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Hakluytus Posthumus
or
Purchas His Pilgrimes

Contayning a History of the World
in Sea Voyages and Lande Travells
by Englishmen and others

By
SAMUEL PURCHAS, B.D.

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A.D.
1614.

PURCHAS HIS PILGRIMES

which you have, and I, though my promise of three yeeres service to my Countrey be expired, will abide in my vocation here untill I be lawfully called from hence. And so betaking us all unto the mercies of God in Christ Jesus, I rest for ever.

Part of a Tractate written at Henrico in Virginia, by Master Alex. Whitaker, Minister to the Colony there, which then governed by Sir T. Dale, 1613.

They acknowledge that there is a great good God, but know him not, having the eyes of their understanding as yet blinded: wherefore they serve the Divell for feare, after a most base manner, sacrificing sometimes (as I have here heard) their owne Children to him. I have sent one Image of their god to the Counsell in England, which is painted upon one side of a toad-stoole, much like unto a deformed monster.

*Their Priests
and manner of
living.*

Their Priests (whom they call Quiokosoughs) are no other but such as our English Witches are. They live naked in body, as if their shame of their sinne deserved no covering: Their names are as naked as their body: they esteeme it a vertue to lye, deceive, and steale, as their Master the Divell teacheth them. Much more might be said of their miserable condition, but I referre the particular narration of these things to some other season.

These men are not so simple as some have supposed them: for they are of body lusty, strong, and very nimble: they are a very understanding generation, quicke of apprehension, suddaine in their dispatches, subtile in their dealings, exquisite in their inventions, and industrious in their labour. I suppose the world hath no better marke-men with their Bowes and Arrowes then they be; they will kill Birds flying, Fishes swimming, and Beasts running: they shoote also with mervailous strength, they shot one of our men being unharmed

quite through the body, and nailed both his armes to his body with one Arrow: one of their Children also, about the age of twelve or thirteene yeeres, killed a Bird with his Arrow in my sight. The service of their God is answerable to their life, being performed with a great feare and attention, and many strange dumbe shewes used in the same, stretching forth their limbes, and straining their body, much like to the counterfeit women in England, who faine themselves bewitched, or possessed of some evill spirit.

They stand in great awe of the Quiokosoughs or Priests, which are a generation of Vipers, even of Sathans owne brood. The manner of their life is much like to the Popish Hermits of our age; for they live alone in the woods, in houses sequestred from the common course of men, neither may any man be suffered to come into their house or to speake with them, but when this Priest doth call him. He taketh no care for his victuals, for all such kinde of things both Bread and Water, &c. are brought unto a place neere unto his cottage, and there are left, which hee fetcheth for his proper neede. If they would have raine, or have lost any thing, they have their recourse to him, who conjureth for them, and many times prevaieth. If they be sicke, he is their Physician; if they be wounded, he sucketh them. At his command they make warre and peace, neither doe they any thing of moment without him. I will not be tedious in these strange Narrations, when I have more perfectly entered into their secrets, you shall know all. Finally, there is a civill government amongst them which they strictly observe, and shew thereby that the law of Nature dwelleth in them: for they have a rude kinde of Common-wealth, and rough government wherein they both honour and obey their Kings, Parents, and Governours, both greater and lesse, they observe the limits of their owne possessions. Murther is scarsly heard of: Adultery and other offences severely punished.

*Yet Naman-
tack in his
returue was
killed in Ber-
muda by
another
Savage his
fellow.*

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*As 14. or 16.
miles.*

[IV. ix.
1772.]

