



DEDICATION TO THE FIRST EDITION.

TO THE

RIGHT HONORABLE

SIR FRANCIS WALSINGHAM KNIGHT,

PRINCIPALL SECRETARIE TO HER MAIESTIE, CHANCELLOR OF THE
DUCHIE OF LANCASTER, AND ONE OF HER MAIESTIES
MOST HONOURABLE PRIUE COUNCELL.

RIGHT Honorable, I do remember that being a youth, and one of her Maiesties scholars at Westminster² that fruitfull nurserie, it was my happe to visit the chamber of M. Richard Hakluyt my cosin, a Gentleman of the Middle Temple, well

¹ Born at Chislehurst, Kent, in 1536. He was educated at King's College Cambridge, where he specially devoted himself to the study of languages, in which he became proficient. Appointed Ambassador to Paris in 1570, he distinguished himself by the extensive system of "secret police," or spies, which he established. He was present at the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, which did not excite in his cold diplomatic mind the horror it created in England. On his return in 1573 he became Secretary of State. Ten years later he was Ambassador to James VI. of Scotland, and in 1586 he sat as one of the commissioners on the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. In the matter of the Babbington Conspiracy, he is said to have "outdone the Jesuits in their own law, and overreached them in their equivocation." He died in 1590, in comparative disgrace with his mistress.

² We know little of Richard Hakluyt beyond what we can gather from his writings. He was born at Eyton, in Herefordshire, in 1553; was educated, as we here learn, at Westminster School, and afterwards at Christ Church, Oxford, where geography was his favourite study. In 1584 he went to Paris as Chaplain to the English Embassy, and, during his absence, was made Prebendary of Bristol. On his return he published several works, Leo's "Geographical History of Africa," translated from the Spanish, and Peter Martyr's "History of the West Indies." In 1605 he became Prebendary of Westminster, and Rector of Wetheringset, in Suffolk. He died in 1616. In compiling the present work, Hakluyt had the assistance of Sir Walter Raleigh.