

an honoured grave for upwards of two centuries, is resuscitated to be treated only with more unsparing severity. We proceed now to the discussion of the point in question,—Who Discovered North America?—The fact, then, that it was JOHN CABOT who projected, fitted out, and conducted the expedition by which this discovery was made rests on evidence so conclusive, that it is difficult to imagine how any impartial inquirer can resist its force.

First, There is the original commission or letters-patent in Rymer, vol. xii. p. 595, in which *John Cabot* is evidently the principal person intrusted with the undertaking. His three sons, Lewis, Sebastian, and Sanchez, are indeed included with him in the patent; but it is allowed on all hands, that neither Lewis nor Sanchez accompanied the voyage, and Sebastian, although he undoubtedly went along with his father, could not then have been more than twenty,—an age excluding the idea of his either originating or conducting the enterprise.

Secondly, We have the language of the second patent, dated the 3d February 1498, in which the letters are directed to *John Cabot alone*, and he is empowered to sail with his ships to the land and isles of *late found by the said John*, in the king's name and commandment,—a piece of evidence which, even if it stood single and unsupported, appears to be decisive of the question.

Thirdly, We have the inscription under the contemporary portrait of Sebastian Cabot, painted by Holbein, in which he is described as the son of the Venetian, Sir John Cabot, who was the first discoverer of the New Land, “*Primi Inventoris Terræ Novæ sub Henrico VII. Angliæ Rege;*” and in the

Fourth place, A proof of the same fact is to be found in the inscription by Clement Adams upon the Map of America, which he engraved after a drawing of Sebastian Cabot's, and in the lifetime of this navigator. In this inscription, as already more minutely pointed out,* the principal place is given to the father, John Cabot, and the son is mentioned, as it appears to us, not as commanding the ships or having originated the voyage, but simply as accompanying the expedition.

Having gone thus far, we are now ready to enter upon

* *Supra*, pp. 21, 22.