Raphe Hamor,
*A True Discourse of the Present State of Virginia* (1615)

I heartily wish that my poor relation, rich only in truth... may give any credit or encouragement to proceed in a business so full of honour, and worth, whereunto... I mean the glory of God in the conversion of those Infidels, and the honour of our King and country (which by right may claim at the least their superfluities, from those whom God hath in this world made his dispensers and pursebearers)... after five years insulting war with the revengeful implacable Indians, a firm peace (not again easily to be broken) hath been lately concluded... with that subtle old revengeful Powhatan and all the people under his subjection, for all whom Powhatan himself stands firmly engaged...

The general letters upon my knowledge, directed and sent to the honourable Virginia Council, being most of them (though myself most unworthy) by me penned have intimated, how that the ever-worthy gentleman Capt. Argall in the heat of our home furies & disagreements by his best experience of the disposition of those people, partly by gentle usage & partly by the composition & mixture of threats hath ever kept fair & friendly quarter with our neighbours... such is his well known temper and discretion, yea to this pass hath he brought them, that they assuredly trust upon what he promiseth, and are as careful in performing their mutual promises, as though they contended to make that Maxim, that there is not faith to be held with Infidels, a mere and absurd Paradox...

It chanced [that] Powhatan’s delight and darling, his daughter Pocahontas, (whose fame hath even been spread in England by the title of Nonpareil of Virginia) in her princely progress, if I may so term it, took some pleasure (in the absence of Captain Argall) to be among her friends at Potomac (as it seemeth by the relation I had) employed thither, as shopkeepers to a Few, to exchange some of her fathers commodities for theirs, where residing some three months or longer, it fortuned upon occasion either of promise or profit, Captain Argall to arrive there, whom Pocahontas, desirous to renew her familiarity with the English, and delighting to see them, as unknown, fearful perhaps to be surprised, would gladly visit, as she did, of whom no sooner had Captain Argall intelligence, but he dealt with an old friend, and adopted brother of his Iapazens, how and by what means he might procure his captive, assuring him, that now or never, was the time to pleasure him, if he intended indeed that love which he had made profession of, that in ransom of her he might redeem some of our English men and arms, now in the possession of her Father, promising to use her withal fair, and gently entreaty: Iapazens well assured that his brother, as he promised would use her courteously promised his best endeavors and secrecy to accomplish his desire, and thus wrought it, making his wife an instrument (which sex have ever been most powerful in beguiling enticements) to effect his plot which he had thus laid....

...and so to Jamestown she was brought, a messenger to her father forthwith dispatched to advertise him, that his only daughter was in the hands & possession of the English: there to be kept till such time as he would ransom her with our men, swords, pieces, & other tools treacherously taken from us: the news was unwelcome, and troublesome unto him, partly for the love he bare to his daughter, and partly for the love he bare to our men his prisoners, of whom
(though with us they were unapt for any employment) he made great use: and those swords, and pieces of ours, (which though of no use to him) it delighted him to view, and look upon…

A great bravado all the way as we went up the River they made, demanding the cause of our coming thither, which we told them was to deliver Pocahontas, whom purposely we had brought with us, and to receive our Arms, men, & corn, or else to fight with them, burn their houses, take away their Canoes, break down their fishing weirs, and do them what other damages we could: Some of them to set a good face on the matter, replied, that if we came to fight with them we were welcome, for they were provided for us, counseling us rather to retire (if we loved our safeties) than proceed…

Being thus justly provoked, we presently manned our boats, went ashore, and burned in that very place some forty houses, and of the things we found therein, made freeboot and pillage; and as themselves afterward confessed unto us, hurt and killed five or six of their men, with this revenge satisfying our selves, for that their presumption in shooting at us, and so the next day proceeded higher up the River, the Indians calling unto us, and demanding why we went a shore, burnt their houses, killed and hurt their men, and took away their goods. We replied that though we came to them in peaceable manner, and would have been glad to have received our demands with love and peace, yet we had hearts and power to take revenge, and punish where wrongs should be offered, which having now done, though not so severely as we might, we rested content therewith and are ready to embrace peace with them if they pleased…

Long before this time a gentleman of approved behaviour and honest carriage, master John Rolfe, had been in love with Pocahontas and she with him, which thing at the instant that we were in parley with them, myself made known to Sir Thomas Dale by a letter from him, whereby he entreated his advise and furtherance in his love, if so it seemed fit to him for the good of the Plantation, and Pocahontas her self, acquainted her brethren therewith: which resolution Sir Thomas Dale well-approving, was the only cause he was so mild amongst them, who otherwise would not have departed their river without other conditions.

The bruit of this pretended [proposed] marriage came soon to Powhatan’s knowledge, [as] a thing acceptable to him, as appeared by his sudden consent thereunto, who some ten days after sent an old uncle of hers, named Opachiseo, to give her as his deputy in the Church, and two of his sons to see the marriage solemnized, which was accordingly done about the fifth of April, and ever since we have had friendly commerce and trade, not only with Powhatan himself, but also with his subjects round about us, so as now I see no reason why the Colony should not thrive apace.

Thus have I briefly as the matter would permit, discoursed our established friendship with the Naturals [Indians], and the occasions thereof, which I hope will continue so long between us, till they shall have the understanding to acknowledge how much they are bound to God for sending us amongst them (than which) what work would be more acceptable to God, more honourable to our King and country?