

Seymour may lie in the mouth of their haven to intercept their coming forth.

ELIZABETH.  
1588.

I am sorry to perceive by your letter, that her Majesty hath no more care to have forces about her; considering the great peril that may come by neglecting that which should be done in time. I have written unto her Majesty very earnestly about it; and, I hope, that God will put into her mind to do that which may tend most to her safety.

I am sure you have seen the letter which I sent unto her Majesty, of the discovery of certain of the Spanish fleet not far off Scilly, which made me to make as much haste out to sea as I could; for upon Sunday our victuals came to us, and having the wind at north-east, I would not stay the taking in of them all; but taking in some part of them, I appointed the rest to follow with me, and so bore to Scilly, thinking to have cut off those Spanish ships seen there, from the rest of their fleet; but the wind continued not sixteen hours there, but turned South South-West, that we were fain to lie off and on in the Sleeve, and could go no farther.

Then did I send Sir Francis Drake, with half a score ships and three or four pinnaces, to discover. In his way, hard aboard Ushant, he met with a man of mine, whom I had sent in a bark, ten days before, to lie off and on there for discovery, who had met with an Irish bark, and staid her, which had been on the 22d taken by eighteen great ships of the Spanish fleet, sixteen leagues South South-West of Scilly. They had taken out of the said bark five of her most principal men, and left in her but three men and a boy. One of the greatest Spanish ships towed her at her stern by a cable, which in the night time, the wind blowing somewhat stiff, broke, and so she escaped in the storm. This did assure us greatly, that the Spanish fleet was broken in the storms afore; and, by all likelihood, we conjectured, if the wind had continued northerly, that they would have