

selfe was there, and 450. persons with him, he sent him word that he should peeble himselfe. Valdez for his honours sake caused certaine conditions to be propounded vnto Drake: who answered Valdez that he was not now at lasure to make any long parle, but if he would peeble himselfe, he should find him friendly and tractable: howbeit if he had resolved to die in fight, he should proue Drake to be no bastard.

Upon which answer Valdez and his company vnderstanding that they were fallen into the hands of fortunate Drake, being moued with the renoune and celebritie of his name, with one consent peebled themselves, and found him very fauourable vnto them. Then Valdez with 40. or 50. noblemen and gentlemen pertaining vnto him, came on board Sir Francis Drakes ship. The residue of his company were caried vnto Plimmouth, where they were detained a yere & an halfe for their ranfome.

Don Pedro de Valdez with his ship & company taken.

Valdez comming vnto Drake and humbly kissing his hand protested vnto him, that he and his had resolved to die in battell, had they not by good fortune fallen into his power, whom they knew to be right courteous and gentle, and whom they had heard by generall report to be most fauourable vnto his vanquished foe: insomuch that he sayd it was to bee doubted whether his enemies had more cause to admire and loue him for his great, balliant, and prosperous exploits, or to dread him for his singular felicitie and wisdom, which euer attended vpon him in the warres, and by the which hee had attained vnto so great honour. With that Drake embraced him and gaue him very honourable entertainment, feeding him at his owne table, and lodging him in his rabbitt.

Here Valdez began to recount vnto Drake the forces of all the Spanish Fleet, and how foure mighty Gallies were separated by tempest from them: and also how they were determined first to haue put into Plimmouth haue, not expecting to bee repelled thence by the English ships which they thought could by no meanes withstand their impregnable forces, perswading themselves that by means of their huge Fleete, they were become lords and commanders of the maine Ocean. For which cause they marvelled much how the English men in their small ships durst approach within musket shot of the Spaniards mighty wooden castles, gathering the woad of them with many other such like attempts.

Immediately after, Valdez and his company, being a man of principl authoritie in the Spanish Fleete, and being defended of one and the same familie with that Valdez, which in the yere 1574. besieged Leiden in Holland, were sent captiues into England. There were in the said ship 55. thousand ducates in ready money of the Spaniards kings gold, which the soldiers merly shared among themselves.

The same day was set on fire one of their greatest shippes, being Admirall of the squadron of Guipusco, and being the shippe of Michael de Oquendo Vice-admirall of the whole Fleete, which contained great store of gunnepowder and other warrelike prouision. The upper part onely of this shippe was burnt, and all the persons therein contained (except a very few) were consumed with fire. And thereupon it was taken by the English, and brought into England with a number of miserable burnt and skozched Spaniards. Howbeit the gunpowder (to the great admiration of all men) remained whole and unconsumed.

In the meane season the lord Admirall of England in his ship called the Arke-royall, all the night pursued the Spaniards so neere, that in the morning hee was almost left alone in the enemies Fleete, and it was foure of the clocke at afternoone before the residue of the English Fleet could ouertake him.

At the same time Hugo de Moncada gouernour of the foure Gallies, made humble suit vnto the Duke of Medina that he might be licenced to encounter the Admirall of England: which libertie the duke thought not good to permit vnto him, because hee was loth to exceed the limits of his commission and charge.

Upon Tuesday which was the thye and twentie of Iuly, the navy being come ouer against Portland, the wind began to turne Northerly, insomuch that the Spaniards had a favourable and fit gale to invade the English. But the Englishmen hauing lesser and nimble ships, recovered againe the vantage of the wind from the Spaniards, whereat the Spaniards seemed to bee more incensed to fight then before. But when the English Fleete had continually and without intermission from morning to night, beaten and battered them with all their shot both great and small: the Spaniards vniuing themselves, gathered their whole Fleete close together into a roundell, so that it was apparant that they ment not as yet to invade others, but onely to defend themselves and to make halt vnto the place prescribed vnto them, which was neere vnto Dunkerk, that they might loose forces with the duke of Parma, who was determined to haue proceeded secretly with his small shippes vnder the shadow

A great Spanish maine ship taken by the English.

The 23. of July.

and protection of the petition.

This was the most land continued fighting, hee spake vnto his frustrate my hope and woides hee being enst of a most balliant Captaine many Sea-fighes.

In this conflict there taken by the English.

The English nauie Realme restored ships a field, where immortal fa vnto their piuce and cor

In which number of Oxford, of Northum to wit, Sir Thomas Cecil, Sir Horatio Pal Blunt, Master Ambrosio, Master Henry Dudley, Woodhouse, Master Wlish shippes amounted vnto creased to an hundred and counter with the Spaniards which onely, by reason of the the power of the English Fleetland.

The foure and twentie was onely betwene the fo with Dares, had great baur that would not bee forced e bies and Tordage of the Ga constrained to send their m were in great scarcitie, b mer conflicts.

The same day, a Counse bee deuised into foure squa call: the second, to Sir Fra time Froisher.

The Spaniards in their foure, and sometimes more ship ger and greater ships protectin

The five and twentie of Wight, the lord Admirall of E Capaine whereof was the lord ment of Sir Robert Southw lord Sheffield nephew vnto the Galeon Leicester vnder the fo full thundering of shot, encounte Which when the Spaniard per entered a terrible combate wit mutually discharged all theie parts one of another.

At length the Spaniards bo into the forme of a roundel. In a most dangerous conflict. Altho hee was balliantly and discreetly b