*Christall
Rock.*

The whole Continent of Virginia situate within the degrees of 34. and 47. is a place beautified by God, with all the ornaments of nature, and enriched with his earthly treasures: that part of it, which we already possesse, beginning at the Bay of Chæsapheac, and stretching it selfe in Northerly latitude to the degrees of 39. and 40. is interlined with seven most goodly Rivers, the least whereof is equall to our River of Thames: and all these Rivers are so neerely joyned, as that there is not very much distance of dry ground betweene either of them, and those severall maine lands are every where watered with many veines or creekes of water, which sundry waies doe overthwart the land, and make it almost navigable from one River to the other. The commodity whereof to those that shall inhabite this land is infinite, in respect of the speedy and easie transportation of goods from one River to the other, I cannot better manifest it unto you, but in advising you to consider whether the water or land hath beene more beneficiall to the Low-Countries. To the River which we inhabit (commonly called Powhatans River) ebbeth and floweth one hundred and forty miles into the maine; at the mouth whereof are the two Forts of Henrico and Charles: two and forty miles upward is the first and Mother-Christian Towne seated, called James-Towne; and seventy miles beyond that upward, is the new Towne of Henrico built, and so named in the memory of Noble Prince Henry of lasting and blessed memory: tenne miles beyond this is a place called the Fals, because the River hath there a great descent falling downe between many minerall Rockes which be there: twelve miles farther beyond this place is there a Christall Rocke wherewith the Indians doe head many of their Arrowes: three dayes journey from thence is there a Rock or stony hill found, which is in the top covered all over with a perfect and most rich Silver oare. Our men that went to discover those parts had but two Iron Pickaxes with them, and those so ill

ALEXANDER WHITAKER

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tempered, that the points of them turned againe, and bowed at every stroake, so that we could not search the entrailes of the place, yet some triall was made of that oare with good successe, and argument of much hope. Six dayes journey beyond this Mine a great ridge of high hils doe runne along the maine land, not farre from whom the Indians report a great Sea doth runne, which we commonly call a South Sea, but in respect of our habitation is a West Sea, for there the Sun setteth from us. The higher ground is much like unto the molde of France, clay and sand being proportionably mixed together at the top; but if we digge any depth (as we have done for our Bricks) we finde it to be red clay, full of glistening spangles. There be many rockie places in all quarters; & more then probable likelihoods of rich Mines of all sorts: though I knew all, yet it were not convenient at this time that I should utter all, neither have wee had meanes to search for any thing as we ought, thorough present want of men, and former wants of provision for the belly. As for Iron, Steele, Antimonium, and Terrasigillata, they have rather offered themselves to our eyes and hands, then bin sought for of us. The Ayre of the Countrey (especially about Henrico and upward) is very temperate and agreeth well with our bodies. The extremity of Summer is not so hot as Spaine, nor the cold of Winter so sharpe as the frosts of England. The Spring and Harvest are the two longest seasons and most pleasant, the Summer and Winter are both but short. The Winter is for the most part dry and faire, but the Summer watered often with many great and sodaine showers of raine; whereby the cold of Winter is warmed, and the heate of Summer cooled. Many have died with us heretofore thorough their owne filthinesse and want of bodily comforts for sicke men; but now very few are sicke among us: not above three persons amongst all the inhabitants of Henrico; I would to God our soules were no sicker then our bodies.

*Ayre and
Seasons.*

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The naturall people of the Land are generally such as you heard of before. A people to be feared of those that come upon them without defensive Armor, but otherwise faint-hearted (if they see their Arrowes cannot pierce) and easie to be subdued. Shirts of Male, or quilted cotten coates are the best defence against them. There is but one or two of their petty Kings, that for feare of us have desired our friendship; and those keepe good quarter with us, being very pleasant amongst us, and (if occasion be) serviceable unto us. Our eldest friends be Pipisco and Choapoke, who are our overthwart neighbours at James-Towne, and have beene friendly to us in our great want. The other is the Werowance of Chescheak, who but lately traded with us peaceably. If we were once the masters of their Country, and they stood in feare of us (which might with few hands imployed about nothing else, be in short time brought to passe) it were an easie matter to make them willingly to forsake the Divell, to embrace the faith of Jesus Christ, and to be baptized. Besides, you cannot easily judge how much they would be availeable to us in our Discoveries of the Countrey, in our Buildings and Plantings, and quiet provision for our selves, when we may peaceably passe from place to place without neede of Armes or Guard.

