

as farre from vs as they could, and the they purchaſed their owne ſafety, or rather by eaſing themſelves for the time. Of them all two faire ſhips only were boorded and taken by our men with moſt of their furniture in them, the one called *S. Marthy*, a ſhip by eſtimation of ſome rix hundred tunne, and the other *S. Andrew*, being a ſhip of not much leſſer burthen. The Gallies ſaw this ſuddaine great victorious ouerthrow, made all the haſt they could toward the *Puente de Suazo*, and there ſhewed themſelves in ſuch ſort as our ſhippes could not by any means poſſible come nigh themſelves for lacke of water.

The Spaniſh ſhips in all were fix, & as is ſayd, all tall ſhips & very richly furniſhed and appointed, whereof ſome of them were bound for the Indies, and other ſtraighten and ſummed for Liſbon, as themſelves affirme: and had we not come that very time that we did, (which in my part, I do not attribute ſo much unto meere chance, as to ſome ſecret deepe miſight and true intelligence) we had certainly miſt of them all.

Of what great wealth and riches theſe ſhips were, that I leaue to other men (who ſhould report, but ſure I am, that themſelves offered two millions and a halfe of ducats for the redemption of the goods and riches that were in them: which offer of theirs, albeit it was accepted of the Lordes Generall, and ſhould haue bene received, yet we were defeated of it, as hereafter ſhall be more at large declared.

What manner of fight this was, & with what courage perſormed, and with what terror to the holder continued, where ſo many thundering tearing peeces were ſo long a time diſcharged, I leave it to the Reader to thinke & imagine. Yet ſuch was the great mercy & goodnes of our God, that in all this cruell terrible fight, in the end, there were not either ſlaine or hurt by any manner of meanes (excepting one miſchance that happened, where of I will by & by make mention) many above the number of 100. of our men: notwithstanding diuers of our ſhippes were ſometimes ſhot thorow and thorow: yea and ſome of them no leſſe then two and twentie times, as was enſormed by credible report of the Captaines and Spallers themſelves. It had bene any other hurt done, ſaving onely that Sir Robert Southwell, who alwayes ſtoode by the moſt valiant reſolute knight in all this action, making a litle too much haſte with his ſword, boorded the Philip, had there his ſaid ſword burne with the Philip at the ſame inſtant, and by good care and diligence his men were ſaved.

One other miſchance (as I ſaid) there happened, and it was thus: One of the ſmall ſhips, who had, in all the conflict beſore, carried himſelfe very well and valiantly, about ten o'clocke while the fight continued ſharpeſt, chanced by great negligence and miſfortune, to be red and blowen up by his owne powder, who could not haue any ſeiver in him, then one hundred fighting men by all ſuppoſall, and ſo in the very twinkling of an eye, both ſhippe and men all caſt away, excepting vii. or viii. which by very good fortune, and great care and diligence ſome of the other ſhips were ſaved.

Immediatly upon this notable victorie without any farther ſtay in all the world, the Lordes Generall the Earle of Eſſex put to ſhore, and landed about 3000. foot, & pikemen: of the which the one halfe was preſently diſpatched to the bridge Puente de Suazo, under the command of three moſt famous worthy knights, Sir Chriſtopher Blunt, Sir Coniers Clifford, & Sir Thomas Gerard: with the other halfe, being about ſixtene hundred, the moſt noble Earle himſelfe, being accompanied with diuers other honorable Lordes, namely the Earle of the Lord Harbert, the Lord Burck, Count Lodowick of Naſſaw, the Lord Partiaſſ, Sir Vere, with many other worthy knights, and men of great regard, who all in that day did moſt valiantly behaue themſelves, with all expedition poſſible marched on foot into the towne of Cadiz, which was about three Engliſh miles march. That time of the day was very hot and ſaine, and the way was all of dry deepe ſtying ſand in a manner, and was very vneuen, and by that meanes ſo tireſome and painefull as might be. The ſmall reaſonable companie both of horſe and footemen, ſtoode in a readineſſe ſome good while without the towne to welcome vs, and to encounter the Lordes Generall. But the famous Earle with his valiant Troopes, rather running in deede in good order, than haſtened on them with ſuch unſpeakable courage and celeritie, as within one houre he leſſe, the horſemen were all diſcomfited and put to flight, their leader being ſtrucken at the very firſt encounter, whereat the footemen being wonderfully diſmayed and miſt at the unexpected manner of the Engliſhmens kinde of ſuch ſtrength and ſight, reſcued themſelves with all the ſpeed poſſible that they could, to recouer them into the towne againe, which being done by them, with farre ſwifter legges then we rage, our men were enforced to ſhale the walles: which thing in very deepe, although it