

the business of Sir Walter Raleigh's plot; and as she was a great object of popular pity, so upon this occasion, many strange stories were circulated, which served to raise the odium for retaking her; though it was his duty, and what the court ought to have looked upon as an important service^u. The Dutch, too, who were angry with him for his conduct in the narrow seas, found means to do him ill offices; so that upon some very slight pretences he was committed close prisoner to the Tower in 1616^w: but after he had been examined by the chief-justice Coke, and secretary Winwood, he was discharged; and he afterwards wrote a large vindication of his conduct, while admiral in the narrow seas.

He very soon recovered his credit; for in 1617, we find him called to council, in order to give his opinion how the Algerines might be best reduced^x. In the succeeding reign, of which we are now speaking, he had likewise a great interest, and his advice was asked in all maritime affairs; but, as he differed in opinion from those who were then in possession of power and favour, and as he censured the expedition to Rhé, and that against Cadiz, we need not wonder that he was not employed^y. Yet in 1635, when the king came to have better notions of things, and to be truly concerned for his sovereignty of the seas, Sir William Monson was appointed vice-admiral of the fleet, commanded by the earl of Lindsey; which effectually vindicated the king's honour and the rights of the nation^z. After this he spent his days in privacy and peace, and about the year 1640^a, composed that work of his, of which we have made so great use, and of which, considering its subject, I think it cannot be amiss to give a short account.

It is divided into six books, all on different subjects, and yet all equally curious and instructive. The first book is, for the most part, a collection of every year's actions, in the war against Spain, on our own, upon the Spanish coast, and in the West Indies. A brief narrative; for no more is said, but the force they were undertaken with, and the success of the enter-

^u See the introduction to the 2d book of his naval tracts.

^w Camden's annals of King James, in Kennet's complete history of England, vol. iii. p. 646.

^x Sir William Monson's naval tracts, p. 250.

^y Ibid.

p. 258—277.

^z Ibid. p. 290.

^a Ibid. p. 295.