

THE VOYAGE OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE AT LEYDEN FOR  
VIRGINIA.

About July 21, (I suppose N. S.) Messrs. Brewster, Carver, Bradford and Winslow, with the other English voyagers at Leyden leave that city, where they had lived near twelve years; being accompanied by most of their brethren to Delph Haven, where their ship lay ready, and sundry come from Amsterdam, to see them shipped and take their leave; they spend that night in friendly, entertaining and christian converse. And July 22, (I suppose N. S.)\* The wind being fair, they go aboard, their friends attending them; at their parting Mr. Robinson falling down on his knees and they all with him, he with watery cheeks commends them with most fervent prayer to God; and then with mutual embraces and many tears they take their leave, and with a prosperous gale come

\* Both Mr. Morton and Dr. C. Mather seem to mistake in saying July 2.

1620. King of G. Britain, James I.—France, Lewis XIII.—Spain, Philip III. to Southampton; where they find the bigger ship from London, Mr. Jones master, with the rest of the company, who had been waiting there with Mr. Cushman seven days; 700 pounds sterling are laid out at Southampton, and they carry about 1700 pounds venture with them; and Mr. Weston comes thither from London, to see them despatched. *B*

July 23. King James gives a warrant to his solicitor, sir Thomas Coventry, to prepare a new patent for the incorporation of the adventurers to the northern colony of Virginia, between 40 and 48 deg. north, which patent the king signs on Nov. 3, styling them the Council for the affairs of New England and their successors. *F. Gor.*

July 27. 'Mr. Robinson writes to Mr. Carver and people letters, which they receive at Southampton. And the company being called together, theirs is read among them, to the acceptance of all, and after fruit of many.\* Then they distribute their company into the ships, and with the approbation of the masters choose a governor and two or three assistants for each, to order the people and provisions. *B*

August 5. 'They sail from Southampton; but reach not far before Mr. Reynolds, master of the lesser ship, complained she was so leaky that he dare proceed no farther. Upon which they both put into Dartmouth, about August 13, where they search and mend her to their great charge and loss of time and a fair wind; though had they staid at sea but three or four hours more, she had sunk right down. About August 21, they set sail again, *Brad.* with about 120 persons, leave the coast of

\* This letter is published in Mourt's Relation, Morton's Memorial, and Neal's history of New England.

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England, August 22, or 23 ; *Sm. and Pur.* but having gone about a hundred leagues beyond the land's end of England, *Brad.* the next day *Sm. and Pur.* Mr. Reynolds complained of her leaking again, that they must either return or sink ; for they could scarce free her by pumping. Upon which they both put back to Plymouth, where finding no defect, they judged her leakiness owing to her general weakness. They therefore agree to dismiss her, and those who are willing, to return to London, though this was very grievous and discouraging ; Mr. Cushman and family returning with them ;\* the rest taking what provision they could well stow in the larger ship, resolve to proceed on the voyage alone. *B*

Sept. 6. 'They make another sad parting, and the greater ship sets sail again.† But about half seas over meet with cross winds and many fierce storms, which often force them to hull for diverse days together, not being able to bear a knot of sail ; make her upper works very leaky, and bow and wrack a main beam in the midship ; which puts them in such fear, as the chief of the company enters into a serious consultation with the ship officers about returning. But a passenger having brought a great iron screw from Holland, they with it raise the beam into its place ; and then committing themselves to the Divine will, proceed. *B*

Nov. 6. 'Dies at sea, William Batten, a youth and servant to Samuel Fuller, *bp* being the only passenger who dies on the voyage. *B*

\* Smith and Purchas say they there discharge twenty of their passengers.

† Smith and purchas say with one hundred persons, besides sailors.

*bp* Governor Bradford's pocket-book, which contains a register of deaths, &c. from Nov. 6, 1620, to the end of March 1621.

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Nov. 9. 'At break of day, *M* after long beating the sea, they make the land of Cape Cod. Whereupon they tack and stand to the southward, the wind and weather being fair, to find some place about Hudson river for settlement. But sailing this course about half the day, they fall among roaring shoals and breakers, and are so entangled with them as they find themselves in great hazard,\* and the wind shrinking upon them at the same time, they bear up for the Cape, get out of those dangers before night; and the next day into the Cape harbor, where they ride in safety. *B*

Nov. 11. Saturday, being thus arrived, they first fall on their knees and bless the God of Heaven, &c. But their design and patent being for Virginia, and not New England, which belongs to another jurisdiction, wherewith the Virginia Company have no concern, before they land, they this day combine into a body politic by a solemn contract, to which they set their hands, as the basis of their government in this new found country; choose Mr. John Carver, a pious and well approved gentleman, their governor for the first year; *B* and then set ashore fifteen or sixteen men well armed to fetch wood and discover the land, who at night return, but found neither house nor person. *M*

Nov. 13. Monday, the people go ashore to refresh themselves, and every day the whales play round about them and the greatest store of fowls they ever saw. But the earth here a company of sandhills; and the water so shallow near the shore, they are forced to wade a bowshot or two

*M* Relation of their proceedings published by Mourt.

