

EARLY SETTLEMENT

OF

VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIOLA,

AS NOTICED BY

POETS AND PLAYERS

IN THE TIME OF SHAKSPEARE, WITH SOME LETTERS ON THE ENGLISH COLONIZATION OF AMERICA, NEVER BEFORE PRINTED.



By REV. EDWARD D. NEILL, A. B.

Author of "English Colonization of America," "Virginia Company of London," "Virginia Colonial Clergy," "Terra Maria," "Founders of Maryland," "Fairfaxes of England and America," and "History of Minnesota."



MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.:
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WITH RESPECTS OF

EDWARD D. NEILL,
MACALESTER COLLEGE,

MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA.

VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIOLA.

A PUPIL of Westminster School, in London, one day visited a relative at the Middle Temple, upon whose table were opened books of travel and a map of the world. As distant seas and vast kingdoms but little known were exhibited, the schoolboy resolved, if he ever entered the University, he would pursue geographical studies, and in consequence of the purpose then formed, became Richard Hakluyt, the best authority of his period, in England, relative to the climate, races and productions of the four quarters of the globe.

At the time that Sir Francis Drake was fitting out his expedition for America, he was chaplain to the English Embassy in Paris, and so great was his interest in the project, that he wrote that he was ready to fly to England "with wings of Pegasus," to devote his reading and observation to the furtherance of the work. And after the gallant navigator sailed up the Pacific coast to the fortieth degree north, "the first to loose the girdle of the world, and encompass her in his fortunate arms,"¹ he was delighted in listening to the tales of returning mariners. The Muscovy, Greenland, and other trading companies did not plan expeditions without seeking his advice. In the minutes of the East India Company, under date of January 29, 1601-2, is the following:—"Mr. Hakluyt, the historiographer of the East India Company, being here before the Committees, and having read unto them out of his notes and books, was requested to set down in writing a note of the principal places in the East Indies, and where trade is to be had, to the end that the same may be used for the better instruction of our factors in the said voyage."

¹ Purchas's *Pilgrimage*, p. 1779.

² Cal. of State Papers, East Indies, 1513-1616, p. 120.

On the 14th of May, 1602, Bartholomew Gosnold, a man of integrity, landed from the ship "Concord," with Gabriel Archer and others, on the coast of what is now called Massachusetts, and passed a month in examining the shores, to-day conspicuous with the domes and monuments of Boston, the church spires of peaceful villages, and the tall chimneys of manufacturing towns, and gave to one of its headlands, a name still retained, Cape Cod. Embarking for the return voyage on the 18th of June, he cast anchor in English waters on the 23d of July, and astonished the mercantile world not only by the shortness of his passage by the new route, but by his calm and reasonable statements as to the healthfulness of the region visited, and its capabilities for sustaining an English speaking population.

Prominent among eager listeners to his statement was Hakluyt, then connected with the cathedral at Bristol, who cordially seconded his desire to found a Nova Britannia on the western continent. Many meetings were held by Gosnold and Hakluyt with the Bristol merchants: and Robert Salterne, who had accompanied the former in the voyage to America, was appointed with Hakluyt to obtain permission from Sir Walter Raleigh to make a settlement under his patent.¹ Raleigh's consent obtained, Salterne in 1603 made a second visit with an expedition that left Bristol, who was followed in 1605 by Captain George Weymouth, who returned with several Indians, who remained for more than two years in England.

These successive voyages, under the auspices of the most distinguished and enterprising men of Bristol, Plymouth and London, deepened the conviction that British pride and interests demanded that they should separate the French settlements on the St. Lawrence, and the Spanish plantations near the Gulf of Mexico, by an English colony. The stage is always quick to allude to the absorbing questions of the hour, and in 1605 the play of "Eastward Ho,"² in the coarse language of the period, reproduced the conversations

¹ Gorges.

² "Eastward Ho" was the united production of Marston, Chapman and "rare Ben Jonson." Langbaine writes of Chapman, "I can give him no better commendation than that he was so intimate with the famous Johnson as to engage in a trimvirate with him and Marston in a play called 'Eastward Ho.'"

that had taken place on the pavements around the Royal Exchange:—

"*Sea Gull*.—Come, drawer, pierce your neatest hogshead, and let's have cheer, not fit for your Billingsgate tavern, but for our Virginian Colonel; he will be here instantly.

"*Drawer*.—You shall have all things fit, sir; please you have any more wine?

"*Spend All*.—More wine, slave! whether we drink it or no; spill it and draw more.

"*Sea Gull*.—Come, boys, Virginia longs till we share the rest of her maiden-head.

"*Spend All*.—Why, is she inhabited already with any English?

"*Sea Gull*.—A whole country of English is there, man, bred of those left there in '79; they have married with the Indians, and make them bring forth as beautiful faces as any we have in England; and therefore the English are so in love with them that all the treasure they have they lay at their feet.

"*Scapethrift*.—But is there such treasure there, Captain, as I have heard?

"*Sea Gull*.—I tell thee, gold is more plentiful there than copper is with us, and for as much red copper as I can bring I'll have thrice weight in gold. Why, man, all their dripping-pans and chamber-pots are pure gold; and all the chains with which they chain up their streets are massive gold; all the prisoners they take are fettered in gold; and for rubies and diamonds they go forth in holy days and gather them by the sea-shore to hang on their children's coats and stick in their children's caps as commonly as our children wear saffron-gilt brooches and groates with holes in them.

"*Scapethrift*.—And it is a pleasant country withal?

"*Sea Gull*.—As ever the sun shin'd on; temperate and full of all sorts of excellent viands; wild boar is as common there as our tamest bacon is here; venison as mutton. And then you shall live freely there, without sargeants or courtiers, or lawyers or intelligencers. Then for your means to advancement—there it is simple, and not preposterously mixt. You may be an alderman there, and never be a scavenger; you may be any other officer, and never be a slave. You may come to preferment enough, and never be a pander; to riches and fortune and have never the more villany nor the less wit. Besides, there we shall have no more law than conscience, and not too much of either; serve God enough, eat and drink enough, and 'enough is as good as a feast.'"

The statesmen of the day were not indifferent to the enterprise, for since the war with Spain had ceased, the streets of London had been filled with men, who had been soldiers in Ireland and in the Netherlands, averse to return to the quiet peasant life from which they had been pressed into military service, and yet unfitted to obtain a living by honest industry. Too indolent to handle the

spade, they were forced to beg or to steal, and became a terror to the peaceable citizen on the side-walk, or the traveller on the highway.

Military officers also favored the scheme, in the hope that the development of a new commonwealth would furnish an occasion for them to draw once more the swords that hung upon the wainscoted walls of their houses, and beginning to rust in the scabbards. Merchants were willing to make pecuniary advances, believing that their money would be returned with interest; and clergymen were eloquent in urging their parishioners to aid in an effort which might lead to the conversion of the savages. Gosnold occupied a whole year in obtaining associates to engage in founding a commonwealth in America, and then a second year in obtaining colonists, and procuring ships and supplies.¹ In answer to a petition to King James, on the 6th of April, 1606, a patent was sealed for Sir Thomas Gates, an officer in the employ of the Netherlands, Sir George Somers, well acquainted with navigation, Richard Hakluyt, who had become Prebendary of Westminster; Edward Maria Wingfield, Bartholomew Gosnold, and others, "to reduce a colony of sundry people into that part of America commonly called Virginia," between the 34th and 45th degrees of north latitude.

The patentees contemplated two plantations. Gates, Somers, Hakluyt, and others, chiefly of London, under the charter, were designated the First Colony, and authorized to settle between the 34th and 41st degrees of north latitude, while Hannam, Gilbert, Parker, Popham, and associates of Plymouth, were called the Second Colony, and permitted to plant between the 38th and 45th degrees of the same latitude.

Early in the winter there was gathered, as a nucleus for a colony, a hundred men, no better than those that surrounded David at the cave of Adullam.

The directions prepared for the first Council of Virginia, by the London Company concludes as follows:

"You must take care that your mariners that go for wages do not mar your trade, for those that mind not to inhabit, for a little

¹ Purchas, iv., 1705.

gain will debase the estimation of exchange, and hinder the trade for ever after: and therefore you shall not admit or suffer any person whatsoever, other than such as shall be appointed by the President and Counsel there, to buy any merchandizes, or other things whatsoever.

“It were necessary that all your carpenters, and all other such-like unknown about building, do first build your store-house, and those other rooms of public and necessary use, before any house be set up for any private person; and though the unknown may belong to any private persons, yet let them all work together—first for the Company, then for private men.

“And seeing order is at the same price with confusion, it shall be advisably done to set your houses even, and by a line; that your street may have a good breadth, and be carried square about your market-place, and every street's end opening into it; that from thence, with a few field pieces, you may command every street throughout, which market place you may also fortify, if you think needful.

“You shall do well to send a perfect relation by Capt. Newport¹ of all that is done, what length you are seated, how far into the land, what commodities you find, what soil, woods, and their several kinds, and so of all other things else, to advertise particularly; and to suffer no man to return but by passport from the President and Counsel, nor to write any letter of anything that may discourage others.

“Lastly and chiefly, the way to prosper and achieve good success is to make yourselves all of one mind, for the good of your country and your own, and to serve and fear God, the Giver of all goodness; for every plantation which our Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted out.”

Newport was an experienced mariner, and about a year before had returned from the West Indies with a present to King James, who was fond of the rare and curious, of a wild boar and two young crocodiles.

¹A Relation was prepared by Newport, but not published by Purchas, who had examined it. The MS. is in the Lambeth Library, and the Relation was lately, and for the first time, printed by the American Antiquarian Society. It is a fair and accurate description of the first Virginia exploration.

As the hour for the sailing of the expedition arrived, many prayers ascended for its welfare. Scholars, divines, statesmen, merchants, labourers, all classes and conditions of men heartily adopted the sentiment of Drayton's spirited ode called the—

VIRGINIAN VOYAGE.

