

S. P. EX.
DRAKE
1581.

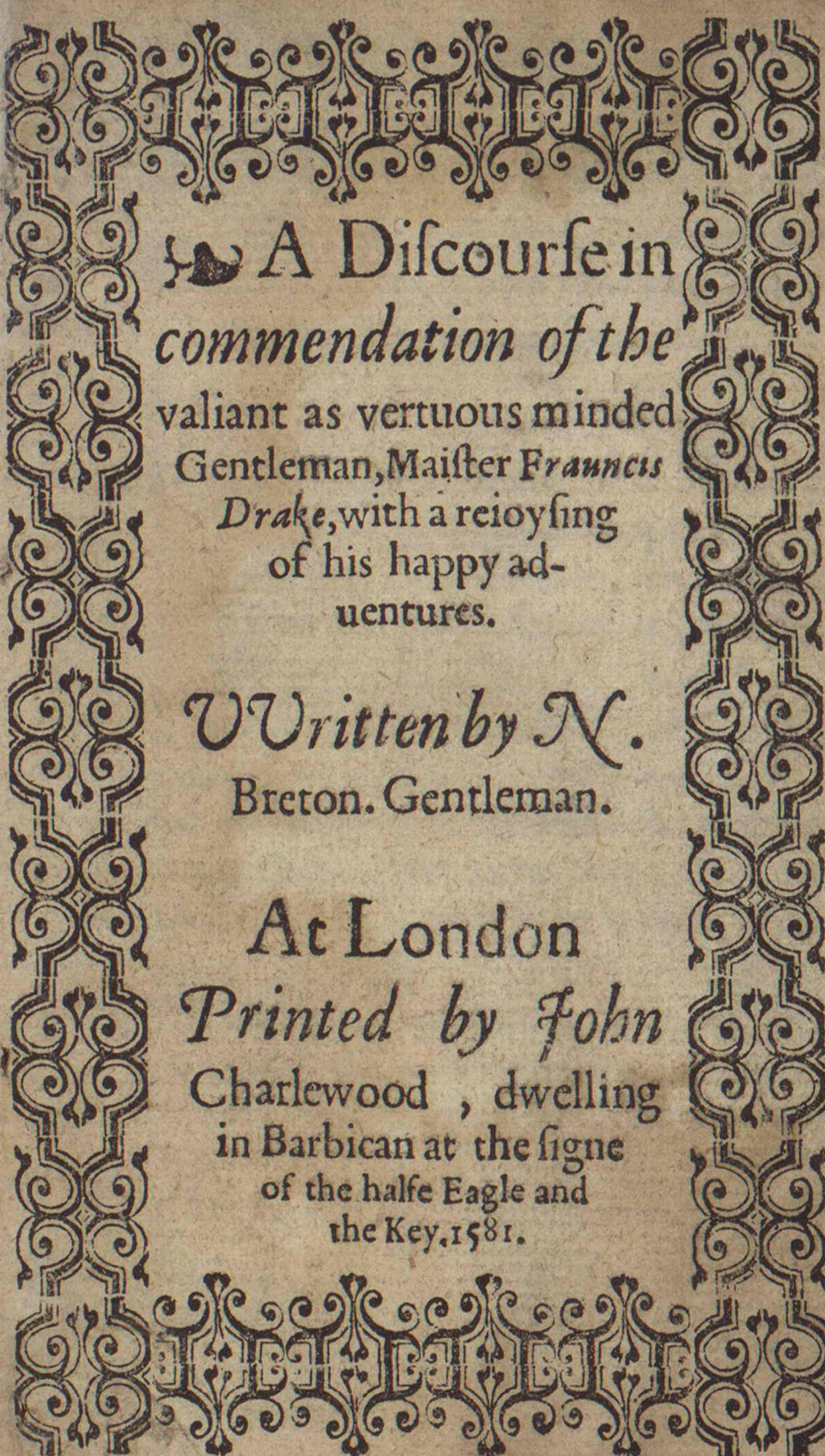


1511

C. R. P.

2740

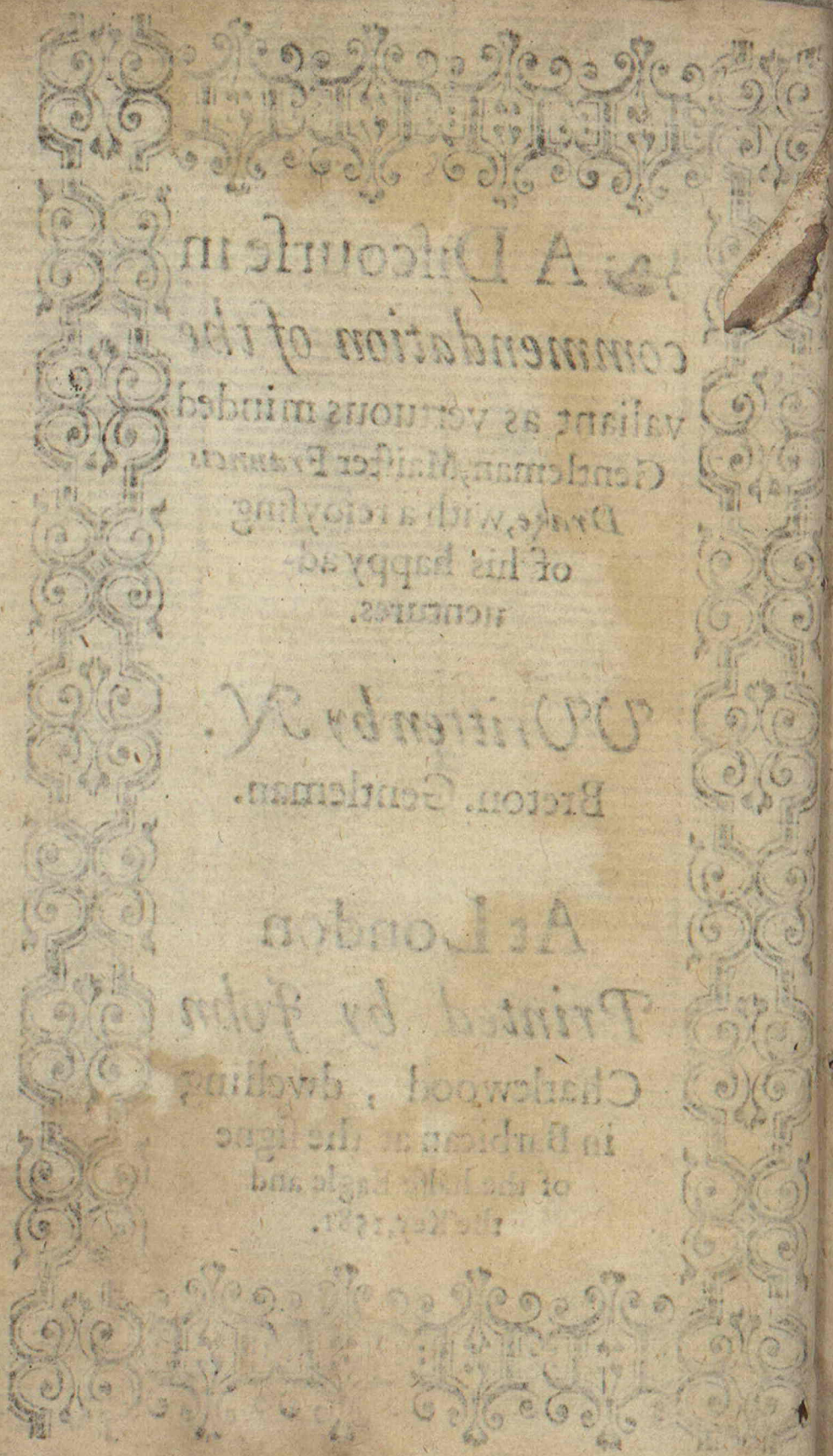
"



*A Discourse in
commendation of the
valiant as vertuous minded
Gentleman, Maister Frauncis
Drake, with a reioysing
of his happy ad-
uentures.*

*Written by N.
Breton. Gentleman.*

*At London
Printed by Fohn
Charlewood , dwelling
in Barbican at the signe
of the halfe Eagle and
the Key, 1581.*



A Discourse in
 commendation of the
 valiant as virtuous minded
 Gentleman, Master F. ...
 Duke, with a ...
 of his happy ad-
 ventures.

Written by W.
 Biron, Gentleman.

