

Filled with this idea, Cabot about the year 1484 made his way in the Venetian galleys to England, and settled in London.<sup>1</sup> In course of time his plans were made known to the merchants of Bristol, from which port an extensive trade was then carried on with Iceland.<sup>2</sup> It was decided that an attempt should be made first of all to find the island of Brazil or that of the Seven Cities, which on most medieval maps were placed to the west of Ireland.<sup>3</sup> Such islands might form the stepping stones of the new path to Asia across the western sea.

Vessels were despatched from Bristol in 1491 and 1492, presumably under Cabot's direction, to find the island of Brazil or that of the Seven Cities, but to no purpose.<sup>4</sup> No land of any sort could be seen. It looked as if this venture might have as unsuccessful an issue as that made from the same port in 1480.<sup>5</sup>

When matters were in this state news reached England in the summer of 1493 that another Genoese, Christopher Columbus, had sailed from Spain westward with three ships, and had reached the Indies. Great excitement prevailed at the English court.<sup>6</sup> Interest in Cabot's plan was augmented by a visit which Henry VII. and his court paid to Bristol in the

1. Doc. LXIa., p. 183, and Sebastian Cabot himself in Ramusio, *Navigazioni et Viaggi*, vol. I., Venetia, 1550, fol. 402v: " & mi disse che sendosi partito suo padre da Venetia già molti anni, & andato à stare in Inghilterra à far mercantie lo menò seco nella città di Londra," etc. At one period John Cabot lived " within the Blackfriars." Cf. W. Strachey, *Historie of Travaile into Virginia*, etc., p. 6, London, (Hakluyt Society), 1849.

2. *Revue Hispanique*, tome X, pp. 534 et seq. Paris, 1903; and Eden's *Decades of the newe worlde* in E. Arber's, *First Three English Books on America*, p. 288, marginal note. London, 1895.

3. *Ibid.* p. 520, note 3.

4. Doc. XIVa., p. 28.

5. Willelmi de Worcestre, *Itinerarium* edited by Jacob. Nasmith, pp. 267-8, Cantab. 1778; printed in Harisse, *Jean et Sébastien Cabot*, p. 44, note 3, and in his *Discovery of North America*, p. 659, N°. XIII, London, 1892.

6. Ramusio, op. cit. loc. cit.: " In quel tempo.....venne nova che'l signor don Christophoro Colombo, Genovese, havea scoperta la costa dell'Indie & se ne parlava grandemente per tutta la corte del Re Henrico VII. che allhora regnava, dicendosi che era state cosa piu tosto divina che humana l'haver trovata quella via mai piu saputa, d'andare in Oriente, dove nascono la spetie."