The meanes for our people to live and subsist here of themselves are many and most certaine both for Beasts, Birds, and Hearbes. The Beasts of the Countrey are for the most part wilde: as Lyons, Beares, Wolves and Deere: Foxes blacke and red, Rakowns, Bevers, Possowns, Squerrels, Wilde-Cats, whose skins are of great price, and Muske-Rats which yeelde Muske as the Muske-Cats doe. There be two kindes of Beasts amongst these most strange; one of them is the female Possowne, which will let forth her yong out of her belly, and take them up into her belly againe at her pleasure without hurt to her selfe; neither thinke this to be a Travellers tale, but the very truth; for nature

Note well.

*Feare is the
beginning of
piety &
civility.*

*What use may
be made of the
Natives.*

*Possown a
strange beast.*

bath framed her fit for that service, my eyes have beene
witness unto it, and we have sent of them and their
yong ones into England. The other strange conditioned
creature is the flying Squirrell, which thorough the helpe
of certaine broad flaps of skin growing on each side of *Flying*
her forelegs, will flye from tree to tree twenty or thirty *Squirrels.*
paces at one flight and more, if she have the benefit of
a small breath of winde. Besides these, since our com-
ming hither, we have brought both Kine, Goates, and
Hogges, which prosper well, and would multiply exceed-
ingly, if they might be provided for. This Countrey
besides is replenished with Birds of all sorts, which have
bin the best sustenance of flesh, which our men have
had since they came; also Eagles and Haukes of all sorts, [IV. ix.
amongst whom are Auspreys, fishing Hauke, and the 1773.]
Cormorant. The woods be every where full of wilde
Turkies, which abound, and will runne as swift as a *Fowle.*
Greyhound. In winter our fields be full of Cranes,
Hérons, Pigeons, Partridges and Blackbirds: the Rivers
and creekes be over-spread every where with water foule
of the greatest and least sort, as Swans, flockes of Geese
and Brants, Ducke and Mallard, Sheldrakes, Dyvers, &c.
besides many other kindes of rare and delectable Birds,
whose names and natures I cannot yet recite, but we
want the meanes to take them. The Rivers abound with
Fish both small and great; the Sea-fish come into our *Fish.*
Rivers in March, & continue untill the end of September:
great sculls of Herings come in first: Shads of a great
bignesse, and Rock-fish follow them. Trouts, Base,
Flounders, and other dainty fish come in before the other
be gone: then come multitudes of great Sturgeons,
whereof we catch many, and should do more, but that
we want good Nets answerable to the breadth and deapth
of our Rivers: besides, our channels are so foule in the
bottome with great logges and trees, that we often breake
our Nets upon them: I cannot reckon nor give proper *Nets.*
names to the divers kindes of fresh fish in our Rivers; I
have caught with mine Angle, Pike, Karpe, Eele, Perches

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of six severall kindes, Crea-fish, and the Torope or little Turtle, besides many smaller kindes, &c.

Chap. XII.

Of the Lottery : Sir Thomas Dales returne : the Spaniards in Virginia. Of Pocahantas and Tomocomo : Captaine Yerdley and Captaine Argoll (both since Knighted) their Government ; the Lord La-Warrs death, and other occurrents till Anno 1619.



hitherto you have heard the Authors themselves speak of their owne affaires. Now we must for continuation and consummation of our Story, borrow a few Collections from others, where the Authors themselves have not comne to our hands. Wherein that industrious Gentleman Captaine John Smith still breathing Virginia, and diligent enquiry and writing, as sometime by discovery and doing to shew his zeale to this action (for seeing he cannot there be employed to performe Virginian exploits worthy the writing, here he employeth himselfe to write Virginian affaires worthy the reading) having compiled a long History of that and the Summer Iland plantation, and of New England in six Bookes, hath gently communicated the same to mine, that is to thine, as intended to the Worlds use. Out of his rich fields I have gleaned these handfuls, adding thereto the crop also of mine owne industry.

The Lottery. Sir Thomas Gates returned from Virginia in March, and Captaine Argall in June following 1614. and so animated by their hopefull reports the Adventurers, that the great standing Lottery was drawne Anno 1615. in the West end of Pauls Churchyard (where before, as in many other places after, a running Lottery of smaller adventures had beene used) in which the Prizes were proportioned