

often said to have been seen, with their lofty mountains, their forest-covered plains, and cool, shady valleys. They received different names in different countries; thus we have the Ogygia of Homer, the Atlantis of Plato, the Antilia of Aristotle, the Hesperides of the Latins, the Hy Brazil, or fount of everlasting life, of the Kelts, etc., etc.

Towards the latter half of the XV century, these vague and romantic traditions and mythical legends began to yield to a more practical and solid belief in the existence of a western world, tho, up to the time of Columbus, and even for many years after, a strong mixture of the fabulous and poetic element still continued to modify the more prosaic and scientific theories of the learned men of Europe. Little by little the hardy fishermen of Britany and of the Basque Provinces had pushed their voyages westwards over the unknown tracts of the great ocean, sometimes in quest of adventure, and actuated by that desire of knowing and seeing more of this great world, and its hidden wonders—the "*Wander Lust*" of the Germans.

In the archives of St. Jean De Luz, it is stated that in the early part of the XV century the inhabitants of that city had discovered Newfoundland and its fisheries.

"Already since 1412," writes Leonce Goyetche (hist. of St. Jean De Luz), "whale fishers had penetrated as far as Iceland." It is a well-established fact that, towards the third quarter of the XV century, or about 1475, "the English traded with Iceland, and a large commerce was maintained with it by Bristol" (Justin Winsor, Columbus, page 138). It is generally believed, though it is not absolutely proved, that Columbus made a voyage to Iceland about this time, and that he heard there the tradition of a western land which induced him afterwards to undertake his celebrated voyage.

It was probably about this time (1480) that John Cabot came to Bristol, and was an active participator in all the commercial and adventurous enterprises of that city.

JOHN CABOT.

Concerning John Cabot, we know the following facts:—He was an Italian, probably born in Genoa. He is called a