

wards changed to *Bona Vista*, now the northern cape of Trinity bay, in Latitude 48° 50'. Peter Martyr's account is, that Cabot called the land Bacalaos; and there is a small island off the south cape of Trinity bay, which bears that name. Mr. Prince, in his Chronology (citing Galvains for authority), says that the land discovered by Cabot was in latitude 45°. If this were true, the first discovery was made on the peninsula of Nova Scotia; and as they coasted the land northward, they must have gone into the gulf of St. Lawrence, in pursuit of their northwest passage.\*

The above extract from Dr. Belknap's biography of Cabot shows that he had studied the subject with care, and arrived at conclusions which three quarters of a century afterwards have been found to be correct. In the absence of any definite account of Cabot's voyages, historians in Europe and this country have turned their attention to ascertain on what real documents the history of these voyages rests, and many have been surprised to find that there are scarcely any contemporaneous accounts relative to them: in the English archives beyond the first and second patents granted by Henry VII. And so they have had to pursue their inquiries into other countries. In this new field they have been more successful, particularly in Italy and Spain. Almost the only fact that these searches have brought from the dust of the English archives is a single item from the privy-purse accounts, in the following words: "Aug. 10, 1497. To hym that found the New Isle, 10*l*." This brief memorandum shows that Cabot had then returned, and had received a gratuity from the king, who was more noted for his parsimony than for any other characteristic. The sum was then in its purchasing power fully equal to ten times that amount in our day.

The following is a letter procured for the English Record Commission from Milan:

*Letter of Lorenzo Pasqualigo to his Brothers Alvise and Francesco.*

The Venetian, our countryman, who went with a ship from Bristol in quest of new islands, is returned, and says, that 700 leagues hence, he discovered land in the territory of the Grand Cham. He coasted for 300 leagues, and landed; saw no human beings, but he has brought hither to the king certain snares which had been set to catch game, and a needle for

\* Belknap's American Biography, vol. i. p. 152-3.