

"To one that brought hawkes from the Newfoundd Island, £1." It strikes one that the sailor who brought home the hawks from Newfoundland got a much higher reward proportionally, than the discoverer of the Island and the Continent. After making two more voyages, Sebastian Cabot left England and entered the service of Spain, where he was treated with great respect and created Pilot Major of the Kingdom. His voyages of discovery were chiefly along the coast and up the rivers of Brazil, especially the Plata and Paraguay. In the beginning of the reign of Edward VI, Cabot returned to England and was well received, created Chief Pilot and had a pension settled on him. He was most active in promoting and directing maritime and commercial enterprises, being the first who, in company with others, opened the trade with Russia. He died in London about the age of eighty, and his faithful and kind hearted friend *Richard Eden* relates how, on his death bed, his thoughts still turned to that beloved ocean over whose billows he had opened a pathway, and the dash of whose waves was still in his ears. Amid the wanderings of his mind, he was heard describing a revelation with which he had been favoured "of a new and infallible method of finding the longitude." Thus the brave seaman entered on that final voyage on which we shall each one day make great discoveries.

HISTORIC DOUBTS.

It is but just to state that so much obscurity hangs over the records of Cabot's first voyages, that a different version from the foregoing has been given by some able writers. Bancroft, for example, in his "History of the United States," tells us that it was the father, John Cabot, who led the expedition, and that he discovered the American Continent "probably in the latitude of 56 degrees, far therefore to the north of the Straits of Belle Isle, among the Polar bears, the rude savages, and the dismal cliffs of Labrador." He omits all mention of the discovery of Newfoundland, and states that John and his son Sebastian, having discovered the Labrador coast, "hastened homewards to announce their success." It must be admitted that it is not a matter of absolute certainty that the land first seen by Cabot was a part of Newfoundland, though the weight of evidence seems to me in favour of that view. It is, however, possible that Cabot shaped his course so far north as to sight Labrador first, and being then driven southward, he made his first real discovery by landing in the neighbourhood of Cape Bonavista. The text of Hakluyt, Peter Martyr, Oriedo and Eden will bear such a construction, though the former seems the more natural. The evidence, however, is altogether against the view that John Cabot took part personally in the expedition. The author of "A Memoir of Sebastian Cabot" has settled this point, and he has also proved that Cabot continued his voyage along the American coast, before his return to England. He has further shown that in 1498 a second patent was granted by Henry VII. to the Cabots, to visit "*the land and isles*" they had previously discovered, and that, in consequence, Sebastian Cabot sailed on his second voyage, carry-