

Sebastian. The elder Cabot was a native of Venice, but he had removed to Bristol, in England, where he had become a prominent merchant. Henry VII., who then held the throne of England, eager to add to his wealth and his dominion, gave the Cabots permission to cruise over the seas on a voyage of discovery. All lands that might be discovered were to belong to the English crown; the Cabots were to have the sole right to trade with such countries, and one-fifth of the profits must be given to the king of England. These gallant pioneers sailed on their first voyage in May, 1497, in search of a westerly route to China and India. At the end of three months they returned, having visited, not the sunny East, but the stormy shores of Newfoundland and Labrador. In the following year, Sebastian Cabot made a second voyage to Labrador, and then turning southerly, sailed along the coast of North America, nearly to Florida. It was not until the following year that Columbus visited the mainland of America, so that to the Cabots belongs the honour of discovering the continent. England afterwards based her claims to the country on this discovery.

**Adventurers.**— It would be very interesting to tell of the many adventurers who crossed the Atlantic, hoping to find treasures of gold in the New World, or searching for some water passage to China and India. One foolish old Spaniard, Ponce de Leon, went to Florida to look for a fabulous fountain of life, whose waters were said to have the power of restoring to the aged the vigour and freshness of youth. We might tell, too, of the avaricious Cortez who marched into Mexico with his bands of Spaniards, plundered its rich Indian capital, and treated its old