

A Cabot source which does not exist.

Among the contemporary accounts of John Cabot's departure on his second voyage in the spring of 1498 has hitherto figured a so-called dispatch of one of the Spanish ambassadors then in England, Gonzales de Puebla. As first printed in 1881 by Signor Desimoni this document reads as follows :

* Lettera del Dr. Puebla al Re Cattolici,
Ferdinando e Isabella.
1498.

El Rey de Inglaterra embio cinco naos armadas con otro genoves como C. En a buscar la Isla de Brasil y las vicindades, fueron proveydos por un año. En que seran venidos para al el septiembre. Vista la derredor que llevan alio que lo que husean es lo que Vuestras Altezas poseen. El Rey me ha hablado algunas veces subrello espera haver muy gran interesse. Creo que no hay de aqui alla ceccc leguas¹.

Signor Desimoni stated in a note that this document, which in his opinion had been written in the same year as Pedro de Ayala's letter of July 25, 1498², was « inedita e communicata dal Ch. Henrico Harrisse ; e, como ci avverte, da lui copiata dalle carte di Bergenroth, non direttamente degli Archivi di Simancas »³.

Mr. Harrisse published this document himself in the following year from this copy in the Public Record Office sent home by Bergenroth⁴.

1. *Atti della Società Ligure di Storia Patria*, vol. XV, pp. 233-4. Genova, 1881.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 197 : « Una lettera del Puebla non ha data, ma evidentemente essa è dell' anno medesimo di quella dell' Ayala, » etc. Ayala was the second Spanish ambassador at that time in England.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 234.

4. *Jean et Sébastien Cabot*, Paris, 1882, pp. 328-9 : « Dépêche de Ruy Gonzalès de Puebla aux Rois-Catholiques.... Cet extrait, pris sur les copies rapportées de Simancas par Bergenroth, nous a été envoyé du Public Record Office. »