

there was another conference, when Adrian Gilbert, John Davis, Mr. Alderman Barnes, Mr. Towerson, Mr. Yong, and Mr. Hudson again discussed the possibility of a passage to Cathay.<sup>1</sup>

No sooner had all hope of the return of Sir Humphrey been abandoned, than Adrian Gilbert petitioned the Queen for Letters Patent empowering him to organize an expedition to seek the North-West Passage. This was Sir Humphrey's original idea, but, as we have seen, had been abandoned by him for a full colonization scheme. Letters Patent were therefore granted on February 6, 1584, to Adrian Gilbert and his associates, who were to be known as "The colleagues of the fellowship for the discovery of the Northwest Passage." The original petition was in the name of Adrian Gilbert, John Dee, and John Davis, and included a request for liberty to colonize. A first draft of the Letters Patent substitutes Walter Raleigh for John Dee, but the final document, as executed, drops the colonization portion and is in the name of Adrian Gilbert only. Under this patent John Davis made his ever-memorable voyages to the North-west. The expeditions were financed chiefly by William Saunderson, whose wife was Sir Walter Raleigh's niece, being the daughter of his step-sister. Saunderson also bore the brunt of the expense of Sir Walter Raleigh's expeditions, being at one time security for him for over £100,000.

While Adrian Gilbert was thus prompt to take up one portion of Sir Humphrey's plans, Walter Raleigh was equally eager to appropriate another. The date of the expiry of Sir Humphrey's patent was June 11, 1584, but it must have been realized at once that there was no possibility for exercising the rights under the patent in the short time that remained. All Sir Humphrey's sub-leases became invalid with his patent; and Sir Philip Sidney, Sir George Peckham, Sir Thomas Gerrard, John

<sup>1</sup> Could this by any chance have been Henry Hudson?