

appearances. But it was a matter of fact as well as of appearance. England, in the sixteenth century wholly separate from Scotland, was a small unit. It was a much larger home base, it is true, than Portugal, or than the Netherlands when the Dutch had achieved their independence; but it was not a big enough unit to face the future without feeling the need for expansion.

It is difficult to understand how the soil of England can have been overpopulated in the sixteenth century, and yet the necessity for disposing of the unemployed was a stock argument with advocates of expansion. In his 'Discourse concerning Western Planting,' Hakluyt urged 'that this enterprise will be for the manifold employment of numbers of idle men,' and that the 'discoveries and plantings' of Portugal and Spain had found honest employment for the whole of their respective peoples.¹ Similarly, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, in his 'Discourse to prove a passage by the North-West to Cathaia and the East Indies,' dated 1576, wrote, 'Also we might inhabit some part of those countries and settle there such needy people of our country, which now trouble the Commonwealth.'²

Partly because the world was younger and monarchy had a stronger hold in England in the sixteenth than in the seventeenth century, but largely or mainly because of the difference in personalities, the English people, or the adventurous members of the English people, had in Tudor times, and notably in the reign of

¹ *A Discourse concerning Western Planting*, written by Hakluyt in 1584. Collections of Maine Historical Society (1877), Second Series, chap. iv, p. 36.

² Hakluyt, vol. vii, p. 186.