The Earl of Cumberland’s Voyages [D/EL WF 74]

The Honorable three Adventures and Memorable Voyages of the R. Honorable GEORGE Erle of Cumberland and never yet printed or Published: vizt the 9th, 10th, and 11th or later voyages. Wherof the 9th and 10th briefly and the 11th and later voyage are largely here collected newly and written oute truly by mee Richard Robinson. Citizen of London. Ann°1598

His Honors Nyntne Voyage Briefly to Terceras 1595

This yeare his Honoure buylded a new greate ship of his owne at Depthford Strond of 900 tonnes, which the Queenes Majestie herself named the Malice Scourge or Scourge of Malice wherin his Lordship purposed to have gone personally him self for this his Nyntne Voyage the fifth tyme to the seas, and was redy to goo from Plymouth with the first wynde. But her Majestie sent for him back ageayne from Plymouth by Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins knights by cause (at her Majesties pleasure) they had undertaken a voyage to the India: Notwithstanding the ship proceeded on her voyage, with the Alcedo, the Anthony and the Olde freegott to the Islandes of Tercera. Where meeting with the Kinge of Spaynes Armardo, they fought with his Viz [Vice] Admiral whome the have almost suncke also spoylled many of his men and had but some of our men hurt and slayne: So as the Carak made all the saylle she could (yea and that with greate difficulty) to recover her consortes, who kept themselves aloof and were loathe to come with in danger of this his Honors Fleeete though they were but these but these 4 vessells at this tyme; which returned home ageane with a saving voyage, praysed bee God.

His Honoures Tenth Voyage Briefly to the Southward. 1596

This yeare his Honour victualled the same his ship the Malice Scourge then venturing the first tyme (in person) in her, and (in deede) now the fifte tyme to the seas for this his Tenth Voyage as Admirall now in her of this Fleeete; accompanied with her Majestyes ship, the Dreadnought and other small shippes, who kept together some 30 or 40 lege [leagues] from England Southward. Till the Mallice Scourge having (by fowle weather) spent her mayne mast, his Honoure went oute of her into the Dreadnought; and so withoute any other loss or hinderance this fletete returned into England safely, praysed bee God. And this muche for these twoo voyages Briefly, by the instructions and affirmations of one Robert Hicheman a Seaeman and his Honoures servaunt attending upon his Honor in moste of all his voyages and by mee written oute 23 December Anno ..... 1596

His Honoures Eleventh Voyage into the West India Ann° 159[7] With his Memorable Action performed at St John Port Rico

And first a Description of his Honoures Fleeete and Men

Inprimis (Firstly) His honors sayde ship the Malice Scourge (beeyng Admirall of this Fleeete) his Lordship went now personally in her as General the second tyme, but the sixte tyme to the seas, for this his Eleaventh and later voyage to the West India: Capteyn in her (under his Honour swthwardes (southwards) John Wattes, Capt. homewards James Laneton, Master all the voyage John Ellyot. Land Captaines for the voyage 17 Viz
1. Sir John Barckley Colonell generall of all the forces
2. Capt. Willyam Meysey Lavetenant (Leyutenant) Colonell of the same forces
3. Hercules F...... Sergeant major generall

1 The Merchannt Royal (vizadmiral) Capt in her all the voyage Sit John Bartlet knighte, master all the voyage Willyam Parfect
2 The Ascension (Reare admirall) Capt all the voyage Robert Slack, Master outward
3 John Grannt mort (killed) at Port Rico, Master homewards William Winter
4 The Sampson Capt owtwardes Master Henry Clifford gent mort there, Capt homewards Christopher Coltess Master all the voyage Andrew Shilling
5 The Alcedo Capt owtwardes John Ley, till they came beyond the coaste of Spayne to the Islandes of Lancerote; from thence hee went in his owne pyness upon his owne private voyage into India. Capt in her from Lancerote to the India and homewards Capt Coche, Master all the voyage John Potam
6 The Content Capt all the voyage Master Francys Slingsby gent. Master all the voyage Samuel Spencer
7 The Prosperus Capt outward James Laneton to the Islands and from them homewards Capt John Watkins, Master all the voyage Robert Thornton
8 The Centurion Capt outward Henry Palmer mort there, Capt homeward his sone, …. Palmer. Master outward John Perryman mort there, Master homewards Barthollmew Keble
The Gallyon Constant Capt all the voyage Hercules Fulgea gent, Master owtwardes Richard Knottefford [Knottesford] mort there. Master homewards Walter Pryse

