

every British patriot to swell with proper pride. He sings of an event which marks the commencement of Britain's naval supremacy, when a handful of British merchantmen, overthrew, with God's aid, the enormous power of the greatest Empire of the age. There were giants in those days. We may boast our Wellingtons and Nelsons, and talk of Roberts and Kitchener, but though not less great, they are certainly not greater than the Drakes and Howards, the Hawkins and Grenvilles of the days of good Queen Bess.

Attend all ye who list to hear our noble England's praise ;
I tell of the thrice-famous deeds she wrought in ancient
days,

When that great fleet, invincible, against her bore in vain
The richest spoils of Mexico, the stoutest hearts of Spain.

It was about the lovely close of a warm, summer day,
There came a gallant merchant-ship full sail to Plymouth
Bay:

Her crew had seen Castile's black fleet, beyond Aurigny's
Isle,

At earliest twilight, on the waves lie heaving many a mile.
At sunrise she escaped their van, by God's especial grace;
And the tall Pinta, till the noon, had held her close in chase.
Forthwith a guard at every gun was placed along the wall.
The beacon blazed upon the roof of Edgecumbe's lofty hall;