

and scientist ; that he discovered the variation and declination of the compass, and, by divine revelation, as he pretended, or otherwise, methods for finding the longitude at sea ; that there is the least proof of his alleged successful exertions on behalf of the Merchant Adventurers in their struggle with the Steelyard ; that he had a commendable share in the opening of trade with Russia, or that the merit of the act does not belong exclusively to Richard Chancellor ; or, in fine, who would now say that Sebastian is "the author of the maritime strength of England, who opened the way to those improvements which have rendered the English so great, so eminent, so flourishing a people" ? So far from this encomium being true, it is now proved, beyond all cavils and sophistry, that Sebastian Cabot was an unmitigated charlatan, a liar, and a traitor !

All these appreciations were at first mere "impressions," and although hooted at almost when set forth fifteen years ago, they have evolved to matters of strong belief with our most competent adepts in maritime history. The probability is that the other points mooted, but existing as yet only as "impressions," will also be solved to the satisfaction of every conscientious historian.

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