The Residue of His Honors (missing) & Men for the 11th voyage

The Affection Capt all the voyage Wilyam Flemming Master outward Thomas Harding mort there, Master homewards (missing)
The Gayana, Capt owtwardes Christopher Coltess, Capt homeward Gerard Midleton gent, Master all the voyage Edward Goddard.
The Scoute Captain all the voyage Henry Jolliff, Master all the voyage Henry Lake
The Anthony Capt owtwardes Robart Carelis mort at Port Rico. Capt homewardes Andrew Andrews; Master Willyam Winter till her came to Domino, and then hee went out of her into the Ascension as aforesayde. Master homewardes Anthony Danyells.
The Pegasus Capt all the voyage Edward Goodwyn Master all the voyage Robert Carr till shee was cast away at her returne homewardes.
The Royall Defence Capt all the voyage Edward Bromley Master all the voyage Philip Hillis
The Margarite and John Capt all the voyage Edward Dixon Master all the voyage John Newman
The Bark Ley Capt owtwardes […] Capt homewardes […] Master owtwardes […] Master homewardes […]
The Olde fregott Capt all the voyage William Harper, Master all the voyage Edward smith till shee was caste away upon her returne
Ttwoo Barges used of parpose for the … landing of men, at his Honoures pleasure in any port whatsoever.

Suma totalis of the vessels: Wherof 3 shippis, one Fregott, one pyness and 2 Barges were the Erles owne: and the other 13 shippes and one Bark were Merchannte of
London. Men in all: 1700 Captaynes, Masters, Saylers and Soldye[rs]. Of whose proceedinge actcons and Returne in order now following

A Journall of the Eleaventh & later Voyage to ye West India, 1597

This Noble Erle (beeying thus by Gods providence prepared) did in his Honoures own person and at his cheefe charge did embark himself in his sayde Admirall at Portesmouth on Monday the 6th of Marche 1587: From whence hee sett sayles with all his Fleete directing thayre first course righte forthe towards Plymouth.

Wednesday the 8th of Marche dict. (1587) saylling amongst the coast of England towards Plymouthe, they mett with twelve sayllis of Duchemen the Queenes frendes. Laiden with wynes, oranges and lymones, of whom they borrowed twoo buttes of wyne and so left them bounde for England.

Fryday the 10th of Marche dict they came streaght to Plymouthe where they stayed not at all: By reason the wynde fitly sending them they proceeded on thayre voyage.

Thursday the 16th dict, they few with the Burlinges and came to an anchor there about 8 of the clock at night: To fish* (as they terme yt) or fasten with ropes rounde aboute the maynemast of the Malice Scourge, to Strengthen yt (it)

*To fasten a piece of wood, technically called a fish upon (a beam, mast, yard etc) so as to strengthen it.

Saturday the 18th Marche dict aboute 6 of the clock at nighte there came in a fulle and stowte Flemming as they were then and there at anchor: whom when they espied, the sent towards him thayre foresayde ship the Scoute to see what her was. She being come neare him, hee sett upon her and foughte with her. The Fleete hearing them so in feighte, was once mynded to weigh unto them; and (indeed) considering the lengthe of tyme they let slip slip theyre cables and made towards them. Within half an hower. they fechte up the Fleming, yet hee would not answer them, but shooting at them meynteyned a feighte with the Fleete for 3 howers; and spoyled 2 or 3 of the English men, slewe other 2 owteright and and cut of one of good Captain Greenewells legges, of whose service I have mentioned previously in the 8th Voyage anno 1594. Notwithstanding the English men shott him through in 8 severall places, at last and clapt him aboarde, and entered some ten men into him: with whome hee made away from this Fleete, but the next news they harde of him was that hee had yeelded. This was a ship of Hamboroug and laden with corne c[ox, cottons, rushes and muche more other merchandizes. So the Fleete saylled forward and recovered sight of the Rock a place in the seae towards the Southward Cape, whether they afterward saylled, as you now shall heare, herenafter.

