

THE
GENERAL HISTORY
OF
NEW ENGLAND,
FROM THE FIRST DISCOVERY THEREOF, TILL THE
YEAR 1680.

CHAPTER I.

It is now an age or two and more since the eyelids of the morning began first to be lighted up upon this long benighted region of America, during all which time the inhabitants of that region sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. But since the discoveries of the former age, the morning light hath been breaking forth in that hemisphere, whether in a way of mercy, for imparting to them the glorious light of salvation by the Gospel, or in a way of judgment, to leave them the more without excuse at the great Day of Account, after time will declare: for whatever were the principal motives that at first induced the western nations of Europe to acquaint themselves with these remote ends of the earth in America, it must be acknowledged that the sovereign Ruler of the world ordered these discoveries for the advancing some higher ends with reference to his own glory, to which all the counsels and endeavors of the sons of men are and shall be subordinate and subject.

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There were many useful commodities here, necessary for the supplies and comfort of man's life, not known in other more habitable parts of the world: here were many rich mines of silver and gold, [and] store of precious pearls, locked up in the bowels of the earth and depths of the sea; all which treasures shut up in these secret cabinets of nature, had waited a long time for an opportunity of some more skilful hand, better acquainted with their worth than the present inhabitants, to disclose and disperse them abroad among the rest of the people of the world, for whose use they were in their first creation intended and made. Here were also many spacious and vast tracts of land, fit to be improved by the men of other nations, the said places having never been supplied with inhabitants to manage so many fertile countries, although most parts thereof had probably for a long time been overrun with herds of wild people, who neither themselves nor their ancestors ever had any acquaintance with civility or any liberal sciences, much less with religion or worship of the true and living God. What success after endeavors may have in that kind, is not for us to determine, however it may appear to be the pleasure of the Almighty by the fore-said discoveries, to make way for sending the light of the gospel amongst those dark places of the earth, for the conversion, as is hoped, of some of them, and leaving the rest without excuse at the last day; for the gospel must be preached to all nations for a testimony unto them, which it never was to any part of America till this last century; it being an usual observation that the great Husbandman is not wont to send forth laborers, where he hath no harvest to be gathered in, or other work for them to accomplish. Wherefore, the bringing of the nations of this country to the knowledge of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, being peculiarly intended by those of New England, as is particularly expressed in their grand charter to be the principal end in the adventurers' true profession, and his Majesty's royal intention that first granted it, the various providences

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that have attended the first planting of that part of America, so called, shall, in what follows, be more particularly declared, that so they may remain upon record as a lasting monument of divine goodness and faithfulness, obliging people of future ages to a thankful remembrance thereof. For preventing therefore of mistakes already taken up in the minds of any, by misreports, and for the satisfaction of those that are studious to inquire into the real truth of former transactions, the General History of New England is now taken in hand, wherein the first discovery of the country, its situation, temperature of the air, fertility and nature of the soil, disposition of the inhabitants, together with the first planting thereof by the English, being briefly touched upon, the principal occurrences that have fallen out within the compass of the next sixty or eighty years, concerning the affairs of religion, since that time, shall be more largely handled.

CHAP. II.

Of the first Discovery of the Country of New England.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, a Genoesian, had the happiness and honor first to discover this before unknown part of the world, though Americus that came long after had the honor to have it called after his own name, America; yet did Sebastian Cabot,* a famous Portuguese, more particularly discover more than both of them, for in the year 1497 he, with his father, John Cabot, sent out, under the commission of Henry VII., ranged a great part of this unknown world, in that and some years following, discovering many places on the continent, to the 40th degree of south, and 67th of north latitude; whereas Columbus, contenting himself with the riches of Hispaniola, Cuba, and some other islands which he fortunately fell upon, in the year 1492, never saw the

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main land till the year 1498, a whole year after Sebastian Cabot had been upon the continent; in reward of which notable services, he was afterwards made Grand Pilot of England and knighted by Henry VIII., and in his old age had an honorable yearly pension of 166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* allowed him by Edward VI.

