

this resolution : " Be content," said he to them, " we have seen enough ; take no thought of the expenses which we have incurred. If the Almighty should permit us to reach England in safety, I will set you out royally in the course of the next spring ; therefore I pray you, let us no longer strive here where we fight against the elements."

On the first of September the vessels changed their course and steered for England, and on the second they passed in sight of Cape Race. Some days afterwards Sir Humphrey went on board of the *Golden Hind*, in order to have his foot dressed for a wound received by accidentally treading upon a nail. The wind was violent, and the ocean so extremely agitated, that Captain Hayes and the whole of his associates and crew, who every moment expected that the *Squirrel* would be swallowed up, earnestly entreated Sir Humphrey to remain on board their vessel. He, however, instantly departed, declaring that no consideration should induce him to quit the vessel and the brave associates with whom he had encountered so many dangers. On the ninth of September the *Squirrel* sunk, and was seen no more. In the course of the preceding evening Sir Humphrey had been observed unmoved in the stern of his ship with a book in his hand. Some *philosophical* historians adduce this as an instance of his ardent love of knowledge, which did not forsake him even in the extremity of danger ; while others suppose the book which he had then in his hands to have been one of a religious kind ; and this supposition seems to agree much better than the former, with the words which he was at the same time frequently heard to repeat with a loud voice : " Courage, my lads, we are as near heaven at sea as we are on land."

Such was the fate of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, " than whom," say the authors of the *Biographia Nautica*, " few persons in that era were more distinguished by exalted understanding and undaunted resolution. He was in a manner the parent of all our plantations, being the first who introduced a legal