

would find out an island endued with rich commodities, procured him to man and victual a ship at Bristol, for the discovery of that island, with whom ventured also three small ships of London merchants, fraught with some gross and slight wares, fit for commerce with barbarous people."* It is evident that Lord Bacon is here making use of the passage in Stow, employing, with some slight alterations, its very words. So far, however, from containing a proof that the merit of the original discovery belongs to Sebastian, it warns the reader that the continent had already been found in some prior voyage, although no name is given, and the date is left uncertain. The observation of the biographer, therefore, that Bacon makes no allusion to the father, is literally correct; but the inference drawn from it, that therefore Bacon's testimony goes to support the claim of Sebastian as the original discoverer, is completely excluded when the passage comes to be narrowly examined.

As to De Thou, this great writer, so far as we have looked through his voluminous historical work, contains no passage upon the subject of either voyage; and the same observation applies to such editions of Grafton, Holinshed, Hall, and Harding, as we have had an opportunity of consulting. It has been already remarked that the sentence quoted from Stow, which the biographer erroneously conceives to offer a proof that Sebastian had the sole charge of the voyage of 1497, in which the discovery was made, relates solely to the second voyage of 1498.† With regard to Speed, whom he also quotes as, along with Bacon and De Thou, making no allusion to the father, the same answer strictly applies,—the only voyage of which he takes notice being the second, in 1498, as is distinctly fixed by his observation that it took place after the apprehension of Perkin Warbeck.‡ It is very evident, however, that the biographer was bound to show that Bacon, Stow, and Speed had given an account of the first voyage of 1497, in which the discovery was made, and in that account had introduced no allusion to the father, before he was entitled, from their

* Bacon's Henry VII. in Kennet, vol. i. p. 624.

† Stow's Chronicles by Howe, edition 1631, p. 481.

‡ Speed's History of Great Britam, p. 744, edition 1511. In the edition of Speed's work published in 1632, there is no mention of the voyage of either of the Cabots.