

Meantime, on board the remaining vessels, there was much suffering, and Sir Humphrey was obliged to yield to the general desire, and sail for England, having "compassion upon his poor men, in whom he saw no lack of good will, but of means fit to perform the action they came for." He promised his subordinate officers to set them forth "royally the next spring," if God should spare them. But it was not so to be.

Sir Humphrey Gilbert was entreated, when one day he had come on board the *Hinde*, to remain there, instead of risking himself "in the frigate, which was overcharged with nettage, and small artillery," to which he answered, "I will not forsake my little company going homewards, with whom I have passed so many storms and perils." A short time afterwards, while experiencing "foul weather and terrible seas, breaking short and high, pyramidwise, men which all their life had occupied the sea never saw it more outrageous," the frigate was nearly engulfed, but recovered. Gilbert, sitting abaft with a book in his hand, cried out to the crew of the *Hinde* in the following noble words, so often since recorded in poetry and prose: "Courage, my lads! We are as near to heaven by sea as by land!" That same night the lights of the little vessel were suddenly missed, and Gilbert and his gallant men were engulfed in the depths for ever. Of such men we may appropriately say with the poet Campbell—

"The deck it was their field of fame,
And Ocean was their grave."

The *Hinde* reached Falmouth in safety, though sadly shattered and torn.

But the spirit of enterprise then prevailing was not to be easily quashed, and only a few months after the failure of poor Gilbert's enterprise, we find Sir Walter Raleigh in the field. He obtained letters of patent similar to those before mentioned, and was aided by several persons of wealth, particularly Sir Richard Greenville and Mr. William Saunderson. Two barks, under Captains Amadas and Barlow, were sent to a part of the American continent north of the Gulf of Florida, and after skirting the coast for one hundred and twenty miles, a suitable haven was found, the land round which was immediately taken for the queen with the usual formalities. After sundry minor explorations they returned to England, where they gave a glowing account of the country. It was "so full of grapes that the very beating and surge of the sea overflowed them." The vegetation was so rich and abundant that one of the captains thought that "in all the world the like abundance is not to be found," while the woods were full of deer and smaller game. The cedars were "the highest and reddest in the world," while among smaller trees was that bearing "the rind of black cinnamon." The inhabitants were kind and gentle, and void of treason, "handsome and goodly people in their behaviour, as mannerly and civil as any of Europe." It is true that "they had a mortal malice against a certain neighbouring nation; that their wars were very cruel and bloody, and that by reason thereof, and of civil dissensions which had happened of late years amongst them, the people were marvellously wasted, and in some places the country left desolate." These little discrepancies were passed over, and Elizabeth was so well pleased with the accounts brought home, that she named the country Virginia; not merely because it was discovered in the reign of a virgin queen, but "because it did still seem to retain the virgin purity and plenty