All London
 Printed by John
 Chawwood, dwelling
 in Barbican at the signe
 of the ... and
 the ...

15

To the right Noble minded,
as happy Gentleman, Maister *Frauncis Drake,*
Nicholas Breton, wisheth the fauour of
God with all good fortune.



Good Captaine, the Honour of
your highe good happe, the loue of
your noble minde, the reporte of
your great aduentures, with prof-
perity in all your affaires, your gal-
lant going foorth, & your goldē comming home:
hath made me to presume, with more good will,
then skill, to shew my good minde, in desire to set
out, (though little,) yet some part of the singuler
commendation, that you haue wholly deserued.
Had I beene with you to haue set downe in note e-
uery particuler cause worthy to be noted, seene e-
uery daunger that you haue passed, knowne the
diuersity of those things that you are expert in:
then had I bcene able to haue set downe suche
things as the world might wonder at. But for wāt
of such good hap, to come by such experience, I
can say, but that the worlde may wonder at that
which I haue not seene: but you haue gon tho-
rough. You haue run the course, that I cannot dis-
course of. I cannot showe the commendation that

A.ii.

you

you haue runy deierued, and therfore, wanting ex-
perience to draw the platforme, and set down the
perils of your passages, I wil say but what I thinke,
and thinke that I cannot say, in commendation of
your happy deserts that may well be had in great
admiration, and so referring you to that which
followes. I rest.

Yours to commaund,

Nicholas Breton.

Braue is the minde, that loues to looke abroade,
and VVit employes, to woorke of greatest woorth:
Vnto vvhose hart no labour seemes a loade.

Nor farthest farre, vwhen Fancy setteth foorth.

To forwarde mindes, is Fortune still a freend:

Happy the hart, brings all things to good end.

Oh gallant minde that hath gon out so farre,
as none before, and followv they that can:

Whose vvoorthy vvoorke, may be a shining starre,
vnto the eye of euery perfect man.

Let Captaines crouche, and Covwards leaue to crake,

And giue the fame to little Captaine Drake.

Little I say in limme, but not in minde,
for greater hart did neuer Cæsar beare:

By hard attempts, such happy Fame to finde,
as well deserues the Lavvrell braunche to vveare.

VVhat need more vvords? let Housebirds keepe their hold:
Our Captaine Drake, hath vvun the Gole of Golde.

FINIS.

↪ A Discourse, in the commendation of
Captaine *Drakes* trauayle. 1580.

When I consider of the vaine discour-
ses set down by diuers fantasticall wri-
ters, y^e haue had more desire to please
the cōmon people, with a iest of Robinhood, then
care to win them selues credite, by such work (as
tralie weyde) might deserue commendation: We
thinke I can not but mislike aswell the matter,
as the men. Who by they^r vaine works, haue a-
bused they^r wits, that might haue ben exercised,
in as great vertues. Let me name Autho^rs of
great ffame, as in Latine, Ouid & Virgil. What
did they entreate of? The one of fayned Jests, of
transfozming foles into fowles: and the other,
(the rarest peece of work that ever he did) the dis-
course of the destruction of a great Towne, for a
little Trull for *Italians*, who to Ariosto, and Pe-
tracke? See how they spent their time: the one in
lying for y^e whetstone, in his discourse of Orlādo:
the other, though sometime well occupied, yet som
other time in as mad a daine, as is seen in his tri-
umphes of Loue, & other such Jests. For *French*,
who to Amadis de Gaule? What a wonderfull
time bestowed he in pēning a false tale of Darinel?
In *Spanish*? who to Hieronimo de Contreras? read
his *Silua de Auenturas*: and finde nothing but a far-
dell of false tales. Come to our English Autho^rs,
Lord what little discretion is shown in a nūber
of discourses, set downe by annciēt felowes: as in

