

in Elizabeth's favour, and obtained from her a charter "*to colonize any lands not held by a Christian prince.*" He made three unsuccessful attempts to establish a colony in America, which received the name of *Virginia*. He took an active part in the defeat of the Armada, and in 1595 sailed to Guinea in search of its *El Dorado*. He accompanied Howard and Essex in their expedition against Spain which resulted in the capture of Cadiz.

On the accession of James I. he lost the favour of Court owing to the personal enmity of Sir Robert Cecil, and was shortly after accused of complicity in Lord Cobham's plot in favour of Arabella Stuart, although it is highly probable that Raleigh had very little to do with it. He was condemned to death, but on the scaffold his sentence was commuted to imprisonment, and for twelve years Raleigh lingered in the Tower, occupying himself in writing his *History of the World*.

In 1615 James, being in want of money, released Raleigh from imprisonment, and allowed him to go to Guinea in search of a gold mine, which was said to exist in that region, but before his departure he exacted a solemn promise from him that he would not molest the dominions of the king of Spain. Misfortune attended the expedition from the very first. Some of the ships were lost, others turned back, sickness broke out among the sailors, and ere they reached the mouth of the Orinoco, Raleigh himself was stricken down with fever and compelled to give up the command to his faithful lieutenant, Thomas Keymis. Leaving Raleigh behind, the adventurers sailed up the river until they came to the Spanish settlement of San Thomé. This they stormed and burnt, but in the conflict Raleigh's son was killed. Disheartened by failure, they made their way back to their leader at the mouth of the river. But Raleigh was determined not to return to England empty-handed, and so he proposed to attack the Spanish treasure-ships. "*There is no peace beyond the vine,*" he used to say, "*if the mine fail, there is still the Mexican treasure fleet.*" His captains, however, refused to follow him and he was compelled to sail for England. On his arrival at Plymouth he was arrested and sent to the scaffold on his old sentence. He maintained his high courage till the very last, and people thought that he had done nothing to deserve death, but that he had been sacrificed merely to satisfy the demands of the king of Spain.

Carr, Robert, Earl of Somerset, was descended from a great Border family, and as a boy had served as a page to James I. Subsequently he became Viscount Rochester, and as such was the first Scotchman who sat in the House of Lords. James made him his confidential minister, although he had no capacity suitable for the post. Two years after he formed a connection with the beautiful but profligate Countess of Essex, which resulted in her being divorced from her husband. Rochester wished to marry the Countess, but Sir Thomas Overbury, his intimate friend, was strongly opposed to the match, and tried to dissuade him. The Countess was so infuriated against Overbury, that she procured his imprisonment and finally his murder. The