

ty giveth exception to all Lawes; and experience teacheth what is fit to bee done.

Master Thomas
Hampton.

Master Thomas Hampton once Generall of a Fleete of *Waslers*, sent to *Rechell*, Anno 1585. with secret instructions, considering (and as a man of experience) wisely vnderstanding his place and affaires, in like case that his Eare to the instigations and provocations of the common sort, preferring the publique good of both Kingdomes before his owne reputation with the vulgar people: And as another *Fabius Maximus*, *cunctando restituit rem, non ponendo rumores ante salutem*. The French Kings Fleete comming where he was, and to winde-ward of him, all his Company were in an vproare; for that, hee would not shoote presently at them, before they saw their intention: wherein had beene committed three great faults: the first and principall, the breach of Amitie, betwixt the Princes and Kingdomes: the second, the neglect of common curtesie, in shooting before hee had spoken with them: and the third, in shooting first, being to lee-wards of the other.

The French
and English
Fleets salute
one another.

Besides there was no losse of reputation, because the French Kings Fleete was in his owne Sea; and therefore for it to come to winde-ward, or the other to goe to lee-ward, was but that, which in reason was required, the Kingdomes being in peace and Amitie: For every Prince is to bee acknowledged and respected in his jurisdiction, and where hee pretendeth it to be his.

The French Generall, likewise seemed well to vnderstand what hee had in hand, for though he were farre superiour in forces, yet vsed hee the termes which were required; and comming within speech hayled them, and asked if there were peace or warre betwixt *England* and *France*: whereunto answere being made, that they knew of no other but peace; they saluted each other after the maner of the Sea, and then came to an Anchor all together; as and friends visited each other in their ships.

The English
carryvp their
flagg in the
French Seas.

One thing the French suffered (vpon what occasion or ground I know not) that the English alwayes carried their flagg displayed; which in all other partes and Kingdomes is not permitted; at least in our Seas, if a Stranger Fleete meete with any of his Maiesties ships, the forraigners are bound to take in their flags, or his Maiesties ships to force them to it, though thereof follow the breach of peace or whatsoever discommodity. And whosoever should not be iecalous in this point, hee is not worthy to haue the command of a Cock-boat committed vnto him: yea no stranger ought to open his flag in any Port of England, where there is any shipp, or Fort of his Maiesties; vpon penaltie to loose his flagg, and to pay

The honour
of his Maie-
sties ships.