

The Spanish Armada. Traffiques, and Discoueries.

591

The same in English.

To the reuerend, learned, and vertuous, Master *Hugh Branham* minister of the Church of *Harewich* in *England*, his brother and fellow-pastour, &c.

I much marvelled (even as your selfe, reuerend sir, coniectured that I would) at the first sight of your letters, that being a stranger I should be saluted in writing by one altogether unknown unto mee. Howbeit, reading a litle further, I found my selfe, if not otherwise, yet by name at least (which proceedeth of your courtesie) known unto you: And also, for that I sawe you desirous of the credite and honest report of vs Islanders, I greatly reioyced. Wherefore I my selfe will be a meane, that your vertue and good name (because you congratulate with vs for the Gospel of Christ here published, and doe thinke and write so lovingly and honourably of our nation) may cease hereafter to be unknown amongst vs.

As touching the monuments of antiquitie which are here thought to be extant, there is, in *Byerne*, nothing (except those particulars, whereof mention is made in the Commentary of *Island*, which you write unto me that you haue scene) worthy to be read or written, which I may communicate with you. And as concerning our neighbour Countreys we haue litle to shewe, besides the history of the Kings of *Norway*, (or rather some fragments of the same history) which others haue otherwise described: howbeit they are all in a manner such things as *Cranzius* neuer mentions: vntill it be some fewe relations. Whereouer, as touching *Gronland*, we holde this from the opinion of our auncellours; that, from the extreme part of *Norway*, which is called *Biarmalandia*, and from whence the saide *Gronland* is not farre distant, it fetcheth about the *Byerne* coast of *Island* with an huge circuit in manner of an halfe spoone. Our Chronicles likewise doe testifie that our owne countrey men in times past resorted thither for traffique, and also that the very same countrey of *Gronland* had certaine Bishops in the dayes of *Poperie*. Where then this we cannot auouch. But now it is reported that your Englishmen (whom I may almost call the lordes of the *Ocean* sea) make perrely voyages vnto *Gronland*: concerning which matter if you please to giue me further aduertisement, you shall doe me an especial fauour. Whereouer, whatsoeuer newes you heare concerning the affaires of *England* or of other Countreys thereabout, I pray you make vs acquainted therewith. Thus (reuerend sir) wishing you long life, for the seruice of God, for the increase of learning, and the benefit of the people committed to your charge, I bid you farewell. From *Island* vpon the feast of the visitation of the blessed *Virgine Mary*, Anno Dom. 1595.

Yours *Gudbrandus Thorlacius* Bishop of *Hola* in *Island*.

The miraculous victory atchieued by the English Fleete,

vnder the discreet and happy conduct of the right honourable, right prudent, and valiant lord, the *L. Charles Howard*, L. high Admirall of *England*, &c. Vpon the Spanish huge Armada sent in the yeere 1588, for the inuasion of *England*, together with the wofull and miserable successe of the said Armada afterward, vpon the coasts of *Norway*, of the Scottish Westerne Isles, of *Ireland*, of *Spaine*, of *France*, and of *England*, &c. Recorded in Latine by *Emanuel van Meteren* in the 15. booke of his history of the low Countreys.



Having in part declared the strange and wonderfull euents of the yeere eightie eight, which hath bene so long time forgotten by ancient prophesies; we will now make relation of the most notable and great enterpryse of all others which were in the foresaid yeere atchieued, in order as it was done. Which exploit (although in very deed it was not perished in any part of the low Countreys) was intended for their ruine and destruction. And it was the expedition which the Spanish king, hauing a long time determined the same in his minde, and hauing consulted thereabout with the Pope, set forth and undertooke against *England* and the low Countreys. To the end that he might subdue the Realme of *England*, and reduce it vnto his catholique Religion, and by that meanes might be sufficiently reuenged for the dishonour, which hee (hauing 34. yeeres before enforced them to take deepe impression in his thoughts, and for diuers other injuries which hee had done) had endured of the English nation, and for diuers other injuries which hee had done. And also for that hee deemed this to bee the readie and direct course, whereby hee might recouer his heretarie possession of the low Countreys, hauing restrained the inhabitants from sayling vpon the coast of *England*.

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