Monday the 20th of Marche dict. the Earle lay [boylling] up and downe for the Fleete and so kept his course towards the rock afore sayde, and so to Capitcher* a foreland of Portugal where they lay beating up and downe waiting for ye Spa[nish] Kings Carake in towne from Lisbone until Tewsdasy the 4th of April anno 1598 followynge. In which tyme they spake with five Flemminges, and took two caravels, who all in one agree affirming that the sayde Carak were in a redynis to come out with the first wynde.

* Possibly Cape Espichel today

During which the Fleete there [lying against] the Rock the Affection took a Flemming laden with Wheate and sent her (unknowne to the Erle) into England, shee going on
her voyage to Port Rico. And the rest of the Fleete took 3 Flemmings laden with Wheate and a Frenchman laden with wyne.

Tewsday the sayde 4th of Aprill the Fleete left sighte of the Rock and bare with a fayre wynde towards the Southward Cape; and towards the Islandes of the Canaries.

Saturday the 8th of April dict. the fleete took 2 empty Flemmings which were ageane returned afterwards at the Islandes of Lancerot. the cause of go[w]ing forwardes before the Carak came forthe was, for that they had intelligence, that one Wooseley a Master of a ship of London (who broughte certeyn prisoners oute of England to Lishbone) certifeyed them that the Erle of Cumberland lay attending for them: upon [which] wor[des] (by the sayde Wooseley so malignantly muttered to the Carak) they stayed theyre voyage, and came not forwardes till the Erle was departe upon his voyage, and then proceeded homewardes and escaped the Erles handes.

Tewsday the 11th of April dict the Fleete came about the Southward Cape

Thursday before Easter being the 13th of April dict, they came to anchor before the Island of Lancerote.

Good Fryday the 14th of April dict they landed there and stayed until Easter day: where they lost some fewe men how few or how many soever

Fryday the 21st dict they weighed anchor and bare away betweene Lancerote and Fontey Ventura, and came to Teneriffe on Saturday the 22nd dict, where they lay nere the shoure and Gomera having lefte the Graunede Canaries to the Southwarde 3 days after.

Tewsday being St Markes Day and the [25th] dict bare to the eastward of Henoe for 4 days after.

Saturday the 29th of April Capt. Slingsby [and] Capt Jolliffe with others who were sent to Roade of Palmes (Palma) upon some service came to there fleete ageane: during [which they] took nothing.

Saturday the 13th May anno dict the Fleete ….. finale short of Dominco where they …. sayllis [sails] with a fayre winde

Monday the 22 dict they came to anchor … where they stayed the rest of that [month]

Thursday the first of June 1598 having …. weighed anchor and hoysted sayle … where they discryed* the same on Fryday … to an anchor the next day beeying Saturday. *possibly a form of descry: to discover

Whitsunday being the 4th of June [the] Fleete landed there to muster there men, where staying some 4 or 5 [howers], they returned to there shippes: and so weighing anchor and setting sayle, they directed there course toward St John Porto Rico in the West India.

Tewsday in Whitson holly dayes and the 6th dict in the morning, they landed there anchoring towards the Fort, which was some 12 or 14 myles distant from there landing place, and by night they came within a myle of the Bridge, where they rested themselves until that midnight. And then they marched downe to the Bridge, thinking
to have entered there; but yt was so strong of ytself and so well defended by the Enemy, that once [we] were enforced to retreyte with the loss of some 20 persons and as many hurt at the coast.

Wednesday following the 7th dict they [lay] all about the Bridge, where planting theyre musquettyers they [played] at an other Forte called the Red forte: where they killed most of the enemies defending the same and by caused the rest to forsake the Forte; by which means the boates landed theyre men in the eveneing of that day.

Thursday morning the 8th of June, the Erle marched to the Bridge where they entered withoute resistance, and so the Companyes (meeting together) marched to the Towne, where they entered in like manner by reason the enemy fled from them also. But the Governor of the Towne betooke him selfe to an other Forte with some 2 or 300 of his Soldyers, where the kept ower men [play], by reason of there great ordnance: until the Erle had made 2 Barricadoes, and planted 4 or 5 greate? which hee fetcht from his shippes

Sunday the 18th and M[onday] the 19th dict the Erle made a Battery in twoo or three [missing] the sayde Forte

T[uesday following] [missing] Enemies were glad to entreate [missing] parler [missing] [Wednesday] the 21st dict they yielded both ye Forte and [missing] R. Honorable, Erle of Cumberland.

