

**THE DISCOVERY OF
GUIANA, AND THE
JOURNAL OF THE SECOND
VOYAGE THERETO**

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The discovery of Guiana, and the journal of the second voyage thereto by Sir Walter Raleigh

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SIR WALTER RALEIGH

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The Journal of the Second Voyage thereto.

BY

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.



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INTRODUCTION.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH of Rawleigh, was born in 1552, in the Manor House of Hayes Barton, about three miles from Budleigh Salterton, in Devonshire. He went at fourteen to Oxford, as a Commoner of Oriel; and before he was eighteen he had taken arms in France as a volunteer in the ranks of the Huguenots. Walter Raleigh, the elder, was married three times, and Walter Raleigh, the younger, was his son by the third wife. Her maiden name was Champernon, but when he married her, she was widow of Otto Gilbert, with three sons. One of them was Humphrey Gilbert, whose name is associated with that of his half-brother Walter Raleigh in the history of English adventures by sea.

From France, where he had fought in the battles of Jarnac and Montcontour, young Walter Raleigh returned to England, studied law for a short time in the Middle Temple, and wrote a poem of compliment prefixed, in 1576, to Gascoigne's "Steel Glass;" but in 1578 he fought under Sir John Norris in the Low Countries. Then he was off on adventure by sea with his half-brother Humphrey Gilbert; and in 1580 he was a captain with the English troops in Ireland, where he first met Edmund Spenser. Spenser had come to Ireland a few

months before as secretary to the Lord Deputy, Arthur Lord Grey of Wilton. Raleigh and Spenser, who were then young men of about eight-and-twenty, became afterwards strong friends; for Raleigh also, vigorous man of action, was a poet and a good one, and Spenser, foremost of the true Elizabethan poets, took not less interest than Milton in the vital action of his time.

In December, 1581, Raleigh was sent from Ireland to London with despatches for the Queen. In February, 1582, he went with Leicester to Antwerp. In the following April he had a new appointment as a Captain in Ireland, because as the Queen's warrant ran, "Our pleasure is to have our servant Walter Rawley trained some time longer in that our realm for his better experience in martial affairs, and for the especial care that we have to do him good, in respect of his kindred that have served us, some of them near about our person." But his office was by the same warrant to be for a while committed to a deputy, because he had "for some considerations" leave to stay in England.

It was at this time that Raleigh's character and his rare personal accomplishments began to raise him high in the Queen's favour. To this time belongs the doubtful story of the cloak gallantly spread over the wet shore at Greenwich for the Queen to walk upon. He was thirty years old, with six feet of a handsome body richly dressed—a Flemish Jesuit wrote of Raleigh, when in height of favour, that his mere shoes were, for the jewels in them, worth 5,600 gold pieces—a handsome face with plenty of dark hair, speech witty and

bold, proud bearing, fiery energy; a man of intense vigour in action, who could pay her Majesty the happiest compliments, and sing her praise as "Cynthia" with sense as well as music in his verse.

In the summer of 1583, Raleigh's brother-in-law, Humphrey Gilbert, having found others to join money in the adventure, started on a second expedition. Raleigh contributed to it £2,000 for the equipment of a ship, "The Ark Raleigh," but the Queen would not allow him to sail in it. The expedition was unfortunate. Gilbert was drowned in the wreck of his own vessel, crying to his comrades, "Be of good heart, my friends, we are as near Heaven by sea as by land!"

Sir Humphrey Gilbert's letters patent were continued by the Queen in March, 1584, to Walter Raleigh, who sent out, in April, Captains Barlow and Anadas in two vessels, to explore the coast of America from Florida northward, and report upon any region he found fit for colonizing. They came back in September with an excellent account of the lands. Her Majesty then named them, as a maiden queen, Virginia. The Queen's age was, at that time, fifty-one. Her favour to Raleigh was due to his merit, to his bold spirit of enterprise, and to the large expense he was incurring for the establishment of colonies in the New World that might enable England to draw, like Spain, new strength from beyond the seas: Raleigh's undertakings put him to great cost, and the Queen freely supplied money. In March, 1584, in 1585, in August, 1587, in May, 1589, she gave him grants of a licence to export woollen