

making nets; he also found some felled trees, wherefore he supposed there were inhabitants, and returned to his ship in alarm.

He was three months on the voyage; and, on his return, saw two islands to starboard, but would not land, time being precious, as he was short of provisions. He says that the tides are slack, and do not flow as they do here. The King of England is much pleased with this intelligence.

The King has promised that in the spring our countryman shall have ten ships; and, at his request, has conceded to him all the prisoners, except such as are confined for high treason, to man his fleet. The King has also given him money wherewith to amuse himself till then; and he is now at Bristol with his wife, who is also Venetian, and with his sons. His name is Juan Cabot, and he is styled the great admiral. Vast honor is paid him; he dresses in silk; and these English run after him like mad people, so that he can enlist as many of them as he pleases, and a number of our own rogues besides.

The discoverer of these places planted on his new-found land a large cross, with one flag of England, and one of St. Mark, by reason of his being a Venetian, so that our banner has floated very far afield.

London, 23d Aug. 1497.*

Lorenzo Pasqualigo was a Venetian merchant residing in London. In this letter of Pasqualigo we have what will probably be the best account we shall ever find of Cabot's first voyage, and the discovery of North America about a year before Columbus saw the new continent, and the claim of England to the country has always rested on this discovery.

The next question is to ascertain the locality of Cabot's Prima Vista, and of the islands he afterwards visited. Fortunately for all interested in American history, we have now the map made by or under the direction of Sebastian Cabot which had long been missing, but was a few years since found in a library in Germany. A *fac simile* of this very valuable chart was published by the celebrated geographer, M. Jomard, at Paris. A section of this map is given with this article. (See Map 1.)† A reference to it will show that

* Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, October 21, 1865.

† This section of Cabot's Mapamundi is photo-electrotyped from a larger section, which illustrates an article on "John Cabot's Voyage of 1497," by J. Carson Brevoort, LL.D., in the "Historical Magazine" for March, 1868. Mr. Brevoort indicates a somewhat similar route. When this paper was written, I had not read his article.