

rich commodities,
at Bristol, for the
entured also three
it with some gross
barbarous people."*
making use of the
slight alterations,
on containing a
covery belongs to
the continent had
age, although no
ain. The obser-
Bacon makes no
but the inference
estimony goes to
iginal discoverer,
comes to be nar-

is we have looked
contains no passage
same observation
nished, Hall, and
of consulting. It
once quoted from
onceives to offer a
of the voyage of
relates solely to
to Speed, whom
De Thou, mak-
answer strictly
kes notice being
by his observa-
sion of Perkin
that the biogra-
ow, and Speed
1497, in which
had introduced
ted, from their

4.
481.
dition 1511. In
e is no mention of

omission, to draw any argument against him. In this, however, he has totally failed.

The fact is certainly remarkable that, whilst in contemporary documents of unquestionable authority we find convincing proof of the discovery having been made by John Cabot, in none of the English annalists or historians who treat of the reign of Henry VII. do we see any account of the first voyage, whilst many of them have distinctly recorded the circumstances of the second. But of this it is not difficult to discover the reason. The first voyage was a private adventure or experiment by John Cabot, and probably little known or talked of beyond the city of Bristol. It was undertaken at the expense, not of the crown, but of the individual; and after having made the discovery, Cabot appears to have returned at once without exploring the coast, to make preparations for a voyage on a more extended scale. When he reached England, in the month of August 1497, being shortly after the commencement of the thirteenth year of Henry's reign, he found the sovereign and his kingdom in a state of extreme anxiety and confusion. The king was engrossed with an invasion of the Scots, with a formidable rebellion in Cornwall, and a new rising in favour of Warbeck, the leader of which threatened to pluck the crown from his head and give it to that adventurer, who, early in September, had landed from Ireland and assumed the title of Richard IV. It was upon these great events,—the attacks of his enemies, and the measures adopted to defeat them,—that the mind of the contemporary writers, and of the succeeding chroniclers and annalists, was naturally concentrated; and, engrossed with them, they paid little attention to the discovery of a private merchant of Bristol. It is for this reason, we apprehend, that we in vain look in Fabyan and in Stow for any detailed account, or even incidental mention, of the discovery of 1497.

The circumstances, however, under which the second voyage, in 1498, took place, which all are agreed was conducted solely by Sebastian Cabot, were completely different. It was undertaken at the expense of the king, who furnished the ships; it contemplated a scheme of settlement and colonization, in which all the ardent and enterprising spirits in the nation were invited to co-operate. Many, there is reason to believe, did embark in the undertaking;