

Lorenzo Pasqualigo, merchant of London, wrote, on the 23rd August 1497, to his brothers in Venice :

“ The Venetian, our countryman, who went with a ship from Bristol, is returned, and says that 700 leagues hence he discovered land in the territory of the Grand Cham. He coasted 300 leagues and landed . . . Was three months on the voyage . . . His name is Zuan Cabot . . . The discoverer planted on his new-found land a large cross, with one flag of England and one of St Mark . . .

On the following day, August 24, 1497, Raimondo de Soncino, envoy of the Duke of Milan to Henry VII, wrote the following passage in a despatch to his government :

“ Also, some months ago, his Majesty sent out a Venetian who is a very good mariner, and has good skill in discovering new islands, and he has returned safe, and has found two very large and fertile new islands, having likewise discovered the Seven Cities, four hundred leagues from England in the western passage.”

Some months after, the same Soncino wrote another and a more explicit letter on the Cabots' expedition.

“ Having set out from Bristol, and passed the western limits of Hibernia, and then standing to the northward, he began to steer eastward, leaving (after a few days) the North Star on his right hand . . . ”