dom, and the entrance to it is very narrow. It is true that inside of this belt of stone there are some shallows, but the sea is no more disturbed than inside a well. And I desired myself this morning to see all of this, so that I could gather an account of everything to Your Highnesses, and also to see where a fort could be made. And I saw a piece of land formed like an island, although it was not one, on which there were six houses. This piece of land might in two days be cut off to make an island, although I do not see this to be necessary since these people are very naive about weapons, as Your Highnesses will see from seven that I caused to be taken in order to carry them away to you and to learn our language and to return them. Except that, whenever Your Highnesses may command, all of them can be conveyed to Castle or held captive in this same island; because with 50 men all of them could be held in subjection and can be made to do whatever one might wish. And later I noticed, near the said islet, groves of trees, the most beautiful that I saw and with their leaves as green as those of Castle in the months of April and May, and lots of water. I looked over the whole of that harbor and afterward returned to the ship and set sail, and I saw so many islands that I did not know how to decide which one I would go to first. And those men whom I had talked to by signs that they were so very many that they were numberless. And they named by their names more than a hundred. Finally I looked for the largest and to that one I decided to go and so I am doing. It is about five leagues distant from this island of San Salvador, and the others of them some more, some less. All are very flat without mountains and very fertile and all populated and they make war on one another, even though these men are very simple and very handsome in body.
1492

1825

But from the start the settlers faced disaster. Jamestown was laid out on swampy, unhealthy ground. The colony lacked steadfast leaders. Too many of the 105 settlers were headstrong gentlemen-udlers or work-shy ne'er-do-wells, the "offscourings" of English society. They neglected to build houses or fortifications. They wasted time in searching for gold or a waterway to the Orient. Having failed to plant a crop, they were soon without food. During their first winter, more than half of them died from Indian arrows, sickness, or starvation.

Fortunately for the colony, Captain John Smith was among the survivors. Born in England of poor farmers, he had run away as a youth to become a mercenary soldier in the wars of Europe and the Near East. There he had learned courage, guile, and doggedness. There also he had achieved, or so he later claimed, a series of fantastic conquests—both military and amorous.

In Jamestown he soon emerged as the leader who could save the colony from ruin. He forced "lie-abeds" to build defenses and plant crops. He traded for food with the Indians, learned their customs and language. In 1608 he was named president of the colony, and by 1609, when he returned to England, he had started Jamestown on its way to survival.

Five years later, Smith again sailed to America, to New England, sent by merchant investors to search for gold, collect furs, and kill whales for oil. From April to July 1614 he sailed the New England coast, fishing and trading with the Indians and making the first accurate charts of the coastline from Maine to Cape Cod.

But the voyage was a financial failure. And none of Smith's future attempts to carry out new explorations or to plant new settlements was to succeed. He offered himself to the Pilgrims, but they, like other colonists, found it "better cheap" to buy his maps and reports than to hire him as their leader. As a result, Smith never returned to the New World. Most of his remaining years he spent in London, writing and rewriting his histories and reports while vainly seeking to promote new expeditions.

Smith's first published work was a letter he sent from Virginia to a friend in England, where it was printed in 1608 as A True Relation of Occurrences and Accidents in Virginia. It was the first English book written in America. In 1616 Smith published A Description of New England, based on his voyage of 1614. In 1624 he published The General History of Virginia, his longest and most influential work.

Smith's General History of Virginia, like his other histories, was written not merely to record the settlement of North America but also to serve as propaganda, as an advertisement for the lands he had explored. Its descriptions of New World riches and wilderness delights confirmed the European dream of America as a place of freedom, joy, and abundance. It was the delectable vision that lured investors and brought thousands of settlers to America, among them the Pilgrims and Puritans who used Smith's maps and reports to seek a new Eden in that portion of America he had named "New England."

