

INTRODUCTION.

The Maps, Charts, Plans, &c., of which a catalogue is here presented have been drawn from many sources, including the British Museum, and different departments of the Imperial Government; the Bibliothèque Nationale and different departments of the French Government; also departments of the Federal and Provincial Governments of Canada; and, to some extent, from private collections. While of varying degrees of interest and value, all have their uses, and the object in preparing a catalogue is to render them more easily available for examination, than would otherwise have been the case, by persons engaged in historical or other research. The classification adopted is, broadly speaking, geographical, and a few remarks may be made on different sections.

WORLD MAPS.

Of the World Maps several are of much historical interest. The first on the list is the celebrated map of the Spaniard Juan de la Cosa, a biographical essay on whom, translated from the Spanish is printed in Appendix A. to this publication. It may here be briefly stated that La Cosa, according to the Spanish narrative referred to, commanded a vessel in the first and second expeditions of Columbus to America. The relations between the two men do not appear to have been entirely harmonious, but of the ability of La Cosa as a navigator there does not appear to be any doubt. His map, which is dated 1500, is believed to have been made in that year after his return to Spain from a third voyage, made in 1499, in which Amerigo Vesputius acted as pilot and cosmographer, and in which the mainland of America was discovered. La Cosa sailed for America seven times in all, and finally lost his life at the hands of the natives of Venezuela on the 28th of February, 1510. The original map is in the possession of the Spanish government, by whose permission a number of fac-similes were made in the year 1892. After the fashion of the time the inland spaces of the map are adorned with pictures of churches and castles, effigies of reigning sovereigns, as well as of earlier historical characters, and various other illustrative devices. Flags are used to distinguish the possessions of different nations.

The second map on the list, that of Sebastian Cabot, also deserves special mention. It is dated 1544 and shows a much more advanced condition of geographical knowledge than the map of La Cosa, much having been done in the intervening period, both in the way of exploration and of conquest, on the American continent. The map bears twenty-two legends in all of a descriptive and historical character. Mention is made therein of the voyages of Magellan and John Sebastian del Canno; but the map is chiefly interesting, from a Canadian point of view, in that it purports to indicate the point where John Cabot, father of Sebastian, first saw land on the American coast, the locality in question being apparently near the northerly extremity of Cape Breton. Through an error the probable explanation of which, with other information relating to the map, will be found in Appendix B., the date of the discovery is given as 1494 instead of 1497. Even this later date, it is to be remarked,