- | | |
|--|---|
| “ You brave, heroic minds,
Worthy your country's name,
That honour still pursue,
Whilst loit'ring hinds
Lurk here at home with shame:
Go, and subdue! | “ In kenning the shore,
Thanks to God, first given,
O you, the happiest men,
Be frolic then,
Let cannon roar,
Fighting the wide heaven. |
| “ Britons! you stay too long,
Quickly abroad bestow you;
And with a merry gale
Swell your stretch'd sail,
With vows as strong
As the winds that blow you. | “ And in regions far,
Such heroes bring ye forth,
As those from whence we came,
And plant our name
Under that star
Not known to our north. |
| “ Your course securely steer,
West and by south, forth keep,
Rocks, lee shores nor shoals,
When Eolus scowls,
You need not fear,
So absolute the deep. | “ And as there plenty grows
Of laurel, everywhere
Apollo's sacred tree,
You, it may see
A poet's brows
To crown, that may sing there. |
| “ And cheerfully at sea,
Success you still entice,
To get the pearl and gold,
And ours to hold
Virginia,
Earth's only paradise. | “ Thy voyages attend,
Industrious Hackluit,
Whose reading shall inflame
Men, to seek fame
And much commend
To after time, thy wit.” |

On the 19th of December the vessels started down the Thames, but owing to the weather, did not sail from the Downs until the 1st of January, 1606-7.

Newport, in command of the fleet, sailed in the “Susan Constant,” a ship of one hundred tons, with seventy-one passengers. The zealous promoter of the project, Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold, and fifty-two colonists were in the “Godspeed,” a small vessel of

fifty tons ; and Capt. John Ratcliffe, with twenty others, sailed in the "Discovery," a pinnace of only twenty tons burthen.

Among those who embarked was a quick-witted, illiterate and self-reliant man, John Smith, who in six weeks after they were out of sight of the coast of England, was suspected of a design to lead a mutiny.

On the 26th of April 1607, the expedition entered the broad and beautiful Chesapeake Bay, and that night the sealed orders were opened, and the following persons were designated as members of the Colonial Council: Edward Maria Wingfield, Bartholomew Gosnold, John Smith, Christopher Newport, John Ratcliffe, John Martin and John Kendall. The Council, in accordance with their instructions, soon selected Wingfield, a man of honourable birth and a strict disciplinarian, as their President.¹

On the 29th a cross was planted at Cape Henry, and the country claimed in the name of King James : and the next day the ships anchored off Point Comfort, now Fortress Monroe. The 1st of May they began cautiously to ascend the James river : and on the 13th landed on a peninsula, in front of which there was good anchorage. All of the Councillors were duly sworn, except Smith, whose conduct during the voyage had been disreputable.

In accordance with the orders prepared at London, Captain Newport, in a shallop, with five gentlemen and nineteen others, explored the river above the site of Jamestown.

At one of the Indian villages, not far from where is now the city of Richmond, they saw a lad ten years of age with yellow hair and light skin, probably the offspring of one of the colonists, left at Roanoke by White, and an Indian concubine.² On the 24th of May at the foot of the falls of the James River, Newport planted a cross on which were inscribed his own name and that of King James. On the 26th, a day before the return of the explorers, two hundred

¹ He was the grandson of Sir Robert Wingfield of Huntingdonshire, and the son of Thomas Maria Wingfield, who was thus christened, in compliment to Queen Mary, by Cardinal Pole.—*Camden Society Pub.*, No. 43. In 1588 Ferdinando Gorges and Edward Wingfield were prisoners of war at Lisle.

² Strachey says : " His Majesty hath been acquainted that the men, women and children of the first plantation at Roanoke, were, by commandment of Powhattan, he persuaded thereto by his priests, miserably slaughtered, without any offence given by the first planted, who twenty and odd years had peaceably lived intermixed with those savages, and were out of his territory.—*Hakluyt Society Pub.*, vol. vi, p. 85.

savages attacked Jamestown, and Wingfield bravely resisted them, being foremost in danger, and an arrow of the enemy passing through his beard.

After they had been nearly a month on shore, on the 10th of June, John Smith was permitted to take the oath of councillor. On Sunday, the 21st, the communion was administered by the devoted Chaplain of the colony, Robert Hunt, and in the evening Newport gave a farewell supper on board of his vessel, and the next day, lifting anchor, sailed, and reached England in less than six weeks by the new and more direct route, bearing the first official communication from an English colony in North America, which is still preserved among the Percy papers with its endorsement in the library of the Earl of Northumberland.

COPPIE OF A LETTER FROM VIRGINIA, DATED 22D OF JUNE, 1607. THE
COUNCELL THEIR TO THE COUNCELL OF VIRGINIA HERE IN ENGLAND.

Wee acknowledge our selues accomptable for o^r time here spent were it but to giue you satisfaccion of o^r industries and affeecons to this moste Ho^{ble} accon, and the better to quicken those good spiritts we^{ch} haue alreadie bestowed themselves heere, and to put life into such dead understandings or beleefs that muste firste see and feele the wombe of o^r labour and this land before they will entertaine anie good hope of vs or of the land:

W^{thin} less than seauen weekes, wee are fortified well against the Indians, we haue sown good store of wheate, wee haue sent yow a taste of Clappboord, wee haue built some houses, wee haue spared some hands to a discouerie, and still as god shall enable vs wth strength wee will better and better our proceedings.

Our easiest and richest comodity being Sasafrax rootes were gathered vpp by the Sailors wth losse and spoile of manie of our tools and wth drawing of o^r men from our labour to their vses againste our knowledge to our preiudice, wee earnestlie entreat yow (and doe truste) that yow take such order as wee be not in this thus defrauded, since they be all our waged men, yet doe wee wishe that they be reasonable dealt wthall so as all the losse, neither fall on vs nor them. I beleeeue they haue thereof two tonnes at the leaste we^{ch} if they scatter abroad at their pleasure will pull down our price for a

long time this wee leaue to your wisdomes. The land would flowe wth milke and honey if so seconded by yo^r carefull wisdomes and bountifull hands, wee doe not perswade to shoote one Arrowe to seeke another but to finde them both. And wee doubt not but to send them home wth goulden heads at leaste our desires, laboures and liues shall to that engage themselues.

Wee are sett downe 80 miles wthin a River, for breadth sweetness of water, length navigable vpp into the country deepe and bold channell so stored wth Sturghion and other sweete Fishe as no mans fortune hath euer possessed the like. And as wee thincke if more maie be wished in a River it will be founde. The soile is moste fructifull, laden wth good Oake, Ashe, Wallnut tree, Popler, Pine, sweete woodes, Cedar and others yett wthout names that yeald gumes pleasant as Franckumcense, and experienced amongst vs for greate vertewe in healing greene woundes and aches, wee entreat your succours for o^r seconds wth all expedition leaste that all denouringe Spaniard lay his rauinous hands uppon theas gold showing mountains, w^{ch} if it be so enabled he shall neuer dare to thinck one:

This noate doth make known where o^r necessities do moste strike vs, we beseech yo^r present releiffe accordinglie otherwise to o^r greatest and laste griefes, wee shall against our willes not will that w^{ch} wee most willingly would.

Captaine Newporte hath seene all and knoweth all, he can fullie satisfie your further expectations, and ease you of our tedious letters, wee most humblie praie the heauenly Kings hand to bless o^r labours wth such counsailes and helpes as we may further and stronger proceede in this our Kinges and countries service.

James towne in Virginia this 22th of June An^o 1607.

Your poore Friends,

EDWARD MARIA WINGFIELD,

BARTHOLOMEW GOSNOLD,

JOHN SMITH,

JOHN RATTCLIFFE,

JOHN MARTINE.

GEORGE KENDALL.

After a speedy voyage from Jamestown, of thirty-seven days, Newport anchored in Plymouth Sound, and the same day wrote a letter, which is also in the Percy manuscripts, with an ancient endorsement:

COPIE OF A LETTER TO Y^E LORD OF SALISBYRIE FROM CAPTAIN NEW-
PORT Y^E 29TH OF JULIE, 1607, FROM PLIMOUTH.

Right Hon^{ble}:

My verie good Lo. my duty in most humble wise remembred it maie please yo^r good Lo^d I arrived here in the Sound of Plimouth this daie from the discourie of that parte of Virginia imposed uppon me and the rest of the Colonie for the South parte, in w^{ch} wee haue performed o^r duties to the uttermost of o^r powers. And have discovered into the countrie near two hundred miles, and a River nauigable for greate Shippes one hundred and fifty miles. The contrie is excellent and very rich in gold and copper, of the Gould we haue brought a Say and hope to be wth y^r Lo^d shortly to show it his Ma^{ty} and the rest of the Lords. I will not deliuer the expectaunce and assurance we haue of great wealth but will leaue it to yo^r Lo^d's censure when you see the probabilities. I wish I might have come in person to haue brought theis glad tidings, but my inability of body, and the not having any man to putt in trust with the shippe and that in her maketh me to deferre my coming till winde and weather be fauourable. And so I moste humbly take my leaue.

From Plimouth this 29th of Julie, 1607.

Your L^{ps} most humbly bounden,

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORTE.

On the 18th of August, 1607, a gentleman in London wrote to a friend "that Captain Newport has arrived without gold or silver, and that the adventurers, cumbered by the presence of the natives, had fortified themselves at a place called Jamestown, no graceful name, and doubts not the Spaniards will call it Villiaco. A Dutchman, writing in Latin, calls the town Jacobolis, but George Percy names it James Fort, which we like the best of all, because it comes near Chelmsford."

The low situation of the settlement, with the swamps in the rear, soon produced sickness, and during the summer nearly every day a new grave was dug. On the 22d of August, the man who had projected the expedition, and expended money in its behalf, "that worthy and religious gentleman," Bartholomew Gosnold,¹ was buried,

¹ Anthony, a brother, and Anthony, also a relative, perhaps a son, accompanied Captain Gosnold to Virginia.—*London Co. MSS.*

and the saddened survivors manifested their respect by firing volleys of musketry over his remains.

