

further west than Bonavista. Hence Bonavista is a more important and prominent point for vessels coming from the eastwards. Hence it is, that, altho I believe Cabot first made land at Cape St. John, yet he afterwards fixed on the point now called Bonavista, as the signal point for voyagers from Europe, and to take a departure from on going eastwards. I am sure that John Cabot took special and particular bearings of this point. I believe it to be the point of which Soncini is speaking, when he says Cabot made certain signal marks (*presi certi segnali*), and I feel confident that if we could find John Cabot's map, we should see this point (now called Bonavista) distinctly marked, and its latitude clearly and correctly given. Yet all this would not shake my belief in the view of his first having had sight of land at Cape St. John a few miles further north.

#### FEAST OF ST. JOHN DE BAPTIST.

My reasons are briefly stated: firstly, the name. If there is one fact clearly handed down by tradition, it is that Cabot struck land on the feast of St. John the Baptist, June 24th, and gave the name of the saint to the land first seen. The name of St. John is to be seen at this point from the very earliest maps in our possession—Ribero, &c. (1527), just thirty years after Cabot, and it is there to-day. It is true that Cabot gave the name St. John, not to the mainland, but to an Island off the shore: but it is quite a customary thing for names to be transferred from islands to the mainland opposite, and *vice versa*. It was thus that Prince Edward Island received, by mistake, as I stated before, the name of St. John. It had been given by Cartier (1534) to a cape on Newfoundland shore, near Cape Anguille, and was transferred first to the Magdalen Islands opposite, and finally from these to the Island afterwards (in 1799) called Prince Edward, after the visit of Edward, duke of Kent.

The Island seen off the coast by Cabot is described on the Cabot map as a "large island"—"*una ysla grande.*" There is no island off Cape Bonavista to correspond to this description. There are only some small islands or rocks, namely, Gull Island, Green Island, Stone Island, The Spillars, &c.: