

achieved in her life-time. On the rest of the islands there were cast away in this storm fifteen or sixteen more of the ships of war; and of an hundred and odd sail of the India fleet, expected this year in Spain, what in this tempest, and what before in the bay of Mexico, and about the Bermudas, there were 70 and odd consumed and lost, with those taken by our ships of London, besides one very rich Indian ship, which set herself on fire, being boarded by the Pilgrim, and five others taken by master Wats his ships of London, between the Havanna and Cape St. Antonio. The fourth of this month of November we received letters from the Tercera, affirming that there are three thousand bodies of men remaining in that island, saved out of the perished ships; and that by the Spaniards own confession, there are ten thousand cast away in this storm, besides those that are perished between the islands and the main. Thus it hath pleased God to fight for us, and to defend the justice of our cause against the ambitious and bloody pretences of the Spaniards, who, seeking to devour all nations, are themselves devoured. A manifold testimony how unjust and displeasing their attempts are in the sight of God, who hath pleased to witness, by the success of their affairs, his mislike of their bloody and injurious designs, purposed and practised against all christian princes, over whom they seek unlawful and ungodly rule and empire.

One day or two before this wreck happened to the Spanish fleet, when as some of our prisoners desired to be set on shore upon the islands, hoping to be from thence transported into England, which liberty was formerly by the general promised, one Morice Fitz John, son of old John of Desmond, a notable traitor, cousin german to the late earl of Desmond, was sent to the English from ship to ship, to persuade them to serve the king of Spain. The arguments he used to induce them were these. The increase of pay, which he promised to be trebled: advancement to the better sort: and the exercise of the true Catholic religion, and safety of their souls to all. For the first, even the beggarly and unnatural behaviour of those English and Irish rebels, that served the king in that present action, was sufficient to answer that first argument of rich pay. For so poor and beggarly they were, as for want of apparel they stripped their poor countrymen prisoners out of their ragged garments, worn to nothing by six months service, and spared not to despoil them even of their bloody shirts, from their wounded bodies, and the very shoes from their feet; a notable testimony of their rich entertainment and great wages. The second reason was hope of advancement if they served well, and would continue faithful to the king. But what man can be so blockishly ignorant ever to expect place or honour from a foreign king, having no other argument or persuasion than his own disloyalty; to be unnatural to his own country that bred him; to his parents that begat him; and rebellious to his true prince, to whose obedience he is bound by oath, by nature, and by religion? No, they are only assured to be employed in all desperate enterprizes, to be held in scorn and disdain even among those whom they serve. And that ever traitor was either trusted or advanced I could never yet read, neither can I at this time remember any example. And no man could have less become the place of an orator for such a purpose than this Morice of Desmond. For the earl his cousin being one of the greatest subjects in that kingdom of Ireland, having almost whole counties in his possession, so many goodly manors, castles, and lordships, the count palatine of Kerry, five hundred gentlemen of his own name and family to follow him, besides others (all which he and his ancestors possessed in peace for three or four hundred years) was, in less than three years after his adhering to the Spaniards and rebellion, beaten from all his holds, not so many as ten gentlemen of his name left living, himself taken and beheaded by a soldier of his own nation, and his land given by a parliament to her majesty, and possessed by the English: his other cousin, sir John