

taking end, I sent Instructions and Directions to my other Ships. Which is a poynt of speciall importance; for that I haue seene Commanders of great name and reputation, by neglect and omission of such solemnities, to haue runne into many inconveniences, and thereby haue learnt the necessitie of it. Whereby I cannot but advise all such, as shall haue charge committed vnto them, ever before they depart out of the Port, to giue vnto their whole Fleete, not onely Directions for civill government, but also where, when, and how to meete, if they should chance to loose company, and the signes how to know one another a-far off, with other poynts and circumstances, as the occasions shall minister matter different, at the discretion of the wise Commander.

The consequence of Instructions at departure.

But some one may say vnto me, that in all occasions it is not convenient to giue Directions: for that, if the enemy happen vpon any of the Fleete, or that there be any treacherous person in the company, their Designements may be discovered, and so prevented.

To this I answer, that the prudent Governour, by good consideration may avoyde this, by publication of that which is good and necessarie for the guide of his Fleete and people; by all secret instructions, to giue them sealed, and not to be opened, but comming to a place appoynted, (after the manner of the Turkish direction to the *Bashawes*, who are their Generalls;) and in any eminent perill to cast them by the boord, or otherwise to make away with them. For he that setteth Sayle, not giving directions in writing to his Fleete, knoweth not if the night or day following, he may be separated from his Company; which happeneth sometimes: and then, if a place of meeting be not knowne, he runneth in danger not to ioyne them together againe.

And for places of meeting, when seperation happeneth, I am of opinion, to appoynt the place of meeting in such a height, twentie, or thirtie, or fortie Leagues off the Land, or Iland. East, or West, is not so fitting, if the place afford it, as some sound betwixt Ilands, or some Iland, or Harbour.

It may be alledged in contradiction, and with probable reason, that it is not fit for a Fleete to stay in a Harbour for one Ship, nor at an Anchor at an Iland, for being discovered, or for hinderance of their Voyage.

Objections against meeting in Harbours.

Yet it is the best; for when the want is but for one or two ships, a Pynace or Ship may wayte the time appoynted, and remaine with direction for them. But commonly one Ship, though but a bad Sayler, maketh more hast then a whole Fleete, and is at the meeting place first, if the accident be not very important.

Answered.