

succeed to grow up in familiarity with it. They were a noble band of failures, those first colonizers—Gilbert, Raleigh, Grenville, Cavendish, Lane and White.

Froude classes Gilbert amongst "England's Forgotten Worthies." To be sure his study was written fifty years ago, but have Gilbert, Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher, and Davis ever been forgotten? In his masterly, lucid style he makes the age live again, but the details he gives are often far astray. His prejudices are notorious; still much may be forgiven the author of such an illuminating paragraph as the following—

"The springs of great actions are always difficult to analyze — impossible to analyze perfectly — possible to analyze only very proximately; and the force by which a man throws out of himself a good action is invisible and mystical, like that which brings out the blossom and the fruit upon the tree. The motives which we find men urging for their enterprises seem often insufficient to have prompted them to so large a daring. They did what they did from the great unrest in them which made them do it, and what it was may be best measured by the results in the present England and America."

This seems particularly applicable to Sir Humphrey Gilbert. While in this study of his life an attempt has been made to analyze his motives and trace the influences which surrounded him, perhaps Froude's explanation is nearer the truth, and he did what he did from the "great unrest" in him. An unrest born of the times—caused by the expansion of space, of thought, of learning, of freedom, which makes Elizabeth's reign one of the most wonderful periods in history. When one tells over the names of the great Elizabethans,—great in every department of thought and of action,—it is evident that there was some force, common to all of them, which stirred them to the accomplishment of such great work. Gilbert's motto, so well chosen for himself, seems generally appropriate for the age.