THE
HISTORIE OF TRAVAILE
INTO
VIRGINIA BRITANNIA;
EXPRESSING THE
COSMOGRAPHIE AND COMODITIES OF THE COUNTRY,
TOGETHER WITH THE MANNERS AND
CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE.

GATHERED AND OBSERVED AS WELL BY THOSE WHO WENT
FIRST THITHER AS COLLECTED BY
WILLIAM STRACHEY, GENT.,
THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE COLONY.

NOW FIRST EDITED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT, IN THE
NEWENED EDITION, BY
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which they use to admire and comend to succeeding tymes with memorable titles, and so comonly they of greatest merritt amongst them aspire to many names.

The great emperour at this time amongst them, we comonly call Powhatan, for by that name, true yt is, he was made knowne unto us when we arrived in the country first, and so, indeed, he was generally called when he was a yong man, as taking his denomination from the country Powhatan, wherin he was borne, which is above the Falls, as before mentioned, right over against the islands, at the head of our river, and which place, or birth-right of his, he sold, anno 1609, about September, unto Captain Franey West, our lord generall's brother, who therefore erected there a fort, calling yt West's Fort, and sate himself down there with one hundred and twenty English; the inhabitants themselves, especially his frontier neighbour prince, call him still Powhatan; his owne people sometimes call him Ottaniack, sometyme Mammatowick, which last signifies "great king"; but his proper right name, which they salute him with (himself in presence), is Wahunseeneawh.

The greatness and boundes of whose empire, by reason of his powerfullnes and ambition in his youth, hath larger lynmights then ever had any of his predecessors in former tymes, for he seemes to comand south and north from the Mangoages and Chawoneaks bordering upon Roanoke, and the Old Virginia, to Tockweth, a towne pallisadode, standing at the north end of the bay, in forty degrees or therabouts; south-west to Anoeg (not expressed in the mappe), whose bowses are built as ours, ten daies distant from us, from whence those Weroances sent unto him of their commodities; as Weinock, a servant, in whom Powhatan repose much trust, would tell our elder planters, and could repeat many wordes of their language he had learned among them in his employment thither for his kinge, and whence he often returned, full of presents, to Powhatan, west to Monahsanough, which stands at the
foote of the mountaineas; nor-west to the borders of Massawomeck and Bocootawwonomough, his enemies; nor-east and by east to Accolamanck, Accowmack, and some other petty nations, lying on the east side of our bay.

He hath divers seates or howses; his chief, when we came into the country, was upon Pamunky River, on the north side or Pembrock side, called Werowocomoco, which, by interpretation, signifies kingses'-house; howbeit, not liking to neighbour so near us, that house being within some fifteen or sixteen miles where he saw we purposed to hold ourselves, and from whence, in six or seven houres, we were able to visit him, he removed, and ever since hath most what kept at a place in the desarts called Orapaks, at the top of the river Chickahamania, betweene Youghtamund and Powhatan. He is a goodly old man, not yet shriveking, though well beaten with many cold and stormye winters, in which he hath bene patient of many necessityes and attempts of his fortune to make his name and famely great. He is supposed to be little lesse than eighty yeares old, I dare not saye how much more; others saye he is of a tall stature and cleane lymbes, of a sad aspect, roudy fatt visaged, with grave haires, but plaine and thin, hanging upon his broad shouolders; some few haires upon his chin, and so on his upper lippe: he hath bene a strong and able salvadige, synowye, and of a daring spirit, vigilant, ambitious, subtil to eulogize his dominions: for, but the countries Powhatan, Arrohatoke, Appamatack, Panunky, Youghtamund, and Mattapamicon, which are said to come unto him by inheritance, all the rest of the territories before named and expressed in the mappe, and which are all adjoining to that river whereon we are seated, they report (as is likewise before remembred) to have been eyther by force subdued unto him, or through fear yielded: cruel he hath bene, and quarrelous as well with his owne weroances for tristles, and that to strike a terour and awe into them of his power and con-

¹ Chickahamania.
dition, as also with his neighbours in his younger days, though
now delighted in security and pleasure, and therefore stands
upon reasonable conditions of peace with all the great and
absolute weroances about him, and is likewise more quietly
settled amongst his owne.

