

NOTES.

NOTE I. (p. 17, 18.)

HISTORIANS assign different *dates* to this voyage. In the Voyages of Ramusius, Sebastian Cabot is represented as placing it in 1496; and respectable historians have hence taken that for the true year. On a critical examination of the account in Ramusius, there does not appear sufficient ground for their conclusion. Ramusius derived his account from Butrigarius, the pope's legate in Spain, who derived his information from S. Cabot. In Cabot's account, which was merely verbal, the *time* of the voyage was incidentally mentioned, and without precision: "The king commanded two caravels to be furnished with all things appertaining to the voyage; which was, *as farre as I remember*, in the year 1496, in the beginning of sommer." Nor ought this uncertainty of Cabot himself to appear strange, when it is considered, that he was then an old man, as we learn from the same conversation with the legate: "After this I made many other voyages, which I nowe pretermit; and waxeing old I give myself to rest from such travels." Instead therefore of trusting to so vague an account, I have chosen to rely on "an extract taken out of the map of Sebastian Cabot concerning his discovery of the West Indies, which," Hakluyt says, "is to be seene in her majesty's privie gallerie at Westminster, and in many other ancient merchants houses." The extract (which is preserved in Hakluyt, iii. 6.) begins thus: "Anno Domini 1497 Ioannes Cabotus Venetus, & Sebastianus illius filius" &c.—The *extent*, as well as the time, of this celebrated voyage has been involved in obscurity. By some writers the Cabots are represented as having sailed to 56 deg. north latitude; by others, to 58; by others, to 60. Ramusius, in his 3d volume, says, it was "written" to him by Sebastian Cabot, that he sailed to "the latitude of 67 degrees and an halfe, under the north pole." Hakluyt, iii. 7—9. This account is probably the true one.—Some authors say, that the Cabots sailed no farther to the south, than to 38 deg. or 36 deg. north lat. P. Martyr says, Cabot went nearly as far south, as the latitude of the straits of Hercules, or Gibraltar. Dr. Belknap [Amer. Biog. i. 154.] accordingly considered 36 deg. as the extent of the voyage; and Dr. Forster [Voy. 267.], on the authority of that passage in P. Martyr, says, "Sebastian Cabot must have been about as far as Chesapeake Bay in Virginia." But the entire passage, in the original (p. 232.), seems to imply, that Cabot proceeded *still* to the west, probably southwesterly, as the coast lies, *after* he had reached the 36° of latitude. P. Martyr, having mentioned the obstruction which Cabot found from the ice, in his voyage to the north, adds: "Quare coactus fuit, uti ait, vela vertere, et occidentem sequi: tetendit que tantum ad meridiem, littore sese incurvante, ut Herculei freti latitudinis ferè gradum æquarit: ad occidentem, que profectus tantum est, ut Cubam insulam à lævo, longitudine graduum penè parem, habuerit." Obscure as this passage is, it satisfies me, that Cabot sailed to Cape Florida, which lies in 25 deg. 20 min. north lat. The English founded their original claim to the principal part of North America on the discovery made of it in this voyage; but some writers consider the claim as of no validity, because the Cabots made no settlement. See Hazard Coll. i. 603; Univ. Hist. xli. 86. See also p. 9, 10, of this volume. The question of right is left to jurists and statesmen; but it must be granted, that, according to the prevalent notions of former times, this was a most important voyage:

"For the time once was here, to the world be it known,

"When all a man sail'd by, or saw, was his own." *Freneau.*

NOTE II. (p. 66.)

The Mexicans lived in Aztlan, a country situated to the north of California, until about A. D. 1160; when they commenced their migration toward the country of Anahuac. After a temporary residence in several intermediate places, they at length arrived at that situation on the lake, where they were to found their city. As soon as they had taken possession of it, they erected a temple for their god Huitzlopochtli, around which they now began to build huts of reeds and rushes. Such was the begin-