

Royal Standard, little thinking how on that memorable day they were making the first acquisition to Britain's vast colonial possessions, and destined to be known to generations yet unborn, as "Britain's most ancient Colony." And what more happy exclamation could have escaped the lips of those Venetian sailors? It was most certainly to them a scene to be hailed with pleasure and delight. On the old map made by John Mason in 1616, the Latin words opposite the Cape of Bonavista are, "A Cabo^a prima reperta," or "First found by Cabot." Two other explorers made Bonavista in 1534, namely: Cartier and Viegas. It was the most natural thing for them to do, with no other objective than to discover land on this side of the Atlantic. A long controversy has followed as to the land fall of Cabot, but the only reasonable conclusion from all the facts of the investigation, yield strong presumptive evidence that Bonavista was the land first seen by Cabot and his ship's company.

There is no conclusive proof that John Cabot gave Bonavista its present name, but for more than three hundred years it has had no other. The Spanish of the name would be *Bueno Vista* and the Portuguese *Boa Vista*. Some have preferred in days gone by to write it *Bona Vista*. The Italian *Buonavista* has only one more letter, and as legal documents, over three hundred years old, contain the word as we now write it, we may safely conclude that it was of Italian origin.

When John Cabot returned to England and reported the success of his voyage, and told of land newly discovered and claimed for Henry VII. and his successors, the news was received with great acclamation and rejoicing in the city of London. A witness of the demonstrations, as they occurred, wrote to his brother in Venice saying—"The English run after him like mad. His name is Zuan Cabot and they call him the great admiral."

Bonavista was among the early fishing stations and settlements of Newfoundland, and between the years 1697 and 1705, like other fishing stations, suffered great annoyances and hardships at the hands of the French. Like the ancient people of God, they were deprived of the harvest of the deep, when they had laboured hard to secure it, or just as the Israelites were oppressed by the