The colonists, disheartened by the loss of their associates, and the discomforts of immigrant life, chafed under the prudent measures and military exactness of Wingfield. In September the members of the Council demanded a larger daily allowance of food, but he refused, because, with strict economy their supplies would last but thirteen and a half weeks. As a precautionary measure, he also withheld the ration from any that had upon any day obtained fresh fish or wild game. The two gallons of sack and aqua vitæ reserved for the sick and sacramental purposes were even coveted by members of the Council. The President says they "longed for to sup up that little remnant, for they had now emptied their own bottles."

As Wingfield would not yield to the clamor of his associates, Ratcliffe, Smith and Martin, they deposed him, and formed a triumvirate. On the 11th of September he was arraigned before them, and Ratcliffe accused him of refusing him a chicken, a penny whittle, a spoonful of beer, and of giving him damaged corn. Martin charged him with calling him an indolent fellow, and Smith alleged that he called him a liar. After this procedure, contrary to all forms of law, he was imprisoned on board of the pinnace.

The colonists soon discovered that it was easier to live by angling, hunting, and roaming with the Indians, than by tilling the earth. The first winter they pursued their own pleasure, and cared little for the interests of the company they had contracted to serve.

On the 10th of December, Captain Smith ascended the Chichahominy to trade with the Indians, and was treated with great respect and kindness by Powhattan,¹ although two colonists, Emery and Robinson, who went with him, were killed by some hostile savages.

Upon his return to Jamestown, Gabriel Archer, who had become a member of the Council, on the 8th of January, 1607-8, placed

¹ Smith speaks of this kindness in his *Relation* of 1608, but sixteen years after leaving Virginia he published another narrative in which he contradicts his first statement. Honest Fuller, the Historian, whose schoolmaster was Arthur Smith, a relative of the Captain's, in his *Worthies of England*, gives the following opinion of the Captain's last work: "From the Turks in Europe he passed to the Pagans in America, where such his perils, preservations, dangers, deliverances, they seem to *most men above belief, to some beyond truth*. Yet we have two witnesses to attest them, the prose and the pictures, both in his own book, and it soundeth much to the diminution of his deeds, that he *alone* is the herald to publish and proclaim them."

Smith under arrest for allowing his companions to be killed, but that day Captain Newport again arrived from England, and ordered the release both of Wingfield and Smith.

After recovering from the fatigue of the sea-voyage, Newport explored the Pamunky river, and was "lovingly entertained" by Powhattan. Returning to Jamestown on the 9th of March, he loaded his vessel with cedar, walnut boards, sassafras, and iron ore. On the 10th of April, 1608, with Archer and Wingfield as passengers, he left Virginia, and on the 20th of May arrived in England.

Wingfield, in reply to the complaints made against him, prepared a full statement of his administration in Virginia for the perusal of the London Company. In it he remarks :¹ "To the President's and Council's objections I say that I do know courtesy and civility became a Governor. No penny whittle was ever asked me, but a knife, whereof I had none to spare. The Indians had long before stolen my knife.

"Of chickens I never did eat but one, and that in my sickness. Mr. Rateliffe had before that time tasted of four or five. I had by my own housewifery bred about thirty-seven, and the most part of them of my own poultry, [of] all which at my coming away I did not see three living. I never denied him, or any other, beer when I had it. The corn was the same which we all lived upon.

"Mr. Smith, in the time of our hunger, had spread a rumor in the colony that I did feast myself and my servants out of the common store, with intent, as I gathered, to have stirred the discontented company against me. I told him privately in Mr. Gosnold's tent that indeed I had caused half a pint of pease to be sodden with a piece of pork of my own provision for a poor old man which, in a sickness whereof he died, he much desired ; and said if out of his malice he had given out otherwise, that he did tell a lie.

"It was proved to his face that he begged in Ireland, like a rogue, without a license.

"Mr. Archer's quarrel to me was because he had not the choice of the place for our plantation, because I misliked his laying out

¹ Wingfield's discourse had been perused by Purchas, but he was warped in favor of the sentiments of the plausible Smith. It was copied from the manuscript in Lambeth Library, and printed for the first time with Newport's *Relation*, in vol. iv. of American Antiquarian Society's Collections.

of our town in the pinnace, because I would not swear him of the council for Virginia, which neither would I do nor he deserve; Mr. Smyth's quarrel, because his name was mentioned in the intended and confessed mutiny by Galthropp; Thomas Wooton, the surgeon, because I would not subscribe to a warrant to the Treasurer of Virginia to deliver him money to furnish him with drugs and other necessaries, and because I disallowed his living in the pinnace, having many of our men lying sick and wounded in our town, to whose dressings by that means he slackened his attendance.

"Of the same men also Capt. Gosnold gave me warning, misliking much their dispositions, and assured me they would lay hold of me if they could."

Newport, in accordance with his written instructions, also made a report of his explorations. The manuscripts of Wingfield and Newport were both known to Purchas, yet were not published in his collection of voyages, probably because Sir Thomas Smith, who had furnished him money to aid in printing his "Pilgrimage," did not approve of their statements.

In the autumn of the year 1608 he completed his third voyage¹ to Jamestown, bringing seventy passengers, among them Francis West, brother of Lord Delaware, Daniel Tucker, and Raleigh Crashaw. He carried back on his return voyage iron ore, which was smelted and sold to the East India Company.²

¹ For the fourth time he left England for Jamestown with Gates and Somers, but was wrecked at Bermudas, and did not arrive until the 23d of May, 1610, at Jamestown.

On November 8, 1610, Sir Thomas Smith, Sir Maurice Berkeley, Sir George Coffin and the distinguished lawyer, Richard Martyn, styled on his portrait "*Præco Virginie ac Pærens*," attorney and founder of Virginia, entered a book at Stationers' Hall, praising the soil and climate of Virginia, and confronting scandalous reports.

When Sir Thomas Dale (in 1611) arrived at Jamestown he was much disappointed in the appearance of the country and the prospects of the Colony; and the authorities of Virginia, in a communication to the London Company, state that "he pulled Captain Newport by the beard and threatened to hang him for that he affirmed Sir Thomas Smith's relation to be true, demanding of him whether it were meant that the people here in Virginia should feed upon trees."

In the autumn of 1611 the ship *Star*, of 300 tons, fitted and prepared in England, with scupper-holes to take in masts, sailed from Jamestown with forty fine and large pines. In this vessel Newport was probably a passenger. John Chamberlain, of London, on December 18, 1611, writes to Sir Dudley Carleton: "Newport, the Admiral of Virginia, is newly come home." Soon after this he was appointed one of the six Masters of the Royal Navy, and was employed by the East India Company to carry Sir Robert Sherley to Persia. He was then a married man, as that company allowed £24 to his wife during his absence. On the 13th of June, 1613, he was in the ship *Expedition* at Saldanha, on

² Strachey in *Hakluyt Society Pub.*, vol. vi. and Cal. of State Papers, East Indies, A. D. 1513-1618.

VIRGINIOLA.

More than three centuries ago an adventurous Spaniard, John Bermudez, espied the collection of islets set in a coral reef, situated in the Atlantic Ocean about six hundred miles from the coast of Carolina.

In the days of Queen-Elizabeth, a roving Englishman, Job Hor-top, in a "Book of rare travail," declared that near Bermudas he had sight of a sea-monster, which three times showed himself from the middle upwards in shape like a man, and of the complexion of a "mulato," or tawny Indian. An old chronicler wrote: "This island has been accounted an uninhabited pile of rocks and desolate inhabitation for devils, but all the fairies of the rocks are

the coast of Africa. He returned to England in the summer of 1614, and was much commended by his employers for his service to Sir Robert Sherley and explorations of the Persian Gulf.

Before making another voyage to the East Indies Newport requested a salary of £240, but the Company advised him to "rest awhile," and at length he accepted a salary of £120 a year—one half of what he desired.

Captain Thomas Barwick was also employed by the company at this time, and a request of Captain Samuel Argall was referred to Newport for consideration.

Before he left Gravesend in January, 1615, the East India Company raised his salary to £180 a year, with the understanding that he was not to trade upon his own account with the people of India, China and Japan.

On the 16th of May, 1617, Newport was at Saldanha ready to sail for Bantam, on the isle of Java.

In January, 1618, the ship Hope, Captain Newport, was cruising in Asiatic seas.

He arrived in August at Bantam, and soon died there. He had but one child, named John. At a meeting of the Virginia Company, of London, held on the 17th of November, 1619, the following minute was made :

"Whereas, the Company hath formerly granted to Captain Newport a bill of adventure for 400 pounds, and his son now desiring order from this court for the laying out of some part of the same, Mr. Treasurer was authorized to write to Sir George Yeardley and the Counsell of State for the effecting thereof."

The land selected was probably called Newport's News. Mrs. Mary Tue, a daughter of Hugh Crouch, an heir and executrix of Lieutenant Richard Crouch, did assign, in 1622, one hundred and fifty acres of lands at "Newport's News" to Daniel Gookin.

Captain Thomas Barwick, who had been in the same fleet with Newport in the East Indies, in 1619, in a fight with the Hollanders near Bantam, gave up the ship Bear, says an old letter, either "out of cowardliness or sincerity of religion." Upon his return to England, in 1620, he was sent to Newgate and then to the Marshalsea.

In the summer of 1622 Barwick, under the London Company, went to Virginia with twenty-five shipwrights to build boats and pinnaces for the use of the Colony. The Governor and Council, in a letter written during the next January, states: "Capt. Barwick and his company at their arrival were accommodated according to their desire in James City, where they have spent their time in housing themselves, and are now working upon shallops. Since his arrival by sickness he hath lost many of his principal workmen, and he himself at present very dangerously sick." His sickness was unto death.

but flocks of birds, and all the devils in the woods are but herds of swine."

Strachey, who was wrecked with Gates, Somers and Newport, speaks of the Bermudas as an Archipelago of many islands, which "seem rent with tempests of thunder, lightning and rain, which threaten in time to drown them all; the storms keep their unchangeable round, winter and summer, rather thundering than blowing."