These notable discoveries of the Cabots were the foundation and groundwork of those noble adventures made afterwards by some of the English nation or others, who, moved either with emulation of the Spaniards, or an ambitious desire of advancing the glory of their own nation, did in the next age attempt a more full discovery of the north parts of the world, specially of America, hoping thereby either to find out some new possessions, or else a nearer passage to some remote parts of the world, discovered and well known long before, although not reached unto without going a large compass about. On some such account the French histories report that James Quartier,* a Florentine, employed by Francis I., king of France, discovered New England, New France, and New Foundland in the year 1534,* and that the said James Quartier and Monsieur Camplayne brought the first colony of the French into Nova Scotia in the year 1534: but leaving them and their own historiographers, Sir Hugh Willoughby, Mr. Martin Frobisher, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, either ventured themselves, or were by the persuasion of others, sent abroad about the year 1576 and 1583: the first of which discoverers was, in the following winter, after his setting forth, overtaken with such violent blasts of cold and snow, as only hastened his passage into another world. The fatal issue of that his voyage did not wholly discourage his countrymen from making other attempts, only cautioned them to bend their course more southward, that so, upon the failure of other endeavours, they might at last have the benefit of the warm sun.

* 1524 is in the text of the Oliver transcript, and 1534, the true date, is in the margin. — c. D.

Wherefore, in the year 1584, Capt. Philip Amidas, with Mr. Barlow, [were] sent out by the direction of that renowned Knight Sir Walter Raleigh, to find out a place fit for the planting an English colony about Florida, but fetching too great a compass southward, they made their voyage both long, and tedious by sickness, before they came upon that flourishing country, by the Spaniards named Florida, because it was first discovered on Palm Sunday; which at the first view seemed to promise much more prosperity to the first planters, than ever it was able to perform to any that then or afterwards made the trial. However, the first adventurers returned so full fraught with hopes of great success, that Sir Walter (detained by public affairs of great importance from adventuring himself), yet prevailed with his good friend Sir Richard Grenvil, in the following year 1585, to make another attempt, who, accompanied with a considerable number of meet persons, arrived there on May 26th of the said year 1585, who landed about Roanoke, and making what discovery they could of the country thereabouts, during the time of their abode, received so much encouragement by the commodities of the place, that they left an 108 persons behind them to take possession and begin a plantation there, under the command of Mr. Ralph Lane; the rest returning for England themselves the same year, but intending to send more supplies the next year, which accordingly were ordered and sent under the command of Sir Richard Grenvil in three ships; but before they arrived, the planters finding so little encouragement in the place for a plantation, all returned for England June 18th, 1586. The three ships sent for recruit, in the mean time landed about Cape Hatorask, and having spent much time in vain to seek after the colony that had a little before abandoned their habitation, and unwilling to lose the possession of the country, landed 50 men more about Croatan, which is said to be an island not far off from Cape Hatteras, after mentioned by [1878.]

Capt. Smith,* whom they left plentifully furnished with all manner of provision for two years, and then returned for England themselves. But Mr. John White sent, in the year 1587, to relieve and settle them that were left, could never understand any thing of them, either where they were or what became of them; and so, after much needless labour, returned himself for England with the doleful news of their supposed destruction by the Indians: the bones of many of the said company are lately found in or near a bank of the sea, the earth that covered them at the first burying, being by the waves washed away. Capt. Smith speaks of 115 men being left there anno 1589, by Mr. White, that came to the like fatal end.

During the abode of the English in that part of the country of Florida called Roanoke, anno 1585, August 18th, Eleanor, the wife of Ananias Dare, was delivered of a daughter; in remembrance of which female child, being the first Christian that was ever there born, the country was called Virginia, though some make the name to be given on another account, sc. of a virgin queen, which is much more likely. But since that name is appropriated to that part of the continent on this side, that lyeth between the two Capes called Henry and Charles, (the former for distinction sake being known at present by the name of Old Virginia,) the forementioned accident [is] supposed by some to be the true reason of naming that country Virginia, and not the respect to the Virgin Queen as commonly reported, at that time the Lady of the English world.

