

north, and finding, after "certain dayes" the land still continent to the 56th degree, and despairing to find the passage, he turned back again, and sailed down the coast towards the equinoctial, (ever with intent to find the said passage to India,) and came to that part of the "firm land" which is now called Florida, where his victuals failing, he returned to England, and the Scottish war having for the time distracted the attention of the country from nautical discovery, he went into Spain.*

The remainder of the life of Sebastian Cabot, though not directly connected with America, deserves notice, if only to show the estimation in which he was held.

He is said to have made a voyage in search of a southern passage, but, failing in the attempt, to have returned by way of the West Indies, and afterwards to have been solicited by the merchants of Seville to undertake to penetrate to India by the Straits of Magellan, and visit the Spice Islands, as

* There are differences in the accounts of this as of most other early voyages, both as to time and course, but that here given seems, upon the whole, the most consistent.