

land, sailed south, with nothing but the sun, moon and stars to guide him and his brave sailors. According to the Sagas (Norse legends), he came to Newfoundland, which he called Helluland (land of flat stones); next to Nova Scotia, which he named Markland (woodland); and, it is thought, to Now England, which from the abundance of wild grapes growing there, he called Vinland (wine-land). This was about the year 1000 A.D., nearly 500 years before Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, landed at San Salvador (1492). The discoveries of the Northmen brought about no real contact between the Old World and the New. They are looked upon merely as chance visitors to our coasts. The discovery of Columbus, who seems to have known of the early Norse voyages, was followed by conquest and settlement, in which Spain took the leading part. Other nations were aroused by the discovery of a new world. In May, 1497, John Cabot, with his son Sebastian and eighteen men, left the port of Bristol, England, in one small ship, the "Matthew," to seek unknown lands to the west. The little craft of fifty tons safely braved the winds and waves of the Atlantic, and on the 24th of June first sighted land, on the east part of the island of Cape Breton. On that day began the claim of Great Britain to the North American continent. In the spring of 1498, John and Sebastian Cabot made a second voyage to the New World with a larger number of ships and men, making a second landing on the coast of Labrador; but, meeting with ice, they coasted southward as far as the point now called Cape Hatteras. Columbus supposed he had discovered the Indies, and the Cabots supposed they had found the way to distant Cathay (China). The full meaning of these discoveries did not become clear until years afterwards; and it is only in recent times that full credit has been given to the brave explorers. The men of their own times either forgot their deeds or thought there was nothing wonderful in what they had done. The Cabots, father and son, sleep in unknown graves. The small gratitude of King Henry VII. to the voyagers from England who first touched our shores is shown in the following entry, still preserved in the British Museum (mu-zē-um): "August 10th (1497), to hymne that founde the New I^lle, £10." The last years of Columbus, the bold Genoese navigator, were passed in poverty and neglect. Although many places on this continent are named after him, the