

THE  
WORLDES HYDROGRAPHI-  
CAL DISCRPTION.

Wherein is proved not only by Aucthoritie of Writers,  
but also by late experience of Travellers and Reasons  
of Substantial Probabilitie, that the Worlde in all  
his Zones, Clymats, and places, is habitable  
and inhabited, and the Seas likewise  
universally navigable without any  
naturall anoyance to hinder  
the same,

Whereby appears that from England there is a short and  
speedie passage into the South Seas, to China,  
Molucca, Philippina, and India, by Northerly  
Navigation.

To the Renowne, Honour, and Benifit of Her Majesties State and  
Communality

Published by  
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Dwelling at the Three Cranes in the Vinetree, and there to be sold.

1595.

[ Facsimile of the original 1595 Title Page ]

TO THE  
RIGHT HONORABLE  
LORDES OF HER MAJESTIES MOST HONORABLE  
PRIVIE COUNSAYLE.

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My most honorable good Lords, for as much as it hath pleased God, not only to bestow upon your Lordships the excellent gifts of natures benefite, but hath also beutified the same with such speciall ornamentes of perfection : As that thereby the mindes and attentive Industrie of all, have no small regard unto your honorable proceedings. And so much the rather, because to the great content of all her majesties most loving subjectes, it hath pleased her highnes in her stately regard of government, to make choise of your honours as speciall members in the regall disposition of the mightinesse of her imperiall command : Emboldeneth me among the rest to humble my selfe at your honorable feete, in presenting unto the favour of your excellent judgments this short treatise of the Worldes Hydrographicall bands. And knowing that not onely your renowned places, but also the singularitie of your education, by the prudent care of your noble progeniters, hath and still doth induce and drawe you to favour and imbrace whatsoever beareth but a seeming of the commonweales good : Much more then that which in substantiall truth shal be most beneficiall to the same. I am therefore the more encouraged not to slacke this my enterprise, because that through your honorable assistance, when in the ballance of your wisdomes this discovery shall have indifferent consideration, I knowe it will be ordered by you to bee a matter of no small moment to the good of our countrie. For thereby wee shall not onely have a copious and rich vent for al our naturall and artificiall comodities of England, in short time by safe passage, and without offence of any, but also shall by the first imployment retourne into our countrey by spedie passage all

Indian commodities in the ripenes of their perfection, whereby her Majesties dominions should bee the storehouse of Europe, the nurse of the world, and the glory of nations, in yielding all forrayne naturall benefites by an easie rate: In communicating unto all whatsoever God hath unto any one assigned : And by the increase of all nations through the mightinesse of trade. Then should the merchant, tradesman, and poore artificer, have imployment equall to their power and expedition, whereby what notable benefites would growe to her Majestic, the state, and comunaltie, I refer to your perfect judgements. And for that I am desirous to avoyde the contradiction of vulgar conceits, I have thought it my best course, before I make profe of the certaintie of this discoverie, to lay downe whatsoever may against the same be objected, and in the overthrowe of those conceited hinderances the safenes of the passage, shall most manifestly appeare, which when your wisdomes, shall with your patience peruse, I doe in no sort distrust your favorable acceptance and honorable assistance of the same.

And although for divers considerations I doe not in this treatis discover my ful knowledge for the place and altitude of this passage, yet whensoever it shall so please your honours to command, I will in few wordes make the full certainty thereof knowne unto your honours, being alwaies redie with my person and poore habilitie to prosecute this action as your honours shall direct, beseeching God so to support you with all happines of this life, favour of her Majestic, love of her highnes subjectes, and increase of honour as may be to your best content.

I most humbly take my leave from Sandrudg by Dartmouth,

this 27 of May, 1595.

Your Honors in all dutifull service to  
command, I. D.

<sup>1</sup> The North-west passage is here alluded to.

THE  
WORLDS HYDROGRAPHICAL OBJECTIONS  
AGAINST  
AL NORTHERLY DISCOVERIES.

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Davis, John. "The Worlde's Hydrographical Discription" in *The Voyages and Works of John Davis, the Navigator*. The Hakluyt Society, No. LIX, London, 1880: 192–228.

All impediments in nature and circumstances of former practises duly considered. The Northerly passage to China seme very improbable. For first it is a matter very doubtfull whether there bee any such passage or no, sith it hath beene so often attempted and never performed, as by historical relation appeareth, whereby wee may fully persuade our selves that America and Asia, or some other continent are so conjoyned together as that it is impossible for any such passage to be, the certaintie whereof is substantially proved unto us by the experience of Sebastian Gabota,<sup>1</sup> an expert Pylot, and a man reported of especiall judgement, who being that wayes imployed returned without successe. Jasper Corteriallis,<sup>2</sup> a man of no meane practise, did likewise put the same in execution, with divers others, all which in the best parte have concluded ignorance. If not a full consent of such matter. And therefore sith practise hath reproved the same, there is no reason why men

<sup>1</sup> Sebastian Cabot.

<sup>2</sup> Joao Vaz Costa Cortereal, of the household of the Portuguese Infante Dom Fernando, explored the northern sea in 1464 by order of King Affonso V, and discovered the *Terra de Bacalhaos*, or land of codfish, afterwards called Newfoundland. His son, Gaspar Cortereal, undertook a second northern voyage in 1500. Sailing from the Azores, he discovered land, which he called "*Terra Verde*", in 60°N. This was probably Labrador. In 1501 he again sailed, and never returned. His brother Michael went in search of him in 1502, but he also was lost.

should dote upon so great an incertayntie, but if a passage may bee proved and that the continentes are disjoyned whereof there is small hope, yet the impedimentes of the clymate (wherein the same is supposed to lie) are such, and so offensive as that all hope is thereby likewise utterly secluded, for with the frozen zone no reasonable creature will deny, but that the extremitie of colde is of such forceable action (being the list in the fulness of his owne nature without mitigation) as that it is impossible for any mortall creature to indure the same, by the vertue of whose working power those Northerly Seas are wholly congealed, making but one mas or continenent of yse, which is the more credible, because the ordenary experience of our fishermen geveth us sufficient notice thereof, by reason of the great quantitie of yse which they find to be brought upon the cost of newefound land from those Northerne regions. By the aboundance whereof they are so noysomly pestred, as that in many weekes they have not beene able to recover the shore, yea and many times recover it not untill the season of fishing bee over passed. This then being so in the Septentrionall latitude of 46, 47, and 48 degrees, which by natures benefit are latitudes of better temperature than ours of England, what hope should there remayne for a navelg-able passing to be by the norwest, in the altitude of 60, 70, or 80 degres, as it may bee more Northerly, when in these temperate partes of the world the shod<sup>1</sup> of that frozen sea breadeth such noysome pester, as the pore fishermen doe continually sustain. And therefore it seemeth to be more then ignorance that men should attempt Navigation in desperate clymates and through seas congealed that never dissolve, where the stiffnes of the colde maketh the ayre repalpably grosse without certainty that the landes are disjoyned.

<sup>1</sup> The clinging of the ice, the annoyance caused by it. An anchor is said to be shod when sand and clay adhere to it.

All which impediments if they were not yet in that part of the world Navigation cannot be performed as ordinarily it is used, for no ordinary sea chart can describe those regions either in the partes Geographicall or Hydrographicall, where the Meridians doe so speedily gather themselves together, the parallels having a very small proportion to a great circle, where quicke and uncertayne variation of the Compasse may greatly hinder or utterly overthrow the attempt. So that for lack of Curious, lyned globes to the right use of Navigation ; with many other instruments either unknown or out of use, and yet of necessitie for that voyage, it should with great difficultie be attained .

