

age of Ferdinando also gain some notice, though of the details of the voyage itself nothing can be learned at present.

It appears that, in 1577, "Simon Ferdinando a Portuguese," was called at Cardiff to testify with respect to the piracy of "John Callice and other pirates." Ferdinando says that he sailed with "Callic" or "Callice," two years previous as pilot, Callice having "a shipp at Rye prepared to passe to the Indians," meaning the West Indies; and that a Portuguese ship was plundered, though, being sick, he was not charged with complicity. He says that they met the Portuguese vessel when "travelling towards America." Some time after, evidently in 1576, he "bought a little bark," and made a profitless cruise towards the Canaries. This vessel cost him "forty marks," and was probably the "little ffrigate" in which he sailed to New England. Afterwards he was cast into jail "upon suspicion of heresy," though he was liberated and became Secretary "Walsingham's man."

Upon his return he appears to have been interested in matters that concerned Frobisher; and, November 7th, 1581, he addressed a letter to that adventurer.* The following year, May 1st, he was mustered as first pilot in the "galleon Leicester"† under Fenton, bound to the Moluccas; also serving as pilot to the Virginia expeditions of 1585 and 1587. Ferdinando, according to Lane, possessed "grete skylle and grete government," and was a trusty man. With the notice of this voyage, set on foot apparently by Secretary Walsingham, Simon Ferdinando passes out of sight until 1585, when he sailed to Virginia. Nevertheless he performed his part, and deserves honorable mention amongst those worthies who, by their labors and sacrifices, prepared the way for the occupation of New England.‡

* British Museum MSS., VIII. Otho, fol. 100.

† *Ibid*, fol. 205.

‡ In 1577 Cardiff, Wales, had become the headquarters of a large gang of pirates, sixty of whom had their maintainers there, and, though well known, the town's people were unwilling to give information. April 3d, of that year, a Commission sat to examine the matter, and on March 17th Ferdinando testified. The following was drawn by the author from the dingy archives:

"The said Simon fferdinando sayeth that he knoweth Callice and hath knowen him the space of these three or four yeares last past but he went not to sea wth him vntill wthin these two yeares ffor he sayeth that aboutes Michelmas was two yeares the said Callice sent for this Exaiat then being at London and then declared to the Exaiat [Examinant] that Mr Harry Knowles had a shipp at Rye prepared to passe to the Indians and that this Exaiat should be Pylatt thereof yf he lysted and that the same was the request of the said Mr Knowles, and in dedee to that effect the said Mr Knowles did speake to this Exaiat himself and sayeth that according to that request this Examinant take vpon him to be Pylatt of w^{ch} shipp the said Callice was Mr and one fferdinando was Capitaine.

And we traveling to the seas ffor want of weather they taryed long vpon the coast of England and by reason thereof spent much of their victual and yet in the end travelling towordes America they met wth a Portingall vpon the costes of the land of Portingall and from him they toke aboutes 100 chestes of Sugar being part of his loding and haveling gotten that pryse they arvyed wth the same at the rofe of Penmarth besyde Cardief in the Countie of Glamorgan aboutes Allhalowtide [Nov. 1] last was two yeres the said Callice the Mr and fferdinando the Captayne made sail thereof to divers persons to whome certainly he knoweth not ffor he this Exaiat was then and for this tyme the shipp laye there at rode was very like to have died and more touching the circumstances of that journey he cannot saye saving that they gave this exaiat tenne pounds of the commodity they had by the sale of that sugar.