

(3) **Relations with Spain.** Cromwell demanded from the king of Spain the right of free trade with the West Indies, greater liberty of worship for English traders and sailors, and exemption from the cruel laws of the Inquisition. But the Spaniards claimed the exclusive right of trade with the whole of America, and so Cromwell's demands were met with an indignant refusal. "*It is,*" said the Spanish Ambassador, "*to ask for my master's two eyes.*"

Events in the War with Spain. Open hostilities began two years before war was formally declared. Cromwell saw that as England's strength lay in her naval power, her best policy was to attack the Spanish Colonies. Accordingly in 1654 he fitted out two expeditions, one under Penn and Venables, bound for the West Indies, the other under the renowned Blake, bound for the Mediterranean.

(a) **Expedition under Penn and Venables** was not successful. The English commanders failed in their attack upon St. Domingo, but to avoid the disgrace of a total defeat, they captured Jamaica (1655). So little value, however, was attached to the acquisition of this island, that Cromwell, in a spirit of disappointment, threw both commanders into the Tower on their return to England.

(b) **Expeditions under Blake.** Blake first sailed to the Mediterranean to demand reparation from the pirates of Algiers and Tunis for the damage they had done to English commerce. He appeared before Algiers and compelled the terrified Dey to submit to his terms and restrain his subjects from further violence upon the English. But the Dey of Tunis defied the English Admiral, whereupon he sailed into Tunis harbour, dismantled their forts, and burned every one of the Dey's cruisers which lay there.

But the last and most brilliant of all Blake's victories was the destruction of the Spanish West Indian Fleet, as it lay at Santa Cruz in Teneriffe. In 1657 he was ordered to cruise along the coast of Spain, and capture the Plate Fleet on its way home with the yearly produce of the American silver mines. After several months of weary waiting, Captain Stayner, with a part of Blake's fleet, furiously attacked nine Spanish galleons, and captured gold and silver