All which the premises considered I refer the conclusion of these objections and certainty of this passage to the generall opinion of my loving countrymen, whoso dangerous attemptes in those desperate uncertainties I wish to be altered, and better imployed in matters of great probabilitye.

*To prove a passage by the Norwest, without any land impedimentes to hinder the same, by aucthoritie of wrytters, and experience of travellers, contrary to the former objections.*

Homer an ancient writer affirmeth that the world being devided into Asia, Africa, and Europe is an Iland,<sup>1</sup> which is likewise so reported by Strabo<sup>2</sup> in his first book of Cosmographie, Pomponius Mela<sup>3</sup> in his third booke, Higi-

<sup>1</sup> This affirmation of Homer is quoted by Strabo (lib. i, cap. i, sec. 3).

<sup>2</sup> "Perception and experience alike inform us that the earth we inhabit is an island : since, wherever men have approached the termination of the land, the sea, which we designate ocean, has been met with."—*Strabo* (Bohn trans., i, p. 7).

<sup>3</sup> Pomponius Mela, the geographer, flourished about 45 A.D. The best editions of his work, called *De Situ Orbis* date from the first century ; but it was well known in the days of Elizabeth.

nius,<sup>1</sup> Solinus,<sup>2</sup> with others. Whereby it is manifest that America was then undiscovered and to them unknowne, otherwise they would have made relation of it as of the rest. Neither could they in reason have reported Asia, Africa, and Europa to bee an Hand unles they had knowne the same to be conjoynd and in all his partes to be invironed with the seas. And further, America beeing very neere of equall quantitie with all the rest, could not be reported as a parte either of Africa, Asia, or Europa, in the ordenarie lymites of discretion. And therefore of necessitie it must be concluded that Asia, Africa, and Europa, the first reveiled world being knowne to bee an Iland, America must likewise be in the same nature because in no parte it conjoyneth with the first.

*By experience of Travellers to prove this passage.*

And that wee neede not to range after forrayne and ancient authorities, whereat curious wittes may take many exceptions, let us consider the late discoveryes performed, within the space of two ages not yet passed, whereby it shall so manifestly appeare that Asia, Africa, and Europa are knit together, making one continent, and are wholly invironed with the seas, as that no reasonable creature shall have occasion thereof to doubt. And first beginning at the north of Europe from the north cape in 71 degrees, whereby our merchantes passe in their trade to S. Nicholas<sup>3</sup> in Rouscia descending towards the South, the Navigation is without impediment to the Cape of Bona Esperanca, ordenarilie traded and daily practised.

<sup>1</sup> C. Julius Hyginus, an obscure Latin grammarian and commentator.

<sup>2</sup> C. Julius Solinus, a grammarian at the end of the first century, who wrote a book called *Polyhistor*: a collection of geographical notes. He has been called Pliny's Ape.

<sup>3</sup> The town of St. Nicholas, situated on the eastern shore of the White Sea.

And therefore not to be gainesayed: which two capse are distant more then 2,000 leagues by the neerest tract, in all which distaunces America is not founde to bee any thing neere the coastes either of Europe or Afric, for from England the chefest of the partes of Europa to Newfoundland being parte of America it is 600 leagues, the neerest istance that any part thereof beareth unto Europa. And from Cape Verde in Gynny,<sup>1</sup> being parte of Africa, unto Cape Saint Augustine in Brasill beeing parte of America, it wanteth but little of 500 leagues, the neerest distance betweene Africa and America. Likewise from the sayd North Cape to Nova Zemla by the course of East and West neerest, there is passable sayling, and the North partes of Tartaria are well knowne to be banded with the Scithian Seas to the promontary Tabin,<sup>2</sup> so that truely it is apparant that America is farre remooved, and by a great sea divided from any parte of Africa or Europa.

And for the Southerne partes of the first reveild world, it is most manifest that from the Capo of Bona Esperanca towards the east, the costes of Sofallà, Mosombique Melinde, Arabia, and Persia, whose gulfes lye open to the mayne occian :

And all the coastes of East India to the Capes of Callacut and Malacca, are banded with a mightie sea upon the South, whose lymmates are yet undiscovered.

And from the cape of Malacca towards the North so high as the Ile of Japan, and from thence the cost of China being part of Asia, continueth still North to the promontary Tabin, where the Scithian Sea and this Indian Sea have recourse together, no part of America being nere the same by many 100 leages to hinder this passage.

For from the Callifornia being parte of America, to the yles of Philippina bordering upon the coastes of China being parte of Asia, is 2,100 leages, and therefore America

<sup>1</sup> Guinea,

<sup>2</sup> Now called Cape Chelyuskin.



in farther separated from Asia, then from any the sea coastes either of Europe or Africa. Wherby it is most manifest that Asia, Africa, and Europa are conjoyned in an Iland. And therefore of necessity followeth that America is contained under one or many ylands, for from the septentrionall lat. of 75 deg. unto the straights of Magilan, it is knowne to be navigable and hath our west occian to lymet the borders thereof, and through the straightes of Magillane no man doubteth but there is (a) Navigable passage, from which straightes, upon all the Westerne borders of America, the costs of Chili, Chuli, Rocha,<sup>1</sup> Baldivia,<sup>2</sup> Peru to the ystmos of Dariena, and so the whole West shores of Nova Hispania<sup>3</sup> are banded out by a loug and mightie sea, not having any shore neere unto it by one thousand leagues towards the West, howe then may it be possible that Asia and America should make one continent?

*To prove the premisses by the attemptes of our owne Countrey-men, besides others.*

But least it should be objected that the premises are conceites, the acting aucthors not nominated, I will use some boldnes to recyte our owne countrey-men by whose paynefull travells these truthes are made manifest unto us. Hoping and intretting that it may not bee offensive, though in this sorte I make relation of their actions.

And firste to begin with the North partes of Europe, it is not unknowne to all our countrymen, that from the famous citie of London, Syr Huges Willobie,<sup>4</sup> knight, gave the first attempt for the North estren discoveries, which were afterward most notably accomplished by master Borrowes,<sup>5</sup> a Pylot of excellent judgements, and fortunate in his actions, so farre as Golgova Vaygats and Nova Zemla, with trade thereby pro-

<sup>1</sup> Mocha. An island on the coast of Chile.

<sup>2</sup> A sea-port in the south of Chile.

<sup>3</sup> Mexico.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Hugh Willoughby.

<sup>5</sup> Stephen Borrough.

cured to S. Nicholas in Bouscia. Then succeeded master Ginkinson, who by his land travell discovered the Scithian sea to lymit the North coastes of Tartaria so farre as the river Ob. So that by our countrymen the North partes of Europe are at full made knowne unto us : and proved to joyne with no other continent to hinder this passage. The common and ordenary trade of the Spanyard and Portingall, from Lysbome to the coasts of Guyny, Bynny, Miua, Angola, Manicongo, and the cost of Ethiopia, to the cape of Bona Esperanca, and all the cost of Est India and Iles of Molucca, (by which wonderfull and copious trade, they are so mightily inriched, as that now they challeng a monarchy unto themselves upon the whole face of the earth), that their trade I say prooveth that America is farre seperated from any parte of Africa or the South of Asia.

