

So confident were the members of Gilbert's expedition of success, that the learned Hungarian, Stephanus Parmenius Budeius, "Master of Arts and Philosophie," and the "friend & brother" of Hakluyt, was taken in the enterprise, expressly to record the high proceedings of the intended Norombega colony in Latin Verse; as the subject would be adorned with "the eloquent stile of the Orator and rare Poet of our time."* But this was not to be. Parmenius, of Buda, found a watery grave at the wreck of the Admiral, and Norombega remained unsung.

This excursion is made into the period which follows Ferdinando and Walker, to indicate the more distinctly the situation of Norombega, for while some had their attention fixed upon the latitude of the Hudson, these two navigators had distinctly in view the region lying around the great river which appears in a long series of ancient maps, and which was none other than the Penobscot, to which, as already said, Simon Ferdinando the Portuguese led the first known English expedition.

We have next to turn to John Walker and note the abiding faith of Gilbert in the promise of the new land. Circumstances had forced him to transfer his Patent, but he succeeded in sending out a little party to make observations and engage in trade. The voyage made at his instance had for its destination the Maine coast, and the agent employed was one John Walker, afterwards perhaps a clergyman of the English Church. We have seen that a marginal entry in a manuscript in the State Paper Office, already given, runs as follows: "Sir H. Gilbert's man brought of the syds of this beast from the place he discovered."† The beast referred to was of the kind mentioned in the examination of David Ingram, of 1582, and the voyage of discovery was one of recent date. A careful examination shows that the year 1580 was the only one in which such a discovery could have been made for Gilbert, while under that year we have, through Sir Humphrey, the voyage which answers the description, the John Walker referred to having made a voyage to Norombega, where he obtained the "syds" or hides.

In speaking of rivers, the old voyagers seldom made any distinction between the estuary and the river proper. This was clearly the case in the present instance by Walker, who does not appear to have been a navigator; but the rough estimate agrees sufficiently well with the map of the Coast Survey, which gives a width of twenty-one miles to the entrance of Penobscot Bay, between the Isle au Haut and White Head. But the old sailors, in the absence of surveys, might include the distance between White Head and Deer Island, which would correspond to the computation of Walker, who made the Norombega ten leagues wide at its entrance. There is also room for his estimate of seven leagues in width, nine leagues in, as well

* Hakluyt III. 156. Specimens of his "stile" may be found in Hakluyt III. 138.

† *Ante*, page 6.