

Marvor says, in his *Historical Account of Voyages* :

“ This first voyage of importance in which Sebastian Cabot was engaged, seems to have been that made by his father John, who had obtained a Commission from Henry VII for a discovery of a north west passage to India, the favourite object of Columbus. They sailed from Bristol in the spring of 1494, and pursuing their course with favouring gales, on the 24th of June saw Newfoundland, to which they gave the name of *Prima Vista*, or *First Seen*. Going ashore, on a small island on this Coast, they gave it the appellation of *St. John's*, from its being discovered on the day dedicated to *St. John the Baptist*. (1) ”

As to the authors of the nineteenth century, we have W. Robertson who published, in 1831, an extensive work entitled : *History of the Discovery and Settlement of America*, in which he says :

“ Cabot discovered a large island, which he called *Prima Vista*, and his sailors *Newfoundland* ; and in a few days he descried a smaller isle, to which he gave the name of *St. John*. He landed on both these (June 24).”

In 1833, P. F. Tytler published in New York a book entitled : *Historical View of the Progress of Discovery of the more Northern Coast of America*, where we find that Cabot discovered, in 1497, “ the New Isle, which was probably the name then given to Newfoundland ” (2).

Let us now quote the Canadian historians, English and French. What does Garneau say :

“ Early in 1497, Sebastian (John) Cabot, sailed in a Bristol ship with the view of seeking a N. W. passage to India. On June 24th he reached the American N. E. coast, probably the shore-line of Labrador, about lat. 56' n.” (3).

Ferland writes: The 24th of June 1497, John Cabot, Venetian, and his son Sebastian, born at Bristol, England, having received a Commission from Henri VII, king of England, to go to the discovery of some new lands, sighted America near the 56th degree of north latitude ” (4).

Kingsford says :

“ Cabot's voyage to Newfoundland was in 1497. It was at this date the reign of Henry VII, that the first effort was made for the creation of an English navy.”

(1) Marvor. *Historical account of the most celebrated Voyages, Travels, and Discoveries from the time of Columbus to the present period*. London, 1796. 25 vol. 18mo. Vol. I, p. 67.

(2) Page 18.

(3) Garneau, translated by A. Bell. vol. I, p. 45.

(4) Ferland. *Histoire du Canada*, vol. I. p. 9.