And the same Spaniard trading in the Citye of Canton within the kingdome of China, having layd his storehouse of abundance in Manellia,<sup>2</sup> a citye by him erected in Luzon, one of the Illes of Philippa, bordring upon the cost of China, doth by his common and ordenarie passages to Japan and other the borders of the coast, knowe that the Est continent of Asia lieth due North and South, so high as the promontory Tabin,<sup>3</sup> where the Scithian sea and his maine occian of China are conjoynd. But with what care they labour to conceale that matter of Hydrographie for the better preservation of their fortunate estate, I refer to the excellent judgement of statesmen that painefully labour in the glorious administration of a well governed Common weale, so that by them Africa and Asia are proved in no parte to joyne with America, thereby to hinder this passage.

<sup>1</sup> Anthony Jenkinson.

<sup>2</sup> Manilla.

<sup>3</sup> The name given by Pliny, who says, "*Iterum deinde Scythe. Iterumque deserta cum belluis, usque ad jugum incubans mari, quod vocant TABIN.*"—C. Plinii, *Nat. Hist.*, lib. vi.

*By late experience to prove that America is an Iland, and may he sayled round about contrary to the former objection.*

Asia, Africa, and Europa being proved to be conjoined and an Iland, it now resteth to bee knowne by what authoritie America is proved to be likewise an Iland, so that thereby all land impedimentes are removed, which might brede the dread or uncertaynty of this passage. The first Englishman that gave any attempt upon the coastes of West India, being parte of America, was syr John Hawkins, knight : who there and in that attempt, as in many others sithins, did and hath proved himselfe to be a man of excellent capacity, great government, and perfect resolution. For before he attempted the same it was a matter doubtfull, and reported the extremest lymit of danger to sayle upon those coastes. So that it was generally in dread among us, such is the slownes of our nation, for the most part of us rather joy at home like Epicures, to sit and carpe at other mens hassardes, our selves not daring to give any attempt. (I meane such as are at leisure to seeke the good of their countrie, not being any wayes imployed as paynefull members of a common weale,) then either to further or give due commendations to the deservers howe then may Syr John Hawkins bee esteemed, who, being a man of good account in his Country, of wealth and great imployment, did notwithstanding for the good of his Countrey, to procure trade, give that notable and resolute attempt. Whose steps many hundreds following sithins have made themselves men of good esteeme, and fit for the service of her sacrid majestic.

And by that his attempt of America (wherof West India is a parte) is well proved to be many hundred leagues distant from any part of Afric or Europe.

Then succeeded Syr Francis Drake in his famous and

ever renowned voyage about the world, who departing from Plimouth, directed his coarse for the straightes of Magillane, which place was also reported to be most dangerous, by reason of the continuall, violent, and unresistable current that was reported to have continuall passage into the straightes, so that once entring therein there was no more hope remayning of returne, besides the perill of shelves, straightness of the passage, and uncertayne wyndinges of the same, all which bread dread in the highest degree, the distance and dangers considered. So that before his revealing of the same the matter was in question, whether there were such a passage or no, or whether Magillane did passe the same, if there was such a man so named ; but Syr Frauncis Drake, considering the great benefit that might arise by his voyage through that passage, and the notable discoveries that might be thereby performed, regarded not these dastardly affections of the idle multitude, but considering with judgement that in nature there cold be no such perpetuitie of violence where the occian is in no sorte straighted, proceeded with discreet provision, and so departing from England arrived unto the same, and with good successe (through Gods most favorable mercy passed through), wherein his resolution hath deserved everlasting commendations. For the place in viewe is dangerous and verye displeasing, and in the execution to passe Nothing may seeme more doubtful, for fourteen leagues west within the cape of Saint Maria<sup>1</sup> lyeth the first straight, where it floweth and ebbeth with violent swiftnes, the straight not half a mile broad, the first fall into which straight is verye dangerous and doubtfull.

This straight lasteth in his narrownes three leages, then falling into another sea eight leages broad, and eight leages through there lyeth the second straight, due west South-

<sup>1</sup> Cape Virgins, sometimes called by the old navigators Cabo de la Virgen Sta. Maria. See also note 1, p. 109.

West from the firste, which course, being unknowne, it is no small perill in finding this second straightes, and that agayne is not a myle broad, and continueth the bredth, three or four leages South west, with violent swiftnes of flowing and reflowing, and there agayne he falleth into another Sea, through which, due South south-west, lyeth the Cape Froward and his straight (so rightly named in the true nature of his perversenes, for be the wind never so favorable at that cape it will be directly agaynst you, with violent and daungerous flaughes), where there are three places probable to continue the passage.

But the true straight lyeth from this cape West Nor West, where the land is very high, all covered with snowe, and full of dangerous counter-windes, that beate with violence from those huge mountaines, from which cape the straight is never broder then two leages, and in many places not halfe a mile without hope of anchorage, the channell beeing shore deepe more then two hundreth fadomes, and so continueth to the South Sea forty leages, only to bee releved in little dangerous coves, with many turnings and chang of courses : how perilous then was this passage to Syr Frauncis Drake, to whom at that time no parte thereof was knowne. And being without reliefe of anchorage, was inforced to follow his course in the hell darke nights, and in the fury of tempestuous stormes. I am bolder to make this particular relation in the praise of his perfect consistancy and magnanemitye of spirite, because I have thrised passed the same straightes, and have felt the most bitter and mercyles fury thereof. But now knowing the place as I doe (for I have described every creke therein),<sup>1</sup> I know it to be a voiage of as great certaynty, pleasure, and ease as any whatsoever that beareth

<sup>1</sup> It is greatly to be regretted that this description of the Strait of Magellan by John Davis is not to be found. John Jane alludes to it in his *History of the Voyage*, at p. 117.

but  $\frac{1}{4}$  the distaunce from England that these straightes doe. And this straight is founde to 1,200 leages from any parte of Africa, so truely it is manifest that these two landes are by no small distance seperated.

And after Syr Frauncis was entred into the South Seas he coasted all the Westerne shores of America untill he came into the Septentrionall latitude of forty-eight degrees being on the back syde of Newfound land. And from thence shaping his course towards Asia and found by his travells that the Ills of Molucca are distant from America more then two hundreth leages, howe then can Asia and Africa be conjoynd and make one continent to hinder the passage, the men yet living that can reprove the same, but this conceipt is the bastard of ignorance borne through the fornication of the malitious multitude that only desire to hinder when themselves can doe no good.

Now their onely resteth the North parts of America, upon which coast myselfe have had most experience of any of our age : for thrise I was that waye imployed for the discovery of this notable passage, by the honourable care and some charge of Syr Francis Walsingham, knight, principall secretary to her Majesties, with whome divers noble men and worshipfull marchants of London are joynd in purse and willingesse for the furtherance of that attempt, but when his honour dyed the voyage was friendlesse, and mens mindes alienated from adventuring therein. [ The 1 Voyage ]

In my first voyage not experienced of the nature of those climates, and having no direction either by Chart, Globe, or other certaine relation in what altitude that passage was to be searched, I shaped a Northerly course, and so sought the same toward the South, and in my Northerly course I fell upon the shore which in ancient time was called Groenland, five hundred leagues distant from the Durseys,<sup>1</sup> West-North west Northerly, the land being high and full of

<sup>1</sup> See Note 3, p. 33.

