

the biographer was not entitled to wound the fair reputation of this excellent writer, to whom the history of naval discovery is under so many obligations, by charges without proof, and innuendoes arising mainly out of the errors which he himself has committed.

But the biographer will perhaps contend that he has at least made out one fact against Hakluyt—namely, that in 1589 he altered the passage from the form in which he gave it in 1582; and is not this, says he, a dishonest and guilty deed? To this we answer,—and we think it impossible for him to controvert the assertion,—that, admitting the fact, there is no guilt or dishonesty in the case. The vitiation of the text imputed here to Hakluyt may be considered either as a perversion of the real truth, historically considered, or of the individual passage, or of both.

First then, it is to be remarked, that Hakluyt cannot be accused of dishonesty historically speaking, because, in the passages in question, he has stated nothing but the truth. It has been already proved that the extract communicated by Stow relates solely to the second voyage of 1498, planned and fitted out by John Cabot the Venetian, and conducted afterwards by his son Sebastian; and the alteration of the note, from the words “a Venetian,” used in 1582, to the words, “one John Cabot, a Venetian,” used in 1589, only makes it speak with more clearness and accuracy. But, in the second place, Hakluyt, says the biographer, has perverted and altered a quotation. There might be some appearance of plausibility in this accusation, if Hakluyt had given the passage in dispute as a quotation, and had thus bound himself down to the common usage which compels an author in such a case to insert it word for word. But he does not do so. He warns the reader that he is perusing not a quotation, but a “note made up by him from an extract communicated by Stow, and taken out of the latter part of Robert Fabyan’s *Chronicle*, not hitherto printed;” and having done so, he considered himself at liberty to correct that note, by inserting in it any additional information which he had acquired. In 1582, he thought that the words, “a Genoa’s son, born in Bristol,” could not apply to Sebastian Cabot, with whom they were coupled, and he inserts the words, “a Venetian,” dropping the name altogether. In