William Crashaw, the eloquent divine, preacher of the Temple, and father of the poet whom Cowley touchingly eulogized as "poet and saint," in 1613 used this language: "Who did not think till within these four years but that these islands had been rather a habitation of devils than fit for a man to dwell in? Who did not hate the name when he was on land, and shun the place when he was on seas? But behold the misprision and conceits of the world! For time and large experience hath now told us, it is one of the sweetest Paradises that be upon the earth."

Henry Wriothesley, the Earl of Southampton, the last presiding officer of the Virginia Company of London, the first patron and life-long friend of Shakspeare, in a dispatch to King James announcing the arrival of the first colony at the islets, stated "that the Spaniards, dismayed at the frequency of hurricanes durst not adventure there, but call it *Dæmoniorum Insulam*, and that the English merchants had sent home some amber and seed pearls, which the devils of Bermudas love not better to retain, than the angels of Castile to recover."

To the English speaking world the Bermudas islands have become familiar in consequence of the wreck in A. D. 1609, on a reef, of the ship *Sea Venture*, on board which, were Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, and a number of colonists on their way to Virginia. For several days the vessel, like the grain ship in which the Apostle Paul sailed for Rome, was driven about by the winds, "neither sun nor stars appeared, and no small tempest lay on them, and all hope that they thould be saved was taken away."

The ship's seams opened, and from noon on Tuesday until noon on the following Friday, the 28th of July, A. D. 1609, O. S., the men worked the pumps by day and by night, and yet ten feet of

water was in the hold. Some in despair went below the hatches, and finding "some good and comfortable waters," drank one to another, and "made themselves ready in the cabin for the mischance of the hour."¹ Sir George Somers, three score years of age, remained undaunted, and for three days and three nights, to use the words of Prospero,

"Infused with a fortitude from Heaven,"²

sat, wide-awake, on the poop of the vessel, giving orders and awaiting the decrees of Providence, when he descried land ahead. This unlooked for and welcome intelligence hurried up those who had been in drunken sleep or moaning below the hatches "to look for that they durst not believe." Hoisting every sail, they made toward shore until the ship struck one of the tortuous passages and stood upright between two rocks about one fourth of a mile from the main island of Bermudas.

The wreck of this ship, and the safe deliverance of the rest of the fleet created a deep impression upon the Earl of Southampton, and from him Shakspeare would learn many particulars, as well as from the printed narratives of some of those who were passengers in the vessel. How vividly has the dramatist reproduced the events in the play of the *Tempest* in the conversation of Prospero and Ariel.

Prospero. Hast thou, Spirit,
Performed to point, the tempest I bade thee ?

Ariel. To every article.

* * *

The fire and cracks
Of sulphurous roaring, the most mighty Neptune
Seemed to besiege, and make his bold waves tremble.
Yea, his dread trident shake.

Prospero. My brave Spirit !

Who was so firm, so constant, that this coil
Would not infect his reason ?

Ariel. Not a soul
But felt a fever of the mad, and played
Some tricks of desperation ; all but mariners,
Plunged in the foaming brine and quit the vessel.

* * * * *

¹ *Tempest*, Act 1, Scene 1.

² *Tempest*, Act 1, Scene 2.

Prospero. But was not this nigh shore ?

Ariel. Close by, my master.

Prospero. But are they, Ariel, safe ?

Ariel. Not a hair perish'd ;

On their sustaining garments not a blemish,
But fresher than before * * *

Prospero. Of the king's ship

The mariners, say how thou hast disposed,
And the rest of the fleet ?

Ariel. Safely in harbor

Is the king's ship : in the deep nook where once
Thou call'dst me up at midnight to fetch dew
From the still vex'd Bermoothes, there she's hid ;
The mariners all under hatches stow'd :
Whom with a charm join'd to their suffer'd labour
I have left asleep ; and for the rest o' the fleet,
Which I dispers'd, they all have met again. ¹

It rejoiced Gates, Somers and Newport that, while the ship was a loss, there was no loss of life. Their residence from August to the following May on the Island, was a succession of surprises. What superstitious sailors had asserted were harsh voiced monsters, proved to be grunting hogs, the offspring of black swine that years before had found their way to shore from some Spanish wreck. Fish eagerly leaped upon the hooks placed in the waters ; the birds with beautiful plumage and the simplicity of little children hovered around or rested upon the shoulders of the castaways. The palmeto tree furnished food, and its broad leaves were used in constructing light cabins.

Each morning and evening, at the ringing of a bell, the whole company assembled to listen to the prayers according to the order of the Church of England, read by the good Chaplain, Richard Buck. In this " wilderness of sweets " amid the " voiceful music of the sea," Thomas Powell, the cook of Sir George Somers, was lifted above the atmosphere of pots and pans and inspired to tell his love to Elizabeth Persons, a servant-maid of a Mistress Horton, and took her to his wedded wife " for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health." Godsips or gossips were busy over the birth of a boy christened Bermudas, and of a girl who received the

¹ Tempest, Act 1, Scene 2.

name of Bermuda. At the baptizing of the latter, Captain Newport and Strachey, afterwards secretary of Lord Delaware, stood, says an old chronicler, as "witnesses." Bermuda just peeped into the world, and then went to a "better land," but is deserving of mention, as the daughter of John Rolfe and his white wife—the same John Rolfe who by a wonderful alchemy appears in American history as a devout unmarried young Englishman, praying earnestly for the conversion of Pocahontas, marrying her, says Hamor, "of rude education, manners, barbarous and cursed generation, merely for the good and honor of the Plantation," but in the matter-of-fact transactions of the London Company for A. D. 1622 is spoken of as John Rolfe, lately deceased, with a surviving widow and children, besides "a child had by Powhattan's daughter."¹

Among the company was also Richard Frobisher, an experienced ship carpenter, who afterwards was employed by the East India Company, and lived for a time at Malacca with his wife and two sons. Under his guidance two cedar vessels, the *Deliverance*, of seventy tons, and the *Patience*, of thirty tons, were built, their beams fastened together by wooden pegs, and their seams rendered tight by a smearing of lime made from shells, and oil extracted from fish or swine. Upon a palmetto tree near the ship-yard was a Latin inscription, dated May 10th, 1610, the time they sailed from the island, which stated that a ship had been built by Frobisher to transport the castaways to Virginia. It was in these words :

"Conditur, in hoc loco, per Ricardum Frobisherum, quæ Virginiae nos omnes hinc transportabit."

The portion of the tree upon which this statement was, in 1671 was an honored relic, and hung in the hall of the Governor of Bermudas.

Strachey, in his narrative, mentions another monument which was set up in these words :

"Before we quitted our old quarter, and dislodged to the water, with our pinnasse, our Gouvernor set up in Sir George Summers'

¹ The following is from the transactions of that company under date of October 7th 1622 : "Mr. Henry Rolfe in his petition desiring the estate of his brother John Rolfe, deceased, left in Virginia, might be enquired out for the maintenance of his relict wife and children, and for his indemnity in rearing up the child his said brother had by Powhattan's daughter, is yet living and in his custody."

garden, a faire Mnemosynon in figure of a crosse, made of the timber of our ruined shippe, which was screwed in with strong and great trummels to a mightie cedar, which grew in the middest of the said garden, and whose top and upper branches he caused to be lopped, that the violence of the winds and weather might have less power over her.

"In the middest of the crosse ovr Gouvernor fastened the picture of his Maiestie, in a piece of silver of twelve pence, and on each side of the crosse, he set an inscription, graven in copper, in the Latine and English to this purpose : In memory of our great deliverance, both from a mightie storm and leake, we haue set vp this to the honour of God. It is the spoyle of an English ship of three hundred tunne, called the Sea Venture, bound with seven ships more, from which the storm divided vs, to Virginia, or Nova Britannia, in America."

When Gates and Somers and Newport with their fellow passengers embarked for Virginia, two persons remained on the island who were fugitives from justice, Edward Waters and Christopher Carter.

The Deliverance and the Patience arrived at Jamestown on the 23d of May, and when Sir George Somers found that the colonists were famishing and feeding upon frogs, "the good old gentleman out of his own love and zeal," says a dispatch of Lord Delaware to the authorities in England. "not motioning but most cheerfully and resolutely" re-embarked in his little cedar pinnace of thirty tons, for the Bermudas, to procure a supply of black hogs there so numerous. While there he died from eating too much of the meat which he had hoped to have carried to the colonists of the James River. His kinsman and fellow passenger, but not his heir, as has been stated, Matthew Somers betrayed his trust, and persuaded all the crew but one, Edward Chard, to sail direct to England.

There were now three human beings left as companions for the birds, and they enjoyed at first their lonely residence, feeling that they were "monarchs of all they surveyed." Each could appreciate the language of Gonzalo in the *Tempest* :¹

¹ Act 2, Scene 1.

Had I a plantation of this isle, my Lord,

* * * * *

No name of magistrate ;

Letters should not be known : no use of service,

Of riches, or of poverty : no contracts,

Successions ; bound of land, tilth, vineyard, none :

No use of metal, corn, or wine, or oil :

No occupation : all men idle, all."

Time was wiled away in prying into crannies and crevices of the coral reefs constructed by millions of polypi, and one day they stumbled upon a mass of ambergris, weighing many pounds. Prosperity did not increase the happiness of the triumvirate ; the golden age began to vanish with the discovery of treasure : each urged claims which to the others seemed unreasonable ; Chard and Waters quarreled, called each other hard names, and were about to fight a duel, when Carter had a happy thought, and hiding their weapons, enforced peace.

Matthew Somers gave a glowing description of the Bermudas when he returned home, and urged its occupancy. He declared that it was not an isle of devils ; in language resembling Caliban's, he asserted :¹

"The isle is full of voices,

Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not.

Sometimes a thousand twanging instruments

Will hum about mine ears ; and sometimes voices

That if I then had wak'd after long sleep,

Will make me sleep again ; and then in dreaming

The clouds methought would open, and shew riches

Ready to drop upon me."

But the merchants of London classed his stories with the travelers' tales—

"That there are unicorns ; that in Arabia

There is one tree, the phoenix throne : one phoenix

At this hour reigning there."²

Virginia had been so highly extolled in the days of Raleigh's attempt to colonize America that the stage players often brought down the house by some allusion to the New World.

¹ *Tempest*, Act 3, Scene 2.

