A Briefe Relation of the Voyage Vnto Maryland

by Fr. Andrew White

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in cooperation with:

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PREFACE

Father Andrew White’s A Briefe Relation of the Voyage Into Maryland is one of the most important first-hand accounts of the early European settlement of North America. It is reprinted here from the Maryland Historical Society Fund Publication no. 35 (1899). Father White’s original manuscript was given to Leonard Calvert, who was the brother of Lord Baltimore, leader of the expedition, and first governor of the province. Calvert sent it to Sir Richard Lechford, his business partner in England, in May 1634. The Briefe Relation is of singular importance in the understanding of the voyage and first settlement of the Maryland colony in 1633 and 1634, and of the larger social and political context in which these events occurred.

By all accounts, Father White’s career was as exciting as the time in which he lived. During his seventy-eight years, he was a priest of the order of the Society of Jesus, a scholar, a teacher, a missionary, a student of American Indian languages, and an advisor to the Lords Baltimore in shaping their plans to establish the Maryland colony. He suffered for his religious convictions. As a Catholic priest, he was twice arrested, imprisoned, and banished from his native England. When, at age fifty-five, he stepped ashore with Leonard Calvert and the first Maryland settlers at St. Clement’s Island on March 25, 1634, he had already seen much of Europe. He survived repeated contests with fever in the New World to continue his missionary work among the English settlers and the Indian nations he found on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Father White’s Briefe Relation allows us the privilege of seeing the New World through the eyes of the “first adventurers.” It enables us to walk in the footsteps of the 140 men and women who crossed a vast ocean aboard the Ark and the Dove to carve a settlement out of the wilderness and to build a new society founded on principles of freedom and opportunity.
In his chronicle of this adventure, Father White has a place in the tradition of more famous travellers—Herodotus, Caesar, Marco Polo, and his contemporary, Captain John Smith—who have recorded great events among distant lands and peoples, and in so doing have drawn the cultures they observed into the consciousness of western civilization. In his brief and vivid account, Father White has conferred upon the founders of Maryland “the honor of remembrance.” Like those great chroniclers who preceded him, he speaks from the pages of his *Breife Relation* to posterity, even as he fulfills his obligation to make an annual report to his superiors.

As we enter new frontiers in the late twentieth century, it is proper that we pause to reflect on the challenges faced by courageous men and women on the first frontier, in a new land that was to become America.

Publication of this reprint was made possible through the cooperation of Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, State Archivist, and Rick Blandino, Publications Director, of the Maryland Hall of Records Commission. A fuller printed version of Father White’s narrative first appeared in July 1634 in a now rare promotional tract entitled *A Relation of Maryland*. This pamphlet will be reprinted with an introduction on June 20, 1984, as the fourth in a series of documents issued by the Hall of Records Commission in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of Maryland.

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is grateful on the occasion of Maryland’s 350th anniversary commemoration for the opportunity to bring Father White’s words before the public once again.

Gary V. Hodge
Charlotte Hall, Maryland
March 25, 1984

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“A BRIEFE RELATION OF THE VOYAGE VNTO MARYLAND.”

