

that were against us. The command was given to Lord Howard, a man famous for courage and nautical skill, and his first Vice-Admiral was the world-wide famous Drake, the bold warrior and circumnavigator, of whom his men sang :

" Sir Drake whom well the world's ends knew,
 " Which them did compass round,
 " And whom both poles of Heaven once saw
 " Which north and south do bound ;
 " The stars above will make thee known
 " If men here silent were,
 " The sun himself cannot forget
 " His fellow-traveller."

While Phillip was making his vast preparations, Drake asked permission to visit the coast of Spain. The Queen could trust him, and said, go. He unexpectedly fell upon the port of Cadiz, burned up the shipping, took the treasure and provisions, and returned in safety and uninjured home. He had destroyed 100 vessels and delayed the expedition full twelve months.

The English council of war pointed out the places most likely to tempt the Spaniard to land. These were fortified and manned. Then the commercial towns were asked to furnish ships and re-inforcements to the Royal navy. They asked of London fifteen ships and 5,000 men, but, such was the loyalty and devotion of the city, it sent in twenty-nine ships and 23,000 men. The name of one ship was the "*May Flower*." Could it be that this was the same that subsequently landed the Pilgrims on Plymouth rock? Truly it must have been a true Protestant vessel from its very birth. Other towns followed the example of London. When all was completed they had 80 ships, but few of them, however, were men of war and most of them quite small. The army numbered about 79,000 men, distributed over the south coast, and at Tilbury and London.

At this critical moment the first English newspaper appeared. It is said to be preserved in the British museum, and to be a strange looking thing. Its articles, however, are stirring. 1st. There is a long account of the terrible Inquisition ; 2nd. A detailed account of the monstrosities of St. Bartholomew ; and, 3rd. A full account of the engines of torture the Armada was taking on. The Government proclaimed a fast, and the whole nation repaired to the house of God and humbled itself as one man in the presence of God. After this Her Majesty repaired to Tilbury, and delivered her famous speech to the soldiers, by which the enthusiasm of the army was fanned to a flame. Her Council had tried to dissuade her, but to no purpose, and the wisdom of her course was afterwards applauded of all.

The army and navy ever remembered it with enthusiasm, and the bravest of the brave never doubted but her bravery was above all.

On the 29th of May, 1588, the Armada sailed from Lisbon for the Tigris, the place of general rendezvous for the whole fleet, but misfortune was at hand. The First Admiral died, and a day or two after the second in command died also. This necessitated trusting the ponderous fleet to less experienced hands. The day after sailing a storm arose which did much damage, and the fleet had to put back into the harbor of Corunna. Soon after putting to sea a second time it came up with a fishing smack, the master of which told the Spaniard the English had been at sea, and, hearing of the storm, and thinking the enterprise abandoned for the season, had gone into winter quarters. This led him to disregard his order and sail direct for Plymouth, with an easy task, as he supposed, of taking possession of the whole English fleet, and proclaiming Phillip king of all the country.