The story of his most famous adventure, his capture in Virginia by the Indians under Pocahontas, first appeared in A True Relation in 1608 and made no mention of his rescue by Pocahontas. The full details of that story were not published until 1624, seven years after Pocahontas's death. Thus some historians have questioned Smith's honesty, calling him a vain braggart, a teller of tall tales. But none can doubt that his story of capture and rescue has become an authentic American legend, a national fable that has filled the popular imagination with exotic visions of deliverance in the arms of a dusky princess of the forest.

John Smith's writings remain the chief source of what little we know about the Virginia Indians before they were destroyed by European guns, disease, and rum. His

Captain John Smith 1580–1631

In 1606 King James I of England granted a royal charter allowing two companies of "Knights, Gentlemen, Merchants, and other Adventurers" to plant colonies in England's North American territories. The next year, three ships loaded with settlers landed in Virginia and founded Jamestown, the first permanent English colony in the New World.

They came full of hope for a land the English poet Michael Drayton had called "Earth's only paradise."

Where nature hath in store Foul, venison and fish, And the fruitfullest soil, Without your toil, Three harvests more, All greater than you wish.
books helped set the form of the exploration reports that inspired men to move westward to America and across the continent. His account of capture and escape from the Indians is one of the earliest examples of the "Indian captivity narrative," once a vastly popular literary genre that fascinated readers with vivid accounts of savage life.

As an explorer and colonizer, Smith has been enshrined as a national hero, as "that pink of gallantry, that flower of chivalry," the "founder of Virginia/And the pride of the Southern land." His experiences have become a part of the epic of the American frontier. And they have given shape and substance to a New World allegory that shows Americans as a chosen people, led through trial and in to the promised land where, as Cotton Mather proclaimed and wise men came to believe, "Divine providence hath irradiated an Indian wilderness."


Text: Travels and Works of Captain John Smith, ed. E. Arber, 1884, reprinted with an introduction by A. Bradley, 2 vols., 1910. Spelling, punctuation, and usage have been changed to conform more nearly to modern practice.

From THE GENERAL HISTORY OF VIRGINIA

THE THIRD BOOK

CHAPTER I

It might well be thought a country so fair (as Virginia is) and a people so tractable [as the Indians are] would long ere this have been quietly possessed, to the satisfaction of the adventurers and the eternizing of the memory of those that effected it. But because all the world does see a defailment, this following treatise shall give satisfaction to all indifferent readers [by showing] how the business has been carried [out] whereby no doubt they will easily understand an answer to their question, how it came to pass there was no better speed and success in those proceedings.

Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, one of the first movers of this plantation, having many years solicited many of his friends but [having] found small assistance, at last prevailed with some gentlemen, [such] as Captain John Smith, Master Edward Maria Wingfield, Master Robert Hunt, and divers oth-
But God the guider of all good actions, forcing them by an extreme storm to hull all night, did drive them by His providence to their desired port, beyond all their expectations, for never any of them had seen that coast.

The first land they made they called Cape Henry, where thirty of them recreating themselves on shore were assaulted by five savages, which hurt two of the English very dangerously. That night was the box opened and the orders [sent by the London Council] read, in which Bartholomew Gosnold, John Smith, Edward Wingfield, Christopher Newport, John Ratcliffe, John Martin, and George Kendall were named to be the Council and [directed] to choose a President amongst them for a year who with the Council should govern. Matters of moment were to be examined by a jury but determined by the major part of the Council, in which the President had two voices. Until the 13th of May they sought a place to plant in; then the Council was sworn [into office] Master Wingfield was chosen President and an oration made [to explain] why Captain Smith was not admitted to the Council as the rest.

Now falls every man to work, the Council contrive the fort, the rest cut down trees to make place to pitch their tents, some provide clapboard to reload the ships, some make gardens, some nets, &c. The savages often visited us kindly. The President's overweening jealousy would admit no exercise at arms or fortification but the boughs of trees cast together in the form of a half moon by the extraordinary pains and diligence of Captain Kendall.

