

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

THE VOYAGE ABOUT THE WORLD,

By SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

EVER since Almighty God commanded Adam to subdue the earth, there have not wanted in all ages some heroicall spirits which, in obedience to that high mandate, either from manifest reason alluring them, or by secret instinct inforcing them thereunto, have expended their wealth, imployed their times, and aduentured their persons, to finde out the true circuit thereof.

Of these, some haue endeauored to effect this their purpose by conclusion and consequence, drawne from the proportion of the higher circles to this nethermost globe, being the centre of the rest. Others, not contented with schoole points, and such demonstrations (for that a small error in the beginning, growing in the progresse to a great inconuenience), have added thereunto their owne history and experience. All of them in reason haue deserued great commendation of their owne ages, and purchased a iust renowne with all posterity. For if a surueyer of some few Lordships, whereof the bounds and limits were before knowne, worthily deserue his reward, not onely for his trauell, but for his skill also in measuring the whole and euerie part thereof, how much more, aboue comparison, are their famous traells by all meanes possible to be eternized, who have bestowed their studies and indeauor to suruey and measure

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

this globe, almost vnmeasurable? Neither is here that difference to be objected, which in private possessions is of value: *Whose land suruey you?* forasmuch as the maine Ocean by right is the Lord's alone, and by nature left free for all men to deale withall, as very sufficient for all mens vse, and large enough for all mens industry.

And therefore that valiant enterprise, accompanied with happy successe, which that right rare and thrice worthy Captaine, *Francis Drake*, atcheiued, in first turning up a furrow about the whole world, doth not onely ouermatch the ancient Argonautes, but also outreacheth, in many respects, that noble mariner *Magellanus*, and by farre surpasseth his crowned victory. But hereof let posterity iudge.

It shall for the present be deemed a sufficient discharge of duty to register the true and whole history of that his voyage, with as great indifferency of affection as a history doth require, and with the plaine euidence of truth, as it was left recorded by some of the chiefe, and diuers other actors in that action.

The said Captaine *Francis Drake* hauing in a former voyage, in the yeares 72 and 73 (the description whereof is already imparted to the view of the world), had a sight, and onely a sight, of the South Atlantik, and thereupon either conceiuing a new, or renewing a former desire, of sailing on the same, in an English bottom; he so cherished thenceforward, this his noble desire and resolution in himselfe, that notwithstanding he was hindered for some yeares, partly by secret enuie at home, and partly by publique seruice for his Prince and countrie abroad (wherof Ireland under Walter, Earle of Essex, giues honorable testimonie), yet, against the yeare 1577, by gracious commission from his soueraigne, and with the helpe of diuers friends aduenturers, he had fitted himselfe with fiue ships.

1. The *Pellican*, admirall, burthen 100 tonnes, Captaine-generall *Francis Drake*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

BY SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

7

2. The *Elizabeth*, vice-admirall, burthen 80 tonnes, Captaine *John Winter*.

3. The *Marigold*, a bark of 30 tonnes, Captaine *John Thomas*.

4. The *Swanne*, a fliboat of 50 tonnes, Captaine *John Chester*.

5. The *Christopher*, a pinnace of 15 tonnes, Captaine *Thomas Moone*.

These ships he mand with 164¹ able and sufficient men, and furnished them also with such plentifull prouision of all things necessary, as so long and dangerous a voyage did seeme to require; and amongst the rest, with certaine pinnaces ready framed, but carried aboard in pieces, to be new set vp in smoother water, when occasion serued. Neither had he omitted to make provision also for ornament and delight, carrying to this purpose with him, expert musitians, rich furniture (all the vessels for his table, yea, many belonging euen to the Cooke-roome being of pure silucr), and diuers shewes of all sorts of curious workmanship, whereby the ciuilitie and magnificence of his natiue contrie might, amongst all nations whithersoouer he should come, be the more admired.

Being thus appointed, we set saile out of the Sound of Plimmouth, about 5 of the clocke in the afternoone, Nouember 15, of the same yeare [1577],² and running all that night

¹ [With 5 ships and 150 men and some boys.]—*Sloane MS.* p. 3.

² [Whence setting our course for the frette of Jubolter* under pretence to travel to Alexandria, we were enforced by contrary winds into ffa'mout, upon our owne coast at Cornwall, where meeting with an intollerable storme we seemed to be driven into a desperate state, and at that tyme not to proceed any further in our intended trauailes. Notwithstanding it pleased God at the last in mercy to deliver us, with the loss

* Gibraltar ?