On St. Cecilia’s day, the 22 of November 1633 with a gentle Northerne gale we set saile from the Cowes about 10 in the morninge, toward the needles, being rockes at the south end of Ile of Wight, till by default of winde we were forced to ankour at Yarmouth, wth very kindly saluted vs howbeit we were not out of feare, for the seamen secretly reported that they expected the post with letters from the Counsell at London: but God would tende the matter, and sent th’ night soe strong a faire winde as forced a frenche barke from her ankour hold driveing her foule vpon our pinnace forced her to set saile with losse of an ankour, and take to Sea, that being a dangerous place to floate in, whereby we were necessary to follow, least we should part companie, and thus God frustrate the plot of our Seamen, this was the 23 of November: on St. Clements day who wonne his Crowne by being cast into the Sea fastned to an ankour; that morneing by 10 a clocke we came to Hurste Castle, and thence were saluted with a shot, and soe passed by the dangerous needles, being certaine sharpe rockes at the end of the Iland, much feared by Seamen
for a double tyde which she carried to Shipwrecke, tone vpon the rockes, t- other vpon the sand, I omit our danger passed Yarmouth, where by dragging anchour in a strong winde and tide we almost runne of our shipp a ground. All this Saturday and the night following the winde serued vs so well, that next day by 9 of Clocke we got beyond the westerne Cape of England, and so steered along not soe strongly as wee might because of our pinnace slow sailinge, whome we feared to leave behinde, for feare shie might meet w Turkes or some other pirates though we see nowe, by this means a faire shipp of London overtooke vs of 600 tunne, here we had a greate recreation to see that ship and ours runne for the fame with all the cloath they could make, an howers space with faire winde and weather, and pleasant sound of trumpetts, but ours gaue the other a topsaille and yet held with her, this done we stroke one course of our sailes, and staid for our pinnace, which was farre short of vs, and the dragon, for soe shee was called runne from vs out of sight that evening. Soe all Sunday and Munday the 24th and 25th of Novemb: we sailed afore the winde, till night, when the winde changed to Northwest so violent, and tempestuous, as the dragon was forced backe to flamouth, not able to keep the sea, being yet not to goe southwest, but right south to Angola, and our pinnace mistrusting her strength came up to vs to tell that if shee were in distress she would shew two lights in her shroode; our master was a very sufficient seaman, and shipp as strong as could be made of oake and iron, 400 tunne, kingbuilt: makeinge faire weather in great stormes: now the master had his chiose, whether he would returne England as the dragon did, or saile so close vp to the winde, as if he should not hold it he must necessarily fall vpon the Irish shoare, so infamous for rockes of greatest danger: of these two out of a certaine hardinesse and desire to trie the goodness of his shipp, in which he had neuer beene at Sea afore, he resolved to keep the sea, with great danger, wanting Sea=roome: the winde grew still lower, and lowder making a boysterous sea, and about midnight we espied our pinnace with her two lights, as she had forewarned vs in the shroode from ws time till six weakes, we neuer see her more, thinking she had assuredly beene foundered and lost in those huge seas, but it happened otherwise, for before shee came to the Irish Channell, where we were now tossinge, shee returned for England, and entered into the Scilley Iles, whence afterward in the dragon Company shee came to the long reach and Canarie Iles, God pudeing a convenient guard for that small vessell: this night thus frightfull being past the winde came about to South west, full against vs, though not very stronge so that with many tacks about we scarce crept on our way, soe all the 26 27 and 28 dayes the winde altered little, on the 29th the winde were all day a gathering and toward night poured forth such a sea of winde as if they would hane blowne our shipp vnder water at every blast, all next day being the blessed apostle S Andrewes day, the like cloudie gathered in fearefull manner, terrible to the beholders, so that ere it began to blow it seemed all the sprightes and witches of Maryland were now set in battaille array against vs, this evening the master saw the sunne fish to swimme against the sunnes course, a thing evidently shewing fearefull stormes to come: about 10 in the night a blacke cloud shewed a pittfull shower vpon vs, and presently such a furious winde followed as we were able to beare noe cloath at all, and yet before we could take in our maine Course, ws we onely carried, a furious impression of winde suddeainely came, and spitt it from top to tose, and cast one part
of it into the sea this amazed the stoutest heart, even of the
sailors, who confessed they had seen ships cast away with
lesse violence of weather, all the Catholiques fell to prayer,
Confessions, and vows, and then the helme being bound vp,
and ship left without sail or government to the windes and
waves, floated at hull like a dish till god were pleased to take
pittie vpon her: thus we were in fear of imminent death all
this night never lookeing to see day in this world, till at
length it pleased God to send some ease, and by little and
little still more, till we were with milder weather freed from
all those horrous: this deliverie in a manner assured us
of Gods mercy towards vs, and those infidells Conversion
of Maryland, his holy Goodness be foreuer praised, Amen.
from this time to our journyes end, about 3 monethes, we
had not one howre of bad weather, but see piously a navigation,
