

was thawed on land, he was forced to return to the west; yet, notwithstanding, he sailed towards the south, as far as to find himself almost in the same degree of latitude with the Straits of Gibraltar, and he advanced towards the west, even to find himself almost in the same degree of longitude with the island of Cuba; which description, if it is examined on the geographical maps, will be found to agree with that of the Mantuan gentleman; only here it is mentioned, that the sea was frozen, of which in the other no mention is made. Moreover Bacon affirms, that he found it always quite free; but in this, perhaps, Bacon may be mistaken. And the Mantuan gentleman, though he advances, as the reason of his turning back, that Cabotto took the direction of the coast different from that which he could have wished, does not deny that ice was found there, and that these, added to the other reasons, compelled him to return. However it might be, Cabotto returned to England, certainly mortified at his unsuccessful attempt; but full of expectation of undertaking it another time with more happy success. But the wars with which that kingdom was then disturbed, did not permit his wishes to be accomplished; and being called, as it is said, into Spain after the death of Henry VII. he was there destined for new voyages. The celebrated Foscarini affirms, (1) that to him is owing the honour of having before any other observed the variation of the compass; but he reserves himself to speak of this in the fifth book of his History, which is not published, and we, consequently, are deprived of many illustrations, which he would have thrown on this subject with his wonted erudition. I know that some ascribe this honour to Cabotto, but others dispute it; nor have I succeeded in finding such testimonials, by which I may affirm it with safety. But although this praise may not be due to him, Cabotto has done no small honour to the Italian name by his bold attempt; and it will always be the immortal glory of Italy, that from it have risen those who have not a little assisted in the discovery of the maritime passage to the East Indies; from it the first discoverers of the new world, which also from an Italian took its name; from it, lastly, the first author of the bold and many times attempted project of penetrating into the extremity of Asia by the North Sea.*

(1) Letter. Venez. p. 4. 9.

[* One of the strongest proofs, in attributing to Sebastiano Cabotto the glory of having been the first in discovering the declination of the magnetic needle, is the testimony of Livio Sanuto, who affirms, that he heard it from Guido Gaunnetti da Fano, who was with the King of England when Cabotto informed him of the discovery which he had made. (1)]

(1) Geografia, I. i. p. 2.

Evénemens remarquables du tems présent.

NOUS avons déjà fait mention de la rupture entre la Suede et la Russie, comme d'un incident de la guerre de cette dernière puissance contre la Porte Ottomane, et l'on croit avec vraisemblance que les moteurs en étoient les mêmes. A ces instigations extérieures, il faut pourtant ajouter quelques objets de défiance et de mécontentement, malheureusement trop fréquens entre des voisins. Le général-major baron de Sprengporten, ayant