

by birth who had been naturalized. John Cabot belonged to the latter class.

Here is the text of the decree by which the Senate of Venice, by a unanimous vote, on the 28th of March 1476, conferred on him the full naturalization, in consequence of a (constant) residence of fifteen years in that city; dating, therefore, from 1461.

"1476, die 28 Martii.—Quod fiat privilegium civilitatis de intus et extra Ioani Caboto per habitationem annorum XV, iuxta consuetum.

De parte, 149

De non, o

Non sinceri, o.

1476, 28th day of March.—That a privilege of citizenship within and without be entered in favour of John Caboto, as usual, in consequence of a residence of fifteen years.

Ayes, 149

Noes, o

Neutrals, o."¹

This, of course, establishes the fact that John Cabot was not a Venetian citizen by birth; otherwise it is plain that he would have been under no necessity to become naturalized. But does it also prove that he was born beyond the limits of the Republic of Venice?

No satisfactory reply can be made to that question without first examining what were the naturalization laws enacted in Venice before the 16th century.²

On the 11th of December 1298,³ the Venetian

¹ State archives in Venice, *Senato Terra*, 1473-1477, folio 109. *Infra*, *Syllabus*, doc. 1. The latter word in every case refers to our own appendix.

² Vettor SANDI, *Principj di Storia Civile della Repubblica di Venezia*, Venezia, 1755; 4to, vols. ii and iii; Cristoforo TENTORI, *Saggio sulla Storia civile, politica, ecclesiastica . . . della Repubblica di Venezia*, Venezia, 1785-1790, 8vo, vol. i, dissert. iv; Giambattista GALLICCIOLI, *Delle Memorie Venete antiche*, Venezia,

1795, vol. iv, vol. i, p. 330, § 395; ROMANIN, *Storia documentata di Venezia*, Venezia, 1855, 8vo, vol. iv, p. 469, quotes regarding the Venetian naturalization, the registers of the Great Council called *Magnus* and *Capricornus*, which comprise the years 1299-1308. We presume that for the subsequent laws and decrees, the *Spiritus* (1325-1349), the *Leona* (1384-1415), and *Ursa* (1415-1454), should be consulted.

³ GALLICCIOLI, *loc. cit.*