Newport, Smith, and twenty others were sent to discover the head of the James river. By divers small habitations they passed; in six days they arrived at a town called Powhatan, consisting of some twelve houses pleasantly seated on a hill, before it threes fertile isles, about it many of their cornfields; the place is very pleasant and strong by nature; of this place the Prince is called Powhatan and his people Powhatans. To this place the river is navigable; but higher, with a mile, by reason of the rocks and isles, there is not passage for a small boat; this they call the Falls. The people in all parts kindly treated them, till being returned within twenty miles of Jamestown, they [the Indians] gave just cause of jealousy, but had God not blessed the discoverers otherwise than those at the fort, there had then been an end of that plantation, for at the fort, where they arrived the next day, they found seventeen men hurt and a boy slain by the savages, and had it not chanced a cross-bar shot from the ships struck down a hatch from a tree amongst them [the Indians], that caused them to retire, our men had all been slain, being securely all at work and their arms in dry vats.

To ride before the wind with sails furled.

Point of land ("cape") near present-day Norfolk, Virginia, at the entrance to Chesapeake Bay. It was named for Henry, Prince of Wales, son of the reigning English King, James I.


Smith had been charged with mutiny and imprisoned during the voyage. Thus he was denied membership in the local Virginia Council, which thereby disregarded the orders of the higher London Council.

Etc., in a civil, friendly manner.

Extreme caution. The London Council had ordered the colonists not to offend the Indians by making a military display.

Fury, mistrust. Explorers.

Cannonball with bar projecting from two sides, for use against an enemy ship's ropes and sails.

Storage cases.

Hereupon the President was contented the fort should be palisaded, the ordnance mounted, his men armed and exercised, for many were the assaults and ambushes of the savages, and our men by their disorderly straggling were often hurt, when the savages by the nimbleness of their heels well escaped.

What toil we had, with so small a power to guard our workmen by day, watch all night, resist our enemies, and effect our business to reload the ships, cut down trees, and prepare the ground to plant our corn. I refer to the reader's consideration. Six weeks being spent in this manner, Captain Newport (who was hired only for our transportation) was to return with the ships. Now Captain Smith, all this time from their departure from the Canaries, was restrained as a prisoner upon the scandalous suggestions of some of the chief colonists (enjoying his repute) who beguiled [that he] intended to usurp the government, murder the Council, and make himself king, that his confederates were dispersed in all the three ships, and that divers of his confederates that revealed it would affirm it; for this he was committed as a prisoner.

Thirteen weeks he remained thus suspected, and by that time [when] the ships should return they [authorities at Jamestown] pretended out of their commiserations to refer him to the Council in England to receive a check, rather than by particulating his designs [and thereby] make him so odious to the world as to touch his life or utterly overthrow his reputation. But how much scorned their charity and publicly defied the uttermost of their cruelty [that] he wisely prevented their policies, though he could not suppress their envies; yet so well he demeaned himself in this business as all the company did see his innocence and his adversaries' malice; and those suborned to accuse him, accused his accusers of subornation; many untruths were alleged against him, but being so apparently disproved, [the false charges] begot a general hatred in the hearts of the company against such unjust commanders, and for that the President was adjudged to give him £200 36p. so that all he [President Wingfield] had was seized upon in part of satisfaction, which Smith presently returned to the [communal] store [house] for the general use of the Colony.

Many were the mischiefs that daily sprung from their ignorant (yet ambitious) spirits, but the good doctrine and exhortation of our Preacher Master Hunt, reconciled them and caused Captain Smith to be admitted to the Council. The next day all received the Communion; the day following, the savages voluntarily desired peace, and Captain Newport returned for England with news, leaving in Virginia 100 men, the 15th of June, 1607.

