

tioned by that name. As in many instances, ancient and modern, the city stood for the whole country. Tanais was a self-governing community in the fifteenth century and owned a portion of what was often called the "Plains of Tartary." The Tartars roamed over all the territory between the Dnieper and Volga (formerly Edil), but they respected for a long time the State of Tanais. Just as the name Acadia has clung to Nova Scotia and is known in our day, so the name of Tanais or Tana, clung to a definite portion of the great plains of Tartary, until late in the sixteenth century. When the city of Tanais became known as Azov, and the river's name was changed to Don, the location of the country was gradually forgotten. But this was after Cabot's day. The following reproduction from Ptolemy's eighth plate of Europe shows the location of the Tanaitæ and of the ancient city of Tanais: (Fig. 1).

In the library of St. Mark, Venice, there is preserved the only known copy of a Book of Voyages printed at Venice in 1545; one of these is a voyage to Tanais, or as it is called, Tana. Through the courteous aid of His Worship the Sindaco (Lord Mayor) of Venice, I have been enabled to procure a literal transcription of the title page, index of contents and publisher's preface of the volume, as well as the whole of the Voyage to Tanais. This and some of the other voyages had been previously printed. The publisher is Antonio Manuzio. The author of the voyage to Tanais is the "Magnificent Master Josaphat Barbaro, Ambassador of the Illustrious Republic of Venice to Tanais." The very title of the author, read in the original, should be sufficient to prove my contention,—*Viaggio del Magnifico messer Josaphat Barbaro, Ambasciatore della Illustrissima Republica di Venetia alla Tana.*

Tanais must have been a State or Country; not only because an Ambassador is accredited to it, but also because we read *Alla Tana* not *a Tana*: just as it is *a Parigi*, *a Londra*, not *alla Parigi*, etc., on the other hand when a state is meant we say, *Alla Francia*, *alla Spagna*. This form of speech *Alla Tana* and *della Tana* is preserved throughout the narrative. After a short preamble in which the author tells us he did not wish to write, but had been induced to do so "by the solicitations of one who had the right to command," he says:—

"In 1436 I first undertook the voyage to Tanais where, now in one part now in another, I passed sixteen years, and I have gone around those parts both by sea and land carefully and with interest." (*Del MCCCCXXXVI cominciai ad andare al viaggio della Tana: ove a parte a parte son stato per la somma di anni sedici & ho circondato quelle parti, sì per mare, come per terra con diligentia, & quasi curiosità.*)