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THE DISCOVERER OF NORTH AMERICA,
AND THE FIRST COLONIZER
OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

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THREE hundred and seventy-seven years ago, on the 24th of June, 1497, at five o'clock in the morning, a small vessel, of some two hundred tons, was approaching the shores of Newfoundland; and as the early haze cleared away, the thrilling cry of "Land, ho!" rang through the ship. The name painted on the stern of this good ship was *The Matthew, of Bristol*, and she was manned by stout West country sailors. Her commander was Sebastian Cabot—one of the greatest names on England's roll of naval heroes, second only to that of Columbus. Though of Italian extraction, he was born in Bristol, and spent his youth, and most of his manhood, in the service of England, so that she may fairly claim him as one of her own sons. His father, John Cabot, a Venetian, was an intelligent, thoughtful man, who, with his son Sebastian, had given much attention to those maritime enterprises, which were then engaging the boldest spirits in Europe. When the news of Columbus's great discovery flew from nation to nation, giving a new direction to men's thoughts, and kindling in the minds of multitudes a quenchless desire to explore the secrets of the new hemisphere, the thought presented itself to the mind of Cabot that by taking a north-west course, instead of the track which led the great navigator to San Salvador, he would reach, by a shorter route, the eastern coasts of Asia, and open up intercourse