Robinhood and little John, old Gue of Warwick,
sir Trilgram, and such other as true as neuer was:
surely me thinkes, if such men would looke into
thēselues, they would account theyr wits, worse
then dead, to employ theyr pains to such purpose,
as should rather purchase them ill thoughts, then
thankes for theyr labours. And I confesse Idle-
ness is ill, so is it, as good to be idle, as ill occupi-
ed: and he that is occupied in vaine actions, spends
his time little better, then he that sleeps it ouer. I
haue read an old sentence, which I hold for true, &
Quot homines tot sententia: How many men, so
many minds. And sure I thinke, so many minds,
so many fancies: and how many fancies, so many
follies. Marry I thinke there be differences in de-
grees of good or bad: the lest degree in bad, to be de-
tected, and the greatest in good to be desired. But,
leaving to talke farther of the great follies of fan-
tasticall Authoys, & soz to see them so great, as is
litle to their comendatio, let me shew my minde,
what woork I thinke best for to win Fame, by
writing. Philosophy is a fine study, but y^e Uniuer-
sities are full of it, there can be litle said in it, but y^e
is known already. Gramer rules are for childre.
Musick, is a good study for a Gentlewoman. And A-
rithmetick, for a Merchaunt. For a noble minde,
Astronomy & Geomery. And for all y^e world Diui-
nity. For a traueler it is good to haue som sight in
Philosophy, to know y^e nature of diuers substan-
ces. For Diuinity, it is enough, if he haue in mind
the feare of God, at his fingers endes the Wordes

Prayer, in part a lure beleeft in Chyrt, & in care his
cōmaundements. This had: then Study in Astro-
nomy, to shew, the course of the stars, & the distance
of degrees, is very requisite, & cheefly at Sea Geo-
mitry, to know the length & bredth, and cōpasse of
suche & such places, farre from sight, is a Study most
fit for the minde ȳ meanes to go farre, & see much.
Now for them, such as sit at home, seeing theyr bo-
dies not to theyr mindes, to abide the hardnesse of
trauayle, yet honouring the good hap of such most
wozthy mindes, as by bolde aduentures, with no
feare of death, but great fauoz of god, haue thzough
most deadly daūgers, past the pikes, in most won-
derful passages, & by such perils atchieued the ho-
nour, ȳ can neuer perish. Let such I say, as see such
persons, heare of theyr good hap, & are glad of their
good spēde, thewe theyr good willes, in imploying
theyr wits, in the due pzaise of ȳ wonderfull parts
of such wozthy persons, that their dēdes recorded,
their Fame may be sounded, theyr Vertues aduaū-
ced, themselues contented, & others encouraged to
the lyke good courses. But where is there any such
wozthy wight, by whome Fame may report such
wonders? when was there any such famous acte
performed? what is ȳ thing that is so wozthy me-
mozie? & what is he, by his valiant minde ȳ hath
wun such honoz? who would know? why aske you?
frēnds oz foes? for god will oz ill? it skyls not. Let
all the world, high & lowe, Turk, Chyrtiā, frēnds
oz foes, wise oz foolish, good & bad, one & other, vn-
derstād ȳ hēere in England was begotten, borne, &

brought by? the man, y^e through all the world de-
serues such Fame, as no man moze, neuer any so
much. Fame, tels his wonders, his wonderful pro-
wesse, his worthy praise: & his worthines hath w^{it}
him Fame most wonderfull. When was this ho-
nor wun: in the time of thzee yeres, last past, which
among the pikes he pass: frō one peril, to another,
remēbzing this old sētece, Audaces Fortuna iuuat:
desiring to attempt y^e was most harde to atchiue,
saying to himself, Volenti nil difficile: & dreading y^e
daūger of no enimies: remembzing, y^e Omne solū
fortis patria. Yet hauing styll such a natural regard
to his natie countrey, such a dutifull desire to his
soueraignes seruice, such a careful wyl, to do good
to the cōmon welth: that neither the store of gems
in the *Indias*, the sweet Junkets in *Spaine*, & *Por-*
tugall, the courtesies of *Italie*, noz the fayze froes of
Flaunders, the perswasions of frēnds, noz y^e feare of
enimies: the safety at land, noz daūger at sea, could
withdza w his delight, from his desired home. But
y^e his businesse dispatched, & his desire accōplished,
w^{it} all spēde possible, & with all possible good spēde
homward, he returned: & God be thanked, at home
is arriued, to the glozy of God, to the content of his
noble minde: to the pleasure of her Maestie, to the
enrichment of her Realme, to the comfort of his
frēnds, to the ioy of a nūber, and the admiratiō of
al men. O happy man: what hath he done: so won-
derful, o2 worthy memozy: y^e which neuer was don
befoze, & follow him they y^e haue the minds. What,
which (but by him) it appēreth possible, would seem
altogether incredible, That which hath wun h^{im}
selfe

