

cis I., of France, at a later day ridiculed the evident intention of the Italian pope and the Spanish king to appropriate to themselves all the discoveries in the West; and, in time, was found among the foremost in the struggle of the Latin peoples for a footing and for fortunes on the North American coast. England never recognized this alliance between Spain and Rome to secure sole possession of the Western hemisphere. Little recked John Cabot, sent out on his quest by King Henry VII., the binding obligation of the papal partition of all lands and seas hitherto unknown between Portugal and Spain. It was for England's Crown and England's Church—the Church of Magna Charta—national, free, and with rights and liberties inviolable—that this daring adventurer, sailing westward in the ship *Matthew*, of Bristol, discovered on St. John Baptist's Day, June 24th, 1497, the North American continent, and took formal possession of the *Prima Vista*—the land first seen. It was Cabot who first found, despite the Roman pontiff's decree, and first explored, indifferent to the papal ban, the territory now possessed by the United States. In raising the cross of Christ, with England's arms affixed, on American soil, Cabot not only laid claim to the continent by virtue of priority of discovery, but also, in deed at least, emphasized England's "protest" against Rome's usurped suprem-