

break down-wards, the violence wherewith the fire breaketh out is such, and of so strange an execution, that men have bene found dead, without any outward signe in their flesh, and yet all their bones burnt to dust. So the blade of the sword hath bene found broken all to peeces in the scabard, and the scabard whole without blemish: And a cristall glasse all shivered in peeces, his cover and case remaining sound, which commeth to passe, for that in the flesh, in the scabard, and in the case, the fire being so subtil of nature, findeth easie passage without resistance, but the bones, the blade, the Cristall, being of substance more solide, maketh greater resistance, and so the fire with the more fury worketh the more his execution in its objects. As was seene in the Spanish Admirall (or Captaine) after my imprisonment, crossing from *Panama* to *Cape San Francisco*, a Rayo (for so the Spaniards call a thunder-clappe) brake over our shippe, killed one in the fore-toppe, astonished either two or three in the shroudes, and split the Mast in strange manner; where it entred, it could hardly be discerned; but where it came forth, it draue out a great splinter before it; and the man slaine, was cleane in a manner without signe or token of hurt, although all his bones turned to powder, and those who liued, and recovered, had all their bodies blacke, as burnt with fire, which plainly declareth and confirmeth that above said, and may serue to iudge in such occasions of persons hurt with thunder: for if they complaine of their bones, and have little signe of the fire, their hazard of death is the greater, then when the fire hath left greater impressions outward. The fire out of a cloude worketh like effect only, where it leueleth directly, as experience daily teacheth; killing those who are opposite, hurting those who are neere, And only terrifying those who are further distant.

In like manner the peece of Ordinance hurteth not those which stand aside, nor those which stand a slope from his mouth, but those alone which stand directly against the true point of his leuell: though sometimes the winde of the shott ouerthroweth one, and the splinters (being accidents) mayne and hurt others. But principally where the peece doth resemble the thunderclappe: as when the shippes are bourded. For then, although the Artillery be discharged without shott, the fury of the fire, and his piercing nature is such, as it entreteth by the seames, and all parts of the ships sides, and meeting with so fit matter as Pitch, Tarre, Ocombe, and sometimes with powder, presently conuerteth all into flames.

For auoyding whercof, as also the danger and damage which