THE

GENERALL HISTORY

OF

VIRGINIA, NEW-ENGLAND, and the SUMMER ILES: with the names of the Adventurers, Planters, and Governours, from their first beginning, An. 1584. to this present 1625.

With the Proceedings of those Severall Colonies, and the Accidents that befell them in all their Journeys and Discoveries.

Also,

The Maps and Descriptions of all those Countries, their Commodities, People, Government, Customes, and Religion yet knowne.

DIVIDED INTO SIXE BOOKES.

By Captaine JOHN SMITH, sometimes Governour in those Countries, and Admirall of NEW-ENGLAND.

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Captaine John Smith in Virginia.

and fish. Tempering this flower with water, they make it either in cakes, covering them with ashes till they be baked, and then washing them in fair water, they dye them in their owne heat; or else Boyle them in water, eating the broth with the bread which they call Pomm. The grapes and pieces of the cornes remaining, by standing in a Platter or in the wind, away, the branck they Boyle 3 or 4 hours with water, which is an ordinary food they call Jfunaabmen. But some more chaste, then cleane, doe burne the core of the ear to powder, which they call Jnag_mes, mingling that in their meale, but it never tasted well in bread, nor broth. Their fish & fish they Boyle either very tenderly, or Boyle it to long on hurdles over the fire, or else after the Spanish fashion, putting it on a spit, they turne first the one side, then the other, till it be as done as their terrin Befes in the well Indes, that they may keepe it a month or more without putrefying. The broth of fish or fish they eat as commonly as the meat. In May also amongst their cornes they plant Pompons, and a fruit strike unto a muske melon, but taste and work, which they call Mnschye. Their increase exceedingly, and ripen in the beginning of July, and continue until September. They plant also Marsecely, a wild fruit k ey a Lemmon, which also increase infinitely. They begin to ripe in September, and continue till the end of October. When all their fruits are gathered, little else they plant, and this is done by these women and children; neither doth this long suffice them, for more than that, and they only con- serve ones and thousands, and live on what the Country naturally affordeth from hand to mouth, &c.

The Commodities in Virginia, or that may be had by Industry.

The mildness of the ayre, the fertility of the soyle, and situation of the rivers are so propitious to the nature and use of man, as no place is more convenient for pleasure, profit, and main sustenance, under that named or clime. Here will have so many bees, so many hives, so many apples, so many, &c., as appeared by them that were carried thither. The waters, liles, and flowers, are full of late har- bourageorfumps of ware or merchandize, for bees of all sorts, for transportation of merchandise. The Bay and rivers have much marchandable fish, and places fit for Salt coasts, building of ships, making of Iron, &c.

Mochester and Plymouth do yearly receive many thousands for pitch, tar, soap, sope- dies, Roen, Flax, Corse, Sturgeon, Mats, Yards, Whales, Fisht, Glasse, and the like. It is said that the Island of Copper, Florida, and Copper, France, in like manner. For Wine, Canvas, and Salt, Spain is at much for Iron, Steel, Fuses, Reams, and Sacks, or with Any with Silkes and Velvets consumes our chief Commodities. Holland maintains itself by fishing and trading at our own doors. All these temperate with other for necessities, but all as uncertaine as peace or warre. Besides the charge, travel, and danger in transporting them, by seas, lands, rivers, and Pyres. Then how much bith Virginia the progeny of all these flourishing Kingdoms, for the benefit of our Land, when as within one hundred miles all these are to be had, either ready provided by nature, or else to be prepared, were there but industrious men to labour. Only of Copper we may doubt wanting, but there is good probability that both Copper and better Minerals are there to be had for their labour. Other Countries have it. So then here is a place, a nurse for burliers, a practice for mariners, a trade for merchants, a reward for the good, and that which is most of all: benefit to God (most acceptable to God) to bring such poor Inhabitants to the knowledge of God and his holy Gospel.

Of the natural Inhabitants of Virginia.

