

Cabot discovered islands first, Columbus on his way to the west, Cabot after he had passed along the coast.

So, from the northern country of England, as well as from the southern land of Spain, the men of the seaports talked of nothing as much as the great land over the sea. It was but natural that the hardy mariners of the northern French ports should join in the search, and for nearly half a century vessels manned by the more adventurous spirits visited the cod banks of Newfoundland and brought back cargoes of fish.

One can picture the interest that would be aroused in a port like Bristol in England or St. Malo or Dieppe in France when a vessel came back to harbour after an absence of many months and the mariners spun their tales of adventure to an eager audience. It was in this kind of an atmosphere, hearing these stories and wishing that he would grow old quickly so that he too could go and see these lands, that Jacques Cartier grew up. He was a clever and ambitious boy and when he became a master mariner had made such a reputation that the King sent for him to discuss the possibility of finding an opening in the coast of America in the vicinity of Newfoundland, which was then