

The country on the southern coast of Hispaniola, appearing very beautiful, was judged an eligible place for settlement. Bartholomew Columbus, having received written orders from his brother Christopher in Spain, to remove the colony from Isabella to the south part of the island, now began a settlement there,¹ and, in memory of his father, whose name was Dominick, called it Santo Domingo.²

1497.

Henry VII on the third of February gave permission to John Cabot, to take six English ships in any haven or havens of the realm of England, being of the burden of two hundred tons or under, with the requisite furniture, and all such masters, mariners, and subjects of the king, as should be willing to accompany him.³ Whatever might have been the cause, an equipment appears not to have been made, to the extent of the royal licence.

Royal permission to John Cabot for six ships.

In the beginning of May,⁴ Cabot and his son Sebastian and three hundred men⁵ with two caravels, freighted by the merchants of London and Bristol, commenced a voyage of discovery.⁶ On the twenty fourth of June they were surprized by the sight of land, which, being the first they had seen, they called Prima Vista. This is generally supposed to be some part of the island of Newfoundland. A few days afterward they discovered a smaller island, to which, on account probably

Voyage of the Cabots.

June 24. They discover land.

¹ Herrera, 168, 169.

² Life of Columbus, c. lxxiii. P. Martyr, 66.

³ Hakluyt, i. 511, where is inserted a record of the rolls, relating to this voyage, entitled, "Billa signata Anno 13 Henrici 7." See Hazard Coll. i. 10. Chalmers, i. 8. Brit. Emp. in America, i. *Introd.* vi.

⁴ See Note I. at the end of the volume.

⁵ P. Martyr, 232.

⁶ Fabian, in his Chronicle, says, that one ship at Bristol was manned and victualled at the king's cost; that divers merchants of London ventured in her small stocks; and that in the company of the said ship sailed also out of Bristol three or four small ships, "fraught with sleight and grosse merchandizes." Hakluyt, i. 515.