mightie mountaines all covered with snowe, no viewe of wood, grasse, or earth to be seene, and the shore two leagues off into the sea so full of yce as that no shipping could by any meanes come neere the same. The lothsome view of the shore, and irksome noyse of the yce was such, that it bred strange conceites among us, so that we supposed the place to be wast and voyd of any sensible or vegitable creatures, whereupon I called the same Desolation: so coasting this shore towards the South in the latitude of sixtie degrees, I found it to trend towards the West, I still followed the leading therof in the same height, and after fifty or sixtie leagues it fayled and lay directly North, which I still followed, and in thirtie leagues sayling upon the West side of this coast, by me named Desolation, we were past al the yce and found many greene and pleasant Isles bordering upon the shore, but the mountaines of the maine were still covered with great quantities of snow. I brought my ship among those Isles, and there mored to refresh ourselves in our weary travell, in the latitude of sixtie foure degrees or there about. The people of the countrey having espyed our shippes came downe unto us in their Canoas, and holding up their right hand to the Sunne and crying *Yliaout*<sup>1</sup> would strike their breasts : we doing the like the people came aboard our shippes, men of good stature, unbearded, small eyed and of tractable conditions, by whome as signes would permit, we understood that towards the North and West there was a great sea, and using the people with kindenes in giving them nayles and knives which of all things they most desired, we departed, and finding the sea free from yce, supposing our selves to be past al daunger, we shaped our course Westnorthwest, thinking thereby to passe for China, but in the latitude of sixtie sixe degrees wee fell with another shore, and there found another passage of twenty leagues broad directly West

<sup>1</sup> See p. 21.

into the same,<sup>1</sup> which we supposed to be our hoped straight, we entered into the same thirtie or fortie leagues, finding it neither to wyden nor straighten ; then considering that the yeere was spent (for this was in the fine of August) not knowing the length of the straight and dangers thereof, we tooke it our best course to returne with notice of our good successe for this small time of search.

And so returning in a sharpe fret of Westerley windes, the 29 of September, we arrived at Dartmouth. And acquainting master Secretary with the rest of the honourable and worshipful adventurers of all our proceedings, I was appointed againe the seconde yere to search the bottome of this straight, because by all likelihood it was the place and passage by us laboured for.

[ The 2 Voyage ]

In this second attempt the marchants of Exeter and other places of the West became adventurers in the action, so that being suficiently furnished for sixe moneths, and having direction to search these straights untill we found the same to fall into another sea upon the West side of this part of America, we should againe returne : for then it was not to be doubted but shipping with trade might safely be conveied to China and the parts of Asia. We departed from Dartmouth, and arriving unto the South part of the coast of Desolation, coasted the same upon his West shore to the latitude of sixetie sixe degrees, and there anchored among the Isles bordering upon the same, where we refreshed our selves ; the people of this place came likewise unto us, by whom I understood through their signes that towards the North the sea was large.

At this place the chiefe ship whereupon I trusted, called the *Mermayd of Dartmouth*, found many occasions of discontentment, and being unwilling to proceed, shee there forsook me. Then considering how I had given my faith and most constant promise to my worshipfull good friend master Wil-

<sup>1</sup> Cumberland Gulf.



liam Sanderson, who of all men was the greatest adventurer in that action, and tooke such care for the performance thereof, that he hath to my knowledge at one time disbursed as much money as any five others whatsoever out of his owne purse, when some of the companie have been slacke in giving in their adventure : And also knowing that I should loose the favor of M. Secretary Walsingham if I should shrink from his direction : in one small barke of 80 Tunnes whereof M. Sanderson was owner, alone without farther comfort or company I proceeded on my voyage, and arriving at these straights followed the same 80 leagues untill I came among many Islands, where the water did ebbe and flowe sixe fadome up right,<sup>1</sup> and where there had bene great trade of people to make traine.<sup>2</sup> But by such things as there we found wee knew that they were not Christians of Europe that had used that trade : in fine, by searching with our boat we found small hope to passe any farther that way, and therefore retourning agayne recovered the sea and coasted the shore towards the South, and in so doing (for it was too late to search towards the North) we found another great inlet neere 40 leagues broad, where the water entered in with violent swiftnesse, this we also thought might be a passage : for no doubt the North partes of America are all Islands by ought that I could perceive therein : but because I was alone in a small barke of thirtie tunnes, and the yeere spent, I entred not into the same, for it was now the seventh of September, but coasting the shore towards the South wee saw an incredible number of birds : having divers fishermen aboard our barke they all concluded that there was a great skull of fish, we being unprovided of fishing furniture with a long spike nayle made a hooke, and fastening the same to one of our sounding lines, before the bait was changed we tooke more than fortie great Cods, the fish swimming so

<sup>1</sup> The rise and fall of the tide is here alluded to.

<sup>2</sup> Train-oil.

abundantly thicke about our barke as is incredible to bee reported, of which with a small portion of salt that we had, we preserved some thirtie couple, or thereabouts, and so returned for England.

And having reported to M. Secretarie Walsingham the whole successe of this attempt, he commanded me to present unto the most honourable Lord high Treasurour of England some part of that fish : which when his Lordship saw, and heard at large the relation of this second attempt, I received favourable countenance from his honour, advising me to prosecute the action, of which his Lordship conceived a very good opinion.

The next yere, although divers of the adventurers fell from the Action, as all the Westerne marchants, and most of those in London : yet some of the adventurers, both honourable and worshipfull, continued their willing favour and charge, so that by this meanes the next yere two shippes were appointed for the fishing and one pinnesse for the discoverie.

[ The 3 Voyage ]

Departing from Dartmouth, through Gods mercifull favour, I arrived at the place of fishing, and there according to my direction, I left the two ships to follow that busines, taking their faithfull promise not to depart untill my returne unto them, which should be in the fine of August, and so in the barke I proceeded for the discoverie : but after my departure in sixteene dayes the two shippes had finished their voyage, and so presently departed for England, without regard of their promise : my selfe not distrusting any such hard measure proceeded for the discoverie, and followed my course in the free and open sea betweene North and Northwest to the latitude of 67 degrees, and there I might see America West from me, and Desolation East: then when I saw the land of both sides I began to distrust it would proove but a gulfe: notwithstanding, desirous to know the full certainty I pro-

ceeded, and in 68 degrees the passage enlarged, so that I could not see the Westerne shore: thus I continued to the latitude of 73 degrees in a great sea, free from yce, coasting the Westerne shore of Desolation : the people came continually rowing out unto me in their Canoes, twenty, forty, and one hundred at a time, and would give me fishes dryed, Salmon, Salmon peale, Cod, Caplin,<sup>1</sup> Lumpe,<sup>2</sup> Stonebase,<sup>3</sup> and such like, besides divers kinds of birds, as Partrige, Fesant,<sup>4</sup> Guls, Sea birds and other kindes of flesh.

I still laboured by signes to know from them what they knew of any sea towards the North, they still made signes of a great sea as we understood them, then I departed from that coast thinking to discover the North parts of America.

And after I had sayled towards the West 40 leagues, I fel upon a great banke of yce : the winde being North and blew much, I was constrained to coast the same toward the South, not seeing any shore West from me, neither was there any yce towards the North, but a great sea, free, large, very salt and blew, and of an unsearcheable depth. So coasting towards the South I came to the place where I left the ships to fish, but found them not. Then being forsaken and left in this distresse, referring my selfe to the mercifull providence of God, I shaped my course for England, and unhoped for of any, God alone releiving me, I arrived at Dartmouth.

By this last discovery it seemed most manifest that the passage was free and without impediment toward the North : but by reason of the Spanish fleet, and unfortunate time of M. Secretarie's death, the voyage was omitted and never sithins attempted.

The cause why I use this particular relation of all my pro-

<sup>1</sup> Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*).

<sup>2</sup> Lump fish (*Blennius lumpenus*).

<sup>3</sup> The black bass (*Centropistis nigricans*),

<sup>4</sup> The partridges and pheasants can only have been ptarmigan.

ceedings for this discovery, is to stay this objection,—Why hath not Davis discovered this passage being thrise that wayes imployed ?

