

THE GENESIS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

A NARRATIVE OF THE MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND, 1605-1616, WHICH
RESULTED IN THE PLANTATION OF NORTH AMERICA BY
ENGLISHMEN, DISCLOSING THE CONTEST BETWEEN ENGLAND
AND SPAIN FOR THE POSSESSION OF THE SOIL NOW OCCUPIED
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; SET FORTH THROUGH

A Series of Historical Manuscripts now first printed

TOGETHER WITH A REISSUE OF RARE CONTEMPORANEOUS TRACTS,
ACCOMPANIED BY BIBLIOGRAPHICAL MEMORANDA, NOTES, AND

Brief Biographies

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my inability of body and the not having any man to putt in trust with the shippe, and that in her maketh me to defferre my coming 'till winde and weather be favourable.

“ And so I most humbly take my leave.

“ From Plimouth this 29. of Julie. 1607.

“ Your Lordships most humbly bounden.

“ CHRISTOPHER NEWPORTE.”

[MEM. — Captain Newport arrived at Plymouth on July 29, 1607, on his way from Virginia, and reached London, it seems, between the 12th and 18th of August. He brought with him the first documents ever written by Englishmen on the banks of the James River in America, viz., the following: XIX., XX., XXI., XXII., and XXIII., copies of which have been preserved, and others now probably lost forever. Among these were: —

Tindall's "dearnall of Our Voyage," see XX.; Tindall's "draughte of our River," see XX.; Percy's letter to Mr. Warner, see XXV., and a Dutchman's letter to Pory, see XXV.]

XIX. THE COUNCIL IN VIRGINIA TO THE COUNCIL IN ENGLAND.

The following, taken from "Virginia and Virginiola," pp. 10, 11, is also mentioned in the Third Historical Report, p. 53.

“Coppie of a Letter from Virginia, Dated 22d of June, 1607. The Councill there to the Councill of Virginia here in England.”¹

“ We acknowledge ourselves accomptable for our time here spent were it but to give you satisfaction of our industries and affections to this most Honorable action, and the better to quicken those good spirits which have alreadie bestowed themselves here, and to put life into such dead

¹ This was possibly the "perfect relation" suggested in VIII.

understandings or beleefs that must first see and feel the womb of our labour and this land before they will entertain any good hope of us or of the land : —

“ Within less than seven weeks, we are fortified well against the Indians. We have sown good store of wheat — we have sent you a taste of Clapboard — we have built some houses — we have spared some hands to a discovery, and still as God shall enable us with strength we will better and better our proceedings. ✓

“ Our easiest and richest comodity being Sasafrix¹ roots were gathered up by the Sailors with loss and spoil of many of our tools and with drawing of our men from our labour to their uses against our knowledge to our prejudice, we earnestly entreat you (and do trust) that you take such order as we be not in this thus defrauded, since they be all our waged men, yet do we wish that they be reasonably dealt withall so as all the loss, neither fall on us nor them. I beleeve they have thereof two tonnes at the least which if they scatter abroad at their pleasure will pull down our price for a long time, this we leave to your wisdomes. The land would flow with milk and honey if so seconded by your carefull wisdomes and bountifull hands, wee doe not perswade to shoot one Arrow to seek another but to find them both. And we doubt not but to send them home with goulden heads, at least our desires, labours and lives shall to that engage themselves.

“ We are set down 80 miles within a River, for breadth, sweetness of water, length navigable up into the country, deep and bold channell so stored with sturgion and other sweet fish as no man’s fortune hath ever possessed the like. And as we think if more may be wished in a River it will be found. The soil is most fruitfull, laden with good Oake, Ashe, Walnut tree, Poplar, Pine, sweet woods, Cedar, and others yet without names that yeald gums pleasant as

¹ The East India Company and others making long voyages used safras root and anise-seed for making a beverage, which was thought to be “ very wholesome for the preservation of men’s health ” on board the ships.

Frankincense, and experienced amongst us for great vertue in healing green wounds and aches. We entreat your succours for our seconds with all expedition least that all devouring Spaniard lay his ravenous hands upon these gold showing mountains, which if we be so enabled he shall never dare to think on. — This note doth make known where our necessities do most strike us, we beseech your present releif accordingly, otherwise to our greatest and last griefes, we shall against our wills not will that which we most willingly would.

“Captaine Newport hath seen all and knoweth all, he can fully satisfy your further expectations, and ease you of our tedious letters. We most humbly pray the heavenly King’s hand to bless our labours with such counsailes and helps as we may further and stronger proceed in this our King’s and countries service.

“Jamestowne in Virginia this 22th of June An° 1607.

“Your Poore Friends. —

“EDWARD-MARIA WINGFIELD.	BARTHOLOMEW GOSNOLD,
JOHN SMITH.	JOHN RATTCLIFFE.
JOHN MARTINE.	GEORGE KENDALL.”

XX. ROBERT TINDALL TO PRINCE HENRY.

BRITISH MUSEUM. HARL. MS. 7007, FOLIO 139.

The following document is taken from a manuscript copy made for me in the British Museum, several years ago. It has since been printed in the Preface to Mr. Arber’s edition of Captain J. Smith’s Works. Birmingham, England, 1884. Some extracts were printed from it, also, in “The Life of Henry Prince of Wales,” by Thomas Birch. London, 1760, page 91. So far as I know, it has never been printed in this country before.

[Robert Tindall, gunner to Prince Henry; his letter to the Prince.]