

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.

and *some other islands*, which he fortunately fell upon in the year 1492. *He did not discover the main land* till the year 1498, a whole year after *Sebastian Cabot had* been upon the continent, in reward of which notable *discovery he was* afterward made Grand Pilot of England and *Ireland by king Henry VIII.*, and in his old age had an honorable *pension pr. ann.* of 166l. 13s. 4d. allowed him by *Edward VI.* *These discoveries of the Cabots* were the foundation and *ground work* of those noble adventures made afterwards by *those of the English nation* or others, who, moved either with emulation of *the Spaniards*, or an ambitious desire of advancing the glory of their *respective nations*, did in the next age attempt a more full discovery of the *several parts* of the world, specially of *America*, hoping thereby either to find out some new possessions, or else a nearer passage to *the more remote parts* of the world discovered, and well *known* long before, (although not reached unto without going a *great compass* about.) On some such account the *French historians* report that *James Quartier,** a Florentine, *employed by Francis I., king of France,* discovered *New* * * * * * *France*
 * * * * * *New Foundland* in the year [1534] * * *
 * * * * * *the said James Quartier and Mon* * †
 * * * * * *the lady of the English*
 world. In the year [1587] *John White aforesaid* was sent with three more ships to *make* further enquiry after the colony left there before by *Sir Richard Greenville.* 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: 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 severer curse, like *Jericho* of old, all hopes of *settling another* plantation

† Here appears to be a chasm.—ED.

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. The first voyage, Capt. Gosnold in a small bark [with thirty-two men¹] set sail from Dartmouth March 26, *the same year a southwest course from the Azores, made his passage shorter by several degrees than ever the former adventurers found it, who had always fetched a compass round by the West Indies, and by that course fell upon Florida.* But Capt. Gosnold, possibly more *by the guidance of providence than any special art acquired of man, on the 14th May following made land in the lat. of 43°*, where Capt. Gosnold was presently welcomed by eight of the savages in one of their *shallops, who came boldly aboard them, which considered with * * * shew made the other conjecture some Biskiners^a had [been trading or fishing] there: the Captain, how well soever he liked his * [doubted the¹] weather, which made him soon after weigh and [stand to the southward¹] into the sea; the next morning, finding himself drawing nigh a mighty headland, let fall his anchor again [within a league of¹] the shore, and then himself with four men went on shore presently; marching up the highest hill next morning, they discerned the headland to be part of the main, round which were many islands: in five or six hours time his company caught more codfish than they well knew what to do with. And this promontory hath ever since borne the name of Cape Cod, which he was not willing to exchange for the royal name, that Capt. Smith or some other mariner had given, the fishing which they there met with, being retained to this day. It appears by what is written by Capt. John Brierton in the same voyage, that the first hill they ascended was upon the south side of Cape Cod, for the islands thereabouts retain the same naunes which at that time were imposed on them: viz. Martha's or Martin's Vineyard and Elizabeth Islands, being replenished with*

¹ Smith's General History of Virginia, (fol. Lond. 1632,) p. 16.—H.

the blossoms of strawberries, raspberries, and gooseberries, and divers other fruits, besides several sorts of living creatures, as deer, cranes, hens, 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] peas, which sprang up eight or nine inches in fourteen days. All which considerations together *with* the seeming courtesies of the savages *encouraged* some of the company to think of *tarrying* there the year about. But *considering* how meanly they were provided, they *altered* the resolution, and returned back *again* to England, where they arrived, *about* the 23d July following, carrying *such* news as induced the aldermen [and most of the merchants¹] of Bristol to raise a stock of [1000l.] *which* was employed for furnishing [out two¹] more the next year under the command of Martin Pring, or Prin, and Robert Salterne, *who* had been there the year before. In the year 1603 following the Capt. Gosnold made no relation, but [having run some five hundred leagues they²] fell with the land [in the latitude of²] 43° on the north of Virginia, as all *the* country was then called. From thence they *ranged* the coast along till they came to a place which they *named* Whitson Bay. How long they tarried upon the coast, or when they returned, is not mentioned in *Salterne's* relation,^a yet it seems the report they carried *home* was not like that of the unbelieving spies, for it gave encouragement to the Right Honorable Sir Thomas Arundel Baron of Wardor 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 strongly embayed by shoals, *so that* in the running of six leagues they should come from one hundred fathom to five, yet see no land. *Then* at the next throw they should have [fifteen or eighteen fathom³], which constrained them to put [back³] *again* to sea, though the wind points were as fair as they could desire. The want of wood and water made them take the best ad-

¹ Smith, p. 18.—H. ^a Purchas's Pilgrims, (fol. Lond. 1625) iv. 1654.—H.

² Purchas, iv. 1650; Smith, p. 19.—H.

vantage of winds that came next to fall 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 of 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 *place* fitter for the purpose, which they called *Pentecost Harbor*, from White Sunday, on which they *discovered* it. The isles thereabouts in the [entrance¹] * * * *
 It se * * * * of St. George's Isles. At this time they *discovered* a great river in those parts, supposed to be *Kennibecke*, 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 fore-mentioned 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,

¹ Smith, p. 20.—H.

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 any where betwixt the degrees of 38 and 44, provided there should be at least 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 *N. part* of Virginia, called afterwards New England by Capt. *Smith in the year 1614*, who took a draught of it the same year. *This he on his return presented to the afterwards^b famous Prince Charles, of blessed memory, humbly entreating him to adopt it for his own, and make a confirmation thereof, by applying Christian names upon the several places first discovered, many of which were ever after retained ; the whole country being on that reason 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*

¹ In the summer of 1609.—H.

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] 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 Christiauity 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.—E.