By this observe:

Good men did ne'er their country's ruin bring.
But when evil men shall injuries begin,
Not caring to corrupt and violate
The judgements seats for their own lucre's sake,

Protected with wooden timbers set upright as a fence. Cannon. Drilled.
Wheat and other European grains. Punishment or reprimand. Specifying.
The Council in Virginia ordered Wingfield to pay £200 damages to Smith for falsely charging him with mutiny.
Then look that country cannot long have peace,
Though for the present it have rest and ease. 37

CHAPTER II
WHAT HAPPENED TILL THE FIRST SUPPLY
Being thus left to our fortunes, it was determined that within ten days, scarce ten amongst us could either go or well stand, such extreme weakness and sickness oppressed us. And threat none need marvel if they consider the cause and reason which was this: While the ships stayed, our allowance was somewhat bettered by a daily proportion of biscuit, which the sailors would pilfer to sell, give, or exchange with us for money, sassafras, 38 furs, or love. But when they departed, there remained neither tavern, beer house, nor place of relief but the common kettle. 39 Had we been as free from all sins as [we were free from] gluttony and drunkenness, we might have been canonized for saints; but our President would never had been admitted [to sainthood], for [he was guilty of] engrossing to his private, 40 oatmeal, sack, 41 oil, aqua vitae, 42 beef, eggs, or what not but the kettle; that indeed he allowed equally to be distributed, and that was half a pint of wheat and as much barley boiled with water for a man a day, and this, having had some twenty-six weeks in the ship's hold, contained as many worms as grains so that we might truly call it rather so much bran than corn; our drink was water, 43 our lodgings castles in the air.

With this lodging and diet, our extreme toil in bearing and planting palisades so strained and bruised us, and our continual labor in the extremity of the heat had so weakened us, as were cause sufficient to have made us miserable in our native country or any other place in the world. From May to September, those that escaped [death] lived upon sturgeon and sea crabs. Fifty in this time we buried; the rest [of us] seeing the President's projects to escape these miseries in our pinnace by flight (who all this time had neither felt want nor sickness) so moved our dead spirits as we deposed him and established Ratcliffe in his place (Gosnold being dead), Kendall [having been] deposed. 44 Smith [being] newly recovered, Martin and Ratcliffe were by his care preserved and relieved, and the most of the soldiers recovered with the skillful diligence of Master Thomas Wotton our surgeon general. But now was all our provision spent, the sturgeon gone, all helps abandoned, each hour expecting the fury of the savages, when God, the patron of all good endeavors, in that desperate extremity so changed the heart of the savages that they brought such plenty of their fruits and provision as no man wanted.

And now where some affirmed it was ill done of the [London] Council to send forth men so badly provided, this intractable reason will show them plainly they are too ill advised to nourish such ill conceits: First, the

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37A quotation from the Maxims of the Greek poet Theognis of Megara (fl. 550 B.C.).
38A species whose bark and roots were thought to have great curative powers.
39I.e., jointly shared provisions.
40I.e., taking for his private use.
41Dry white wine.
42Distilled alcoholic spirits, such as brandy.
43The colonists preferred wine or beer. Water was thought to be unwholesome.
44Wingfield was removed from the Presidency and the Council for misconduct. Gosnold, who normally had succeeded Wingfield as President, had died the previous month. Kendall had also been deposed and was later executed for mutiny.

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fault of our going was our own; what could be thought fitting or necessary we had, but [of] what we should find, or want, or where we should be, we were all ignorant; and supposing to make our passage in two months, with victual to live and the advantage of the spring to work, we were at sea five months, where we both spen: our victual and lost the opportunity of the time and season to plant, by the unskilful presumption of our ignorant transporters 45 that understood not at all what they undertook.

Such actions have ever since the world's beginning been subject to such accidents, and everything of worth is found full of difficulties, but nothing [is] so difficult as to establish a commonwealth so far remote from men and means and where men's minds are so untoward 46 as neither do well themselves nor suffer others. But to proceed.

