

seems even more learned than Cabot the cartographer, who, in 1544, had already lost the date of his first voyage. How is it that several of our modern historians are so intent in speaking of the legend of the Cabotian map, with its *Prima Vista*, its Island of St. John, and that they set aside the relation of a man so well informed as Ellis? Is it because they did not read Ellis? If they read him, they preferred not to say a word about what he reports.

Everything can be found in his relation :

The year !—1497.

The date !—The 24th of June.

The hour !—Five o'clock in the morning.

The land discovered !—Newfoundland.

The precise spot !—Prima Vista.

The neighboring island !—St. John.

What more categorical details do we want ?

What can be given to contradict this testimony ?

Nothing else but Cabot's map, and we know what to think of it .

Apocryphical ? Perhaps.

Imperfect ? Certainly.

Interpolated ? Very probably.

“ All these facts prove, says HARRISSE, that the names, legends and configurations of the northern extremity of the New Continent, as inscribed and depicted in charts emanating from Spanish cosmographers, in general, and Diego Ribeiro in particular, were supplied directly by Sebastian Cabot or through his professional instrumentality, and that for almost half a century he placed his landfall many degrees farther north than the *Prima vista* of the Cabotian planisphere of 1544.” (1)

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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are some deductions flowing from what has been previously said, that can be invoked against those who believe in the Cabotian map as in a text of the Bible.

1. Is it not strange, at first, that Cabot the cartographer has placed his *Prima Tierra Vista* on the *Terre des Bretons* as it was called later. Cabot had not then seen any land before

(1) HARRISSE. John Cabot, p. 84.