

been given to the mariner, to the trader, to the conqueror, when the feet of Columbus trod the island sands of San Salvador.

For more than thirty years after Columbus first landed on one of the outlying islands of the New World, what lay to the north was mere conjecture. But Henry VII. of England being unwilling that Spain should reap all the glory and profit of western discovery; caused an English crew, in an English ship, sailing from an English port, to embark on a cruise of discovery that led to the extension of his kingdom, by the addition of the North American continent. But a far-famed Republic on the Adriatic was to provide the leader.

There was a boy in Venice who was destined to go with that expedition, to see with his own eyes the new land beyond the seas, 2,300 miles away. For he, John Cabot, a trader on the Arabian coast in 1480, and who had been to Mecca and also to Iceland, had himself seen much that was strange and unfamiliar to European eyes.

Perhaps, indeed, it was his voyages to the last named place which turned the current of his thoughts towards a voyage of discovery. There he heard the tales of the old Norsemen about the visits of their forefathers to "distant lands in nameless seas" and likely, being a crafty seaman procured from them maps and charts of these ancient voyages. Also all Europe was stirred by the news of a wonderful story of new found lands far across the Atlantic. Even the quiet folks of England, settling down after the long, fierce rivalry and strife of the White Rose with the Red, caught the excitement. The "salt blood" began to tingle in their veins. Might they not hope to take their part in the discoveries which were marking the close of the century?

*To be*



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