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This is the passage which the author of the Memoir has accused Hakluyt of perverting; and, instead of giving it simply as it was furnished by Stow,—of interpolating the name of John Cabot. Nor is it difficult to see how he was led to make this accusation. It was necessary, in support of his views, to show that this alleged statement of Fabyan contained no allusion to John, but actually supported the claim of Sebastian Cabot: but this could not be done if Hakluyt has given it fairly; and in this way the biographer, animated with zeal for his theory, was imperceptibly drawn on to attack the integrity of this writer. Now, before considering so grave an accusation against Hakluyt, we have one introductory remark to make upon this quotation from Fabyan. It is certain that it alludes to the second voyage made to North America by Sebastian Cabot, in the year 1498, and not to the first, in which that country was discovered. Of this the passage contains internal evidence which is perfectly conclusive. The first voyage took place in the twelfth year of Henry VII. This in the thirteenth. The first voyage was at the sole expense of the adventurers. Of this the king bore the expense. The first voyage could allude to no former discovery. This alludes to an island which had been already discovered. To quote the passage, therefore, as evidence in favour of John Cabot's discovery, which has certainly been done by some modern writers, argues a rapid and superficial examination of its contents. Certainly Hakluyt does not cite it with this view; but includes it, on the contrary, amongst those portions of evidence, those testimonies, as he calls them, in which the sole glory of the earliest voyage to North America is given to Sebastian Cabot.* All this may be true, says the memorialist, but it does not exculpate Hakluyt. I do not accuse him of citing the passage as a proof in favour of John Cabot—but of altering it so as to mislead other authors: He has "perverted" the passage, and has suffered the evidence of his "guilty deed" to lie about, so as to furnish the means of his own conviction. Such is the charge advanced against Hakluyt; and never, we will venture to say, was there a more unfounded accusation, as will appear when it comes to be examined, and

* Hakluyt's Voyages, edition 1600, vol. iii. p. 4—9, inclusive.