

where the discoverers of the latter half of this century have found the source actually to be. All modern geographers down to very recent times (twenty-five or thirty years ago) located the source of the Nile in the "Mountains of the Moon," north of the equator. How it happened that Speed's map, made more than two hundred years before, should be more accurate than the modern ones is only to be accounted for by the fact that he followed the views of the ancient geographer, Ptolemy, who flourished in the second century of the Christian era, and who seems, at that early date, to have had a better knowledge of the interior of Africa than our modern geographers had until the very recent explorations of Livingstone and others.

The title page of the *History of England* is as follows: "The Historie of Great Brittain, under the conquests of the Romans, Saxons, Danes and Normans. Their Originalls, Manners, Habits, Wares, Coins and Seals, with the Successions, Lives, Acts and Issues of the English Monarchs from Julius Cæsar unto the Raigne of King James, of Famous Memorie, by John Speed."

The magnitude of the labor expended on it is shown by the fact that it contains 1,300 large double-column pages, and is illustrated by a great number of cuts of seals, coats of arms, coins, standard weapons, dress, and tables of genealogy. It also contains a great amount of statistical matter, and it is furnished with an excellent and complete index.

John Speed's writings were held in high estimation in his day, and for a number of years after, on account of their reliability.

James Tyrrell, an old chronicler, says "Speed was the first English writer who, slighting Geoffrey of Monmouth's tales, immediately fell upon solid ground, giving us a large account of the history of this island during the times of the Roman emperors and English and Saxon kings."

Another writer says "John Speed was the first historian who had the judgment to reject the many fables concerning the early Britons and to record only what was authentic history."