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

Southwest, by the morning [Nov. 16] were come as farre as the Lyzard, where meeting the wind at Southwest (quite contrarie to our intended course), we were forced, with our whole fleet, to put in to Falmouth.

The next day [Nov. 17], towards euening, there arose a storme, continuing all that night and the day following [18] (especially betweene 10 of the clocke in the forenoone, and 5 in the afternoone) with such violence, that though it were in a very good harbor, yet 2 of our ships, viz., the admirall (wherein our generall himself went) and the Marigold, were faine to cut their maine masts by board, and for the repairing of them, and many other damages in the tempest sustained (as soone as the weather would giue leave), to beare backe to Plimmouth againe, where wee all arrived the 13 day [Nov. 28] after our first departure thence.

Whence (hauing in few daies supplied all defects) with happier sayles¹ we once more put to sea, *December 13, 1577*.

As soone as we were out of sight of land, our generall gaue us occasion to coniecture in part whither he intended, both by the directing of his course and appointing the *Randevous** (if any should bee seuered from the fleet) to be the Iland *Mogadore*. And so sailing with fauorable windes, the first land that we had sight of was *Cape Cantinet†* in *Barbarie*,²

of the main mast of our admirall, and the bursting of one of our small barkes only.]—*Sloane MS.* p. 3.

¹ [Holding our way with a prosperous wind and good success in all things (one boy only, lost out of the bark Canter in the Bay of Portugal, excepted.)]—*Sloane MS.* p. 3.]

² [Whence by continueing along the land of Barbaria, wee sayled neere to the city of Lions, which sometime is said to have been a city of great fame, being frequented with marchants out of many nations and kingdoms; but the inhabitants being proud and exceeding in all other wickednesses, the Lord sent an army of Lyons upon them, whoe spareing neither man, woman, nor child, but consumeing all from the face of

* Rendezvous.

† Cape Cantin in lat. 32 N., long. 10 W.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

BY SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

9

December 25, Christmas day in the morning. The shoare is faire white sand, and the inland contrie very high and mountainous, it lieth in 32 deg. 30 mi. north latitude, and so coasting from hence southward, about 18 leagues, we arriued the same day at *Mogadore*, the Iland before named.

This *Mogadore* lies vnder the dominion of the king of *Fesse*, in 31 deg. 40 mi., about a mile off from the shoare, by this meanes making a good harbor betweene the land and it. It is vninhabited, of about a league in circuit, not very

the earth, took the city in possession to themselves and their posterity to this day, whereof it is named *Civitas Leonum* ever since; from whence, being night, the Lyons with great fierceness came foarth raging along the shoare with fearfull roreings and cryes, making many offers to enter the sea and to make a prey of our boate rowing along, but as their nature is not to abide the light of the sonn or of fyre, so it seemeth that they cannot endure to come in the water. Wee thence kept on our way, the next morneing came in sight of Sophia, the chief port on that side of that land, from whence beeing discovered by the inhabitants afar off they sent out two shippes against us in all hast, if happily we had been those whom they hoped for and whose comeing they desired: but suspecting wee were not the same, sodainly they returned into harborow againe: and wee quietly kept our way till we chanced with a little island some miles from the mainland, named *Mogador*, to the southward of Sophya, where finding a good roade for our fleete, and a fitt place for the setting up of a pinnis for our necessary uses upon that coast, wee came to anchor. Now the reason why the Sophinites did send forth their shippes to meet us, was for that there was present warrs in hand betweene the two kinges, the one of *Moroccho*, which was the nephew, and the other which was of the blackmoors, which was the uncle, and being ready in the field with their armyes the only stay they entered not into battle (who should reigne), was for that the King of Portugal was daily expected to come with his power to ayd the King of *Morocho* against the usurper his uncle, and wee being supposed to be the fore runners of the King of Portugals fleet, they intended to satisfye themselves therein by sending out towards us to dissuade us if it had been possible.”]—*Sloane MS.* p. 3.

c

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

high land, all ouergrowne with a kind of shrub brest high, not much vnlike our priuet, very full of Doues, and therefore much frequented of Goshaukes, and such like birds of prey, besides diuers sorts of sea-foule very plentie. At the south side of this Iland are three hollow rocks, vnder which are great store of very wholesome but very vglie fish to look to. Lying here about a mile from the maine, a boate was sent to sound the harbor, and finding it safe, and in the very entrance on the north side about 5 or 6 fathome water (but at the souther side it is very dangerous), we brought in our whole fleet, *December 27*, and continued there till the last day of the same moneth, imploying our leisure the meane while in setting vp a pinnace, one of the 4 brought from home in peices with vs. Our abode here was soone perceiued by the inhabitants of the contrie, who comming to the shoare, by signes and cries made shewe that they desired to be fetched aboard, to whom our generall sent a boate, into which 2 of the chiefest of the *Moores* were presently receiued, and one man of ours, in exchange, left a land, as a pledge for their returne.

