

the Dauphin's map where the *Land of the Breton* is placed on this coast which was soon to be called *Norembeguz*.

All was French in the surroundings, and the authorities who attribute the name of Cape Breton to the French are numerous. The English authors themselves have never sought, that I know of, to attribute the paternity of this appellation to John Cabot or to his son Sebastian. Therefore, when Cabot, in 1544, wrote his famous inscription of *Tierra prima vista*, he knew nothing of the geographical position of Cape Breton, as he took less interest in it than the Portuguese and Spanish cosmographers. How could he so perfectly describe the land he had seen for the first time, if he did not know the elementary data of the geography of that region?

VI

AUTHORITIES

Who are the most remarkable historians who, by their writings, do not pay any attention to Cabot's landfall at Cape Breton, and who rely on the ancient and universal belief of a landfall at Labrador or Newfoundland? Let us first quote the writers of the last centuries, those who have had the opportunity to compile the traditions and to preserve them as they were.

We have read the opinion of Ellis, an English historian of the eighteenth century. Let us listen now to Oldmixon in his work entitled : *The British Empire in America*, published in London, in 1741 :

" This large Island (Newfoundland) was discovered by Sebastian Cabot, who was sent to America by Henry VII, King of England, in the year 1497, to make Discoveries, 4 or 5 years only after Christopher Colombus had discovered the new World ".

Dumont, in his *Histoire et Commerce des Colonies Angloises*, published in London, in 1755, wrote : " Most of the English authors attribute the discovery of Newfoundland to Sebastian, although he did not take any part in it beyond accompanying his father John Cabot. It is John Cabot whom Henry VII authorized to sail, under the flag of England, for new lands. We see in Rymer's acts the patent granted to him the fifth of March, 1496 " (1).

(1) Dumont. *Histoire et Commerce des Colonies Angloises*, p. 28.