\* They are the same which captain Gosnold, in 1602 called Point Care and Tucker's Terror; but the French and Dutch call Malabar, by reason of perilous shoals and the losses there sustained. *B*

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to get to land ; which being freezing weather, affecteth them with grievous colds and coughs, which after proves the death of many, and renders the place unfit for settlement. *M*

Nov. 15. While the shallop is fitting, Capt. Standish, with sixteen men well armed, sets out on the Cape, to search for a convenient place to settle. *B* William Bradford, Stephen Hopkins, and Edward Tilley are of the number, adjoined to the captain for Council. *M* When they had marched a mile southward they see five or six savages, *B* whom they follow ten miles *M* till night, but could not overtake them, and lodge in the woods. The next day they head a great creek, *B* and travel on to a valley, wherein is a fine, clear pond of fresh water, a musket shot wide, and two long. Then they come to a place of graves ; then to the remainder of an old fort or palisade, which they conceive had been made by christians ; *M* and then to a harbor opening into two creeks with an high cliff of sand at the entrance, *B* the western creek being twice as large as the eastern. *M*\* Near which they meet with heaps of sand, dig into them, find several baskets full of Indian corn, and taking some, for which they purpose to give the natives full satisfaction, as soon as they could meet with any of them, *B* return to the pond, where they make a barricado, and lodge this night, being very rainy ; and the next day, wading in some places up to the knees, get back to the ship, *M* to the great joy of their brethren. *B*

November 27. The shallop being fitted, twenty-four of their men, with Mr. Jones and nine sailors, thirty-four in all, set forth on a more full

\* This seems to be what is since called Barnstable harbor.

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discovery of the aforesaid harbor ; but the weather growing rough and the winds cross, they are soon obliged to row for the nearest shore, and then wade above their knees to land. It blows, snows and fréeses all this day and night ; and here some receive the seeds of those fatal illnesses that quickly seized them. The next day they sail to their designed port ; but find it unfit for shipping, land between the two creeks, and marching four or five miles by the greater, are tired with travelling up and down the steep hills and vallies, covered half a foot with snow, and lodge under pine trees. The next morning return to the other creek, and thence to the place of their former digging, where they dig again, though the ground be frozen a foot deep, and find more corn and beans, make up their corn to ten bushels ; which they send with Mr. Jones and fifteen of their sick and weaker people to the ship ; eighteen staying and lodging there this night, next day they dig in several such like places, but find no more corn nor any thing else but graves ; discover two Indian wigwams, but see no natives ; and the shallop returning, they get aboard at night, and the next day, December 1, return to the ship. *M* The corn they found happily serves for their planting on the spring ensuing, or they would have been in great danger of perishing ; *B M* for which they gave the owners entire content about six months after. *B*

Before the end of November, *M* Susanna, wife of William White, *B bn* was delivered of a son, who is called Peregrine, *M* being the first born since their arrival, *bn* and I conclude the first of the European extract in New England.\*

*bn* Boston News Letter.

\* He lives to July 22, 1704, when he dies at Marshfield. *bn*

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December 4. Dies Edward Thomson, servant of Mr. White, *bp* the first that dies since their arrival. December 6, dies Jasper, a boy of Mr. Carver's. December 7, Dorothy, wife to Mr William Bradford. December 8, James Chilton. *bp*

December 6. They again send out their shallop, with ten of their principal men, *B* viz. Mr. Carver, Bradford, Winslow, captain Standish, &c. with eight or ten seamen, *M* to circulate the bay and find a better place; though the weather is very cold and the spray of the sea freezes on them, that their clothes look as if they were glazed, *B* and feel like coats of iron. *M* This night they get to the bottom of the bay, see ten or twelve Indians ashore, *B* busy a cutting up a grampus. *M* By reason of the flats they land with great difficulty, make a barricado, lodge therein, and see the smoke of the Indian fires that night *B* about four or five miles from them. *M*

December 7. This morning, they divide their company, some travelling on shore, *B* eight *M* others coasting in the shallop by great flats of sand. *B* About ten o'clock, the shore people find a great burying place; part thereof encompassed with a large palisade, full of graves, some paled about, others having small poles turned and twisted over them; without the palisade were graves also, but not so costly. Then they come to four or five deserted wigwams, but see no people. *M* Towards night, they hasten out of the woods to meet the shallop, and making a signal for her to bear into a creek, she comes in at high water to their mutual joy, having not seen each other since morning; but found no people nor any place they liked; and at night, make another barricado, and lodge therein. *B*

