

avers in the same place, the Gauls derived immense profit, would not have been a sufficient inducement to continue the trade.¹

Some authors have advanced that, in 1477, John Scalve,² a Pole, explored Estotiland and a part of Labrador or Laborador; but Estotiland is now regarded as a fabulous country, that never existed except in the imagination of the brothers Zani, noble Venetians; and besides, we know no details of the expedition of the Polish voyager, which was not followed up, and made no great noise in the world. It is more certain that about the year 1497 a Venetian named John Cabot or Gaboto, and his three sons, who had fitted out at the expense, or at least under the authority of Henry VII., King of England, discovered Newfoundland and a part of the neighboring continent. It is even added that they took back to London four Indians of those parts. But good authors have written that they landed nowhere, either on island or continent.³

About the same may be said of the voyage of a Portuguese gentleman named Gaspar de Cortereal, who in 1500 visited all the eastern shore of Newfoundland, and then ran along a good part of Labrador. It cannot indeed be denied that he landed in several places, and gave names, some of which still remain; but there is no proof that this navigator made any settlement.⁴ The Portuguese, accustomed to milder climates, and soon after engaged in reaping the treasures of Africa, the East Indies, and Brazil, doubtless despised a country buried more than half the

¹ *Terra illa ob lucratissimam pisationis utilitatem summâ literarum memorâ à Gallis adiri solita, et ante mille sexcentos annos frequentari copta est, sed eo quod urbibus inculta et vasta, spreta est.*

² Ivan w' Kolna, John of Kolno, a Polish pilot in the Norwegian service, was sent in 1476 with supplies to Greenland. For the Zeno brothers, see Ramusio, i. 222.

³ As to the voyages of the Cabots in 1497 and 1498, the best work is "A Memoir of Sebastian Cabot, with a Review of the History of Maritime Discovery," by Charles Biddle, Philadelphia, 8vo, 1831. The earliest authority as to the voyage of Sebastian alone, in 1498, is Peter Martyr, Decade iii, lib. 6.

⁴ Letter of Pietro Pasqualigo to his brother, Oct. 19, 1501 (Bancroft, i. 14).