They that came aboard were right courteously entertained with a daintie banquet, and such gifts as they seemed to be most glad of, that they might thereby vnderstand that this fleete came in peace and friendship, offering to traffique with them, for such commodities as their contrie yeelded, to their owne content. This offer they seemed most gladly to accept, and promised the next day to resort againe, with such things as they had to exchange for ours. It is a law amongst them to drinke no wine, notwithstanding by stealth it pleaseth them well to haue it abundantly, as here was experience. At their returne ashoare, they quietly restored the pledge which they had stayed, and the next day at the houre appointed returning againe, brought with them Camells, in shewe loaden with wares to be exchanged for our commodities, and calling for a boate in haste, had one sent them,

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

BY SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

11

according to order, which our generall (being at this present absent) had given before his departure to the Iland.

Our boate comming to the place of landing (which was among the rocks), one of our men, called *John Fry*, mistrusting no danger nor fearing any harme pretended by them, and therefore intending to become a pledge, according to the order vsed the day before, readilie stept out of the boate and ranne a land, which opportunitie (being that which the *Moores* did looke for) they tooke the aduantage of, and not onely they which were in sight layed hands on him to carrie him away with them, but a number more, which lay secretly hidden, did forthwith breake forth from behinde the rocks, whither they had conueyed themselues (as it seemeth the night before), forcing our men to leaue the rescuing of him that was taken as captiue, and with speed to shift for themselues.

The cause of this violence was a desire which the king of *Fesse* had, to vnderstand what this fleet was, whether any forerunner of the kings of *Portugall* or no, and what newes of certaintie the fleet might giue him. And therefore after that he was brought to the kings presence, and had reported that they were Englishmen, bound for the straights, vnder the conduct of generall *Drake*, he was sent back againe with a present to his Captaine and offer of great curtesie and friendship, if he would vse his contry. But in this meane time, the generall being grieved with this shew of iniurie, and intending, if he might, to recouer or redeeme his man, his pinnace being ready, landed his company, and marched somewhat into the countrie, without any resistance made against him, neither would the *Moores* by any meanes come nigh our men to deale with them any way; wherefore hauing made prouision of wood, as also visited an old fort, built sometime by the king of *Portugall*, but now ruined by the king of *Fesse*, we departed, *December 31*, towards *Cape Blanck*, in such sort, that when *Fry* returned, he found to

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

his great griefe that the fleet was gone ; but yet, by the king's fauor, he was sent home into *England* not long after, in an English marchants ship.¹

¹ [But what they then could not effect by that meanes at that time, they attempted to bring to pass immediately by another practise; for noe sooner were wee come to anchor, but certaine men, as it seemed of good worth, were sent with expedition to com to our shippes, if happily they might com to know what wee were, and to put themselves out of doubt whether wee were friends or enemyes to the king of Maroccho. Notwithstanding their comeing was in vaine: for they were nothing the wiser to know the thing they came for: wherein when they saw they failed, they yet used another pollicye, hoping at the last to satisfye themselves. In subtilty therefore they as merchants offered to traffick with us such comodities as their country yielded, as shuger, figgs, dates, and such like, for such merchandise as wee hadd and they pretended to want: wherein a mutual consent being given, they appoynted the next day that certaine camells should be brought to the shoare laden with such things for our use; and so, after a kind entertainment with a banquet, and som small gifts bestowed upon them, they departed, in hope to accomplish their purpose the next day. In the meane tyme they left neither meanes nor oportunity to bring to pass what they intended. Wherefore in the night, they haveing assigned the fittest place to serve their turne, which was a narrow creek between two bankes, they placed there among the reeds on both sydes secretly, divers solgers, well appoynted to the slawter. The houre being now com of their dissembled traffick, there appeared in sight, by estimacion, some 30 camells laden, as seemed to us, with comodities; which being arrived at the place, they made signes to us to send our boat to fetch them to shipp board, wherein as the general was most willing, so our men were most speedy, thinking themselves the happyest men which could enter first into action; but often tymes the proverb is veriefied, "More hast worse speed", for our men armeing in the place and casting no perills, one of their company, Frye by name, who sometymes being in the country, in merchant voyages, had attained to som use of their tongue (and therefore the bolder), did sodainly but unadvisedly leap out of the boat on shoare, who no sooner was landed but the barbarians layd hands upon