Wedens[day] [missing] the 28th dict there came from Angola [missing] Freegott laden with Negroes. [missing]

[Friday the 30th] and last of June anno dict there came [missing] [m]outh of that harbour. But seeying o[ur] [missing] tackd aboute, after whome [missing not fetche her by any meanes.

[Missing] anno dict there came in thether a greate [missing] laden with mealle, aylle and other necessaryes for Brasyle hap[ning] into Port [missing] FowlE weather. His Honour seized upon the Shipp and goods, taking into his po[w]er the goods as a pryze, but sent away the ship and men, with 2 other Spanish bottomes* laden with 300 Spanyardes cleared out of Port Rico. And wasting [westing] them by the Prosperus and an other smalle shipp as farre as Leeward as Cartagena, the twoo English shippes came home ageane after the Fleet into England, praysed bee God. And here an ende of the 11th and later voyage made by the Erle of Cumberland to St John Porto Rico, in the West India. 1598

*Can mean the hull of a ship
** 1 )Munitions, 2) rigging and fittings of a ship, and many other meanings

The Erles Return and Aryval with his Fleete in England, 1598

After that this Noble Erle had thus surpryzed rhis strong towne and possessed him selfe therof with all fortifications, habillemente** and Comodities, within the same, also having cleared the Towne of all the Spanyerdes that were in yt and shipped them away as aforesayde. His Honoure then fynding in the Towne Three score good brass pecies of ordnance, certeyn Bells to some good value, also some good store of Ginger, Sugar and other spycies [f]or his benefit hee shipped them abourde certeyn shippes of this Fleete, and so having a convenient gale of westerly wynde sett sayles and weighed anchor oute of the haven of St John Port Rico on Monday the [6th - missing] 1598. What other benefit, as treasure or other such [missing] [his]
Honor founde in the Ransacking of the Towne ys best known [by him] self as worthiest therof whatsoever yt might bee, howso[ever] [missing] more or [missing]. Of the Nyne Pryces whiche hee took [missing] finall[y] in [missing] towards St John Port Rico it is [missing] by his Honors owne account (account) as by [missing] sous aboute him that the totals [missing] the pryzes taken by his Honour [missing] Comodities broughte from Port Rico [missing] [e]nough answerable to the discharg[ing] [missing] Shippes, men, victualles and [missing] for certeyne had hee met with the [missing] willingly did and would have done [missing] not bene trecherously discovered as [missing] had made this eleaventh and lat[er?] beneficall voyage that ever hee [missing] speake of his losses of his [missing]

The Erles [Missing]

[missing] inevitable so they on the maner [missing] the losses [missing] men were in all 700 wherof 60 were slayne in the assaulte of the Towne, 600 dyed there of the blody Flixe (a disease there mortally accidental every June in ye yeare amongst owre Englishmen especially) and 40 were cast away by fowle weather in there returne upon the Coaste of England. Secondly the losses of his vessels were, 4, whereof one Barge was by his Honors command cast away and sunk in the harbour of Port Rico of purpose to prevent the Enemyes malice, the other Barge was by fowle wether cast away at the Islandes of Bermudas coming homewardes. The ship called the Pegasus was cast away upon Goodwin Sandes at her returne, and his Honors Olde Fregott was cast away also by her returne at the Usshent. And yet not with standing all these hinderances, charges and losses, his Lordship hath made an honorable, servisible and s[aving] voyage, thus daunting the Enemy and diminishing his members and forces at his owne dores. From wh[ence] [missing] comest as aforesayde for England arriving with his 4 [missing] 4 [said] shippes one Barke and a pyness. [Illegible] at Portsmouth the 13th of September. [Missing] at Blackwall on the first of October. [prayed] bee God. But to continue duble [missing] immediately before the aryvall of this [missing] Erle in his [missing] contry tooke away oute of this lyfe [missing] Kinge of Spayne that greate [missing] Enemy of peace and [amity] [missing] at his Abbey of St Lawrence in [missing] on the 13th day of September [missing] for all other his blessings [missing] God owre good, gracyus [missing Aeternall God bee honor [missing] now henceforthe and forever. Amen