The land is not populous, for the men be few; their greater number is of wo- men and children. Within 60 miles of Jamestown, there are about some 5000 people, but of able men fit for their warres scarce 1500. To nourish so many together.
The Voyages and Discoveries of

Sea-hunters
were the most
wittest to
togther when
they thought
to have
seen
Capt.
Smith,
A description of the people,
The Bakers

Together they have yet no means, because they make no small benefit of their land as it never to fell. Six or seven hundred have been the most that had bene seen together, when they gathered themselves at Runsurstuck as Powanques, having but fifteen to withstand the want of their fury. As small as the proportion of ground that had yet been discovered, is in comparison of that yet unknown; the people differ very much in stature, especially in language, as before is expressed. Some being very great as the Savages in Canada, others very little, as the Wungawunscus; but generally tall and straight, of a comely proportion, and of a colour brown when they are of any age, but they are white when young. Their hair is generally black, but few have any beards. The men wear halle the beard down, the other halfe long. The Bakers dye their women, who with two plucks will grace away the halle, so any fashion they please. The women are cut in many fashions, agreeable to their years, but ever some part remaineth long. They are very strong, of an able body and full of agility, able to endure to lie in the woods under a tree by the fire, in the world of winter, or in the weeds and grases in Ambuscado in the Sommer. They are incontinat in every thing, but what fear constraineth them to keep. Crafty, nimrous, quicke of apprehension, and very ingentious. Some are of disposition fearful, some bold, some cautious, all Savage. Generally covets of Copper, Beads, and such like trall. They are fornie abused to anger, and so malicious, that they seldom forget an injury: they seldom forgive one another, least their quarres should reveal, and so they be purtie and punished. That they are thurstened to crosses, but that any can reconcile their offences by courtesy I am doubtfull. Their women are careful not to be suspected of dissolution without the leave of their husbands. Each household knoweth their own lands, and gardens, and most hale of their owne labour. For their apparel, they sometime cover with the skinnes of wild beasts, which in Winter are dealt with the halle, but in Sommer without. The better for the large manles of Dear skins, not much differing in fashion from the Irish mantles. Some imbrodered with white beads, some with Copper, other painted after their manner. But the common forse have scarce to cover their nakedness, but with grasse, the leaves of trees, or such like. We have seen some of the mantles made of Turkey feathers, so prettily wrought and woven with threads that nothing could be discerned but the feathers. That was exceeding warme and very lovely. But the women are always covered about their middles with a skin, and very lambskin to be these bare. They adorn themselves mostly with copper beads and paintings. Their women, some have their legs, hands, breasts and face cunningly imbrodered with divers works, as beads, borde, and artificially wrought into their skin with blacke spots. In each ear commonly they have 2 or 3 great holes, whereas they hang chames, bracelets, or copper. Some of their men were in these holes, a small great and yellow coloured nake, near halfe a yard in length, which crawling and lapping the bale about his necke oftentimes familiarly would kisse his lips. Others were a dead Rat tied by the tale. Some on their heads were the wing of a bird, or some large feather with a Rat. Those Ratels are somewhat like the chape of a Rapier, but little, which they take from the tale of a snake. Many have the whole skinne of a Hawk or some strange foule, stuffed with the wings abroad. Others a broad piece of Copper, and some the hand of their enemy dyed. Their heads and shoulders are painted red with the roote of Hone brayed to powder, mixed with yole, this they hold in Sommer to preclare them from the heat, and in Winter from the cold. Many other forms of paintings they use, but he is the most gallant that is the most monstrous to behold.

Their buildings and habitations are for the most part by the rivers, or not farre distant from some great spring. Their houses are built like our Arbes, of small young springs bow'd and ty'd, and close covered with Mats, or the branches of trees very handomely, that nor with standing either winde, sone, or weather, they are warme as houses, but very finallly, yet at the tope of the house there is a hole made for the smoke to go into right over the fire.
Captaine John Smith in Virginia.

Against the fire they lie on hale hurdles of Reeds covered with a Mas, borne from the ground a foot and more by a hurdle of wood. On these round about the house they lie heads and points one by thither against the fire, some covered with Mas, some with skins, and some flarking naked lie on the ground, from 6 to 10 in a house. Their houses are in the midst of their fields or gardens, which are small plots of ground, some 20 ares, some 40, some 100, some 200, some more, some less. In some places from 2 to 50 of these houses together, or but a little separated by groves of trees. Near their habitations is little small wood or old trees on the ground by reason of their burning for fire. So that a man may gallop a horse amongst these woods any way, but where the creeks or Rivers shall hinder.

Men, women, and children have their several names according to the several humor of their Parents. Their women (they say) are easily delivered of child, yet do they lose children very dearly. To make them harder, in the coldest mornings they then with in the rivers, and by painting and ornaments to cause they skins, that after a year or two, no weather will hurt them.

