

which the original in the Queen's Gallery, and in many ancient merchants' houses, must have instantly convicted him.

But to proceed. Having thus prepared us to expect an audacious alteration, the biographer endeavours to show that those persons who had seen Sebastian Cabot's charts and maps, introduce no allusion to the father, and he leaves the reader to make the inevitable inference against Hakluyt's honesty. This writer has quoted an inscription on Sebastian Cabot's map, which attributes the discovery to John Cabot. But Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who had seen Sebastian's charts, makes no allusion to the father; and Richard Willes, who speaks familiarly of the map of this navigator, does not mention John; therefore, it is left to the reader silently to infer that Hakluyt may have interpolated the name of the father. A plain statement of the fact will put all this down in an instant:—Hakluyt has narrated in the clearest terms that the map to which he alludes, and from which he copies the inscription, was engraved by Clement Adams; and the terms of the inscription show that it (the inscription) was added by the artist. Sir Humphrey Gilbert, on the contrary, just as clearly states, that the documents to which *he* alludes, are "charts of Sebastian Cabot, which are to be seen in the Queen Majesty's Privy Gallery at Whitehall,"—evidently meaning the original charts drawn by this seaman, and presented to the queen;* and Willes does not mention the engraved map at all, but speaks of a table of Sebastian Cabot, which the father of Lady Warwick had at Cheynies.† The argument, therefore, or rather the unfavourable inference created in the mind of the reader by the biographer, which derives its force from the supposition, that Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Richard Willes refer to the same document as Hakluyt, namely, the engraved map by Clement Adams, falls completely to the ground. If there had been any account of the first discovery on the charts alluded to by Gilbert, and the "table" mentioned by Willes, and in this account the father's name had not appeared, there might be some presumption against the elder Cabot; but the writer of

* Hakluyt, vol. iii. p. 16.

† History of Travel in the West and East Indies, p. 232. Hakluyt, vol. iii. pp. 25, 26.