² *Act 3, Scene 3.*

The stage caricatures of Virginia were an annoyance to those interested in planting of an English civilization there, and Crashaw in a sermon preached February 21st. 1609-10 in one of the London churches before the stockholders of the Virginia Company and Lord Delaware, the Governor-General elect of the colony, pours out the following invective :

"As for players, pardon me right honorable and beloved for so wronging this place and your patience with so base a subject ; they play with princes and with potentates, magistrates and ministers, nay, with God and religion, and all holy things : nothing that is good, excellent, or holy can escape them ; how, then, can this nation ? But this may suffice that they are players : they abuse Virginia, but they are players : they disgrace it, but they are but players ; and they have played with better things, and such for which if they repent not vengeance awaits them.

"But let them play on ; they make men laugh on earth, but He that sits in heaven laughs them to scorn, because, like the fly, they so long play with the candle, till first it singes their wings, and at last burns them altogether.

"But why are the players enemies to the plantation ? I will tell you the cause ; first, for that they are multiplied here that one cannot live by another, and they see that we send all trades to Virginia, but will send no players, which if we would do, those that remain would gain the more at home."

In September, 1610, Sir Thomas Gates and Captain Christopher Newport arrived in London and corroborated the statements concerning the Bermudas, and only a few months later Lord Delaware came back ; and an Indian boy who was brought to England by his order, at this time attracted attention as he walked the streets, and perhaps Shakspeare saw him and was led to place these words in Trinculo's mouth.

"What have we here, a man or a fish ? Dead or alive ? A fish, he smells like a fish ; a very ancient and fishlike smell ; a kind of, not of the newest Poor John. A strange fish ! Were I in England now, (as once I was) and had but this fish painted, not a holiday fool there but would give a piece of silver : then would this monster make a man : any strange beast there makes a man. When they will not give a doit to relieve a lame beggar, they will lay out ten to see a dead Indian."¹

¹ Act 2, Scene 2, of *Tempest*.

Early in the year 1612, members of the Virginia Company of London sent an expedition to Virginiola as Bermudas was first called but soon changed to Summer Islands. in respect of the mild, unvarying temperature, and also in remembrance of Sir George Somers. In April of this year the three dwellers on the island were filled with joy at the sight of an approaching ship with the flag of England, which proved to be the Plough with a party of colonists under a Governor More.

"As soon as we landed," says one of the passengers, "we went to prayer, and gave thanks unto the Lord for our safe arrival, and whilst we were at prayer we saw three men coming down to us."

Another wrote : "The climate I hold to be very good, and agreeable with our constitution of England, for the men which were left there are very fat and fair, not tanned nor burned in the sun, so much as we."

Chard, one of the trio, being asked by Governor More as to the discovery of ambergris, denied any knowledge, and secretly made an arrangement with the captain of the Plough to have the lump conveyed to England. Carter at length disclosed the plan and confessed that they had the treasure, when Chard was arrested, but was subsequently released, and Governor More in behalf of those he represented, received one-third of the ambergris.

In a few weeks the ambergris was offered for sale in London, and the East India Company bought of the Virginia Company two boxes at sixty-two and sixty-three shillings an ounce. Children stopped at the windows of jewellers' to look at the ornaments made of Bermudas' products : and exclaim, in substance, as in later years the poet Pope :

" Pretty ! in amber to observe the forms
Of hairs, or straws, or dirt, or worms."

Chapman, the dramatist, wrote a piece which was played by members of Lincoln's Inn, and the Middle Temple, in February, 1613, at the White Hall Palace, London, in honor of the marriage of Frederick, the Prince Palatine, and the Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of King James. The chief maskers were dressed as Indians, with vizards of olive color, feathers on their heads, and

long black hair down their shoulders. On the stage was an Island of rocks and caves, and Plutus, Prince of the Virgin land, was prominent. One of the maskers speaks as follows: "A rich island lying in the South Sea, called Pœana, being for strength and riches called the ravel of the South Sea, is by earth's round motion moved near this Britain shore, in which island, being yet in command of the Virginian continent, a troupe of the noblest Virginians, attended hither the God Riches all triumphantly shining in a mine of gold. For hearing of the most royal solemnity of these nuptials they crossed the ocean in their honour and are here arrived."

John Rolfe, soon after his arrival in Virginia from Bermudas, opened the first tobacco plantation, in English North America, and others followed, until Virginia tobacco became known in London stores. In a debate in the House of Commons early in 1614 a member said: "The shop-keepers sent over all kinds of goods, for which they received tobacco instead of wine, infinitely to the prejudice of the Commonwealth. Many of the divines now smell of tobacco, and poor men spend 4l. of their day's wages, at night, in smoke."

In the Mask of Flowers, performed at White Hall on Twelfth Night, 1612-13, by gentlemen of the Inner Temple and Gray's Inn, under the auspices of Sir Francis Bacon, afterwards Lord Verulam, and others. Silenus challenges Kawasha, the God of the Florida Indians, and declares that wine is more worthy of praise than tobacco. Kawasha was personated by a masker with a cap of red cloth of gold, pendants in his ears, a glass chain about his neck; his body and legs covered with olive colored cloth, and in his hand a bow and arrows, and "the bases of tobacco colored stuff cut like tobacco leaves." The colloquy is spirited and well sustained:

Silenus. "Kawasha comes in majestie,
Was never such a God as he:
He's come from a farre countrie
To make our nose a chimney.

Kawasha. The Wine takes the contrary way
To get into the hood,
But good Tobacco makes no stay

But seizeth where it should.
 More incense hath burned at
 Great Kawashae's foote
 Than to Silen and Bacchus both,
 And take in Jove to boote.

Silenus. The Worthies they were nine, 'tis true,
 And lately Arthur's Knights I knew,
 But now are come up Worthies new,
 The roaring boys, Kawashae's crew.

Kawasha. Silenus toppes the barrel, but
 Tobacco toppes, the braine
 And makes the vapours fire and soote,
 That man revives againe—
 Nothing but fumigation
 Doth charm away ill spirits,
 Kawasha and his nation
 Found out these holy rites."

It is worthy of note that on the same nuptial occasion the *Tempest* was acted by John Heming and the rest of the King's Company before Prince Charles, the Prince Palatine Elector and his bride, the Princess Elizabeth.

To such representations Crashaw appears to allude in the introduction to Whitaker's *Good News from Virginia*, when he speaks of the calumnies against the colony "and the jests of prophane players and other sycophants, and the flouts and mockes of some who by their age and profession should be no mockers."

The good clergyman, Samuel Purchas, wrote about the same time: "God Almighty prosper that the word may goe out of Bermuda, and the law of the Lord from Virginia, to a true conversion of the American world than hitherto our humorists, or Spanish insolence have intended."

In the Daily Prayer appointed for the Virginia Plantation, and published A. D. 1612, is this petition: "And, whereas, we have by undertaking this plantation undergone the reproofs of the base world, in so much as many of our own brethren laugh vs to scorne, O Lord, we pray Thee to fortifie vs against this temptation; let Sambullat and Tobias, Papist and *Players*, and such other Amonits

and Horonits the scum and dregs of the earth, let them mocke such as help to build vp Jerusalem. and they that be filthy let them be filthy still."

The introductory epistle to a little book called "*New Life of Virginia*," also published A. D. 1612, asserts that "the malicious and looser sort, with the licentious vain stage poets, have whet their tongues with scornful taunt against the action itself, inso-much as there is no common reproach nor public name of any thing this day, except it be the name of God, which is more wildly defamed, traduced and derided by such unhallowed lips, than the name of Virginia."

In John Cook's play of "*Tu Quoque, or The Cittie Gallant*," published in London A. D. 1616, a penniless fellow says: "I dare not walk abroad to see my friends, for fear the sergeants should take acquaintance of me; my refuge is Ireland or Virginia."

John O. Halliwell, whose pains-taking research has thrown much light upon the writings of Shakspeare, discovered a poetical tract, "*Newes from Virginia*," published in A. D. 1610, in the library of the Earl of Charlemont, in Dublin, and knowing of no other copy in existence, in 1865, he had twenty-five copies printed, of which fifteen were destroyed, and ten were distributed.¹ As the earliest narrative which was published of the wreck of the *Sea Venture*, upon the Island of Devils, "otherwise called Bermoothawes," it is of interest to the students of the early English colonization of America. The writer, R. Rich, was one of those on board the *Sea Venture*, at the time of the wreck, and in a brief preface to the poem he calls himself a "soldier blunt and plain." In the list of the adventurers of the Virginia Company appear the names of Sir Robert Rich, who contributed seventy-five pounds, and one Robert Rich, who paid twelve pounds and ten shillings.

Sir Robert Rich, in A. D. 1617, sent out Capt. Thomas Jones, in the ship *Lion* to trade in the waters of India and Japan, and in 1619, Rich, now become the Earl of Warwick, hired Jones to go to Virginia, with a ship load of cattle, and after this, Jones, under a patent of the Virginia Company, sailed in the *May Flower*, with the Puritans who were landed on Plymouth Rock.

¹ On August 16, 1611, John Wright, bookseller, entered at Stationers' Hall "A ballad. The last news from Virginia, being an encouragement to all others to follow that noble enterprise." No copy of this ballad is known to have been preserved.

It may be that R. Rich. the writer of the poem, was a relative of Sir Robert Rich.

Shakspeare's latest composition is supposed to have been the play of the Tempest. and was composed at the time when the Earl of Southampton, his friend, was disposed to talk much of the wreck of the Sea Venture. and the escape of its passengers, and was fitting out colonies to settle in Virginia. and Virginiola, as Bermudas was once called. It is not therefore surprising that we should find in the Tempest, allusions "to the vexed Bermoothes," the constant play of thunder and lightning, and a monster living on an isle of the sea.

The poem of Rich is of interest not only on account of its great rarity, but also of its being the first printed account of the wreck of the Sea Venture.

It was introduced to the reading public in a small quarto with the following title :

NEVVES FROM VIRGINIA.