How far I proceeded and in what forme this discovery lieth, doth appeare upon the Globe which M. Sanderson to his very great charge hath published, for the which he deserveth great favour and commendations.<sup>1</sup> Made by master Emery Mullineux, a man wel qualited, of a good judgment and very experte in many excellent practises in myselfe being the onely meane with master Sanderson to imploy master Mulineux therein, whereby he is now growne to a most exquisite perfection.

Anthony de Mendoza, Viceroy of Mexico, sent certayne of his captaynes by land, and also a navy of ships by sea, to search out the Norwest passage, who affirmed by his letters, dated from Mexico in anno 1541 unto the Empeour, being then in Flaunders, that towards the Norwest hee had founde the Kingdome of Cette, Citta, Alls, Ceuera, seven cities,<sup>2</sup> and howe beyond the sayd kingdome, farther towards the Norwest, Francisco Vasques of Coronado, having passed great desarts, came to the sea side, where he found certayne shippes which sayled by that sea with merchandize, and had in their banners upon the prows of their shippes certayne fowles made of golde and silver, named Alcatrazzi,<sup>3</sup> and that the mariners signified unto him by signes, that they were thirtie dayes comming to the haven, whereby he understoode that those could be of no other country but of Asia, the next knowne continent towards the West. And, farther, the sayd Anthony affirmed that by men wel practised hee understoode that

<sup>1</sup> This globe is now in the Middle Temple library. See an account of it in the Introduction.

<sup>2</sup> The “seven cities” in the kingdom of Cevola, called by Davis Cevera. The other names—Cette, Citta, Alls—are some mistake. See note on next page.

<sup>3</sup> Pelicans.

950 leagues of that country was discovered upon the same Sea.<sup>1</sup> Now if the cost in that distance of leagues should lye

<sup>1</sup> In 1532 Hernan Cortes, the conqueror of Mexico, sent two ships from Acapulco, under the command of Don Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, to make discoveries to the north-west. In the previous year Nuño de Guzman, a man of a brutal and ferocious disposition, had led a land expedition to the north of Mexico, in search of the fabled "seven cities". He founded a town on the Pacific coast in nearly 22° N., which was called Compostella, and the new province received the name of New Galicia. Mendoza never returned; but when Cortes heard that his ships were missing, he sent two more in 1533, under Diego Bezerra de Mendoza and Hernando de Grijalva, with orders to search for the missing ships, and continue the discoveries northwards. Bezerra de Mendoza was murdered by his mutinous crew, and these ruffians appear to have been the discoverers of California. Grijalva returned. Nuño de Guzman had seized the ship in which the mutineers had murdered Bezerra de Mendoza, and refused to restore it to Cortes. The conqueror, therefore, marched from Mexico towards New Galicia in 1536, sending three vessels along the coast to meet him. He embarked at the port of Chametlan, meeting with no opposition from Guzman, and sailed north-west to California. He formed a settlement in the bay of Santa Cruz, inside the gulf. On receiving news of the appointment of Don Antonio de Mendoza as Viceroy of Mexico, Cortes returned, leaving his colony to the care of Francisco de Ulloa, who abandoned it soon afterwards, returning to Acapulco in 1537.

The first act of the new Viceroy was to supersede Guzman, and send Francisco Vasquez de Coronado to New Galicia, with orders to conciliate the natives by just treatment, and to make further discoveries. In obedience to these instructions, several journeys were undertaken. Marcos de Niza, a Franciscan Friar, penetrated along the east coast of the Gulf of California, and got tidings of the "seven cities", the nearest of which was Cevola. In consequence of the reports of Niza, an expedition was sent by sea, to discover Cevola, under Francisco de Ulloa, in 1539. Ulloa completed the discovery of the Gulf of California in that year, and then sailed up the exterior coast. Hakluyt (iii, p. 424) says that he reached the latitude of 30° 30' N. before returning to Acapulco in May 1540.

In 1540 the Viceroy Mendoza ordered Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, the Governor of New Galicia, to march into the country of Cevola to the north, three store-ships following along the coast under Hernando de Alarcon. An account of the voyage of Alarcon was written by himself, and is given in Ramusio and Hakluyt. He returned after sailing up the coast of California, and discovering the large river of Colorado

to the West, it would then adjoyne with the North partes of Asia, and then it would be a far shorter voyage then thirtie dayes sayling ; but that it is nothing neere Asia by former authoritie is sufficiently expressed : then if it should lie towardes the North it would extend itself almost unto the pole, a voiage over tedious to be perfourmed by land travell.

Therefore of necessity this distance of 950 leagues must lie betweene the North and East, which by Anthony de Espacio, in his late travells upon the North of America, is sufficiently discovered. Then, this being so, the distance is very small betweene the East parte of this discovered Sea and the passage wherein I have so painefully laboured. What doth then hinder us of England, unto whom of all nations this discovery would be most beneficiall, to be incredulous, slow of understanding, and negligent in the highest degree for the search of this passage, which is most apparently proved, and of wonderfull benefit to the universal state of our countrey ? Why should we be thus blinded, seeing our enemies to posses the fruites of our blessednes and yet will not perceive the same ? But I hope the eternall majestic of God, the sole disposer of all thinges, will also make this to appeare in his good time.

at its head. Meanwhile, Coronado marched northwards and found the "seven cities" to be merely small towns in a country called Cevola. It is Gomara (*Conquista de Mexico*, p. 116) who relates the story, referred to in the text, that Coronado's army came to the sea coast, where they saw vessels that had in their prows figures of birds like pelicans, wrought in gold and silver. These vessels were laden with merchandise, and the Spaniards believed that they came from China. The people in them made signs that from their country they had sailed thirty days. Coronado reached a latitude of 40° N. before returning to Mexico.

Next followed, in 1542, the voyage of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, who died before the ships returned, having reached 44° N. along the coast. Antonio de Espejo discovered New Mexico in 1583.

Full accounts of these voyages and expeditions by land are given in Hakluyt, from Ramusio and Gomara.

Cornelius Nepos recyteth that when Quintus Metellus Caesar was pro-consull for the Romanes in Fraunce, the King of Suevia gave him certayne Indians, which, sayling out of India for merchandize, were by tempest driven upon the coastes of Germany, a matter very strange that Indians in the fury of stormes should arrive upon that coast. It resteth now carefully to consider by what winde they were so driven. If they had beene of any parte of Africa, how could they escape the ylls of Cape Verd, or the ylles of Canaria, the coastes of Spayne, Fraunce, Ireland, or England to arrive as they did ; but it was never knowne that any the natyves of Afric or Ethiopia have used shippings. Therefore they could not bee of that parte of the worlde, for in that distance sayling they would have been starved if no other shore had given them relefe. And that they were not of America is verye manifest, for upon all the Est parte of that continent, beeing now thereby discovered, it hath not at any time beene perceived that those people were ever accustomed to any order of shipping, which appeareth by the arrival of Colon<sup>1</sup> upon those coastes, for they had his shipping in such wonderfull admiration that they supposed him and his companie to have descended from heaven, so rare and strange a thing was shipping in their eyes. Therefore those Indians could not bee of America, safely to bee driven upon the coastes of Germany, the distance and impedimentes well considered.

Then, comming neither from Afric nor America, they must of necessitie come from Asia, by the Noreast or Nor-west passages.

