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## National Cipher Challenge 8 Part A

*Vanguard, off the Mouth of the Nile, third August, seventeen ninety eight.*

*My Lord,*

*Almighty God has blessed his Majesty's Arms in the late Battle, by a great Victory over the Fleet of the Enemy, whom I attacked at sunset on the first of August, off the Mouth of the Nile. It may be true, as remarked by Walsingham in his last, that "makynge war by means of money is of utmost import", but by gad Sir, making war by fire and wind quickens the spirit and nothing could withstand the Squadron your Lordship did me the honour to place under my command. Their high state of discipline is well known to you, and with the judgment of the Captains, together with their valour, and that of the Officers and Men of every description, it was absolutely irresistible. Could anything from my pen add to the character of the Captains, I would write it with pleasure, but that is impossible.*

*The Enemy were moored in a strong Line of Battle for defending the entrance of the Bay, flanked by numerous Gun-boats, four Frigates, and a Battery of Guns and Mortars on an Island in their Van. Under our guns The Ships of the Enemy, all but their two rear Ships, were nearly dismasted, and men of both sides watched in awe as L'Orient blew her powder room, taking with it all the hopes of that devil Napoleon. Though men fled the ship many were lost to the water or the fire and all trace of the conspiracy was consigned to the deep, presses, coins and the agents of the orient all lost in that most aptly named vessel. Captain Berry will present you with the Flag of the Second in Command, that of the Commander-in-Chief being burnt.*

*Martin was most impressed by the cunning methods employed by Walsingham in this his last letter. Enciphered by means of the autoclave, the initial key for the message shows much classical prescience given the fate of Marlowe. It seems that their story ends*

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*badly, as, it appears, do the lives of the Chinese agents on L'Orient. Let us pray that ours ends well.*

*SIR HORATIO NELSON, K.B., REAR-ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE, ETC. IN ACTION WITH THE FRENCH, AT ANCHOR, ON THE first OF AUGUS  
NILE.*

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## National Cipher Challenge 8 Part B

Dear Kit,

The informations and deuices for makynge war by means of money is of utmost import.

Essex be now moste suspicious and hath cause to take thy endeauors for his owne profite. He maketh allies with Whitgift and yet others at Council to submyt thee to trial on charges of blasphemie whereby they might obtain from thee by fair or foul.

My Lord Burghley is moste pleased and to guard the intelligence hath deuelpd a plat to cheat the charges against thee. He hath commanded me to require thee on Wednesday nexte to attend at Council, thence to Deptforde, there to waite in our house of widowe Bull on the Strande, next the water, till night. Master Poley will there conueye to thee further instruction. Againste pursuit and as Deptforde be yet dangerous at night, thee should go thence in the companie of Frizier for protection.

Kit it maye perforce be for us to part, but yet I hope it not be for longe. The Danish piece you sent last is masterful.

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