THE LOST FLOCKE TRIUMPHANT ;

With the happy Arrival of that famous and
worthy knight Sr Thomas Gates : and
the well reputed and valient Cap-
taine Mr Christopher New-
porte, and others, into
England.

With the manner of their distresse in the Iland of Devils
(otherwise called Bermoothawes) where they
remayned 42 weekes, and builded
two Pynaces, in which
they returned into
Virginia.

✓
By R. RICH, GENT., one of the voyage.

LONDON :

Printed by Edw. Alde, and are to be solde by John
Wright, at Christ-Church dore. 1610.

TO THE READER.

READER,—how to stile thee I knowe not, perhaps learned, perhaps unlearned; happily captious, happily envious; indeed, what or how to tearme thee I know not, only as I began I will proceede.

Reader: Thou dost peradventure imagine that I am mercenarie in this busines, and write for money (as your moderne Poets use) hyred by some of those ever to be admired adventurers to flatter the world. No: I disclaime it. I have knowne the voyage, past the danger, scene that honorable work of Virginia, and I thanke God am arrivd here to tell thee what I have seene, don, and past. If thou wilt believe me, so: if not, so to; for I cannot force thee but to thy owne liking. I am a soldier, blunt and plaine, and so is the phrase of my newes; and I protest it is true. If thou aske why I put it in verse, I prethee knowe it was onely to feede mine owne humour. I must confesse, that, had I not debarde myselfe of that large scope which to the writing of prose is allowed, I should have much easd myselfe, and given thee better content. But I intreat thee to take this as it is, and before many daies expire. I will promise thee the same worke more at large.

I did feare prevention by some of your writers, if they should have gotten but some part of the newes by the tayle, and therefore, though it be rude, let it passe with thy liking, and in so doing I shall like well of thee; but, however, I have not long to stay. If thou wilt be unnaturall to thy countryman, thou maist, —I must not loose my patrymonie. I am for Virginia againe, and so I will bid the hartily farewell with an honest verse:

As I came hether to see my native land,

To waft me backe lend me thy gentle hand.

Thy loving Country-man,

R. R.

NEWES FROM VIRGINIA,

of the happy arrival of that famous
and worthy knight, Sir
Thomas Gates
and well reputed and valiante Captaine
Newport, into England.

“ It is no idle fabulous tale,
Nor is it fayned newes,
For *Truth* herself is heere arriv’d,
Because you should not muse,
With her both Gates and Newport come,
To tell *Report* doth lye,
Which did devulge into the world,
That they at sea did dye.

’Tis true that eleaven mouthes and more,
These gallant worthy wights
Was in the shippe *Sea-Venture* nam’d,
Deprived Virginia’s sight :
And bravely did they glyde the maine,
Till Neptune ’gan to frowne,
As if a courser proudly backt
Would throwe his ryder downe.

The seas did rage, the windes did blowe,
Distressed were they then ;
Their shippe did leake, her tacklings breake.
In daunger were her men,
But heaven was pylotte in this storme,
And to an iland nere,
Bermoothawes called, conducted them,
Which did abute their feare.

But yet these worthies forced were,
 Opprest with weather againe,
 To runne their ship between two rockes,
 Where she doth still remaine ;
 And then on shoare the iland came,
 Inhabited by hogges,
 Some foule, and tortoysses there were,
 They onley had one dogge.

To kill these swyne to yield them foode
 That little had to eate.
 Their store was spent, and all things scant,
 Alas ! they wanted meate.
 A thousand hogges that dogge did kill,
 Their hunger to sustaine.
 And with such foode, did in that ile
 Two and forty weekes remaine.

And there two gallant pynases
 Did build of seader-tree
 The brave *Deliverance* one was call'd
 Of seaventy tonne was shée,
 The other, *Patience* had to name,
 Her burthen thirty tonne ;
 Two only of their men which there,
 Pale death did overcome.

And for the losse of these two sonles,
 Which were accounted deere,
 A sonne and daughter then was borne,
 And were baptized there.
 The two and forty weekes being past,
 They hoyst sayle and away ;
 Their ships with hogs well freighted were,
 Their harts with mickle joy.

And so to Virginia came,
 Where these brave soldiers finde
 The English-men opprest with griefs
 And discontent in minde ;
 They seem'd distracted and forlome
 For those two worthies' losse,
 Yet at their home returne, they joye'd,
 Amongst them some were crosse.

And in the midst of discontent
 Came noble Delaware ;
 And heard the griefes on either part,
 And sett them free from care :
 He comforts them, and cheeres their hearts,
 That they abound with joy ;
 He feedes them full, and feedes their soules,
 With God's word every day.

A discreet counsell he creates
 Of men of worthy fame,
 That noble Gates, leiftenant was,
 The admiral had to name ;
 The worthy Sir George Somers, knight,
 And others of command ;
 Maister George Pearcy, which is brother
 Unto Northumberland.

Sir Fardinando Wayneman, knight,
 And others of good fame,
 That noble lord his company
 Which to Virginia came,
 And landed there, his number was
 One hundred seaventy ; then
 Ad to the rest, and they make full
 Foure hundred able men.

Where they unto their labour fall,
 As men that mean to thrive ;
 Let's pray that heaven may blesse them all
 And keep them long alive :
 Those men that vagrants liv'd with us,
 Have there deserved well,
 Their governour writes in their praise
 As divers letters tel.

And to the adventurers thus he writes,
 Be not dismayed at all,
 For scandall cannot doe us wrong,
 God will not let us fall.
 Let England knowe our willingnesse.
 For that our worke is good,
 Wee hope to plant a nation,
 Where none before hath stood.

To glorifie the Lord 'tis done.
And to no other end;
He that would crosse so good a worke,
To God can be no friend;
There is no feare of hunger here
For corne much store here growes.
Much fish the gallant rivers yield,
'Tis truth, without suppose.

Great store of fowle, of venison,
Of grapes and mulberries,
Of chesnuts, walnuts and such like
Of fruits and strawberries,
There is indeed no want at all
But some, condicion'd ill,
That wish the worke should not goe on,
With words doe seeme to kill.

And for an instance of their store,
The noble Delaware
Hath for a present hither sent,
To testifie his care
In managing so good a worke,
Two gallant ships, by name
The *Blessing* and the *Hercules*
Well fraught, and in the same

Two ships, are these commodities
Furres, sturgeon, caviare,
Black walnut-tree, and some deale boards,
With such they laden are;
Some pearle, some wainscot and clapbords,
With some sasafras wood,
And iron promis't for 'tis true
Their mynes are very good.

Then maugre, scandall, false report
Or any opposition,
Th' adventurers doe thus devulge
To men of good condition,
That he that wants shall have reliefe
Be he of honest minde,
Apparel, coyne, or anything,
To such they will be kinde,

To such as to Virginia
 Do purpose to repaire;
 And when that they shall hither come,
 Each man shall have his share,
 Day wages for the laborer,
 And for his more content,
 A house and garden plot shall have,
 Besides 'tis further ment

That every man shall have a part,
 And not thereof denied
 Of generall profit, as if that he
 Twelve pounds, ten shillings paid;
 And he that in Virginia
 Shall copper coyne receive,
 For hyer, or commodities,
 And will the country leave

Upon delivery of such coyne
 Unto the Governour,
 Shall by exchange, at his returne,
 Be by their treasurer
 Paid him in London, at first sight,
 No man shall cause to grieve
 For 'tis their general will and wish
 That every man shall live.

The number of adventurers.
 That are for this plantation,
 Are full eight hundred worthy men,
 Some noble, all of fashion;
 Good, discreete, their work is good,
 May heaven assist them in their worke.
 And thus our newes is done."

Gates, Newport, and Rich found Virginia, everywhere, evil spoken of, upon their arrival in September, 1610, in London.

The seven ships from which they had been separated in the storm, had safely arrived in the summer of 1609, at Jamestown. The passengers were an "unhallowed crew." Twenty-eight or thirty were sent in the ship *Swallow* to trade for corn with the Indians, and never returned. Those who reached England told horrible tales, the recital of which caused the hair of the flesh to stand up. They asserted that the colonists were starving and feeding upon rats, mice, snakes and toad-stools; that an Indian had been dug out of his grave and eaten; and that one man killed his wife as she slept upon his bosom, cut her in pieces, powdered her, and fed upon her, till he had eaten all of her body except the head. Sir Thomas Gates found that this story met him everywhere, and he softened it somewhat by stating that the man hated his wife and killed and cut her in pieces, and as an excuse plead hunger, but he was tried, found guilty, and burned to death.

It was necessary by "Newes from Virginia," and other pamphlets, to reassure the London merchants, who had become despondent, and bravely assert—

"For scandal cannot do us wrong,
God will not let us fall,
Let England know our willingness
For that our work is good,
We hope to plant a nation
Where none before hath stood."

Shakspeare died, A.D. 1616, before his patron, the Earl of Southampton, became the presiding officer of the Virginia Company of London. The great dramatist loved to stop at the Crown Inn, Oxford, and was godfather to a son of the handsome landlady. The godson became a poet, and early in 1650, as Sir William Davenant, was commissioned by Charles the Second as Governor of that part of Virginia, known as Maryland. On his voyage he was captured by one of the ships of Parliament, brought back to England and lodged in the Tower, where he finished his poem of *Gondibert*, and was at length set free by the friendly intercession of the great Puritan, John Milton.

DOCUMENTS

FOR THE FIRST TIME PRINTED,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE

ENGLISH COLONIZATION OF AMERICA.

The following correspondence copied by the courtesy of the Mayor of Sandwich, from the ancient archives of that town, will be read with interest by all students of Virginia history and the English Colonization of America.

Sir Edwin Sandys was knighted by King James in 1603, the same year that the philosopher Francis Bacon received the honor. The second son of the Archbishop of York, he attended one of the colleges of Oxford in 1577 when about sixteen years of age. In early manhood he traveled on the continent and wrote "*Europæ Speculum, or The State of Religion in the Western Parts of the World,*" and was several times a member of the House of Commons.