In the year 1589, Mr. John White aforesaid was sent with three more ships to make further enquiry after the colony left there before by Sir Richard Grenvil, but although this last time they tarried all winter, as may be conjectured by the words of the relation, till the year 1590, the said colony could never be heard of:

* In the Oliver copy, "John" is placed in the margin. — C. D.

and thus was the first plantation at old Virginia, after much time, labor, and charge, brought to confusion, and finally deserted in the year 1590: nor was there ever any plantation attempted in that place, or carried on with prosperous success to this day, the reason of which is not yet rendered.

The planting of any place about Florida being thus nipped in the bud, if not blasted with some severe curse, like Jericho of old, all hopes of settling another plantation in that part of the world, were for the present abandoned, and lay dead for the space of twelve years next following, when they were revived again by the valiant resolution and industry of Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold and Capt. Bartholomew Gilbert, and divers other gentlemen, their associates, who in the year 1602 attempted a more exact discovery of the whole coast of Virginia.

In the first voyage, Capt. Gosnold in a small bark, with thirty-two of his company, set sail from Dartmouth, March 26, 1602, who steering a west course from the Azores, made his passage shorter by 500 leagues than ever the former adventurers found it, who always fetched a compass round by the West Indies, and from thence fell upon Florida; but Capt. Gosnold, possibly more by favor of divine providence than any special art acquired of himself, May 11th following, made land in the lat. of 43°, where casting anchor they were presently welcomed by eight of the savages in one of their bark shallops, that came boldly aboard them, which, considered with what they had to shew, made the others conjecture some Biscayners* had formerly been fishing there; the Captain, how well soever he liked his welcome, disliked the weather, which made him soon after weigh and stand more southward into the sea; the next morning, finding himself embayed with a mighty headland, let fall his anchor again, within a league of the shore; and then himself and four more went ashore presently, marching up the highest hills next by, from whence they discerned the headland to be part of the main, environed with many

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islands. In five or six hours' time his company there took more codfish than they well knew what to do with, on which occasion that promontory hath ever since borne the name of Cape Cod, which the place was not willing to exchange for the royal name of Cape James, that Capt. Smith or some others attempted to cast, but could not fasten upon it; the first appellation, as more proper from the encouragement of fishing which they there met with, being retained to this day.

It appears by what is written by one John Brierton, in the same voyage, that the first hill they ascended lies upon the south side of Cape Cod; for the islands thereabouts retain the same names which at that time were imposed on them: viz. Martha's or Martin's Vineyard, and Elizabeth Islands, being replenished with the blossoms of strawberries, raspberries, and gooseberries, and divers other fruits, besides several sorts of living creatures, as deer, cranes, herons, and other wild fowl, which made them call the island Martha's Vineyard; and in the same place they took up their station all the while they remained in the country.

In the middle of May they sowed wheat, barley, oats, [and] pease, which sprang up eight or nine inches in fourteen days' time; all which considerations, together with the seeming courtesies of the savages, encouraged some of the company to think of staying there the year about. But considering how meanly they were provided, they all changed their resolution, and returned back again for England, where they arrived at Exmouth the 23d July following, carrying with them such news as induced the aldermen and merchants¹ of Bristol to raise a stock of a 1,000*l.* which was employed for furnishing two barks more the next year, under the command of Martin Pring, or Prin, and Robert Salterne, which had been there the year before as pilots. These in the year 1603, following the course of Capt. Gosnold, made no relation, but to the same effect, for they fell in

¹ Smith, p. 18. — H.

with the land in the latitude of $43^{\circ}1$ on the north part of Virginia, as all the country was then called; from thence they ranged the coast along, till they came to a place which they called Whitson Bay. How long they tarried upon that coast, or when they returned, is not mentioned in Salterne's relation,^a yet it seems the report they carried back was not like that of the unbelieving spies, for it gave encouragement to the Right Honorable Thomas Arundel, Baron of Warder, to send forth another vessel in the year 1605, with twenty-nine stout seamen, under the command of Capt. Thomas Weymouth, with intent to have them make another discovery of the coast southward of 39 degrees; but by reason of cross winds they fell to the northward of 41° by 20 minutes, where they found themselves strangely embayed by shoals, so as in the running of six leagues they should come from an 100 fathom to five, yet see no land, then, at the next throw they should have 16 or 18,^b which constrained them to put back again to sea, though the wind and weather were as fair as they could desire; the want of wood and water made them take the best advantage of wind that came next, to fall in with the shore. On the 18th of May they cast anchor within a league of the shore, which proved an island, though at first it appeared as some high land on the main; and here they took five of the savages, as saith Capt. Smith, page 20, whom they found, like all of that sort, kind till they had opportunity to do mischief; but soon after found a harbor fitter for the purpose, which they called Pentecost Harbor, from Whit Sunday, on which they discovered it.

