

force of Armes. And did not *Markes Berry* with a shippe of foure-score tunnes, by bourding and dent of sword, take a shippe, which came from the *Noua Hispania* of neere foure hundred tunnes? to recount all such as haue beene in this sort taken by our Countrey-men, as also those of great worth which they haue lost, for not hazarding the bourding, were neuer to make an end.

Yet discretion is euer to be vsed: for a man that in a small barke goeth to warre-fare is not bound to bourd with a Carake, nor with a shippe, which he seeth prouided with Artillery and other preuentions farre aboue his possibilitie.

Vain-glory of
the Spanishe.

The Spaniards confesse vs to aduantage them in our shipping, and attribute all our victories to that which is but a masse of dead wood, were it not managed and ordered by Art and experience, affirming; that if we came to handie strokes and bourding, they should goe farre beyond vs, which to any person of reasonable vnderstanding, cannot but seeme most vaine-glorious; for we leaue not to bourd with them vpon occasion, when otherwise we cannot force them to surrender, but I conclude it to be great errour, and want of discretion in any man, to put himselfe, his shippe, and company in perill, being able otherwise to vanquish his enemy.

This imagination so vaine, and voyde of ground, hath growne from the ignorance of some of our common sort of Marriners, and vulgar people, which haue beene prisoners in *Spaine*: Who being examined and asked, why her Maiesties shippes in occasions bourd not? haue answered, and enformed; That it is the expresse order of her Maiestie and Counsell; in no case to hazard her shippes by bourding: yea I haue knowne some Captaines of our owne, (to colour their faint proceedings) haue auerred as much, which is nothing so. For in the houre, that her Maiestie, or Counsell committerh the charge of any her shippes to any person, it is left to his discretion to bourd, or not to bourd, as the reason of seruice requireth. And therefore let no man hereafter pretend ignorance, nor for this vanitie leaue to doe his duty, or that which is most probable to redound to the honour and seruice of his Prince and Countrey, and to the damage of his enemy. For in case, he excuse himselfe with this allegation; it cannot but redound to his condemnation and disreputation; And I assure all men, that in any reasonable equalitie of shipping, we cannot desire greater aduantage, then we haue of the Spaniards, by bourding. The reasons why, I hold it not conuenient to discourse in peticular, but experience and tract of time, with that which I haue scene amongst them, hath taught me this knowledge; and those who
haue