With the celebrated Lord Bacon he prepared, in 1604, a remonstrance against the title of the King of Great Britain being assumed by James, in which were set forth the now accepted principles of popular liberty. For services rendered the government he received an estate at Norburne, or Northburne, six miles in the country, from the port of Sandwich, and here he established his residence. For years he was an active promoter of the colonization of America, and on the 26th of April, 1619 was elected the presiding officer of the Virginia Company of London, in place of Sir Thomas Smith. The town of Sandwich in 1620 chose him, after a "tumultuous election," as their representative in Parliament, and during the recess, by order of the King, he was placed under arrest, with the Lords

Oxford, Southampton, and other opponents of arbitrary rule. When the House of Commons assembled again in November, 1621, the members were indignant at the confinement of Sandys. Sir George Calvert, the King's secretary, also a member, afterwards the projector of the province of Maryland, with acrimony told James the First the feelings of Parliament, and he wrote an angry letter complaining of the "fiery, popular and turbulent spirits" of the House, and denying their right of petition in points he had forbidden to be discussed. Pym and other members of a committee, carried to the King a reply, and he again answered in arrogant sentences. Hal- lam states that the court now became alarmed, and sent Calvert to the House of Commons with an explanatory message, but the storm could not be allayed by calling the King's language "a slip of the pen, at the close of a long letter." The House, to the last, firmly asserted that there should be freedom of debate, and "from all impeachment, imprisonment and molestation" for anything said on the floor of Parliament.

While Sandys was under arrest officers were sent to search his house. His high-toned wife, with womanly dignity, bore the inquisition of her drawers and jewelry casket, but when the key to her husband's papers was demanded, an indignant heart forced this utterance from her lips, "I wish his majesty had a key to unlock her husband's heart, that he might see that not anything was there but loyalty."

A few months after Sandys became the head of the Virginia Company, on the 9th of June, 1619, O. S., a patent was granted largely by his influence to John Whincop¹ for the use of the Puritans at Leyden, which was never used, but on the 2d of the next February at a meeting held in his house near Aldersgate, a patent was granted to John Peirce and associates, under which the May Flower sailed and landed its passengers at Plymouth Rock.

On the 9th of June, 1620, Sandys wrote from his country seat at Northburne to Buckingham, that he would cheerfully serve one

¹ In the London Company's transactions of May 26, 1619, Whincop is spoken of as: "One Mr. Whincop commended to the company by the Earl of Lincoln, intending in person to go to Virginia." On Easter Sunday A. D. 1632, three brothers, John, Samuel and Thomas Whincop, preached in the church of St. Mary's Spittle, London. In A. D. 1642, the chaplain of the Puritan Lord Say was a Rev. Dr. Whincop, Rector of St. Martin's in the field, London.

year more as the head of the Virginia Company, but the King was opposed, and said to some of the members that Sandys was his greatest enemy, and that he could hardly think well of any one who was his friend, and working himself into a passion, exclaimed, "Choose the devil if you will, but not Sir Edwin Sandys." In view of this opposition the Company, on the 19th of June elected the Earl of Southampton as his successor.

Sandys lived until he was nearly seventy years of age, died in October, 1629, and was buried at Northburne. In his will he left a legacy of £1,500 to establish a lecture on metaphysics at Oxford. He was married four times. One of his sons, Edwin, a colonel under Cromwell, fell in battle on the 3d of September, 1651, at Worcester.¹

The first of his letters on file in the archives of Sandwich was written at Northborne on the 21st of March, A. D. 1610, Old Style, but A. D. 1611, according to modern computation, and addressed to the Mayor and Jurats of that port.

¹ In October, 1621, George, the brother of Sir Edwin Sandys, arrived at Jamestown as Treasurer of Virginia. His father, Archbishop Sandys, made this entry in the family Bible: "George Sandes, born the seventh day of March, at six of the clock in the morning, 1577. His god-fathers, George, Earl of Cumberland and William, Lord Ewer. His god-mother, Catharine, Countess of Huntingdon."

Before he left England he had published a translation of five books of Ovid, to which the poet Drayton alluded in a rhyming letter sent to Virginia:

— "And worthy George, by industry and use,
Let's see what lines Virginia will produce;
Go on with Ovid, as you have begun
With the first five books; let your numbers run
Glib as the former, so shall it live long,
And do much honour to the English tongue,
Entice the Muses, thither to repair,
Entreat them gently, train them to that air,
* * * * *
But you may save your labour, if you please,
To write to me aught of your savages,
Assavage slaves, be in Great Britain here,
As you can show me there."

While at Jamestown "worthy George" translated the remaining books of Ovid, and in 1626, after he returned to England, the whole was published at London, in an elegant illustrated folio. Fuller, the historian, wrote, "Master Sandys was altogether as dexterous at inventing as translating, and his own poems as spritful, vigorous and masculine. He lived to be a very aged man whom I saw in the Savoy, in 1641, having a youthful soul in a decayed body."

He resided at the house of his niece, the widow of Francis Wyatt, Governor of Virginia. In the Register of Bexley Abbey, Kent, is this entry: "Georgius Sandys, Poetarum Anglorum sui sæculi facile princeps, sepultus fuit Martii 7 stilo Anglico. An. Dom. 1643."

LETTER OF EDWIN SANDYS.

Sr.

I am requested by his Maties Counsil for Virginia to convey these inclosed, to yo^r hands & to procure yo^r answer against the beginning of the next term. The effect is to invite yo^r town & such particular persons of worth as shall be so disposed, to partnership in the great action of Virginia, w^{ch} after manifold disasters doth now, under the government of noble & worthie leaders, begin to revive, and we trust ere long shall flourish.

I acquainted them that yo^r Town had been much hindered by sickness: in regard whereof the lesse will be perhaps expected. But they would not pass over so principal a port, in an action tending generally to the good of the whole Realm, but the profit whereof will chiefly fall to the Hauen Towns, & principally in them, to merchants.

But I will leave you to the letter itself; only thus much (to acquaint y^u wth the present state of the busines): we have sent away Sr Thomas Dale wth 300 men & great abundance of victual & furniture. We send after them, this next month two ships more wth 100 Kyne & 200 swine for breed.¹ And if monie come in, whereof we are in very good hope, in May next we shall send Sr Thomas Gates wth other 300 men of the best and choicest we

¹ Sir Thomas Dale before reaching manhood entered the army of the Netherlands, and rose to a position of honor. Winwood, the English Ambassador to that country, in March, A. D. 1604, was informed by the Secretary of State, that King James wished him to "take notice of his gracious opinion of the merit of Captain Dale, both for having been a valiant and long servitor, and having for the most part" served at his own charges.

In June, 1606, the King of England knighted him as Sir Thomas Dale of Surrey. Retaining his commission in the army of the Netherlands, he left the Thames with a party of colonists in February, and reached Jamestown on the 12th of May, A. D. 1610. With John Rolfe, Pocahontas and a party of Indians he returned to England in June, 1616. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Throckmorton, Kt, and sister of Sir William Throckmorton, Baronet. Toward the close of the year 1617, he was made commander of the fleet of the East India Company. In February, 1618, after making his will and provision for his wife, he embarked for the Indian Ocean. On the voyage from Engano in the Malay Archipelago, to Masulipatam he became sick and on the 19th of July, 1619, soon after his arrival at the latter place, died.

He left no children. His wife's will, made on 4th of July, and proved on 2d of December, 1640, directed that her debts should be paid out of the estate in the hands of the East India Company and her estate in Virginia. The statement that Sir Thomas Dale had been twice married appears to be incorrect.

can procure.¹ W^{ch} done, and God blessing them, the busines we account is wonn.

Thus wth my very heartie salutations, I betake y^u to the Tuition & Direction of the Highest, & rest,

Y^r very loving friend,

EDWIN SANDYS.

Norborn,

21 Martii, 1610.

The letter forwarded from the Virginia Company by Sandys was sent from Sir Thomas Smith's house, in Philpot Lane, London, where the meetings of the corporation were then held, and is as follows:

LETTER OF VIRGINIA COMPANY.

"The eyes of all Europe looking upon our endeavours to spread the Gospell among the Heathen people of Virginia, to plant o^r English nation there, & to settle at in those p^{ts} w^{ch} maie be peculiar to o^r nation, so that we may thereby be secured from being eaten out of all proffits of trade, by our more industrious neighbors, wee cannot doubt but that the eyes of also of y^{or} best judgments and affections are fixed no lesse upon a designe of soe great consequence.

The reasons that action hath not yet received the successe of o^r desires and and expectac^ons are published in print to all the world, To repeat them all were idlenees in us & must bee tedious to you, yet to onytt mention of that mayne reason w^{ch} hath shaken the whole frame of this business & w^{ch} hath begott theise o^r requests to you, would but returne unto us a fruitlesse accompt and consequentlie a hazard to destroe that life w^{ch} yet breatheth in this action.

¹ Sir Thomas Gates, while in the military service of the Netherlands, obtained leave of absence to go with the expedition to Virginia. In the summer of the year 1610, he was sent back to England by Lord Delaware to procure supplies and represent the interest of the Colony. In June, 1611, he sailed again for Virginia in charge of a number of immigrants, and accompanied by his wife and daughters. His wife died at sea, and in August he reached Jamestown. In December his daughters returned to England with Captain Newport. In the spring of 1614 Gates left Virginia and never returned. It has been said that he died in the service of the East India Company. Sir Dudley Digges, while sojourning at Amsterdam, in 1621, in a letter to the English Ambassador at the Hague, sends his "love to the honest Sir Tho's Gates."

That reason in few wordes was want of meanes to impleie good men, & want of just payment of the meanes which weare promised, so disabling us therebie to set forth o^r supplies in due season.

Now that we have established a form of gon^rment fitt for such members in the p[']sons of the Lord La Warr and S^r George Sommers already in those p[']ts, as also in S^r Thomas Dale embarqt wth 300 men & provisions for them, and the Collony to the value of many thousands of pounds, who is already falne downe the ryver, in his waie thither, & in S^r Thomas Gates whom we reserve to second this expedicon, in Maie next, with 300 more of the choicest p[']sons wee can gett for moneys through your means & our own cares.

