

CHAPTER II

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY DOWN TO 1660

IN his history of 'The English in America,' Mr. Doyle wrote that in the beginning English colonisation of America was urged on by three motives working together, that the Elizabethans, such as Raleigh, Gilbert and Peckham had a vision of a great colonial empire, which was to have three functions. It was to be an outlet for the paupers of England; it was to balance and control the transatlantic empire of Spain; and it was to be peopled by colonists who would be missionaries, spreading the light of the Gospel among the heathen natives of North America. 'The actual course of English colonisation,' he continued, 'dealt with lower motives and contented itself with more commonplace successes. Its aims, its methods and its results had nothing in common with those imagined by Gilbert and his fellows.'¹ No doubt, with the actual beginnings of English colonisation, small and usually squalid as they were, and with the merging more or less of individuals in companies, dreams vanished away, and the glamour and romance of the sixteenth century were wanting to the seventeenth.

¹ Doyle, *The English in America: The Colonies under the House of Hanover* (1907), chap. viii, pp. 411-12.