

which some think goes on to Africa" (Cod. Leg. A. M., 736).

Similar intelligence had probably come to the ears of many merchants and frequenters of the town and port of Bristol, which was then to England what Liverpool is now; and especially was it known to a certain John Cabot, who had arrived there from Venice, with his family, somewhere about the year 1490. Of him more will be said later, but it must now be remarked that Cabot's voyage was not the first that had been undertaken by the English with the express object of discovering lands, of which they had heard more or less definitely, across the western sea. Pedro de Ayala writes to the King and Queen of Spain, on the 25th of July, 1498: "The people of Bristol have for seven years since sent every year two, three, or four caravels in search of the isle of Brasil and the seven cities, according to the notions of this Genoese." William of Worcester mentions a voyage of Thomas Lloyd, to whom a patent was granted in 1480, and who commanded a ship equipped by John Jay of Bristol, but returned after seven months without having landed.

The first of these mariners from Bristol to find the long-sought western lands was John Cabot, with his sons Louis, Sebastian, and Sancho. The nationality of these important personages is uncertain, but the probability is that John, the father, was a Genoese by birth, that is, that he was born at the village of Castiglione, within the confines of the republic of Genoa. It is certain, from entries found by the late Rawdon Browne in the archives of Venice, that the privi-

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