But it should seme that they came not by the Noreast to double the promontory Tabin, to bee forced through the Scithian Sea, and to have good passage through the narrow straight of Nova Zemla, and never to recover any shore, is a matter of great impossibilitie. Therefore it must needes

<sup>1</sup> Columbus.

be concluded that they came by the North partes of America, through that discovered sea of 950 leages, and that they were of those people which Francisco Vasques of Coronado discovered, all which premises considered there remaineth no more doubting but that the landes are disjoyned, and that there is a Navigable passage by the Norwest, of God for us alone ordained to our infinite happines, and for the ever being glory of her majestie, for then her stately seate of London should be the storehouse of Europe : the nurse of the world : and the renowne of Nations, in yelding all forraine naturall benefits by an easie rate, in short time returned unto us, and in the fulnes of their natural perfection : by natural participation through the world of all naturall and artificiall benefites, for want whereof at this present the most part live distressed : and by the excellent comoditie of her seate, the mightines of her trade, with force of shipping thereby arising, and most abundant accesse and intercourse from all the Kingdomes of the worlde, then should the ydle hand bee scorned, and plenty by industry in all this land should be proclamed.

And therefore the passage proved and the benefits to all most apparant, let us no longer neglect our happines, but like Christians with willing and voluntary spirits labour without fainting for this so excellent a benefit.

*To prove by Experience that the Sea fryseth not.*

Having sufficiently proved that there is a passage without land impediments to hinder the same, contrary to the first objection, it nowe resteth that the other supposed impediments bee likewise answered. And firste as touching the frost and fresing of the seas, it is supposed that the frozen zone is not habitable, and seas innavigable by reason of the vehemencie of cold, by the divine creator allotted to that part of the world, and we are drawn into that absurdity of this opinion by a conjectural reason of the sunnes far dis-



tance and long absence under the horizon of the greatest parte of that zone, whereby the working power of colde perfourmeth the fulnesse of his nature, not having any contrary disposition to hinder the same, and when the Sunne by his presence should comfort that parte of the world, his beames are so far removed from perpendicularitie by reason of his continuall neerenes to the horizon, as that the effectes thereof answeere not the violence of the winters cold. And therefore those seas remayne for ever undissolved. Which if it be so, that the nature of cold can congeale the seas, it is very likely that his first working power beginneth upon the upper face of the waters, and so descending worketh his effect, which if it were, howe then commeth it to passe that shippes sayle by the North cape to St. Nicholas, five degrees or more within the frozen zone, and finde the seas free from pester of yse, the farther from the shore the clearer from yse. And myselfe likewise howe coulde I have sayled to the septentrionall latitude of seventie five degrees, being nine degrees within the frozen zone, betweene two lands where the sea was straightened not fortie leages broade in some places, and thereby restrained from the violent motion and set of the maine occian and yet founde the same Navigable and free from yse not onely in the midst of the chauell, but also close aborde the estern shore by me name Desolation, and therefore what neede the repetition of authorities from writers, or wrested philosophical reasons, when playne experience maketh the matter so manifest, and yet I deny not but that I have seene in some part of those seas, two sortes of yse, in very great quantity, as a kind of yse by seamen name ylands of yse,<sup>1</sup> being very high above the water, fortie and fiftie fadomes by estimation and higher, and every of those have beene seven times as much under the water, which I have proved by taking a peece of yse and have put the same in a vessell

<sup>1</sup> Icebergs.

of salt water, and still have found the seventh part thereof to bee above the water, into what forme soever I have reduced the same, and this kind of yse is nothing but snowe which falleth in those great peeces, from the high mountains<sup>1</sup> bordering close upon the shore depe seas. (For all the sea coastes of desolation are mountains of equall height with the pike of Tenerif<sup>2</sup> with verye great vallies betweene them) which I have seene incredible to bee reported, that upon the toppe of some of these ylls of yse, there have beene stones of more then one hundreth tonnes wayght, which in his fall that snowe hath torne from the clyffs, and in falling maketh such an horrible noyse as if there were one hundreth canons shot of at one instant, and this kind of yse is verye white and freshe, and with shore winds is many times beaten far of into the seas, perhaps twentie leages, and that is the farthest distance that they have ever bin seene from the shore. The other kind is called flake yse, blue, very heard and thinne, not above three fadomes thick at the farthest, and this kinde of yse bordreth close upon the shore. And as the nature of heate with apt vessels devideth the pure spirit from his grosse partes by the coning practise of distillation : so doth the colde in these regions devide and congeale the fresh water from the salt, nere such shores where by the aboundance of freshe rivers the saltnes of the sea is mittigated, and not else where, for all yse in general beeing dissolved is very fresh water, so that by the experience of all that have ever travelled towardses the North it is well knowne that the sea never fryseth, but wee know that the sea dissolveth this yse with great speede, for in twentie foure houres I have seen an ylande of yse turne up and downe, as the common phrase is, because it hath melted so fast, under water that the heavier

<sup>1</sup> Glaciers.

<sup>2</sup> Here Davis is inclined to exaggerate ; no hills are known in Greenland over 7000 feet high, whereas the Peak of Teneriffe is 12,370 !

parte hath beene upwarde, which hath beene the cause of his so turning, for the heaviest part of all things swimming is by nature downwards, and therefore sith the sea is by his heate of power to dissolve yse, it is greatly against reason that the same should be frozen, so that the congelation of the seas can bee no hindrance to the execution of this passage, contrary to the former objection, by late experience reprooved, yet if experience wanted in ordinary reason men should not suppose nature to bee monstrous, for if all such yse and snowe as congealeth and descendeth in the winter did not by natures benefit dissolve in the sommer, but that the cold were more actual then the heate, that difference of inequality bee it never so little would by time bread natures overthrowe, for if the one thousand parte of the yse which in winter is congealed, did the next summer remayne undissolved, that continual difference sithins the worldes creation would not onely have converted all those North Seas into yse, but would also by continuall accesse of snowe have extended himselfe above all the ayers regions, by which reason all such exalations as should be drawn from the earth and seas within the temperate zones and by windes driven into these stiffe regions, that moysture was no more to bee hoped for that by dissolution it should have any returne, so that by time the world should be left waterlesse. And therefore how ridiculous this imagination of the seas frysing is, I refer to the worlds generall opinion.<sup>1</sup>

*That the ayre in colde regions is tollerable.*

And now for a full answer of all objections, if the ayre bee proved tollerable then this most excellent and commodious passage is without al contradiction to be perfourmed. And that the ayre is tollerable as well in the winter as in the Som-

<sup>1</sup> Davis must have seen the pan-cake ice forming on the surface of the sea.

mer is thus proved. The inhabitantes of Muscovia, Lapland Swethland, Norway and Tartaria omit not to travel for their commodity : in the deepest of winter, passing by sleades over the yse and congealed snowe being made very slipperie and compact like yse by reason of much wearing and trading, having the use of a kind of stag, by them called Reen,<sup>2</sup> to drawe those their sleades.

Groynland (by me lately named Desolation) is likewise inhabited by a people of good stature and tractable conditions; it also mayntayneth divers kinde of foules and beastes which I have their seene, but know not their names, and these must travell for their food in winter, and therefore the ayre is not intollerable in the extremest nature of coldnes : and for the quality thereof in Sommer, by my owne experience I knowe that upon the shore it is as hot there as it is at the ylls of cape de Verde, in which place there is such abundance of moskeetes (a kind of gnat that is in India very offensive and in great quantitie), as that we were stung with them like lepers, not beeing able to have quiet, being upon the shore.