The isles thereabouts in the entry of the sound, it seems are those which are since known by the name of St. George's Isles.^c At this time they discovered a great river in those parts, supposed to be Kennibecke,

¹ Purchas's Pilgrims (fol. Lond. 1625), iv. 1654. — H.

² Purchas, iv. 1659; Smith, p. 19. — H.

³ Smith, p. 20. — H.

near unto Pemaquid, which they found navigable forty miles up into the country, and seven, eight, nine, or ten fathom deep, as Capt. Weymouth reports. It was one main end of all the forementioned adventurers, as well as those that first discovered it, to plant the Gospel there. The whole country from Florida to Nova Francia went at first under the name of Virginia, (yet distinguished by the Northern and Southern parts): that which is now famously known by the name of Virginia, (where, since the year 1605, have several English Colonies been planted,) is a country within the two Capes, where the sea runneth in two hundred miles north and south under the Deg. 37, 38, 39 of north lat., first discovered, as is generally believed, by Capt. John Smith, sometimes Governor of the country, into which there is but one entrance by sea, and that is at the mouth of a very goodly bay twenty miles broad between those two Capes, of which that on the south is called Cape Henry, that on the north Cape Charles, in honor of the two famous princes, branches of the Royal Oak. The first planting of that country was begun in the year 1606; and carried on by various changes and by sundry steps and degrees, as is described at large from the first beginning of the enterprise to the year 1627, by Capt. Smith, one of the first discoverers, and so a chief founder of the plantation from that time. That whole country, extending from the 34th to the 44th degrees of North lat. and called Virginia upon the accident mentioned before, formerly Norumbega, came afterwards to be divided into two colonies — the first and the second. * The former was to the honorable City of London, as saith Capt. Smith, and such as would adventure with them, to discover and take their choice where they would, betwixt the degrees of 34 and 41: the latter was appropriated to the Cities of Bristol, Plymouth, and Exeter, and the west parts of England, and all those that would adventure and join with them; and they might take their choice anywhere betwixt the degrees of 38 and 44, provided there should be at least

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an hundred miles distance betwixt the two colonies, each of which had laws, privileges, and authority for the government, and advancing their plantations alike.* After this time several attempts were made for the planting and peopling of this northern part of Virginia, called afterwards New England by Capt. Smith, in the year 1614, who took a draught of the coast, the same year, and presented it to his then Royal Highness, and afterwards our^b famous Prince Charles, of blessed memory, humbly entreating him to adopt it for his own, and make a confirmation thereof, by imposing Christian names upon the several places first discovered, many of which were ever after retained, the whole country upon that occasion being called New England to this day. In the year 1606, Sir John Popham, who was a principal undertaker, as saith Capt. Smith, and 1607, found men and means to make the beginning of a plantation about the mouth of a great river called Kennibeck, to the northward of 43 degrees, but with what success shall be seen afterward. In the years next following, other attempts of further discovery were made by the industry and endeavors of Capt. Edward Harlow, Capt. Hobson of the Isle of Wight, Mr. John Mathews, Mr. Sturton, and especially Capt. Henry Hudson,¹ who searched several rivers along the coast from Delaware Bay up towards the frozen ocean; in honor of whose memory, the great river where afterward the Dutch seated themselves and laid the foundation of their Novum Belgium, was called after his name, Hudson's river; as another place, the utmost bounds of his discoveries northward, is likewise called after the manner of elder times, Hudson's streight. Probably every year's experience might add something to a fuller knowledge of the havens, rivers, and most desirable places of the country, by such as came yearly to make fish upon the coast, eastward about the island of Monheggin, Damerille Cove, Casco Bay, Cape Porpoise, [and]

¹ In the summer of 1609. — H.