The new President [Ratliff] and Martin, being little beloved, of weak judgment in dangers, and less industry in peace, committed the managing of all things abroad 47 to Captain Smith, who, by his own example, good words, and fair promises, set some to mow, others to bind thatch, some to build houses, others to thatch them, himself always bearing the greatest task for his own share, so that in short time he provided most of them lodgings, neglecting any for himself. This done, seeing the savages' superfluity 48 begin to decrease, [Smith] [with some of his workmen] shipped himself in theshallop 49 to search the country for trade. The want of the language, [the want of] knowledge to manage his boat without sailors, the want of a sufficient power (knowing the multitude of the savages), [the want of] apparel for his men, and [the want of] other necessaries were infinite impediments yet no discouragement.

Being but six or seven in company he went down the river to Kecoughtan, 50 where at first they [the Indians] scorched him as a famished man and would in derision offer him a handful of corn, a piece of bread, for their [the Englishmen's] swords and muskets, and such like proportions also for their apparel. But seeing by trade and courtesy there was nothing to be had, he made bold to try such conclusions 51 as necessity enforced; though contrary to his commission, [he] let fly 52 his muskets [and] ran his boat on shore; whereat they all fled into the woods.

So marching towards their houses, they might see great heaps of corn; much ado he had to restrain his hungry soldiers from present taking of it, expecting as it happened that the savages would assault them, as not long after they did with a most hideous noise. Sixty or seventy of them, some black, some red, some white, some part-colored, came in a square order, singing and dancing out of the woods with their Okee (which was an idol made of skins, stuffed with moss, all painted and hung with chains and copper) borne before them; and in this manner, being well armed with clubs, targets, 53 bows, and arrows, they charged the English that so kindly 54 received them with their muskets loaded with pistol shot that down fell their god, and divers [Indians] lay sprawling on the ground; the rest fled again to the woods and ere long sent one of their Quioughcoughs 55 to offer peace and reclaim their Okee.
Smith told them if only six of them would come unarmed and load his boat, he would not only be their friend but restore them their Okee and give them beads, copper, and hatchets besides, which on both sides were to their contents performed, and then they brought him venison, turkeys, wild fowl, bread, and what they had, singing and dancing in sign of friendship till they departed. In his return he discovered the town and country of Warraskoyack.56

Thus God unboundless by his power,
Made them thus kind, would us devote:57

Smith, perceiving (notwithstanding their late misery) not any regarded but from hand to mouth (the company being well recovered), caused the pinnace to be provided with things fitting to get provision for the year following, but in the interim he made three or four journeys and discovered the people of Chickahominy,58 yet what he carefully provided the rest carelessly spent.

The Spaniard never more greedily desired gold than he [Smith] victual, nor his soldiers more to abandon the country than he to keep it. But he found plenty of corn in the river of Chickahominy, where hundreds of savages in divers places stood with baskets expecting his coming. And now with the winter approaching, the rivers became so covered with swans, geese, ducks, and cranes that we daily feasted with good bread, Virginia peas, pumpkins, and persimmons, fish, fowl, and divers sorts of wild beasts as fat as we could eat them, so that none of our tumultuous Indians59 desired to go for England.

But our comedies never endured long without a tragedy; some idle exceptions being muttered against Captain Smith for not discovering the head of the Chickahominy river and being taxed by the Council to be too slow in so worthy an attempt, the next voyage he proceeded so far that with much labor by cutting of trees asunder he made his passage; but when his barge could pass no farther, he left her in a broad bay out of danger of shot, commanding that none should go ashore till his return; himself with two English and two savages went up higher in a canoe, but he was not long absent but his men in the barge went ashore, whose want of government gave both occasion and opportunity to the savages to surprise one George Cassen, whom they slew, and they much failed not to have cut off the boat and all the rest.