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

BY SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

13

[1578.] Shortly after our putting forth of this harbour, we were met with contrary windes and foule weather, which continued till the fourth of January; yet we still held on to our course, and the third day after [Jan. 7] fell with cape *De Guerre*, in 30 deg. []min., where we lighted on 3 Spanish fishermen called *Caunters*, whom we tooke with our new pinnace, and carried along with vs till we came to *Rio del Oro* [Jan. 13], iust under the Tropick of Cancer, where with our pinnace also we tooke a caruell. From hence till the fifteenth day, we sailed on towards cape *Barbas* [Jan. 15], where the Marigold took a caruell more, and so onward to cape *Blanck*, till the next day at night [Jan. 16].

This cape lieth in 20 deg. 30 min., shewing itselfe vpright like the corner of a wall, to them that come towards it from the North, hauing, between it and cape *Barbas*, lowe, sandy, and very white land all the way. Here we observed the South *Guards*, called the *Crosiers*, 9 deg. 30 min. above the horizon. Within the cape we tooke one Spanish ship more riding at anchor (all her men being fled ashoare in the boate saue two), which, with all the rest we had formerly taken, we carried into the harbor, 3 leagues within the cape.¹

him, inforcing him with a dagger sett to his breast either to go with them or presently to dye. Who being sett upon a horse, was with all expedition carried away to the king, as wee conceived; the rest of our men in the boat, being as it was in the midd of their barbarous enemies, with much adoe most hardly escaped, being unprovided either to defend themselves or to annoy the enemies, which is a thing ever to be misliked in travellers; I mean, to be secure when they deale with such as open and knowen enemies to Christ, whom they profess. Wee haveing ended our occasion in this place, and having tasted of the fruits boath of the sea about this island, which yielded abundance of good and most wholesom fish, as in like case the Island itself being full of long winged Barbary hawks, we departed, without any notice what was becom of our man.]—*Sloane MS.*, fol. 3, 4.

[Now we coasting along to the south ward for Cape

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00811-2 - The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake: Being his Next Voyage to that to Nombre de Dios

Francis Drake and Francis Fletcher

Excerpt

[More information](#)

Here our generall determined for certaine dayes to make his abode, both for that the place afforded plenty of fresh victualls, for the present refreshing of our men, and for their future supply at sea (by reason of the infinite store of diuers sorts of good fish, which are there easie to be taken, euen within the harbor, the like whereof is hardly to be found againe in any part of the world), as also because it serued very fitly for the dispatching of some other businesses that we had. During the time of our abode in this place, our generall being ashoare was visited by certaine of the people of the country, who brought downe with them a woman, a *Moore*

Blank or White Cape, hadd every sale at command in the way, as if Neptune had been present, without anny resistance or refusall or resisting: when we arrived at the same cape, we found it so fair and stately, and the onely ornament of that land; but in the meane tyme, in the way saileing from Magador to this place upp in the country, did appeare a high and mighty spire, covered at topp with abundance of snow as white as Salmon, which, notwithstanding the country be exceeding hott, yet it seemeth never to be dissolved, because it reacheth so high into the colde or frozen region that the reflection of the sonn can never com to it from the face of the earth; whereby, as it is reputed, the inhabitants of Morrocho have singular benefitt, for from thence they ever continually fetch snow and bring into the citty and other places to sell in the marketts, which they use for many things, but chiefly to mix with wines and other drinks, which otherwise would (for the extreame heat of the country) be unnaturall and contagious to their bodyes. Neither may this seeme a thing strange to be used in Barbary, seeing it is ordinary in Civill* and many other places of Spaine, and that which is more, Russia, which is one of the cold countryes of the world in their winter, yet in their summer, which is exceeding hott, thei are inforced to temper their drinks with ice and snow, which they keep and preserve of purpose to that use, lest it might breed in their bodyes a generall contagion through their whole land. These things I write of my owne knowledg in my former travailes, not by report or by conjecture.]—*Sloane MS.*, fol. 4.

* Seville.