

without children is usually elected, and if after being elected he should beget any, at once they depose him; and when they elect him they give him thirty counsellors; and that the said king can condemn no one if the majority of his said thirty counsellors are not agreed with him, and that afterwards the said condemned man can appeal to the people, which thereupon selects seventy judges, who examine his case, and if they find that he was wrongly sentenced they set him free, and those counsellors who agreed in condemning him are deprived of their offices and are held infamous forever after.

Inscription of the author with certain reasons for the variation which the needle of the compass makes with the north star.

N^o 17. Sebastian Cabot, captain and pilot-major of his Sacred Caesarean Catholic Majesty, the Emperor Don Carlos, fifth of the name, and King,¹ *our lord*, made² this figure projected on a plane in the year of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ 1544, drawn by degrees of latitude and longitude, with its winds,³ as a navigating chart, imitating in part Ptolemy⁴ and in part the modern discoverers *both Spanish and Portuguese*, and⁵ partly discovered by his father and partly by himself, by which you may navigate as by a navigating chart, bearing in mind the variation which the needle of the compass makes with the north star. For example, you wish to set out from Cape St. Vincent in order to make Cape Finisterre; you will give orders to steer your ship to the north according to the needle of the compass, and you will strike within the said cape, but your real course, which your ship made, was to the north, quarter northeast because your compass-needle northeasts you a quarter at the said Cape of St. Vincent, so that commanding your ship to be steered north by the compass-needle, your course will be north, quarter northeast; and in the same way sailing from Salmedina, which is a shoal as you go out of San Lucar de Barrameda, to go to the point of Naga on the island of Tenerife you will give orders to steer southwest by the needle and you will make the said point of Naga because it is situated on the navigating chart, but your course will not be to the southwest inasmuch as your compass-needle northeasts you a wide quarter point at Salmedina, but your course will be southwest, a wide quarter south; so that you may say that sailing from St. Vincent to the north your course will be north, quarter northeast, and sailing from Salmedina to the southwest your course will be southwest, quarter south, and so consequently you will do in every other part of this universe, watching the variation which the said needle of the compass makes with the north star, for the said needle does not turn or stay fixed to the north in every place, as the vulgar think, since the magnet-stone, as it appears, has not the power to make it turn to the north in every place, but, as is seen and acquired by experience, it has only the power to make it remain stable and fixed in one place, wherefore it must point necessarily in a straight line whatever wind you may have, and not in a curved line, and this cause brings about the said variation; for if the needle were to turn to the north always and in every place, there would be no variation, for then it would follow a curved line, because you would always be on one parallel, which cannot be when you go in a straight line on a sphere; and you must notice that the further you move from the meridian on which the needle points directly north, towards the west or east, so much the more will your compass move from the north, that is, from the flower-de-luce in it which marks the north: wherefore it clearly appears that the said needle points along a straight line and not a curved line; and you must know that the meridian where the flower-de-luce of the needle points directly north is about thirty-five⁶ leagues from Flores, the last island of the Azores towards the west, according to the opinion of certain experts, because of the great experience which they have of this, on account of the daily navigation which is made toward the West, to the Indies of the Ocean. The said Sebastian Cabot,⁷ sailing towards the west, found himself in a place⁸ where northeast quarter north [of the compass] stood directly north, on account of which observations aforesaid it appears clearly that defects and variations which the said needle of the compass makes with the north star really exist.

Pliny in the second book, chapter 79,⁷ writes :—

N^o 18. That from Cadiz and the columns of Hercules, sailing around Spain and Gaul, the whole west was sailed over. The greater part of the northern ocean was

¹ of Spain.

³ so wisely, so exactly.

⁵ and likewise the experience and labors of the long nautical life of the most honest man John Cabot, a Venetian by birth; and the knowledge of the stars and of the art of navigation of Sebastian his most learned son and my author, who discovered some part of the world which had long been unknown to us.

⁶ thirty.

⁷ [Pliny, lib. 2, cap. 67. There is no Latin for this on the map. In Chytæus, where it is numbered 19, the Latin is copied directly from Pliny, l. c., and not translated from the Spanish.]

² laid the last touch to me (this map).

⁴ the Geographer.

⁷ my author.

⁸ came to a sea and shore.