The men bellow their times in fishing, hunting, warres, and such man-like exercises, coming to be fierce in any woman-like exercise, which is the cause that the women be very painfull, and the men often idle. The women and children doe the rest of the works. They make mas, baskets, pots, morters, pound their corn, make their bread, prepare their victuals, plant their corn, together their corn, beare all kind of burdens, and such like.

Their fire they kindle prettily by charging a dry pointed thistle in a hole of a little square piece of wood, that burning it selfe, will in fire moste, leaves, or any such like dry thing, that will quickly burne. In March and April they live much upon their fishing, warres, and feed on fish, Turkeys, and Squares. In May and June they plant their fields, and hunt small Beast, Almonds, Walnuts, and fish. But to amend their dyers, some disperser themselves in smal companies, and live upon fish, beest, crabs, oyter, and Tan and strawberries, mulberries, and such like. In June, July, and August, they feed upon the roots of Tuckles, hungre, and green wheats. It is strange to see how their bodies alter with their dyers, even as the deer & wild beasts they see eat, fat and lean, strong and weake. Persuaded their great King, and some others that are provident, pull their fish and flesh upon horns or as before is expresed, and keep it till feaste times.

For fishing, hunting, and warres they use much their bow and arrowes. They bring their bowes to the forme of ours by the scraping of a shell. Their arrowes are made some of straight young sprigs, which they bend with bone, some 2 or 3 yanches long. Th'ye have juloor at Squares on trees. Another sort of arrowes they vie made of Reeds. There are greened with wood, headed with splinters of chintail, or some sharp bone, the spuders of a Turkey, or the bill of some bird. For his knife he hath the splinters of a Reeds to cut his feathers in forme. With this knife alio ne he hath a great beest, shape his shafts, buskins, mantels, &c. To make the nock of his arrow he hath the nock of a Beaver, or a thack, where with he gaits it by degrees. His arrow head he quickly make of with a little bone, which he ever weareth at his brace, of any splint of a tree, or glawe in the forme of a heart, and therewith he glows to the end of their arrowes. With the finnes of Deere, and the tops of Deere horns boyled to a jelly, they make a glue that will not dislooke in cold waeter.

For their warres also they vie Targets that are round and made of the barks of trees, and a sword of wood at their baces, but oftentimes they vie for swords the hornes of a Deere put through a piece of wood in forme of a Pickaxe. Some long bone sharpened at both ends, viec in the same manner. This they were wont to vie also for hatches, but now by trucking they have plenty of the same forme of yon. And there are their chiefiest instruments and armes.

Their fishing is much in Boats. Thence they make of one tree by burning and scarving away the coats with stones and hielles, till they have made it in forme of a

Their Boats.

Their Targets and Swords.

Their Bowes.

E 4 Trough.

Their lodgings.

Their gardens.

How they vse their children.

The indolence of their women.

How they drive fire.

The order of dyet.
Captaine John Smith in Virginia.

red with style and Pomeas, finely trimm'd with feathers, and shall hate heads, lath-
cers, copper, and Tobacco, doing nothing but dance and sing, with all their Pre-
decelors. But the common people they suppose shall not live after death, but rot
in their graves like dead dogs.

To divert them from this blind idolatry, we did our best endeavours, chiefly with
the Mervenace of Quisengelkow, whose devotion, apprehension, and good dis-
position, much exceed any in those Countries, with whom although we could
not as yet prevail, to forsake his false Gods, yet this he did believe that our God as
much exceed their's, as our Guemes did their Bows & Arrows, and many tunes
did tend to me to James Towne, increas'ing me to pray to my God for 'em, for
their Gods would not lend them any. And in this lamentable ignorance doe these
poore fouls sacrifice themselves to the Devil, not knowing their Creator, and we
had not language sufficient, to plainly to express it as make them understand it;
which God grant they may.

For, Religion 'tis that doth distinguish us,
From their brute humor, we may at last know;
That can with understanding argue thus,
Our God is truth, but they cannot do so.

Of the manner of the Virginians Government.

