

his share in the failure. But he was immediately restored to his position at the head of the Spanish navigation bureau, and the sentence of temporary banishment, which would have interfered with the performance of his official duties, was not enforced. Little is known about the details of his career during the next few years, but that his services were valued by those who were most interested in what he was doing, may fairly be inferred from the fact that the emperor made repeated efforts to induce Cabot to return, after he retired fifteen years later. In 1547 Sebastian Cabot went back to England, and there he assumed a position of influence, which he retained for the next ten years, as the recognized leader in the maritime affairs of the kingdom. He inspired and supervised the preparations for the voyages undertaken by Chancellor, Willoughby and Burrough, who opened to England the northeastern route to the markets of Russia. The story of these voyages is told in many books, and there is no occasion for repeating the details, or for analyzing the significance of facts about which there is no dispute. It is sufficient if the preceding pages show that the story of the Cabots contains some elements of actual human interest, and that what they did, in 1497, 1508, and 1553-55, justifies the reputation which John and Sebastian Cabot have enjoyed for three hundred years, as two of the most eminent of England's sea-faring men.