

Elizabeth as a motive for beginning the Empire. It is equally certain that the plea produced no effect. In the modern Sir Walter Raleigh's opinion, as given in his essay, John Davis was almost the only English sailor of his time who had a sincere belief that it was England's mission to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles,¹ and a brilliant passage in the essay sums up the religion of the Elizabethan adventurers in the following words: 'These men, though there was little of saintliness in their character, had a religion and fought and suffered for it. It was a religion not wholly unlike that of the later Orangeman, a Protestant compound, made up of fervid patriotism, a varied assortment of hates, a rough code of morals, and an unshaken trust in the providence of God. To the heathen they brought not peace but a sword.'²

Theirs was a very living creed, though it did not enure to the benefit of the American Indians. One of Martin Frobisher's orders to his captains on his third voyage was that 'if any man in the fleet come up in the night and hail his fellow knowing him not, he shall give him this watchword, Before the world was God. The other shall answer him, if he be one of our fleet, after God came Christ his Son.'³ Drake on one or more occasions ordered the whole ship's company of *The Golden Hind* to partake of the Holy Communion. Gilbert's last known words before he was lost in the sea were 'we are as near to heaven by sea as by land.'⁴

It was not only in the lives and conversations of

¹ Hakluyt, vol. xii, p. 31.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. vii, p. 323.

² *Ibid.*, p. 34.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. viii, p. 74.