Although the County people be very barbarous, yet have they amongst
them such government, as that their Magistrates for good commending,
and their people for due subjection, and obeying, excel many places that
would be counted very civil. The force of their Common-wealth is a Mon-
archical government, one as Empyreumall over many Kings or Governors.
Their chiefes ruler is called Powhatan, and takes his name at his pinetop place
of dwelling called Powhatan. But his proper name is Wahunsonacock. Some Counties
he hath which belong to his ancestors, and came into him by inheritance, as the
County called Powhatan, Arosabout, Appomattox, Pamunkey, T]):nchomend, and
Mattaponie. All the rest of his Territory expos'd in the Mappe, they report
have beene his severall Conquists. In all his ancient inherintances, he hath houses
built after their manner like arbores, some 30, some 40, yards long, and at every
house provision for his entertainment according to the time. At Wahunsonacock
on the Northside of the river Pamunkey, was his residence, when I was delivered
prisoner, some 14 miles from James Towne, where for the most part, he was reli-
dient, but yet that he tooke to little pleasure in our near neighbourhood, that he re-
tained himself to Oropques, in the defect betweene Chockahoman and Tangahamard.
He is of a person very well proportioned body, with a lower booke, his head som-
what gray, his beard to chime, that it seemed none at all, his eye narrow, of a
very pale and hardy body to endure any labour. About his person ordinarily atten-
deth a guard of 40 or 50 of the tallest men his Country doth afford. Every night
upon the faire quaters of his house are four Sentinels, each from other a flight
floor, and at every halfe floor one from the Corps du guard; each hollow, shaking his
lips with his fingers between them, to whom every Sentinel doth answer round
from his stand: if any false, they quickly send forth an officer that beareth him
extremely.

A yule from Oropques in a thicket of wood, he hath a house in which he keept
his kind of Treasure, as skinner, copper, pearls, and beads, which he stoweth vp ag
againit the time of his death and burial. Here also is his shire of red paint for oy-
ment, knives and arrowes, Targets and clubs. This house is fifty or sixty yards in
length, frequented only by Priests. At the faire corners of this house stand four

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Images as Sentinels, one of a Dragon, another a Bear, the third like a Leopard, and the fourth like a giant-like man, all made well favourably, according to their best workmanship.

His wicce.

He hath as many women as he will, whereas when he lieth on his bed, one sitteth at his head, and another at his feet, but when he lieth down, one sitteth on his right hand and another on his left. As he is weary of his women, he becometh them on whose that belt defendeth them at his hands. When he dieth or fappeth, one of his women before and after him, bringeth him water in a wooden place to wash his hands. Another washeth with a bunch of feathers to wipe them in head of a Towell, and the feathers when he hath wiped are dyed again. His kingdomes descend not to his fowmes nor children, but first to his brethren, whereof he hath 3, namely, Opope, Opebeaconough, and Catago, and after they decrease to his sisters. First to the eldest sister, then to the eldest, and after them to the horses male or female of the eldest sister, but never to the horses of the males.

He nor any of his people understand any letters, whereby to write or read, only the last whereby he ruleth is Cuthance. Yet when he lieth on his will is a law and must be obeyed; not only as a King, but as by the God they esteem him. His inferior kings whom they call Wherawone, are tyed to rule by Cuthances, and have power of life and death at their command in that nature. But this word Wherawone, which we call and continue for a King, is a common word, whereby they call all commanders; for they have but few words in their language, and few occasions to use any officers more than the commander, which commonly they call Wherawone, or Concerowe, which is Captain. They all know their several lands, and labours, and limits, to fish, hunt, or hunt in, but they hold all of their great Wherawone Porwhatan, unto whom they pay tribute of skinner, heads, copper, pearl, deer, turkeys, wild beasts, and corn. What he commandeth they dare not disobey in the least thing. It is strange to see with what great fear and adoration, all these people do obey thus Porwhatan. For at his feet they present whatsoever he commandeth; and at the least frowns of his brow, their great spirits tremble with fear; and no marvel, for he is very terrible and tyrannous in punishing, such as offend him. For example, he caused certain malefactors to be bound hand and foot, then having many fires gathered great store of burning coales, they take those coales round in the form of a cockpit, and in the midst they lay the offenders to burn to death. Sometimes he causeth the heads of them that offend to be laid upon the alter over a fire, and one wild cloude bears out their brains. When he would punish any notorious enemy or malefactor, he causeth him to be hanged by a tree, and with Mailiell thus or reeds, the executioner cuteth off his hands one after another, ever cutting what cut off into the fire; then doth he proceed with files and reeds to file the skinne from his head and face, then doth he rip his belly and so burneth him with the tree and all. Thus themselves reported they executed George Caffyn. Their ordinary correction is to beat them with cudgels. We saw cause a man kneeling on his knees, and at Porwhatan command two men bare knaste him on the bare skin, till he hath fallen then life in a sound, and yet never cry nor complained. And he made a woman for playing the whore. Sit upon a great stone, on her bare breast two & four hours, only with corn and water, every three days, till nine days were past, yet he loved her exceedingly: notwithstanding there are common whomes by profession.

