until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in the meantime other nations had visited the lands, which tended to obscure and somewhat obliterate the English title thereto. However, in 1607 she took possession on the coast of Virginia, for the purpose of colonization, which was followed in 1620, by the pilgrims of the Mayflower, taking possession at Plymouth, on the coast of Massachusetts. England, then as ever since, never relinquished voluntarily any right once acquired to an acre of land in any part of the world. Thus it was 110 years from the discovery of Cabots, to the first attempt made by England to make a permanent settlement of her American discoveries. Of course the pioneer settlers were English stock, and brought with them English language, English laws, English customs, and above all, in power and precious utility, the spirit of political independence, and in a full measure the spirit of religious liberty. The very soil of America seemed exactly and providentially adapted to the germination and growth of the spiritual seed sown, so dear to our forefathers and so precious to us, their descendants. Had our region of North America been colonized by Portugal, France, Italy or Spain, the great nation of the United States of America would never have been born. In recollection of their mother country, there is but little wonder that our early settlers named the new possession "*New England*."

Do you query what this country would have been or would be, under the auspices of Portugal or Spain? If so,