Watchfull he is over us, and keepes good espyall upon our
proceedings, concerning which he hath his sentinells, that at
what tyme soever any of our boats, pinacies, or shippes, come
in, fall downe, or make up the river, give the alaram, and take
it quickly one from the other, untill it reach and come even
to the court or hunting horse, wheresoever he and his cre-
noccoes, that is, counsellours, and priests are, and then he calls
to advise, and gives out direccions what is to be done, as more
fearing then harmed, at any tyme, with the danger and mis-
chief which he saith we intend unto him, by taking awaye
his land from him and conspiring to surprize him, which we
never yet ymagned nor attempted, and yet, albeit, the con-
cept of as much strongly possesseth him; he eth often send
unto us to temporize with us, awaying perhaps a fit oppor-
tunity (inflamed by his furious and bloody priests) to offer
us a taste of the same cuppe which he made our poore coun-
trymen drinck of at Roanok,¹ not yet seeming willing to hold
any open quarrell or hostility with us; but in all advantages
which he sometymes takes against our credulous and beguiled
people, he hath yet alwaies so caried as, upon our complaint
to him, yt is rather layed uppon some of his worst and un-
ruuly people of which he tells us; even our King James
(commanding so many divers men) must have some irregu-
lar and unruly people, or ells uppon some of his pettie
weroances, whom, peradventure, we have attempted (saith
he) with offences of the like nature, then that yt is any act
of his, or done by his commaund, or according to his will,
often flattering us that he will take order that it shall be no
more soe, but that the Tassantasses, that is, the stranger
King James his people, and his people shalbe all one, bro-

¹ The colony planted by Sir Walter Raleigh, which Powhatan destroyed.
thers and friends; and thus he served us, at what time he wrought the Chickahoomines (a nation, as we have learned before the comming in of us, so far from being his subjects, as they were ever his enemies) into a hatred of us (being a mighty people and our neighbours), and us into the suspicion of them, by urging them to betray such of our men as traded with them for corne, three whereof (yet is true) they slew without cause or offence given, and had done as much for the rest, had not their own fear and cowardise withheld them, and this he wholly laid upon them, excusing himself to us by their number and unruliness, yea, so far he will goe herein sometyme, that when some of his people have done us wrong, and by his provoking too, he will not fail to underhand, after the fact, to tell us the authors of our wrong, giving us leave, and bidding us revenghe us upon them, of such subtile understanding and politike carriage is he.

In all his ancient inheritances he hath houses built after their manner, and at every house provision for his entertainement according to the tyme. About his person ordinarily attendeth a guard of forty or fifty of the tallest men of his country doe afford. Every night, upon the four quarters of his house, are four centinells drawn forth, each standing from other a fight shot; and at every half houre, one from the corps du guard doth hallowe, unto whom ever sentinell returns answere round from his stand; yf any fayle, an officer is presently sent forth that beateth him extreme ly.

The word weronance, which we call and conter for a king, is a common word, whereby they call all commandes, for they have but fewe words in their language, and but fewe occasions to use any officers more then one commandeur, which commonly they call weronance.

It is strange to see with what great fear and adoration all this people doe obey this Powhatan, for at his feete they present whatsoever he comandeth, and at the least frowne of his brow the greatest will tremble, yt may be, because he in
very terrible, and inexorable in punishing such as offend him; for example, he caused certaine malefactors, at what tyue Captain Smith was prisoner with him, (and to the sight wherof Captain Smith, for some purpose, was brought,) to be bound hand and foote, when certaine officers appointed thereunto, having from many fiers gathered great store of burning coales, raked the coales rounde in forme of a cock-pitt, and in the midst they cast the offenders to broyle to death. Some tyues he causeth the heades of them that offend to be layd upon the anlter or sacrificing stone, and one or two, with clubbs, beat out their braines. When he would punish any notorious enemye or trespasser, he causeth him to be tyed to a tree, and with muscle-shells or reedes the executioner cutteth off his joints one after another, ever cast- ing what is cutt of into the fier; then doth he procede with shells and reedes to ease the skyn from his head and face; after which they rip up his belly, tear out his bowells, and so burne him with the tree and all. Thus themselves reported, that they executed an Englishman, one George Cawson, whom the women enticed up from the barge unto their howses, at a place called Appocant. Howbeit, his ordinary correction is to have an offender, whome he will only punish and not put to death, to be beatten with cudgells as the Turks do. We have scene a man kneeling on his knees, and, at Powhatan’s command, two men have beaten him on the bare skyn till the skyn have ben all bollen and blistered, and all on a gare blood, and till he hath fallen senseless in a swooned, and yet never cryed, complained, nor seemed to ask pardon, for that they seldom doe.