In the year 1568, he surprest the people of Papevotse, his near neighbours and subjects. The occasion was to vs unknown, but the manner was thus. Parr he sent divers of his men to lodge amongst them that night; then the Ambuscades environed all their houses, and at the hour appointed, they all fell to the speyle, twenty-four men they flew, the long hair of the one side of their heads, with the skinne cuffed off with files or reeds, they brought away. They surprizted also the women, and the children, and the Wherawane. All these they presented to Porwhatan. The Wherawone, women and children became his prisoners, and doe them service.

The
Captaine John Smith in Virginia.

The locks of hair with their skinnes he hanged on a line betwixt two trees. And thus he made ostentation of his triumph at Werewaconce, where he intended to have done as much to once and my company.

And thus as much as my memory can call to minde worthy of note which I have purposely collected, to satisfy my friends at the true worth and quality of Virginia. Yet time had mutes will not fickle to slander the Country, that will flowly suit at all things, especially in company where they can finde none to contradict them. Who though they were scarce ever ten myles from James Towne, or at the most but at the falles, yet holding it a great disgrace that amongst to much action, their actions were nothing, except of all things, though they never adventured to know any thing; nor ever did anything but devoure the fruits of other mens labours. Being for most part of such tender educations, and small experience in Martiall accidents, because they found not English Cures, nor such rare houses, nor at their own wills any of their accustomed dainties, with feather beds and downy pillows, Tavernes and Alehouses in every breathing place, neither such plenty of gold and silver and dissolute libemly, as they expected had little or no care of any thing, but to pamper their bellies, to fly away with our Pinnaces, or procure their means to return to England. For the Country was to them a militer, a rumen, a death, a hell, and their reports here, and their actions there according.

Some other there were that had yearly depends to pale to and againe for transportation who to keep the mystery of the busynesse in themselves, though they had neither time nor means to know much of themselves; yet all mens actions or relations they so formally tuned to the tempomizing times, simplistic, as they could make them ignorantions seeme much more, then all the true actions could by their experience. And those with their great words deluded the world with such strange promises, as abated the businnesse much more then the rest. For the businesse being builded upon the foundation of their fainned experience, the planters, the money and means have full miscarried yet they ever returnning and the planters so farre abient, who could contradict their escuses? which, fell to maintaine their vain glory and estimation, from time to time have vied such diligence as made them pale for truth, though nothing more false. And that the adventurers might be thus abated, no man wonder, for the wifhest living is soonest soured by him that hath a faire tongue and a dissembling heart.

There were many in Virginia merily processing, verbal and idle contemplators; and those so devoted to pure idlenesse, that though they had lived two or three years in Virginia, Lordly, necessarie it faltel could not compel them to pale the Peninsula, or Plantations of James Towne, and those wittie scribes, what would they not affirm in the behalfe of our transporters, to get vittual from their ships, or obtaine their good words in England, to get their pales. Thus from the clancies and the ignorance of false informers, are sprung those disaters that spring in Virginia, and our ingenious verbalists were no less plagueto vs in Virginia, then the Locusts to the Egyptians. For the labour of twenty or thirtie of the best only preferred in Christianitie by their industry, the idle livers of near two hundred of the rest: who living near ten moneths of such naturall means, as the Country naturally of it selfe afforded, notwithstanding all this, and the wortly farne of the Salvages, the extremity of sicknes, mutinies, actions, ignorance, and want of vittual in all that time I left but twelve or eight men, yet victualled the Salvages to our desired obediencie, and received contribution from thrice fime of their Kinges, to provision and shield them against any that should attack them, in which order they continued true and faithful, and as subiects to his Maiestie, so long as I did governe there, vnsull I left the Country; since, how they have revolted, the Countrie lost, and againe replanted, and the businesse hath succeeded from time to time, I referre you to the relations of them reported from Virginia, that have beene more diligent in such Observations.

John Smith writ this with his owne hand.