

up, and he wrote urgent letters to his friends, begging them to get him released. In one of these he says "I live to trouble you at this time, being become like a fish cast on dry land, gasping for breath, with lame legs and lamer lungs." But before long he had to be set free from the Tower to go down into Devon. A fleet that he had sent out to fight the Spanish ships had returned, bringing a mighty Spanish treasure ship loaded with silks, carpets, rubies, pearls, porcelain, ivory and spices. This prize was brought into Dartmouth, and such was the excitement, and so many London merchants hurried down to try to get a share of the spoils, that it was clear that no one but Raleigh could keep order and preside over the division of the treasure. So he was sent down to Dartmouth, but still, as he said to his brother, "the Queen's poor captive." However, the Queen was prevailed upon to pardon him.

Almost at once he began to prepare for a new adventure, and in 1595, he sailed with five ships for Trinidad. He wanted to explore Guiana (a country including much more than the Guiana of our days), and, if possible, prevent it and its rich mines from becoming a possession of the King of Spain. He sailed up the Orinoco, enduring great hardships, but learning many facts about the country and its products. He brought back to England some gold bearing ore, and intended to go back in the following year. But when 1596 came he was called on to command a squadron in the expedition sent against Spain under the command of Lord Howard of Effingham and the Earl of Essex. It was largely owing to Raleigh's judgment and courage that the Spanish fleet was defeated and the town of Cadiz taken by the English. No less praiseworthy are the tact and courtesy by which Raleigh succeeded in persuading his bitter rival, Essex, to work in harmony with him. Besides the admiral's consistent hatred of Spain, as an enemy of England, he had a particular wrong to avenge. The story of the fight at Flores, in the Azores, of Sir Richard Grenville in the little "Revenge" against the Spanish fleet, and Sir Richard's brave and joyful death, is too well known to need telling here. But perhaps it is not so well known that the "Revenge" was one of Raleigh's ships, and Sir Richard Grenville one of his best friends and truest servants. Therefore, when Raleigh saw, in front of Cadiz, the great

"St. Philip" and the "St. Andrew," the two Spanish ships that had been foremost in destroying the "Revenge," he swore to have vengeance for his friend. The "St. Philip" was burned and the "St. Andrew" taken.

The Queen had now taken Sir Walter back into favour, and in 1600 he was made Governor of Jersey, where he ruled well and wisely for three years. But when James I came to the throne, Raleigh's days of prosperity were over. He had many enemies who used their influence against him with the King, and James was not inclined to think well of Raleigh on account of the difference in their feelings about Spain. Raleigh, as has been said, was a relentless enemy of Spain, while the King wished to be at peace, and thought that he could persuade the Spaniards to be friendly. Raleigh was deprived of all his offices, and finally accused of treason. He was tried at Winchester in 1603, and condemned to death. He steadily maintained his innocence, and although he may have spoken violently and rashly against the King there is no proof that he was really guilty of treason. Many persons, including the Spanish ambassador, pleaded for his life, and three days before the time set for his execution, he was told that it was granted him. For twelve years he was imprisoned in the Tower. The Queen, Anne of Denmark, and the Prince of Wales, were his firm friends. The King of Denmark asked for his pardon, but was refused. Prince Henry often visited him, and used to say, "No man but my father would keep such a bird in a cage." At last he persuaded the King to promise that Sir Walter should be set free at Christmas, 1612. But six weeks before that date, the kind young prince died, and King James forgot his promise.

In 1616, however, Raleigh was released, on the understanding that he was to go to Guiana, find the gold mines that he believed to be there, and take possession of them for the King. But there was a condition that he was not to attack the Spaniards, nor to trespass upon their lands. It seems likely that Raleigh did not mean to keep to this. He believed that Spain was such a dangerous enemy that she ought to be attacked and weakened whenever it was possible, and he probably thought that if he brought home a great treasure, as he fully hoped to do, King James would forgive any breaking of the peace. But the expedition was an