Smith little dreaming of that accident, being got to the marshes at the river’s head twenty miles in the desert, had his two men slain (as is supposed) sleeping by the canoe, while himself by fowling sought them victual, who finding he was beset with 200 savages, two of them he slew, still defending himself with the aid of a savage his guide, whom he bound to his arm with his garters60 and used him as a buckler,61 yet he [Smith] was shot in his thigh a little, and had many arrows that stuck in his clothes but no great hurt, till at last they took him prisoner. 

The manner how they used and delivered him is as follows:

The savages having drawn from George Cassen whither Captain Smith was gone, prosecuting that opportunity they followed him with 300 bowmen, conducted by the King of Pamunkey,62 who in divisions searching the turnings of the river found Robinson and Emry by the fireside; those they shot full of arrows and slew. Then finding the Captain, as is said, who used the savage that was his guide as his shield (three of them being slain and divers others so galled) all the rest would not come near him. Thinking thus to have returned to his boat, regarding them, as he marched, more than his way, he slipped up to the middle in an oozy creek and his savage with him, yet dared they not come to him till being near dead with cold he threw away his arms. Then according to their composition63 they drew him forth and led him to the fire where his men were slain. Diligently they chafed his be-numbed limbs.

He demanding for their captain, they showed him Opechancanough, King of Pamunkey, to whom he gave a round ivory double compass dial. Much they marveled at the playing of the fly and needle, which they could see so plainly and yet not touch it because of the glass that covered them. But when he demonstrated by that globe-like jewel the roundness of the earth and skies, the sphere of the sun, moon, and stars, and how the sun did chase the night round about the world continually, the greatness of the land and sea, the diversity of nations, variety of complexions, and how we were to them antipodes,64 and many other such like matters, they all stood as amazed with admiration. Notwithstanding, within an hour after, they tied him to a tree, and as many as could stand about him prepared to shoot him, but [seeing] the King holding up the compass in his hand, they all laid down their bows and arrows and in a triumphant manner led him to Orapaks,65 where he was after their manner kindly feasted and well used.

Their order in conducting him was thus: Drawing themselves all in file, the King in the midst had all their pieces and swords borne before him. Captain Smith was led after him by three great savages holding him fast by each arm, and on each side six went in file with their arrows nocked.66 But arriving at the town (which was but only thirty or forty hunting houses made of mats, which they remove as they please, as we our tents), all the women and children staring to behold him, the soldiers first all in file performed the form of a bisson67 so well as could be, and on each flank, officers as sergeants to see them keep their orders. A good time they continued this exercise and then

56 Village and tribe on the James River, subject to Powhatan.
57 One of two verses in the General History written, perhaps, by Smith himself.
58 Village and tribe on the Chickahominy River.
59 I.e., Headstrong dandies (wearing tufted taffeta clothes).
60 Complaints.
61 I.e., so important a task.
62 Lack of discipline, disobedience.
63 Wilderness.
64 John Robinson, a "gentleman," and Thomas Emry, a "carpenter."
65 Straps and laces used instead of buttons to secure clothing.
66 Shield.
67 Opechancanough, half-brother to the great chief Powhatan and chief of the Pamunkeys, a suburb of the Powhatan alliance.
68 Agreement with Smith.
69 Compass card showing points of direction.
70 I.e., from the opposite side of the world.
71 Indian village, with a temple and residence for Powhatan, located near the head of the Chickahominy River.
72 I.e., with bowstrings set in the arrows' notch, ready to shoot.
73 Military parade maneuver in which a file of troops marches back and forth in a winding, snake-like line—from Italian biscia, "great snake."
cast themselves in a ring, dancing in such several postures and singing and yelling out such hellish notes and screeches; being strangely painted, every one [had] his quiver of arrows and at his back a club, on his arm a fox or an otter's skin or some such matter for his vambraces;74 their heads and shoulders were painted red with oil and pocones75 mingled together, which scarlet-like color made an exceedingly handsome show; [each had] his bow in his hand and the skin of a bird with her wings [spread] abroad, dried, tied on his head, [with] a piece of copper, a white shell, a long feather with a small rattle growing at the tails of their snakes tied to it, or some such like toy.