Wee accompt from many advised consultacons that 30,000£ to bee paid in two years, for three supplies, will be a sufficient sum to settle there, a very able and strong foundacon of anexing another kingdome to this Crowne.¹

Of this 30,000£ there is already signed by diverse p[']ticular noblemen, gent^u and merchants the some of 18,000 as maie appeare unto you by a true copy of their names and somes, written with their own hands in a Register booke w^{ch} remaynes as a recorde in the hands of S^r Thomas Smith. Threr, for that plantacon, so that the adventures to be procured from all the noblemen, the Byshopps & Clergie that have not yet signed from all the Gentry, Merchants and Corporate townes of this Kingdome, doth but amount to 12,000£ payable as aforesaid.

To accomplish w^{ch} sum wee entreate yo^r favours no farther than amongst yo^rselves, and as shall seeme good unto you upon respect of your judgments, ranck and place: we endeavour by theis o^r requests to gaine as helpes unto vs, in such poor measure as wee have begun toward the advancement of soe glorious an action.

Wee are farther to entreate yo^r helpes to procure vs such numbers of men & of such condicon as you are willing and able; wee send you herewth the list of the numbers & qualitie that we entende, God willing, to employ in Maie next.

¹ In 1619 the Virginia Company adopted as a motto of its Seal: "En ! dat Virginia quintam." Behold ! Virginia gives a fifth crown.

As soon as you can wth conveniency wee desire yo^r resolucons touching meanes and men, upon receipt thereof wee shall acknowledge due thanks & lymitt the time of their appearance, wherein wee shall not forgett the pointe of charge to the undertakers, howsoever we preferre so farre as lyes in us, a seasonable dispatch to the first place of o^r consideracons.

The benefitt by this action, if it shall please God to blesse these begynnings wth a happye successe must arise to the generall good of this Common wealth. To laie then a stronge foundacon of soe great a work wee hold o^rselves & o^r request to yo^{rs}, warranted by the reasons aforesaid & by the rules of honour & judgment, & for as wee o^rselves, the p^sent adventurers cannott receive the whole benefitt, soe can it not be expected that we should undergoe the whole charge. The often renewed complaints against Companies heretofore hath happened by reason of the Monopolizings of trade into a few men's hands, and though the ice of this busnes hath been broken by the purses, cares, and adventures of a few, yet wee seclude no subject from the future benefitt of o^r present care, charge and hazard of p^son & adventures, all w^{ch} we leave to yo^r judicious consideracons & only importune yo^r speedy resolucons, that according to the warrants of duty wee maie either wash o^r hands from further care or cheerfully embrace strength from you to the furtherance of this action, that tends so directly to advance the glory of God, the honor of o^r English nation & the profit and securitie in o^r judgment, of this Kingdome.

And soe leaving you to that sence hereof w^{ch} his goodness shall please to infuse into you, who is of absolute power to dispose of all things to the best, wee rest.

Yo^r very loving friends,

From S^r Thomas Smyths'
house in Philpot Lane, the
28th of February, 1610.

PEMBROKE,¹
MONTGOMERY.
SOUTHAMPTON,³
LISLE,⁴

[Sir] WALTER COPE.	[Sir] THOMAS GATES.
" G. COPPIN.	" ROBERT MANSELL.
" [Illegible.]	" EDWIN SANDYS,
" THO. SMYTHE.	" BAPTIST HICKS,
" H. FANSHAW.	

¹ William, Earl of Pembroke.

² Philip, " Montgomery.

³ Henry, " Southampton.

⁴ Robert, Lord Lisle, afterwards Lord of Leicester.

Boys, in "Collections for the history of Sandwich," states that the town in 1609 granted £25 as a venture for the settlement of Virginia, and it is without doubt in reference to this that the following letter was addressed on the 8th of April, 1612—

"To the Right W^{thie}, my very loving friends, the Mayor and Jurates of Sandwich :

GENTLEMEN—I am required by his Mat^{ies} counsel for Virginia, to call on you for the twenty-five pounds w^{ch} long since y^u promised to adventure wth them, towards the furthering of that plantation. And have received from them a Bill of adventure under their seale to be delivered unto you upon paiement of that sum, w^{ch} Bill I have sent you by Mr Parke to be disposed accordingly.

I am also in their names very earnestly to pray y^{or} furtherance, towards the furthering of a Lotterie lately granted to them by his Mat^{ie}. The use and nature thereof y^u shall perceiv by the proclamation concerning it, which I have also sent. And Mr Mayor of Sandwich is particularly desired to receive & return such monies as men shall be disposed to adventure in it, according to such instructions as are contained in a book sent to you for that purpose : presuming greatly of your affectionate rediness to aid & advance so worthie an enterprise tending so greatly to the enlargement of the Cristian truth, the honor of or nation, and benefit of English people, as by God's assistance the sequell in short time will manifest. The example also hereof, now benificiall in y^{or} best & most needful occasions, it may prove unto y^{or}selves I know in your wisdome y^u will easily see and consider. So with my very hartie salutations I commend y^u to the divine tuition and rest.

Y^r very loving friend,

NORTHBORN.

EDWIN SANDYS.

8 Aprile, 1612.

Less than a month after Gates arrived, Lord Delaware landed, on the 10th of June, 1610, at Jamestown, but on March 28th, 1611, he visited England on account of ill health, leaving George Percy Deputy Governor. At that time, the only other place inhabited by whites, was Point Comfort, which consisted of a small fort fenced with palisadoes, one dwelling, a store, and a few thatched cabins.

HONORABLE GEORGE PERCY.

After the name of Robert Hunt, preacher, in the list of the members of the expedition who settled at Jamestown in 1607, is that of George Percy. An honorable man, the descendant of an honorable house, uncomplaining under peculiar hardships, and faithful to his trust, it is to be regretted that so few incidents of his life have been preserved.

He was the brother of the Duke of Northumberland, and his narrative of the plantation of the southern colony in Virginia, ending at September, 1607, abridged and published by Purchas, is full of interest.

With Gabriel Archer and John Smith he accompanied Captain Newport in the first explorations of the James river in the vicinity of Richmond. After Captain Smith's term as President of the Council expired, the colonists, in the absence of Sir Thomas Gates, who had been wrecked at Bermudas, chose Percy as president.

A dispatch to the Earl of Salisbury, Secretary of State under King James, dated October 4, 1609, written by one of the senior captains of the vessels of the Gates and Somers expedition, states that "they found all the Council dead but Captain Smith, who reigned sole Governor, and is now sent home to answer some misdemeanors. George Percy, brother to my Lord Northumberland, is elected President, and Mr. West, brother to Lord Delaware, of the Council, with Captain Martin."

Among the papers in the library of the present Earl of Northumberland there is evidence that there was an affectionate interest felt by the Northumberland family in their representative in Virginia. Amid many entries in an expense-book, kept in the days of James the First, the following are found: A charge of £9. 2s., 6d. for clothing sent to Mr. George Percy by Captain Newport; and also a payment of 14 shillings to Mr. Melshawe for many necessities which he delivered to Mr. Percy toward the building of a house in Virginia. On February the 6th, 1610, payments to the amount of £432. 1s., 6d. were made by the head of the Northumberland family for Mr. Percy. There appears also a payment by

the Duke of Northumberland in 1607-'8 of 3 shillings for rings and other pieces of copper given to the Virginia Prince; of 8 shillings for cutting a large and small Virginia stone; 24 shillings for gold, and 15 shillings for setting the large Virginia stone in gold. In 1610 a Declaration of the State of Virginia was printed, and a copy was purchased for 6 shillings for the Northumberland family.

Upon the arrival of Sir Thomas Gates in May, 1610, from the Bermudas, Percy ceased to act as President, and Gates became the Governor under the new charter until the coming of Lord Delaware, two weeks later. Delaware, as Governor-General, made Percy one of the Council. In March, 1611, Delaware, on account of ill-health, sailed from Jamestown, and Gates, the Lieutenant Governor, being in England, Percy was appointed Deputy-Governor. Among the Northumberland papers there is the following letter, written to his brother Henry, and dated August 17, 1611, which probably was brought to England in the ship *Star*, which arrived there about the 1st of December with Captain Newport.

Right Hono^{ble}

I am not ignorant, and cannot be therefore unmindfull in what I may so satisfie your Lo^p for your manifold and continuall curtesies w^{ch} I dayly and at the reproch of everie shipping do abundantly taste of, and I must acknowledg freely that this last yere hath not bin a little chardgable unto your Honnor who I hope will continue so noble and hono^{ble} opinion of me as you shall not think any thing prodigally by me wasted or spent w^{ch} tendeth to my no little advancement: True it is the place w^{ch} I hold in this Colonie, (the store affording no other meanes then a pound of meale) cannot be de defraied wth small expense, it standing upon my reputation (being Gouverneur of James Towne) to keepe a continuall and dayly Table for Gentlemen of fashion aboute me, my request unto y^r Lo^p. at this present is to intreate your Honnor to be highly pleased to dischargd a Bill of my hand made to M^r Nellson, and likewise a Bill of eight pounds unto M^r Pindle Burie of Lond^o merchant and I shall ever be in all humble dutie bound unto your Lo^p: And thus wishing all honnor and happines to accompanie you in this world and eternall

blisse in the other to come I cease to be further vnnecessary troublesome vnto your Lop. ever vowing my self and the vttmost of my services in all duty vnto your Honno^r. and rest.

Your Lordship's

louinge brother

VIRGINIA, James

GEORGE PERCY.

Towne, August 17, 1611.

[Addressed:] To the right Hono^{ble} my singuler good
Lord and Brother, The Earle of
Northumberland, give these.

The Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, R. A. Brock. Esq., states that there is among the collections of that Society a fine portrait of Captain George Percy, which, together with one of Lord Culpepper, was donated to the Society by Charles Wykeham Martin, Esq., of Leeds Castle, England, in 1853. The frames accommodating each of these portraits are of solid British oak, handsomely carved and gilded, and were presented with them by William Twopenny, Esq., of London.

ERRATA.

Page 9. "John" should read "George" Kendall.

Page 13. "Narative" should read "narrative."

Page 20. "Surving" should read "surviving."

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