

In the famous expedition to Cadiz, in the year 1596, he was captain of the *Repulse*, the earl of Essex's own ship, to whom he did great service, by his wife and moderate counsel, and was, therefore, very deservedly knighted¹. In the Island-voyage he commanded the *Rainbow*; and if the earl of Essex had then followed the informations he gave him, he had certainly taken most of the Spanish galleons^m. In 1599, he had the command of the *Defiance* in the Downs, and in 1602, being vice-admiral, he had the good luck to take a great carrack of 1600 tons, which, with its cargo, was worth a million of pieces of eightⁿ. In 1602 he was at sea again, and had the command of a squadron, in which, though he performed no great service, yet he brought it home safely through many perils^o. I have not gone into the particulars of these services, because they have been all of them treated at large already, and with due respect to the accounts given of them by this gentleman in his writings; so that to have entered into the circumstances of them, would have involved us in needless repetitions.

At the accession of King James, no seaman appeared to have a fairer title to his favour than Sir William Monson, whose attachment to his interest had engaged the Lords of the privy-council to place an extraordinary confidence in his management of the fleet, of which we have before taken notice^p. It does not, however, appear, that Sir William throughout the course of that reign received any extraordinary gratifications, but rather the contrary. He had the charge of the narrow seas for twelve years, that is, from the beginning of the year 1604, to the year 1616, in which time he did remarkable service^q, in supporting the honour of the English flag against the encroachments of the Dutch and French, and in his remarkable voyage round Great Britain and Ireland, to scour the seas of pirates, of which likewise we have given an account in its proper place^r.

After so many and so great services rendered to the crown, and so many years spent in duty to his country, Sir William

¹ Ibid. p. 184.

^m Ibid. p. 189.

ⁿ See the naval history of

Queen Elizabeth, vol. i. p. 496, 497.

^o Sir William Monson's naval

tracts, p. 189.

^p Naval hist. of King James, in this vol. p. 454.

^q Ibid.

p. 459.

^r Ibid. p. 465.