All this while, Smith and the King stood in the midst, guarded as before is said, and after three dances they all departed. Smith: they conducted to a long house where thirty or forty tall fellows did guard him, and ere long more bread and venison was brought him than would have served twenty men. I think his stomach at that time was not very good; what he left they put in baskets and tied over his head. About midnight they set the meat again before him; all this time not one of them would eat a bit with him, till the next morning [when] they brought him as much more, and then did they eat all the old and reserved the new as they had done the other, which made him think they would fat him to eat him. Yet in this desperate estate, to defend him from the cold, one Maecassater brought him his gown in requital of some beads and toys Smith had given him at his first arrival in Virginia.

Two days after, a man would have slain him (but that the guard prevented it) for the death of his son, to whom they conducted him [Smith] to recover the poor man then breathing his last. Smith told them that at Jamestown he had a water [that] would do it, if they would let him fetch it, but they would not permit that, but [they] made all the preparations they could to assault Jamestown, craving his advice, and for recompense he should have life, liberty, land, and women. In part of a table book76 he wrote his mind to them at the fort, what was intended, how they should follow that direction to affright the messengers, and without fail send him such things as he wrote for, and an inventory with them. The difficulty and danger he told the savages of, the mines, great guns, and other engines,77 exceedingly affrighted them, yet according to his request they went to Jamestown in as bitter weather as could be of frost and snow, and within three days returned with an answer.

But when they came to Jamestown, seeing men sally out as he had told them they would, they fled, yet in the night they came again to the same place where he had told them they should receive an answer and such things as he had promised them, which they found accordingly and with which they returned with no small expedition,78 to the wonder of them all that heard it, that he could either divine79 or the paper could speak. Then they led him to the Youghuntunds, the Mattapamians, the Payankantanks, the Nantaughcunds, and Onawmanientis80 upon the rivers of Rappahannock and Potomac, over all those rivers and back again by divers other several nations81 to the King's habitation at Pamunkey, where they entertained him with most strange and fearful conjurations;82

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74 Armor for the forearm. 75 Plants with roots that yield a red pigment. 76 Table book. 77 Devices. 78 Speed. 79 Make magic. 80 Five tribes subject to Powhatan. 81 Tribes. 82 Rituals.

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83 Smith quotes the Latin poet Lucius Annaeus Seneca (c. 4 B.C.–A.D. 65).
84 Grains, or kernels, of Indian corn.
85 Platter.
86 Indian chief, heir and half-brother to Powhatan.
87 Portions or gifts.
Of bodies strange, and huge in growth, and of stupidum makes. At last they brought him to Werowocomoco, where was Powhatan, their Emperor. Here more than two hundred of those grim courtiers stood wondering at him, if he had been a monster, till Powhatan and his train had put themselves in their greatest braveries. Before a fire, upon a seat like a bedstead, he sat covered with a great robe made of raccoon skins and all the tails hanging by. On either hand did sit a young wench of sixteen or eighteen years and along on each side of the house, two rows of men and behind them as many women, with all their heads and shoulders painted red, many of their heads bedecked with the white down of birds, but every one with something, and a great chain of white beads about their necks. At his entrance before the King, all the people gave a great shout. The Queen of Appomattock was appointed to bring him water to wash his hands, and another brought him a bunch of feathers, instead of a towel, to dry them. Having feasted him after their best barbarous manner they could, a long consultation was held, but the conclusion was, two great stones were brought before Powhatan; then as many as could laid hands on him, dragged him to them, and thereon laid his head, and being ready with their clubs to beat out his brains, Pocahontas, the King's dearest daughter, when no entreaty could prevail, got his head in her arms and laid her own upon his to save him from death, whereas the Emperor was contented he should live to make him hatchets, and her bells, beads, and copper, for they thought him as well capable of all occupations as themselves. For the King himself will make his own robes, shoes, bows, arrows, pots; plant; hunt; do anything so well as the rest.

