

“ of all these grave authorities, a moment’s consideration will show that the words relied on do in themselves prove that knighthood had not been conferred. It is scarcely necessary to follow up this suggestion by stating, that in reference to one who had received that honour, they would have been, not *Militis Aurati* but *Equitis Aurati*. Though the term *Miles* is sometimes applied in old documents even to Peers, yet, as a popular designation, the language of the inscription negatives the idea of knighthood. In the very works immediately connected with the subject of the present volume, the appropriate phrase perpetually occurs. Thus, *Equus Auratus* is used to designate Sir Humphrey Gilbert (Hakluyt, vol. iii. p. 137) ; Sir Hugh Willoughby, ib. p. 142 ; Sir Martin Frobisher, ib. p. 142 ; Sir Francis Drake, ib. p. 143. In the dedication of Lok’s translation of Peter Martyr, it is in like manner used, and we see it at this moment on the ‘ Effigies’ of Sir Walter Raleigh, prefixed to the first edition of his History of the World. It will probably be deemed very superfluous to refer to Selden’s Titles of Honour (p. 830) for a confirmation of what has been stated. The weight of censure must fall on Purchas, who was originally guilty of the blunder.”*

One would have thought that the writer must have been very sure of the ground on which he stood before he ventured to assume so lofty and decisive a tone,—and yet we are altogether at a loss for expressions which may mark courteously, and yet strongly, the combination of error, ignorance, and absurdity presented by this extraordinary sentence. He first argues, that the words *Miles Auratus* are never used to denote a knight; and, secondly, that where they are used, they “ do in themselves prove that knighthood had not been conferred.” Now, fortunately, the biographer allows that Sir Humphrey Gilbert was a knight, indeed he is one of his own examples of *Equites Aurati*. Keeping this in mind, we request him to turn to Holland’s celebrated and well-known work, the *Heroologia Angliæ*, containing the engraved portraits of the most eminent English warriors, navigators, statesmen, and ecclesiastical reformers, who flourished in England from 1500 to 1620. He will there find, at p. 65, vol. i., a

* Memoir of Cabot, p. 183.