selfe welth, honoz, credit, couēnance, cōmendatiō,
wonder, & ffame: his couētre, commodity, honoz,
high hap, & ffame neuer to be forgotten. **W**orthy
work: in substance, what hath he gotten: thousāds
of treasure. **W**hat treasure: for woꝛldly treasure,
the richest, gold, siluer, perle, & pꝛecious stone: how
hath he got it: by daūger of life, laboz of body, valur
of minde, by the grace of God, & fauoz of Fortune.
Where hath he had it: in straūge Couētries: heere
some, & there some. **W**hat hath he paide for it: such
wares, as he caried with him, and his pains in his
trauayle. **W**hich way went he for it: that was ne-
uer gone befoze: and few I thinke will folow. **S**ee,
what a nūber of olde pꝛouerbs, in him pꝛoue true:
Audaces Fortuna iuuat. **W**ho euer attēpted moze
baliantly, a moze bolde enterpꝛise: whome hath e-
uer Fortune fauozd so much: *Volenti nil difficile.*
Who moze wylling to win honoz: who hath moze
hardly wun it, thē he by his happy hardines: what
harder thing than to passe the Gulf: what thing in
thought moze impossible: what wyll but his, wold
haue aduētured it: how wel (god be thāked) hath he
gon thꝛough it: *Omne solū, fortis patria.* **W**hat lād
so dāgerous, but he hath liued in: what mind moze
baliāt, thē to aduēture life in dāgers: what valure
such, as to passe euery peril: *Labore virtus:* what la-
boz: such as at heuing at ancoꝛs, hoising by sailes,
hauling at cables, & such other sea woꝛk: then tra-
uaile on lād, by hils, down dales, ouer hedges, tho-
row ditches, run, leap, thꝛough thick & thin, drawe
one leg, after an other: neuer tirde. while a lym is
whole, if hart be whole, hold out tyl his last houre.
Whis

This is the labor, y^e winneth Vertues: what vertues:
knowledge of Countreies, diuersitie of strange
things, the condicions of many people, the Lande
where Treasure lyes, the way to come by it and
honor by the getting of it, the sight of straunge Beas-
tes, birdes, fishes, fowles, & such other things, the
effects of theyr strange natures, & the natures of
theyr strange effects. In fine, what vertue vnto
knowlegde: & how better gottē then by labor: Ver-
tue Fama. What Iuel vnto Vertue: what vertue
but Famous? what Fame but by Vertue: Fama im-
mortalis, what Fame but Immortall: what Im-
mortality but neuer dies: see in him fulfilled y^e sen-
tēce of scripture. Aske, & ye shall haue, seeke & ye
shall finde, knock & it shall be opened vnto you. He
hath craued grace at Gods hands, he hath had his
helpe in hardest cases, he hath guided him throug
wonderful waies, & hath now most happily brought
him the way to his wished home in this world. He
hath sought, & he hath found. What dyd he seeke
wealth, honor: what God & good hap would afoord
him. What hath he found: wealth, great honor,
no lesse loue: as much, comendation: more credite
what he will. Countenaunce: wth right noble estimati-
on: with y^e best, admiratiō: of all y^e world. He hath
knockt, he hath had y^e dooze opened: he hath knockt
at the dooze of daūger, and was let in to his desire
What shall I say, there was no way so harde, nor
holde so strong, no haven so harde to harbor in: but
he hath trauallyed, ouerpasse, and set his Ship on
shore in. Vlisses was thought a rare man, & such
a on