They say he bore a pleasant show, But sure his heart was sad. For who can pleasant be, and rest, That lives in fear and dread: And having life suspected, doth It still suspected lead.

Two days after, Powhatan, having disguised himself in the most fearfulest manner he could, caused Captain Smith to be brought forth to a great house in the woods and there upon a mat by the fire to be left alone. Not long after, from behind a mat that divided the house, was made the most dolefulest noise he ever heard; then Powhatan, more like a devil than a man, with some two hundred more as black as himself, came unto him and told him now they were friends, and presently he should go to Jamestown to send him two great guns and a grindstone for which he would give him the country of Capahowasis and forever esteem him as his son Nanquand.

So to Jamestown with twelve guides Powhatan sent him. That night they quartered in the woods, he still expecting (as he had done all this long time of his imprisonment) every hour to be put to one death or other, for all their feasting. But almighty God (by His divine providence) had mollified the hearts of those stern barbarians with compassion. The next morning they came to the fort, where Smith having used the savages with what kindness he could, he showed Rawhun, Powhatan's trusty servant, two demculverins and a millstone to carry to Powhatan; they found them somewhat too heavy, but when they did see him discharge them, being loaded with stones, among the boughs of a great tree loaded with icicles, the ice and branches came so tumbling down that the poor savages ran away half dead with fear. But at last we regained some confidence with them and gave them such toys and sent to Powhatan, his women, and children such presents as gave them in general full content.

POWHATAN'S DISCOURSE OF PEACE AND WAR

Captain Smith, you may understand that I having seen the death of all my people thrice, and not anyone of those three generations but myself; I know the difference of peace and war better than any in my country. But now I am old and ere long must die; my brethren, namely Otipchampam, Opechancanough, and Kecoughtan, my two sisters, and their two daughters, are distinctly each other's successors. I wish their experience [with you to be] no less than mine, and your love to them no less than mine to you. But this bruithem from Nandshumand, that you are come to destroy my country, so much affrighteth all my people as they dare not visit you. What will it avail you to take that by force [which] you may quickly have by love, or to destroy them that provide you [with] food? What can you get by war, when we can hide our

90A quotation from the Roman poet Titus Lucretius Carus (c. 94–55 B.C.).
91Chief's Town—on the York River, twelve miles from Jamestown. It was the residence of Powhatan, the great chief of the Powhatans and ruler of some thirty Indian tribes.
92Costumes.
93Powhatan tribe on the James River near the mouth of the Appomattox River.
94A quotation from the Greek dramatist Euripides (c. 480–406 B.C.).
95Neighboring tribe and village. 96Early.
97Cannon nine feet long, each weighing about two tons.
1Late in 1608 Powhatan invited Smith to Werowocomoco to trade guns, swords, copper, and beads for the Indians' grain. Smith was warned by a friendly Indian chief, and by Pocahontas herself, that at Werowocomoco Powhatan planned first to beguile the Jamestown traders with expressions of friendship, then to gain possession of their weapons and murder them. When Smith and his men arrived, Powhatan urged them to give up their swords and guns, "for here they are needless, we being all friends." He then spoke his "Discourse of Peace and War," which Smith recorded, translating it into the language of seventeenth-century Englishmen. Unmoved by Powhatan's eloquence, Smith continued to believe that Powhatan did "but triflle the time to cut his throat." Thus he and his men kept their weapon, and their lives.
2Report.
3Chief of a tribe and village near Jamestown, subordinate to Powhatan. Nandshumand had failed to provide 400 baskets of grain promised to the colonists at Jamestown, who were threatened with starvation. Shortly before Smith's trading expedition to Powhatan, an armed force from Jamestown raided the Nandshumand village and seized the grain Nandshumand's report of the raid preceded Smith to Werowocomoco.