And under the clyfe, in the pooles unto which the streames aryse not, I have found salt in great plenty as whyte as the salt of Mayo,<sup>3</sup> congeled from the salt water which the spryng tyds bring into those poles, which could not be but by the benefit of a noble heat, of which salt I brought with me and gave to master Secretary Walsingham and to master Sanderson, as a rare thing to be found in those parts, and farther, the same was of an extraordinary saltnes. And therefore it is an idle dreame that the ayre should there be insufferable, for ourselves have with the water of those seas made salt, because we desired to know whether the benefit of the sunne were the cause of this cogulation, what better confirmation, then, can there be then this.

<sup>1</sup> Sweden.

<sup>2</sup> Reindeer.

<sup>3</sup> One of the Cape de Verds. See note 3, p. 133.

Island<sup>1</sup> is likewise inhabited and yeldeth haukes in great store, as falcons, Jerfalcons, lanardes<sup>2</sup> and sparrow haukes, ravens, crowes, beares, hares and foxes, with horses and other kinde of cattell, upon which coast, in August and September, the yce is utterly dissolved, all which the premises are certainly verified by such as trade thither from Lubec, Hambro, Amsterdam and England yerely ; then why should wee dread this fayned distemperature : from cold regions come our most costly furies, as sables beeing esteemed for a principall ornament, and the beastes that yeld us those furies are chiefly hunted in the winter ; how grievous then shall we thinke the winter to be, or howe insufferable the ayre, where this little tender beast liveth so well, and where the hunters may search the dennes and hauntes of such beastes through the woods and snow.

Upsaliensis affirmith that he hath felt the Sommer nights in Gotland scarcely tollerable for heate, whereas in Rome hee hath felt them cold.

The mountaynes of Norway and Swethland are fruitfull of metalls in which silver and copper are concoct and molten in veines, which may scarcely bee done with fornaces, by which reason also the vapors and hot exhalations pearcing the earth and the waters, and through both those natures breathing forth into the ayre, tempereth the quantitie thereof, making it tollerable, as wyttnes the huge bignes of whales in those seas, with the strength of body and long life of such beastes as live on the land, which thing could not bee except all thinges were there comodiously nourished, by the benefit of the heaven and the ayre, for nothing that in time of increase is hindred by any injury, or that is evill seed all the time it liveth, can prosper well.

Also it is a thing undoubtedly knowne by experience, that upon the coastes of newfoundland (as such as the yse remayneth undissolved upon those shores), the wind being

<sup>1</sup> Iceland.

<sup>2</sup> Lanar, or lanarde, was a kind of hawk.

esterly comming from the seas, causeth very sharpe colde, and yet the same is sufferable, but comming from the shore, yt presently yeldeth heate aboundantly according to the true nature of the scituation of the place, whereby it plainly appeareth that the very breth of the yse is rather the cause of this cold, then the distemporeture of the ayre.

Wherefore if in winter where is aboundance of yse and snowe, the ayre is so sufferable as that traveling and hunting may be exercised, how much rather may wee judge the seas to be Navigable, and that in the deepest of winter, where there is neither yse nor snow that may yeld any such dampes or cold breathings, to the anoiance of such as shall take these interprises in hand. And therefore the Sommer in no sort to be feared, but some curious witt may object that the naturall anoyance of cold is prevented by reason of the travell of the body with other artificiall provisions to defend the fury thereof, as also the whot vapours which the earth may yeld, whereof experience urgeth confession, but upon the seas it cannot be, sith it is a cold body subject to yeld great dampes and cold breathinges most offensive to nature. To the which I answer in the universall knowledge of all creatures, that God the most glorious, incomprehensible, and ever being, sole creatour of all thinges visible, invisible, rationally, irrationally, momentory and eternall in his divine providence, hath made nothing uncommunicable, but hath given such order unto all things whereby everything may be tollerable to the next, the extremities of elements consent with their next, the ayre is grosse about the earth and water, but thinn and hot about the fyre ; by this providence in nature the sea is very salt, and salt (sayth Plinie) yeldeth the fatness of oyle, but oyle by a certayne native heate is of propertie agreeable to fire, then being all of such qualitie by reason of the saltnes thereof, moveth and stirreth up generative heat, &c. Whereby the sea hath a working force in the dissolution of

yse, for things of so great contrariety as heate and cold have together no affinitye in conjunction, but the one must of necessity avoyde, the seas not being able by the bandes of nature to step backe, doth therefore cause the coldnesse of the ayre (by reason of his natural I heate) to give place, whereby extremities being avoyded, the air must of necessitie remayne temperate, for in nature the ayre is hote and moyst, the colde then being but accidentall is the soner avoided, and natures wrongs with ease redressed.

*That under the Pole is the place of greatest dignitie.*

Reason teacheth us and experience confirmeth the same, that the Sun is the onely sufficient cause of heat through the whole world, and therefore in such places where the Sunne hath longest continuance, the ayre there receiveth the greatest impression of heat, as also in his absence it is in like sort afflicted with colde. And as the heate in all clymates is indurable, by the eternal ordinance of the creator, so likewise the cold is sufferable by his everlasting decree, for otherwise nature should bee monstrous, and his creation wast, as it hath beene ydly affirmed by the most Cosmographicall writers, distinguishing the sphere into five zones, have concluded three of them to be wast, as vaynely created, the burning Zone betweene the two tropikes, and the two frozen zones, but experience having reprooved the grosenes of that errour it shall be needlesse to say farther therein. For although in the burning zone the sun beames are at such right angles as that by the actual reverberation thereof, the lower region of the ayre is greatly by that reflection warmed, yet his equall absence breadeth such mitigation as that there we find the ayre tollerable, and the countries pleasant and fruitfull, beeing populus and well inhabited: so likewise under the pole being the center of the supposed frozen zone, daring the time that the Sunne

is in the South signes, which is from the thirteenth of September unto the 10 of March, it is there more cold then in any place of the world, because the Sonne in all that time doth never appeare above the Horyzon ; but during the time that the Sunne is in the North signes, which is from the tenth of March unto the thirteenth of September, he is in continuall view to all such as posses that place, by which his continuall presence he worketh that notable effect, as that therby all the force of frysing is wholly redressed and utterly taken away, working then and there more actuall then in any other part of the world. In which place their continuall day, from the Sunne rising to the sunne setting, is equall to twenty six weekes and five days, after our rate : and their night is equall with twenty five weekes and three days such as we have, so that our whole yeere is with them but one night and one day, a wonderfull difference from al the rest of the world, and, therefore, no doubt but those people have a wonderfull excellencie and an exceeding prerogative above all nations of the earth and this which is more to be noted. In all other places of the world the absence and presence of the Sun is in equall proportion of time, having as much night as day, but under the Pole their artificiall day (that is the continuall presence of the Sunne before he sett) is nine of our naturall dayes, or two hundredth 16 houres longer then is there night, whereby it appeareth that they have the life, light, and comfort of nature in a higher measure then all the nations of the earth. How blessed then may we thinke this nation to be : for they are in perpetuall light, and never knowe what darkenesse meaneth, by the benefit of twylight and full moones, as the learned in Astronomie doe very well knowe, which people if they have the notice of their eternitie by the comfortable light of the Gospel, then are they blessed and of all nations most blessed. Why then doe we neglect the search of this excellent discovery, agaynst which there can be nothing sayd to hinder the same ? Why



doe we refuse to see the dignity of Gods Creation, sith it hath pleased his divine Majestie to place us the nerest neighbor thereunto? I know ther is no true Englishman that can in conscience refuse to be a contributor to procure this so great a happines to his countrey, whereby not onely the Prince and mightie men of the land shall be highly renowned, but also the Merchant, tradesman, and artificer mightily inriched.

