

tion which the discoverers had taken, and the distance which they had run upon the sea. He also (Ayala) speaks of the imaginary *seven cities*,* and says that for the past seven years the people of Bristol had annually sent three or four vessels in search of these isles at the instigation of the Genoese (*i.e.*, Cabot). De Ayala also speaks of the imaginary isle of Brazil, where was supposed to grow the tree *caesalpinia echinata*, from the wood of which was made the celebrated red dye. In conclusion he writes: "I will not send this time to your majesties the copy of the *mappa mundi* which Cabot has made. I think the new land is not more than four hundred leagues from here. In my opinion the map is false, for it shows that the land in question" (*i.e.*, the land discovered by Cabot) "was *not* the same as the said isles." That is to say, De Ayala was of opinion that the land discovered by Cabot, and claimed for England, was in reality that which had been discovered a few years before by Columbus for England. Hence, because it did not seem to occupy the same place on the map, De Ayala suspects Cabot of having made a false map.† These are all the particulars that remain to us of the first voyage of Cabot. No trace has been found up to the present day either of the map or globe made immediately after, or more probably during, the voyage. From the words of De Ayala it would seem that every day's journey, with course and distance, was plotted out on the chart as exactly as it is done by our most skillful navigators of the present day. "I saw," says De Ayala, "on the map the course they took and the distance run."

Leaving out the errors current in that semi-classical age concerning the isles of the ocean, the seven cities, and so forth, we find the following facts. On rounding Cape Clear, the southwest point of Ireland, the voyagers turned their course northwardly, and coasted along the western

* The idea of this imaginary place arose from a tradition of seven Spanish bishops flying from the Saracens in the eighth century. The name is still retained by a part of the Island of St. Michael's, in the Azores.

† This confounding of the discoveries of Cabot and Columbus will account, it seems to me, for the strange intermingling, on the early maps of Verrazani, Majollo, Ribero, etc., of the names of places in the West Indies with those of the coast of Newfoundland. Thus interwoven with Bacallaos, Bonavista, Fuego, Aves, C. de Grat, C. de Raz, C. Spera, C. de Pinos, Rognosa, Labrador, and others still existing on the coast of Newfoundland, we find others which have not now, and never had, an existence there, such as Monte Christo, Mille Virgines, Sombrero, St. Thomas, Santa Cruz, St. Anna, Point Diamante, etc. Now, if we look at a map of the West Indies, beginning with the island of San Domingo, and tracing through the Leeward Islands, not only do we find all these names, but what is more, in the exact order in which they occur on the maps of Verrazani and Ribero. This discovery, which I have only lately made, will, I think, help to throw great light on the study of those maps, especially when taken in connection with the suspicions expressed by De Ayala in the above-quoted letter.