have been the principal foundation for the belief that 1494 was the date of the important discovery in question. The inscription numbered 8 is as follows:—

"*De Terra Nova quam vulgus Baccalios appellat.*

"Terram hanc olim nobis clausam aperuit Johannes Cabotus Venetus, nec non Sebastianus Cabotus eius filius, anno ab orbe redemto 1594, die vero 24 Iunii, hora 5, sub diluculo, quam terram primum visam, & insulam quandam magnam ei appositam insulam D. Johannis nominarunt, quippe quæ solemni die festo Diui Johannis aperta fuit. Huius terræ incolæ pellibus animalium induuntur. Arcu in bello sagittis, spiculis, clauis ligneis & fundis vtuntur, sterilis incultaq; tellus est, leonibus, ursis albis, procerisq; ceruis, piscibus innumeris, lupis & salmonibus, & ingentibus soleis vnius vlnæ longitudine, aliisque piscium diuersis abundat generibus. Horum autem maxima copia est, quos vulgus Bacallios appellat, adhæc insunt accipitres nigri coruorum similes, aquilæ, perdicesque fusco colore, aliæque diuersæ volucres."

Which I translate thus:—

"John Cabot, a Venetian, with his son Sebastian Cabot, discovered this land, which was formerly hidden from us, on the 24th June 1494 [1594 is an evident printer's error], at 5 o'clock in the morning; to which land they gave the name of "Prima Vista," and to a certain large island near to it the name of St. John's Island, because it was discovered on the festival of St. John. The inhabitants of this land are clad in skins of animals. In battle they use a bow and arrows, darts, wooden clubs, and slings. The country is barren and uncultivated. It abounds with lions, white bears, tall stags, fish in countless numbers, wolves, salmon, huge soles an ell long, and various other kinds of fish. But those are in the greatest abundance which the common people call Bacallios. To these are to be added hawks of a black colour like crows, eagles, partridges of a dark colour, and a variety of other birds.

That portion of the inscription numbered 17, which affects our question, is as follows:—

"*Inscriptio sev Titulus auctoris.*

"Sebastianus Cabotus Dux & Archigubernius sacræ Cæsareæ Catholicæ maiestatis, diui Caroli Imperatoris, huius nominis quinti, & regis Hispaniæ, summam mihi manum imposuit, & ad formam hanc protrahens, planâ figurâ me delineauit, anno ab orbe redempto, natiuitate Domini nostri Jesu Christi 1549, qui me iuxta graduum latitudinem ac longitudinem, ventorum situm, tam doctè, tam fideliter, navigatoriæ chartæ instar, descripsit, Geographi Ptolomæi authoritatem, peritiorumq; Lusitanorum fidem secutus, nec non ex vsu atque industriâ longæ nauigationis, integerrimi viri Joannis Caboti, natione Veneti, atque Sebastiani astrorum peritiâ, nauigandiq; arte omnium doctissimi eius filii, auctorisq; mei, qui aliquotam orbis partem diu nostratibus clausam aperuerunt. . . . At hæc Sebastianus Cabotus, meus autor, occidentalem Oceanum adnauigans, ad æquor quoddam deuenit, & plagam vbi quarta parte Septentrionum iuxta cæciam ventum acus nauigatoriæ lilium illi rectissimè Arctum ostenderet. Quibus de causis & rationibus & tutissimâ nauigandi