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VIRGINIA VETUSTA,

DURING THE REIGN OF JAMES THE FIRST.

CONTAINING

LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS NEVER BEFORE PRINTED.

A SUPPLEMENT TO

THE HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA COMPANY.

BY

✓
EDWARD D. NEILL.

NEC FALSA DICERE, NEC VERA FETI-FEE.



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name of Mara, three years later he had a son which was named Gershom, and in the year 1616 his wife gave him another son, a child of sorrow, well called Benoni. He did not chuckle and laugh in childish glee, he had a vacant stare, and it was soon known that he would not be able to measure a yard of cloth, number twenty, or rightly name the days of the week, and that he under the English Statute was a "natural fool," the first in Virginia. Still another son was born about 1619, and before the close of 1624, Mr. Buck was dead.

POOLE AND GLOVER.

Sir Thomas Dale mentions that Mr. Poole preached on the afternoon of his arrival at Jamestown, which was Sunday, the 19th of May, 1611, and in the second expedition of Sir Thomas Gates, which arrived in August, came Glover, "an approved preacher in Bedford and Huntingdonshire, a graduate of Cambridge, revered and respected," one who was in easy circumstances and advanced in years. He lived but a short time after his arrival.

ALEXANDER WHITAKER.

Alexander Whitaker also in 1611, arrived with Gates. The son of the distinguished head of Saint John's College, Cambridge, he believed with his father, that "he is a perfect minister who has learned the scriptural doctrine, and explained it to the people; and that, is a true and perfect church which receives and cherishes such doctrine." He discarded the surplice and wrote to England: "Every

Sabbath day we preach in the forenoon and catechize in the afternoon. Every Saturday, at night, I exercise in Sir Thomas Dale's house. Our church affairs be consulted on by the Minister, and four of the most religious men." Rolfe mentions him in 1616 "as a good divine" at Bermuda Hundred. The painting in the rotunda of the Capitol represents Whitaker in a surplice, and in other respects, is at variance with the truth of history. In a letter¹ to Crashaw, Preacher of the Temple, dated Jamestown, August 9, 1611, Whitaker² wrote :

"I should more admire VIRGINIA w'th the Inhabitants yf I did not remember that EGIPT was exceedinge fruitfull, that CANAAN flowed with milke and hony before Israel did overrunne it, and that SODOM was like the garden of God in the dayes of Lott. Only I thinke that the Lord hath spared this people and inriched the bowells of the country with the riches and bewty of nature that we wantinge them might in the search of them Communicate the most excellent m'chandize and treasure of the Gospell w'th them. God hath heretofore most horribly plagued our Contrimen w'th famine, death the sword, &c., for the sins of our men were intollerable. I marvell more that

¹ Communicated to the *Richmond Standard* February 4, 1882, by G. D. Scull, Esq., Oxford, England.

² Whitaker was the cousin of the Rev. William Gouge, the respected minister of Black Friars, London. A Rev. William Gough or Gouge died at Jamestown, Va., in 1683 and is supposed to have been a relative of Alexander Whitaker. The daughter of this Rev. Mr. Gough married a John Whitaker; and a correspondent of the *Richmond Standard* in October, 1880, mentions that the tombstone of John is still standing near Jamestown.

God did not sweepe them away all att once, then that he did in such manner punishe them. Yet he in the midst of his anger remembered mercy, and mindeinge nowe (as we hope) to fulfill his purpose and sett up the kingdome of his Sonne on their p'ts most miraculously w'th stood many times the purposes of our men whoe were retourninge home, and now agine w'th farre more succéssive p'ceedings and better hopes doth preserve us here. As for me God hath dealt mercifully w'th me beyond my friends' opinion and my owne hopes. My coming hither was p's'pous and my Continuance here hath been Answerable I thinke I have fared better for yo'r prayers and the rest. Yf there be any young godly and learned Ministers whom the Church of England hath not or refuseth to sett a worke send them thither. Our harvest is forward and great for want of such younge men are fittest for this Country, and we have noe need either of ceremonies or bad livers. Discretion and learninge, zeale w'th knowledge would doo much good. I have much more to write, but nowe can noe more, besides my prayers to God for a blessinge on our laboures ffarewell yo'r lovinge friend."

Before June, 1617, Whitaker was drowned,

WILLIAM WICKHAM.

William Wickham, without Episcopal ordination took his place at Henrico, and Rolfe in 1616, writes: "Mr. Wm. Wickham minister there who in his life and doctrine gives good examples, and godly instructions to the people." On the 9th of June, 1617, Governor Argall requests Sir Dudley Digges to obtain from the Archbishop a permit