one as wun great cōmendation: why, becaule ye
had traayled into many Countries, seene many
fayze Citties, & was acquainted with many mens
manners. Our Countrey man hath gone rounde
about the whole world, then thinke what strange
Lands he hath beene in, & what nūbers of Citties,
Townes & Villages he hath seene. How many su-
berby sorts of people he hath had to do with all, and
shall we not commend him aboue him that neuer
was halfe so farre, seene the third part so much, nor
knowne the tenth part, y he is perfect in: yes sure-
ly. Oh happy traualer, and twise unhappy house-
wyde R, that myst so good hap, as to aduenture the
good hap, in this so happy a voiage. Fonde Poets
write that Neptune keepe a great styre at Sea,
great sway among Ships in drowning of men, and
destroying of goodes. But I am perswaded it is a
falle tale: there may be some great fish that keeps
a great adoo among little frye: But as for men, he
hath little might against them, for such a thing as
Neptune there is not. For sure if there had, he had
seene him, eyther in the high Seas, or in the lowe
Gulfe. If he be in the Sea, he alwayes keepeth vn-
der y water, or else surely he hed his head for feare
whē he saw the bolde courage of this valiant Cap-
taine, in aduenturing the passage through so peril-
lous a Gulfe: as was thousandes of ods he should
neuer haue escaped drowning. But I stand still,
so did he then vpon this point, Audaces Fortuna
iuvat. Fortune fauors a forwarde minde, and so
(thanked be God) it hath falne out on his side: the
Italian

Italian sayes: *Chi tiene la casa, et non sempre la Medesima*. Who looves to keepe at home, finds alwaies the same: he sees no strange matters. It is a braue mind to looke abzoade. Home is homely. Who looks into the world, shall see wonders. It is a base minde, to be afraide of sparowe blasting. Lord, yf it had bene my luck to haue bene abzoad: but withers, & woulers, were neuer good housholders. I come a day after the fayze. Well yet, since it was not my luck to light on so good hap, I wyl yet honoz the man, that hath bene so happy. I wyl wish I had bene wth him, I wyl wayle yf I was not with him. I wyl thinke him halfe a God, for his good hap. I wyl honoz him as a king, for his moze then noble minde. I wyl w^{rite} of him as a man wonderfull, for his wo^rthines. I wyl comend him, as wo^rthy. I will note him, by desart, the man of all the world, most wo^rthy comendatiō. I would I were able to shew him, the good minde I beare him, to doo him the seruice yf might deserue his fauoz: to sound the Trūp of Fame, that al the world might beare of his wo^rthinesse. But what a simple man am I, to take in hand such a peece of wo^rke? as he had not neede to pleade simplicity, yf should (as he should) discharge Virgill, a singuler Authoz, had enough to doo, to w^{rite} the wo^rthy Actes of Paris, in one battayle, about Hellen. Ariosto, was thought he dyd verie well, in his fantastical discourses, of Orlando Furioso. I haue not in hand, the fancies of a famous Italian: but the trauayles of a vertuons English man. I seeke not with Ariosto, to set down lies

I am to discourse, of the true adventures, of a valiant Captain, as treasure shewes triall. I am not to talke of one battayle for a trull: but of a number of hote skymishes, for treasure. But what can I say, when I sawe nothing? what could I see? when I was not with him? Then let me craue pardon, in saying so lytle, as shewes nothing of his harde escapes, his perillous passages, his bolde adventures, his bloody skymishes, his happy victories, his deserued honoꝝ, & his everlasting fame. Wel, yet since I cannot set out euery cause, y may shew his commendation, tell of euery tempest, that dyd threaten his destruction, set downe euery daunger y gave doubt of his death. Let this suffice, he hath past a passage incredible: he hath made returne, thought impossible: he hath got that, was worthy his labour, and brought that is worthy welcome. He hath won honour, he deserues it: he deserues fame, let him haue it: he hath fame, and he can neuer lose it. How shall I discharge my desire, in comendation of this Captaine? How shall I shew him my good wyll sufficiently? Shall I byd him welcome? that he is a thousand tymes. Why, he is welcome of the best: then what dare the woꝝt do? Shall I thanke God, for his preservation, that I wyll, on knees, and pray for his prosperitie. Shall I wishe him well? who can do other? Shall I honour him? In heart: or else let me not lyue. Shall I rest at his commaund? wyllingly. Who doth enuie him? Enimies. A poynt for theyꝝ foꝝce, he is from theyꝝ fingers.