And sure yt is to be wondered at, how such a barbarous and uncivil prince should take unto him (adorned and sett forth with no greater outward ornament and munificence) a forme and ostentation of such maiestie as he expresseth, which oftentimes strikes awe and sufficient wonder in our people presenting themselves before him, but such is (I believe) the
impression of the Divine nature, and however these (as other heathens forsaken by the true light) have not that portion of the knowing blessed Christian spirit, yet I am persuaded there is an infused kind of divinities and extraordinary (appointed that it shall be so by the King of kings) to such who are his ynedyinge instruments on earth (how wretched soever otherwise under the curse of misbelief and infidelity), as it is in the psalme, Dixi vos sicut Diis estis, to governe and dwell in the eyes and countenances of princes. Somewhat maye this catagraph or portraiture following serve to express the presentment of this great king Powhatan.\footnote{The portrait is not given.}

According to the order and custome of sensuall heathenisme, in the allowance of polyganie, he may have as many women as he will, and hath (as is supposed) many more than one hundred, all which he doth not keepe, yet as the Turk, in one seraglia or howse, but hath an appointed number, which reside still in every their several places, amongst whom, when he lyeth on his bed, one sittith at his head and another at his feet; but when he sitteth at meat, or in presenting himself to any strangers, one sitteth on his right hand, and another on his leaft, as is here expressed \[See plate\].

Of his women, there are said to be about some dozen at this present, in whose company he takes more delight then in the rest, being for the most parte very young women, and these commonly remove with him from howse to howse, eyther in his tyme of hunting, or visitacion of his several howses. I obeyed their names from one Kempis, an Indian, who died the last yeares of the surveye at Jamestowne, after he had dwelt with us almost one whole yeare, much mould of by our lord generall, and who could speake a pretty deale of our English, and came orderly to church every day to prayers, and observed with us the keeping of the Sabbath, both by ceasing from labour and repairing to church. The names of the women I have not thought al togither amisse to sett downe as he gave them unto me, and as they stood foremost in his
king's affection, for they observe certaine degrees of greatness according to the natures they stand in their prince's love and amorous entertainment.

The names of some of his women.


He was reported by the said Kemps, as also by the Indian Machumps, who was sometyme in England, and comes to and fro amongst us as he dares, and as Powhatan gives him leave, for yt is not otherwise safe for him, no more then yt was for one Amarice, who had his braynes knockt out for selling but a baskett of corne, and lying in the English fort two or three daies without Powhatan's leave; I say they often reported unto us that Powhatan had then lyving twenty somes and ten daughters, bysoe a young one by Winganuske, Machumps his sister, and a great darling of the king's; and besides, one younge Pocolunta, a daughter of his, using sometyme to our fort in tymes past, nowe married to a private captaine, called Kecoum, some two yeares since.

As he is weary of his women, he bestoweth them on those that best deserve them at his hands. When he dines or suppheth, one of his women, before and after meat, bringeth him water, in a woodden platter, to wash his hands; another waiting, with a bunch of feathers, to wipe them instead of a towel; and the feathers, when he hath wiped, are washed and dried again.

A mile from Oropaks, in a thickett of wood, he hath a principall house, in which he keepeyth his kind of treasure, as skynnes, copper, perle, and beades, which he storeth upp against the tymne of his death and buryall; here is also his store of red paint for oynment, and bowes, and arrowes. This house is fifty or sixty yards in length, frequented only by priests. At the four corners of this howse stand four images, not as Atlants or Telaunones, supporters to beare up
FOWHATAN SURROUNDED BY HIS WIVES