And now as touching the last objection that the want of skill in Navigation with curious instrumentes should be the hinderance or overthrow of this action. I holde that to bee so frivolous as not worth the answering, for it is wel knowne that we have globes in the most excellent perfection of arte, and have the use of them in as exquisite sort as master Robert Hues in his book of the globes use, lately published, hath at large made knowne, and for Horizontall paradox and great circle sayling I am myselfe a witnesse in the behalfe of many that we are not ignorant of them, as lately I have made knowne in a brieft treatise of Navigation naming it the Seamans Secreates. And therefore this, as the rest breadeth no hinderance to this most commodious discovery.

*What benefits would growe unto Englande by this passage being discovered?*

The benefits which may grow by this discovery are copious, and of two sorts —a benefit spirituall and a benefit corporall. Both which sith by the lawes of God and nature we are bound to regard, yet principally we are admonished first to seeke the Kingdome of God and the righteousnes thereof, and all thinges shall be given unto us.

And therefore in seeking the Kingdome of God we are not onely tied to the depe search of Gods sacred word and to live within the perfect lymits of Christianity, but also by al meanes we are bound to multiply and increase the flocke of the faithfull. Which by this discovery will be most

aboundantly perfourmed to the preservation of many thousands which now most miserably are covered under the lothsome vayle of ignorance, neither can we in any sort doubt of their recovery by this passage discovered, Gods providence therein being considered who most mercifully sayeth by the mouth of his prophet Esaias 66, I will come to gather all people and tongues, then shall they come and see my glory, of them that shall be saved. I will send some to the Gentils in the sea and the yls far of, that have not heard speak of me, and have not sene my glory, shall preach my peace among the Gentiles.<sup>1</sup>

And in his 65 Chapter he farther sayeth. They seeke me that hitherto have not asked for me ; they find me that hitherto have not sought me.<sup>2</sup>

And againe, Chapter 49, I will make waies upon al my mountains and my footpathes shall be exalted, and behold these shall come from farre; some from the North and West, some from the land of Symis, which is in the South.<sup>3</sup> Then sith it is so appointed that there shal be one shepheard and one flocke, what hindreth us of England (being by Gods mercy for the same purpose at this present most aptly prepared) not to attempt that which God himselfe hath appointed to be performed, there is no doubt but that wee of England are this saved people by the eternal and infallible presence of the Lord, predestinated to be sent unto these Gentiles in the sea, to those ylls and famous kingdomes, ther to preach the peace of the Lorde, for are not we onely set upon Mount Sion to give light to all the rest of the world? Have not we the true hand may d of the Lord to rule us, unto whom the eternall majestic of God hath reveled his truth and supreme power of excellencye? By whom then shall the truth be preached, but by them unto whom the truth shall

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah Ixvi, v. 18, 19. Davis is quoting from memory, and from the Bible of 1541.

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah Ixv, v. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah xlix, v. 11, 12.

be reveled ? It is onely we, therefore, that must be these shining messengers of the Lord, and none but we, for as the prophet sayth, O how beautiful! are the feet of the messenger that bringeth the message from the mountain, that proclameth peace, that bringeth the good tidings and preacheth health and sayth to Sion thy God is King,<sup>1</sup> so that hereby the spirituall benefit arising by this discovery is most apparant, for which, if there were no other cause, wee are all bound to labour with purse and minde for the discovery of his notable passage. And nowe as touching the corporall and worldly benefits which will thereby arise, our owne late experience leadeth us to the full knowledge thereof, as by the communitie of trade groweth the mightines of riches, so by the kinde and guide of such tradinges may grow the multiplication of such benefits, with assurance how the same may in the best sort be continued. In the consideration whereof, it is first to bee regarded with what commodities our owne country aboundeth, either naturall or artificiall, what quantity may be spared, and wher the same may with the easiest rate be gained, and how in his best nature unto us returned, all which by this passage shall be unto us most plentifully effected, and not onely that, but this also which is most to be regarded, that in our thus trading wee shall by no meanes enrich the next adjoyning states unto us, for riches breed dread, and povertie increaseth feare.

But here I cease fering to offend, yet it is a question whether it were better by an easy rate to vent our commodities far of, or by a more plentifull gayne to passe them to our neerer neighbours, and those therby more enriched then our selves. The premises considered wee finde our country to abound with woll, and wollen cloth, with lead, tin, copper, and yron, matters of great moment, wee also knowe our soyle to be

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah Hi, v. 7. Davis quotes from the translation of 1541, except that he has "messenger" instead of "ambassador". The modern version has "him", and is differently worded.

fertill, and would, if trad did so permit, have equal imploiment with any of our neighbours, in linnen cloth, fustians, seys,<sup>1</sup> grograms,<sup>2</sup> or any other forraine artificiall commodities, besides the excellent labours of the artsmen, either in metallayne mechanicall faculties, or other artificiall ornaments, whereof India is well knowne to recieve all that Europe can afford, rating our commodities in the highest esteeme of valewe, which by this passage is speedily perfourmed, and then none of these should lie dead upon our handes as now they doe, neither should wee bee then ignorant as now we are in many excellent practises into which by trade wee shoulde bee drawne.

And by the same passage in this ample vent, we should also, at the first hand, receive all Indian commodities, both naturall and artificiall, in a far greter measure, by an easier rate, and in better condition then nowe they are by many exchaunges brought unto us. Then would all nations of Europe repayre unto England, not only for these forraine merchandizes by reason of their plenty, perfection, and easy rates, but also to passe away that which God in nature hath bestowed upon them and their countrie, whereby her majestic and her highnes successors for ever, should be monarks of the earth and commaunders of the Seas, through the aboundance of trade her customes would bee mightily augmented, her state highly inriched, and her force of shipping greatly advanced, as that thereby shee should be to all nations most dredful, and we, her subjects, through imploiment, should imbrace aboundance and be clothed with plenty.

The glory whereof would be a deadly horrer to her adver-

<sup>1</sup> *Say* fine woollen stuff manufactured, in those days, at Sudbury and Colchester.

<sup>2</sup> *Grogram*, from the French *Gros-grain*, coarse grain or coarsely woven. *Grogram* was stuff made of silk and mohair, thicker and coarser than ordinary taffeta.

saries, increase friendly love with al, and procure her majestie stately and perpetuall peace, for it is no small advantage that ariseth to a state by the mightines of trade : being by necessity linked to no other nation, the same also beeing in commodities of the highest esteeme, as gold, silver, stones of price, jewels, pearls, spice, drugs, silkes raw and wrought, velvetts, cloth of gold, besides many other commodities with us of rare and high esteeme, whereof as yet our countrie is by nature deprived, al which India doth yeld at reasonable rates in great aboundance, receiving ours in the highest esteeme, so that hereby plenty retourning by trade abroad, and no smale quantitie provided by industry at home, all want then banished in the aboundance of her majesties royalty, so through dred in glory, peace, and love, her majestie should be the commaunding light of the world and we, her subjects, the stars of wonder to al nations of the earth.

All which the premises considered it is impossible that any true English hart should be staid from willing contribution to the performance of this so excellent a discovery, the Lords and subjectes spirituall for the sole publication of Gods glorious gossell. And the Lords and subjectes temporal, for the renowne of their prince and glory of their nation, should be ther unto most vehemently affected.

Which, when it shall so please God in the mightines of his mercy, I beseech him to effect. Amen.

FINIS.

[\*The Times and Tides of John Davis\*](#)  
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