

The Spaniards
arbo vaine as
vaine counte-
ing their own
flie.

It seemeth that the Duke of Parma and the Spaniards grounded upon a vaine and presumptuous expectation, that all the ships of England and of the Low countreys would at the first sight of the Spanish and Dunkirk flottes haue betaken themselves to flight, peeling their sea route, and endeavouring onely to defend themselves, their hauens, and sea coasts from invasion. Therefore their meane and purpose was, that the Duke of Parma in his small and flat-bottomed shippes, should as it were under the shadow and wings of the Spanish fleet, conuey over all land; or while the English fleet were buſied in fight against the Spaniards, should invade England the coast, which he thought to be most conuenient. Which invasion (as the captiues afterwards confessed) the Duke of Parma thought first to haue attempted by the river of Thames; by which on the banks whereof hauing at his first arrivall landed twenty or thirtie thousand of his principal soldiers, he supposed that he might easily haue woonne the Citie of London; both because his small shippes should haue followed and assisted his land forces, and also for that the Citie is situate in a narrow strait, and easie to overcome, by reason of the Citizens delicacies, who with continuall and constant labour might be vanquished, if they yielded not at the first assault. They were in good hope also to haue mette with some rebels against her Maiestie, and such as were discontented with the present state, as Parma was not long before put to death; all which they thought would haue stirred by seditions and factions.

Whenas therefore the Spanish fleet rode at anchor before Caleis, to the end they might consult with the Duke of Parma what was best to be done according to the Kings commandement, and the present estate of their affaires, and had now (as we will afterwards declare) purposed by the second of August being Friday, with one power and consent to haue put their intended business in practice; the L. Admirall of England being admonished by her Maiesties letters from the Court, thought it most expedient either to drive the Spanish fleet from that place, or at least to give them the encounter: and for that cause (according to her Maiesties prescription) heooke forth with eight of his woollst & best ships which came next to hand, & disburthening them of all things which seemed to be of any value, filled them with gun-powder, pitch, brimstone, and sulphur, he sent the said ships upon the 28 of July being Sunday, about two of the clocke after midnight, with the winde and tide against the Spanish fleet: which when they had proceeded a good space, being forsaken of the Pilots, and set on fire, were directly carried upon the King of Spaines Maite; which fire in the dead of the night put the Spaniards into such a perplexity and horror (for they feared lest they were like unto those terrible ships, which Frederic Ienebelli had furnished with gun-powder, stones, and dead men, for the dissolution of the Duke of Parma his bridge, built upon the river of Scheld) that cutting their cables whereon their anchors were fastened, and hoisting up their sailes, they betooke themselves very confusedly unto the maine sea.

The 28 of
July.

In this sudden confusion, the principall and greatest of the foure galliasses falling fowle of another, she lost her rudder: for which cause when she could not be guided any longer, she was by the force of the tide cast into a certaine shoald upon the shore of Caleis, where she was immediately assailed by diuers English pinnasses, hoes, and drumblers.

The galli-
ass of Hugo de
Moncada cast
upon the
shoald be-
fore Caleis.

And as they lay battering of her with their ordinance, and durst not boord her, the L. Admirall sent thither his long boat with an hundred choise soldiers under the command of Captaine Amias Preston. Upon whose approach their fellows being more emboldened, did offer to boord the galliass: against whom the gouernour thereof and Captaine of all the foure galliasses, Hugo de Moncada, stoutly opposed himselfe, fighting by so much the more valiantly, in that he had endured the conflict a good while, being hitte on the head with a bullet, fell downe sharke-wise, and a great number of Spaniards also were slaine in his company. The greater part of the residue leaping over-board into the sea, to saue themselves by swimming, were most of them taken in the Spanish fleet (called by them their Veador generall) together with a few Spaniards first into Spaine.

Amias Preston
valiantly
boorded the
galliass.

This huge and monstrous galliass, wherein were contained three hundred slaues to tug at the oars, and four hundred soldiers, was in the space of three houres rifled in the same place; and there were found amongst diuers other commodities, 50000 ducats of the Spaniards kings treasure.