

yet the argument of the biographer is ingenious, and it requires some attention to detect its fallacy.

The object in the whole matter, it will be observed, was twofold; first, to show that Robert Fabyan, a contemporary author, ascribes the discovery of North America to Sebastian, and not to John Cabot; and, secondly, to prove that Hakluyt has been guilty of dishonestly perverting the passage from Fabyan communicated to him by Stow the antiquary. How then does he accomplish this? In the first place, he goes to the earliest work of Hakluyt, published in 1582, where this writer gives for the first time the following note as to the discovery, which we quote *verbatim* from the work itself, now lying on our table:—

“ A Note of SEBASTIAN GABOTE’S Voyage of Discoverie, taken out of an old Chronicle written by ROBERT FABIAN, some time Alderman of London, which is in the custodie of JOHN STOW, citizen, a diligent searcher and preserver of antiquities.

In the 15 yeare of King Henrie the VII. 1498.	THIS yeere the king (by means of a Venetian which made himselfe very expert and cunning in knowledge of the circuite of the worlde, and islands of the same, as by a carde and other demonstrations reasonable hee shewed) caused to man and victuall a shippe at Bristowe, to searche for an ilande, whiche hee saide hee knewe well was riche, and replenished with riche commodities. Which ship, thus manned and victualled at the kinges costs, divers merchants of London ventured in her small stockes, being in her, as cheife patrone, the said Venetian, and in the companie of the said shippe, sayled also out of Bristowe three or foure small ships fraught with sleight and grosse merchandizes, as course cloth, caps, laces, points, and other trifles, and so departed from Bristowe in the beginning of May, of whom, in this Maior’s time, returned no tidings.”
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Having given this quotation from Hakluyt’s publication of 1582, the writer of the life next turns to the larger work of the same author, published in 1589, and he discovers that he has added to the sentence, as it stood in 1582, the words “ one John Cabot.” The passage