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December 8. At five this morning they rise ; and after prayer, the day dawning, and the tide high enough to call them down to the shallop, they suddenly hear a great and strange cry, one of their company running towards them calling out Indians ! Indians ! And therewith arrows come flying about them. *B* Upon discharging their pieces, the Indians soon get away, the English following a quarter of a mile shouting, return to their shallop, *B* having left six men to keep her, *M* and not one of the company wounded, though the arrows flew close on every side. Upon which they give God solemn thanks ; then sail along the coast *B* about fifteen leagues, *M* find no convenient harbor, and hasten on to a port, which Mr. Coppin their pilot assures them is a good one, which he had been in, and they might reach before night. But after some hours sailing it begins to snow and rain ; at mid-afternoon the wind rising, the sea grows very rough, they break their rudder, it is as much as two men can steer her with a couple of oars ; and the storm increasing, the night approaching, and bearing what sail they can to get in, they break their mast in three pieces, their sail falls over board into a very grown sea, and they are like to founder suddenly ; yet by the mercy of heaven, they recover themselves, and the flood being with them strike into the imagined harbor ; but the pilot being deceived cries out, Lord be merciful ! my eyes never saw this place before ! And he and the mate would have run her ashore in a cove full of breakers before the wind ;\* but a steersman calling to the rowers, ‘about with her, or we are cast away,’ they get her about immediately, and providence showing a fair

\* Mr. Morton says, this is between the place since called the Gurnet's Nose and Sagaquab.



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sound before them, though it be very dark and rains hard, they get under the lee of a small rise of land; but are divided about going ashore, lest they fall into the midst of savages; some therefore keep the boat, but others being so wet, cold and feeble, cannot bear it, but venture ashore, and with great difficulty kindle a fire; and after midnight, the wind shifting to the northwest, and freezing hard, the rest are glad to get to them, and here stay the night. *B*

December 9. In the morning they find the place to be a small island, secure from Indians.\* And this being the last day of the week, they here dry their stuff, fix their pieces, rest themselves, return God thanks for their many deliverances; and here the next day keep their Christian Sabbath. *B*

December 11. Monday, they sound the harbor, find it fit for shipping, march into the land, see diverse cornfields, and running brooks, with a place they judge fit for habitation, and return to the ship with the discovery, to their great comfort. *B*

December 15. The ship sails for this new found port, comes within two leagues of it, when a north-west wind springs up and forces her back; but the next day the wind comes fair, and she arrives in the desired harbor, *B* quickly after, the wind chops about; so that had they been hindered but half an hour, they would have been forced back to the Cape again. *M*

December 18. Monday, they land with the master of the ship and three or four sailors; march along the coast seven or eight miles, but see neither wigwam, Indian, nor navigable river, but only four or five brooks of sweet fresh water running

\* Mr. Morton says, this is since called Clark's Island, because Mr. Clark the mate of the ship first stepped ashore thereon.

1620. King of G. Britain, James I.—France, Lewis XIII.—Spain, Philip III. into the sea, with choice ground formerly possessed and planted, and at night return to the ship; next day they go again to discover, some on land, others in the shallop, find a creek into which they pass three miles, and return. *M*

December 20. This morning, after calling to heaven for guidance, they go ashore again, to pitch on some place for immediate settlement. After viewing the country they conclude to settle on the main, on a high ground, facing the bay where corn had been planted three or four years before; a sweet brook running under the hill with many delicate springs. On a great hill they intend to fortify, which will command all around, whence they may see across the bay to the Cape. And here being in number twenty, they rendezvous this evening; but a storm rising, it blows and rains hard all night, continues so tempestuous for two days that they cannot get aboard, and have nothing to shelter them. *M*

December 21. Dies Richard Britterige, *bp* the first who dies in this harbor.

December 23. Saturday, as many as can, go ashore, cut and carry timber for a common building. *M*

December 24. Lord's Day, our people ashore are alarmed with the cry of savages, expect an assault, but continue quiet. *M* And this day dies Solomon Martin, *bp* the sixth and last who dies this month.

December 25. Monday, they go ashore again, felling timber, sawing, riving, carrying. *M* Begin to erect the first house *B* about twenty foot square, *M* for their common use, to receive them and their goods; *B* and leaving twenty to keep a court of guard, the rest return aboard at evening; but in the

1620. King of G. Britain, James I.—France, Lewis XIII.—Spain, Philip III. night and next day, another sore storm of wind and rain. *M*

Dec. 28. Thursday. They go to work on the hill, reduce themselves to nineteen families, measure out their lots, and draw for them. Many grow ill of grievous colds, from the great and many hardships they had endured. December 29 and 30; very cold and stormy again; and they see great smokes of fires made by the Indians about six or seven miles off. *M*

December 31. Lord's Day; though the generality remain aboard the ship almost a mile and a half off, yet this seems to be the first day that any keep the Sabbath in the place of their building; at this time we therefore fix the era of their settlement here; to which they give the name of Plymouth, the first English town in all this country, in a grateful memory of the Christian friends they found at Plymouth in England, as of the last town they left in that their native land. Here governor Bradford ends his first book, containing ten chapters in fifty-three pages folio; and here we end the first part of our New England Chronology. But by this we see sir Richard Baker greatly mistaken as to the beginning of this colony, by placing it in 1624.