

VII.—*The Cabots.*

Notes addressed to the Royal Society of Canada in rectification of some statements in papers contributed by Mr. S. E. Dawson to the Transactions of 1894, 1895 and 1897.

By HENRY HARRISSE.

(Presented by Sir John Bourinot and read May 25th, 1898.)

I.

"Mr. HARRISSE, who, in his '*John and Sebastian Cabot*,' had written in favour of Cape Breton, has, in his latest book, '*The Discovery of North America, gone back to Labrador*. He [had previously] decided for Cape Percy." (Dr. Dawson's monograph of 1894, p. 54; of 1896, p. 19; of 1898, p. 141.)

If during many years Dr. Dawson believed the landfall of John Cabot to have been in Newfoundland, and afterwards believed that it was at Cape Breton, I do not see why I could not believe as well in 1896 Cabot's landfall to have been in Labrador, supposing that in 1882 I believed it was at Cape Breton. But, as luck will have it, I happen never to have written "in favour of Cape Breton," and still less to have "decided for Cape Percy."

What I have said is, that *the map of 1544 located the landfall in Cape Breton, or at Cape Percy*. And at the same time, I expressed my lack of confidence either in that cartographical averment or in the map itself. Here are the very words written by me on the subject in 1882, in the "John and Sebastian Cabot:" "La localit e indiqu e sur la mappemonde de 1544 comme atterrissage de Jean et de S ebastien Cabot en 1497, ne peut  tre, *d'apr es ce document*, que le pays correspondant sur nos cartes   l' le du Cap Breton." (Jean et S ebastien Cabot, Paris, 1882, p. 64.)

"C'est donc au Cap Perc e, et nulle part ailleurs que, *selon la carte de 1544*, Jean et S ebastien Cabot ont atterri; c'est l a que, les premiers entre les navigateurs du XV^e si cle, *ils auraient* [*sic*, and not '*ils ont*'] foul  le sol du continent am ricain." (*Op. cit.*, p. 66.)

"Cette analyse repose sur la pr somption que les profils de la mappemonde de Cabot proviennent de documents cartographiques contemporains de la d couverte. Peut-on cependant affirmer ce fait et voir dans ces d lin ations une fid le copie des  pures de Jean Cabot ou de son fils?" (*Loc. cit.*)

"Il importe de r soudre cette question, car si la carte de 1544 a  t  dress e enti rement de m moire, ou d'apr s des relev s faits par des carto-