Who looues him: friends: Wel may they fare, the
doo but they? duties. Who hates him: the Deuill
Why: for his good luck. Why did he not hurt him
He could not. Who did defend him: God. Why did
he garde him: because he trusted in him. From
whome hath he preserved him: from Satan & his
power. From his foes, & they? force. From daunge
by Sea and lande, from all yll fortune that befell
him. O good God, blessed be thy holy name: bleſſe
be the time of the happy byrth, of this braue mi-
ded Gentleman. Happy be the howze, when he tooke
in hand this hard aduventure: honoured be his ve-
tuous minde, for his valiant enterprize. Aduaunce
be his vertues, prayſed his worthynesse, recorde
the course of this his wonderfull trauaile: let
ſleepy heads be now aſhamed of themſelues: let
zibones, now loue theſelues no longer: let coward
now crye out for feare, for hindering the hart from
ſuch good fortune. Let Scholers now leaue ta-
king of wonders, and looke abzoade where they be
ſouldiours ſeek farre, and finde that they ſeek for
Let Courtiers leaue their Chābers, and take them
to they? Cabins: in ſteede of ſilke Canopies, take
ſayles of courſe Canuas: for your ſoft beds, take
harde boorde: for cardes & dice, take powder & ſho-
for your fine Galleries, make your walkes on the
Hatches: for proſpect into ſweet Gardens, looke out
into the ſea, tyll your Ship be on ſhoze, in the land
that you ſhote at: Go out one way, come home
other: moze wayes to the wood then one: neuer
weary, tyl you come home again: then ſit ye downe
all

and rest you, then shew what you haue done, then
shall you see the difference, twixt the Courtiers fa-
uor, & the Trauaylers Fame, then shall you see the
Treasure found in trauayle, & the want therof at
home: the straunge sights abroade, that are not to
be seen at home: knowledge of those things by tra-
uayle, that at home can not be had. In sum, litle at
home, abroad much is to be had, that may win the
honor that is worth the seeking. Trauaile brings
treasure, treasure credite, credite contentance, con-
tenance content, which had, who would seeke fur-
ther? or can wish for more. How can content come,
but by desire? how can desire atchieue it, but by de-
sart? how can it be deserued? but by some noble deed:
and what is wel done, without determinat paine?
Ease is the enemy to aduenture, at home is litle
choise: the world is wide and ful of wonders: & the
wonders of the world, are won by aduenture: he
then that seeketh honor, let him leaue ease: Who
would know change, let him not keepe home: who
would be acquainted with the wonders of y^e world
let him looke abroad where they be, & let him wish
with me, that he had accompanied this noble Cap-
taine, with whome he might haue seene such won-
ders as had ben worthy y^e view: got, that had been
worthy labor, & brought home that, which might
win wonderfull commendation. He hath done so, he
hath aduentured much, gone farre, seen wonders,
known maruayles, got greatly, returned happily,
and as heartely welcome, as worthely commended.
But now to the last point, let me see what is this
won,

Wonderfull Capitaine, of such worthy commendation: what is he? nay, what is he not, that he should be? a Gentleman of good house, of personage, in each part to please a most dainty eye, of minde, vertuous, of hart aduenturous, in aduentures, couragious: a good Subiect to his Prince, a good Seruaunt to his Maister, a good comfort to his friends, a good friend to his fellowes, a good Capitaine to his Souldiours, and a happy man to his Countrey, beloved of God, fauoured of Fortune, esteemed of the best, well thought of with the Noblest, honoured of the wisest, welcome to the worthiest: with wonderfull commendation, of most and least, that haue either seene him, knowne him, harde of him, or this his happy trauaile.

What shall I say more what he is? the honour of his name, the hate of foraine enemies, the loue of good minds, the furthest trauailer, the most fortunate souldier, and the most famous Capitaine in the world. Well God be thanked, for this his high good hap, & happy be the man, whom God hath so guided. Happy are we to haue such cause to giue God thanks, and thanked be God for making vs so happy. Good Capitaine God continue thy good hap, encrease thy credit, aduance thy good minde, to the desart of thy vertues & thy vertuous minde, to the height of thy harts desire. By the frutes of your trauaile shall we fare y better, by your happy boiage shall our countrey haue honoz: by the honoz of your good hap, haue you won Fame of the world. What can you more desire then you haue? the fauoure of God, estimation with the best Prince in the world, credit with her Deeres, honour of right noble mindes. For my selfe, I boast of no high minde, but such a minde, body and hart, as I haue, I protest with as good will, as willing wishe, ready at your commaund, to doo what seruice may deserue your fauour. And so with hartly welcome of your good hap, I rest.

Yours to vse in all good occasion, Nicholas Breton. Gent