Accomenticus, although no colony was ever settled in any of those places till the year 1620, when New Plymouth was first planted within Cape Cod, of which more in what followeth, when there will be just occasion to mention the incredible success of those plantations of New England, that from so small and mean beginnings, did in so few years overspread so large a tract of land by the industry and diligent pains of a poor people, to which alone, next under the blessing of Almighty God, must the success of the whole business be ascribed: it being the declared intent of the adventurers and others that engaged in this design since Capt. Gosnold's voyage in the year 1602, as one Mr. Rosier,¹ that came along with Capt. Weymouth, doth expressly mention soon after, viz. 1605, to propagate God's holy church, by planting Christianity in these dark corners of the earth, which was the public good they aimed at, more than the advancing their own private or particular ends.

CHAP. III.

Of the Situation, Bounds, and Rivers of New England.

NEW ENGLAND, at the first accounted no distinct country of itself, [so] as [to be] worthy of a proper name of its own, was taken only for a part of Virginia: but is of late discovered to be a country of too large a compass any longer to lackey after any other sister, though elder than herself, and therefore deservedly accounted worthy of that adoptive name with which it is honored as one of the principal daughters of the Chief Lady of the European world, from whence she is descended. It is situate in the 31⁵th degree of longitude, betwixt the degrees of 39 and 45 of north latitude, accounting from about Delaware Bay to the south of Nova Francia, the bounds

¹ See his account of the voyage, in *Mass. Hist. Coll.* xxviii. 125-157. — H. [1878.]

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necessary for the supplies and comfort of man's *residence* in other more habitable parts of the world : here were [mines of] silver and gold, [and] store of precious pearls, locked up in the earth and depths of the sea, all which treasures of the rich cabinets of nature had waited a long time for an expert and skillful hand, better acquainted with their worth than the natives, to disclose and disperse them abroad amongst the rest of the world, for whose use they were in their first creation intended. There were also many spacious and vast tracts of land, fit for the use of men of other nations ; the said places having never had enough inhabitants to manage so many fertile countries. * * * * * thereof had probably for a long time been occupied by a people who neither themselves nor their ancestors had acquaintance with civility or any liberal sciences ; with the knowledge or worship of the true and living God. What * * * * * may have in that kind is not for us to determine. It seems to be the pleasure of the Almighty by the foresaid means to open the way for sending the light of the gospel amongst those dark parts of the earth for their conversion, as is hoped, and thus to leave the rest without excuse at the last day. The gospel must be preached to the nations for a testimony unto them ; which it never was * * * * * it being an usual observation that the great Husbandman is not pleased to

send forth laborers, where he hath no harvest to be gathered in, or work for them to accomplish. Wherefore the bringing of the natives of this country to the knowledge of God and our Savior *Jesus Christ*, being peculiarly intended by those of New England *as is particularly expressed* in their grand charter to be principally the adventurers' true profession, and his Majesty's royal intention when he granted it; the various providences that have attended the settlement of that part of America, so called, shall in what follows be particularly declared, that so they may remain a perpetual monument of divine

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* * Reports, and for the satisfaction of those who may be studious to inquire into the real truth of former transactions, the General History of New England is now taken in hand; wherein the first discovery of the country, its situation, temperature of the air, fertility and nature of the soil, disposition of the inhabitants, together with the first planting thereof by the English, being briefly touched upon, the principal occurrences that have fallen out within the compass of the next sixty or eighty years, concerning the affairs of religion, * * * since that time shall be more largely handled.....

CHAP. II.

Of the first discovery of the country of New England.

Christopher Columbus, a Genoesian, had the happiness and honor first to discover this before unknown part of the world, though Americus that came after him had the honor to have it called after his own name, America. Others * * *Sebastian Cabot*,^a a famous Portuguez, more particularly, discover more than [they both.¹] In the year 1497 he with his father, John Cabot, sent out under a commission of Henry VII., ranged a great part of this unknown region, in that and some years following discovering many places in it between the 40th degree of south and 67th of north latitude; where [Columbus had never been,¹] contenting himself with the riches of Hispaniola, Cuba,

¹ Purchas's Pilgrimage, (fol. Lond. 1617,) p. 894.—H.