

E A R L O F N O T T I N G H A M . 7

“ stood the instigations of many courageous, and noble captains, who would have persuaded him to lay the Spaniards aboard ; but when he foresaw that the enemy had an army in their fleet, and he none ; and that they exceeded him in number of shipping, and those great in bulk, stronger built, and higher molded ; so that they who, with such Advantage fought from above, might easily distress all opposition below, the slaughter, peradventure, proving more fatal than the victory profitable, by being overthrown, he might have hazarded the kingdom ; whereas, by the conquest, (at most,) he could have boasted of nothing, but glory, and an enemy defeated. But, by sufferance, he always advantaged himself of wind, and tide, which was the freedom of our country, and the security of our navy, with the destruction of the Armada, which in the eye of the ignorant, (who judge of all things, by their external appearance,) seemed invincible, but truly considered, was much inferior to the English fleet, in all things of substance, as the event proved. For, we sunk, spoiled, and took many of them ; yet they diminished of our navy, but one small pinnace, nor any man of name, save only captain Cocke, who died, with honour, amidst his company. The greatest damage that, (as I remember,) they caused to any of our ships, was to the *Swallow*, belonging to her majesty, (which I had, in that action, under my charge,) with an arrow of fire, shot into her beak-head, which we saw not, because of the sail, until it had burned a hole in the rose, as big as a man’s head. The arrow falling out, and driving along by the ship’s side, made us doubt of it, which, afterwards, we discovered.”

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