

1497, and not in 1494, which I shall presently lay before you. Nevertheless, he concludes his comments with the following sentence: "From these considerations I repeat that the voyage of 1494, and the locality of the 'prima vista' in Cape Breton, appear to me to be doubtful, though *I will not pretend to speak decisively on the subject.*"

At the close of the volume is inserted as an appendix, *A Letter on the Voyages of John and Sebastian Cabot*, by M. d'Avezac, of Paris, in which, after the statement of his reasons, that eminent *savant* thus enunciates his conclusions: "*I assume it then as a fact to be hereafter uncontested, as I have always regarded it as incontestable, that the first discovery of Cabot was made the 24th of June, 1494.*" Now when so distinct a declaration is put forth by one who has gained for himself a world-wide reputation for learning, industry, and critical sagacity, I fear that I risk the charge of great presumption in venturing to contest what my honoured friend has pronounced to be incontestable; on the other hand, I run a similar risk of being thought wanting in that modesty which distinguishes my friend Mr. Kohl when he hesitates to reject the *prima vista* of 1494 altogether, but simply regards it as doubtful. Meanwhile truth is of more importance than even these considerations, and, if I can only succeed in establishing my point, Mr. Kohl will not object to see the evidence with which he is so well acquainted placed in a new light; nor shall I find any where, as I well know from experience, a more large-minded and generous appreciator of the truth than my honoured friend M. d'Avezac, who, in his long and distinguished life, has himself served the cause of truth too often to object to its development be it by whom it may.

Now, since in this discussion the *pièce de résistance* is the argument on which M. d'Avezac bases his firm conviction that the date of the first sight of the East Coast of America by the Cabots was on St. John's Day, the 24th June, 1494, I think it right to lay before you his own statement in his own words, as rendered into English by the editor of the work I have mentioned. For brevity's sake, I of course quote only those portions of M. d'Avezac's letter which bear directly upon the point with which I am dealing. He says:—

"I come now to the matter in hand. In some place, more or less obscure, in the region of Genoa, if not in the City of Palaces itself (perhaps precisely in Castiglione), toward the middle of the fifteenth century, as I suppose, John Cabota, Caboto, or Cabot was born, who, early in 1460 at the latest, went to live at Venice; married there a daughter of the country, by whom he had three sons; and there, after fifteen years of residence, and by the unanimous