as our mariners never saw so sweet a passage: when I
say 3 months, I meane not we were so long at sea but reckon
the time spent at Barbadoes and St Christopheres, for we were
at sea onely 7 weeke and 2 daies, w'h is held a speedy
passage: from this time all alonge the Spanish Coast we had
nor good, nor very bad winde, in w'h time we looked for
Turkes but saw none, it seems they were returned home to
celebrate their Tamisom, a great feast which happeneth about
that time, after we had passed the Straits-mouth and the
Maderas, and now went full aforre the winde, which is here
trade, and ever constant on one point of the Compass, still
servinge for south and Southwest as we sailed we made 3
ships bigger then ours, 3 leagus west from vs, labouring as
we imagined towards vs: we feared the might be turkes, and
therefore made readie for fight, neither wanted some who
imprudently wished the master to make towards them, but he
answered he could not justifie that to the owners of the ship,
and indeed he might well have found a hard bargaine of it,
happily they were Canarie merchants and feared vs as we
them; in the long reach we feared nought but Calmes, which
sometimes held a fortnight or 3 weeks together, and starve
men, but this happens not above once in an age, there are
often tedious stays for fault of winde, but when it comes it
is ever the same (1) for our way: we sailed 3000 miles in
this reach in a sea of milke without any calme in the dead
of winter, where we had every as hote, as the hottest day of
summer in England, so that in summer tis intolerable for
heat, where I see that, diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur
in bonum, for if we had not had those Crosses, rubbs, and
difficulties before our coming forth, we had got the hote
weather which had doubttlesse, cost most of our liues: from
our setting forth till Christmas day our sicknesses only sea-
sickness, then indeed for the celebrity of the daye wine being
given over all the ship, it was soe inmoderate taken as
the next day 30 sickened of fevers, whereof about a dozen
died afterward amongst which one Catholique venturer,
Mr Nicholas fairefax, and one very faithfull servant of my
L' named Mr Barefoot; some curiosityes we see in our way,
as flieing fishes, w'h vse their finnes as well to flie as swimme,
they are of the bignesse of sparrowing fish or great smelt very
dainty for meat: some of them as they rise in hundreds pur-
sued by the dolphins fell into our ship, being not able to flie
aboue two or three acres, when their finnes being dried, they
must needs dippe them into the water to flie a fresh againe;
after we came within 21 and some odd minutes of the Aqui-
noctiall, where begins the tropicke, we saw the tropicke bird,
bigge as falcons, with 2 white feathers in their traines and
noe more, whether they alwaies, keep in the aire, or some-
times rest on the water I know not; when we had passed the
Canaries our governour begunne to bee sollicitous for fraught homeward, fearing we should come to late for it to Virginia, and likewise that the Virginians wd stand but our heauie freinde, though the could plapes furnish vs in that kinde after talke had with the commissioners and gentlemen, resolution was made to beare vp to Bonausta directly south, and an Iland right against Angola, on the Coast of Affrique 14 degrees from the line whither the Hollander since the losse of S't Martines vseth to goe for salt, thence carrieing it to Newfoundland to make fish: this Iland abounds with goats, hauing in it none inhabitante but some 40 or 50 Portiuagalls banished thither for crimes committed by them both the salt for fraught, and goates for fresh food inituated vs thither though if the yeare were wet, as it had bee the yeare afore noe salt can be made: we had not gone full 200 miles, when the Commissioners seeing all the commodity redounded to my L*4, and that their land puison was like to be spent by this circuit, caused the governour to question the purser what puison of bread was aboard, and findeing it short we altered againe our course to S't Christophers, and soe began to thinke at what season we were like to come to Maryland, and how we should poure our seed corne, as for Virginia we expected little from them but blows, although we carried the kings letters to their Gouernour, and the governour himselfe much esteemed and loved my L* yet wee feared he could or would doe vs little good being ouerawed by his counsell; as for the Saluages we expected to finde them as our English ill wishers would make them, and therefore afraid to build all the weale of our plantation on price padventures, resolution was made for the Barbadoes, the granarie of all the Charybbies Iles, which how be it was somewhat about for corne was the surest course. In this Iland Mr Hierom Hawley his brother was governour, and in his absence Mr Acers his brother in law was deputie: here we arrived Januar: the 3 hopeinge for some refreshinge by convenient good dyet some few dayes, but in part we were deceived for every thing bore so high price, that nothing could be had, but it Cost vs our eies, a pigge six weekees old was at 5* sterling a turke 50* and a chicken at 6* beefe or mutton they haue none, and the inhabitants live wholly vpon poane (that Indian bread) and homine, and potato route which they have in such plentie as they will give Cart loades to almost any for the fetching. The governour told vs at first, corne was at 1* the bushell, but understanding that we came for corne he called a Counsell and decreed there should none be sold vs under 2* a bushell, and soe we found him a kinde kinsman of Mr Hawleyes, other poore passages we had from not worth recountinge: at our arrivall here we understood the Spanish fleet was at Bonausta to hinder all strangers from salt, and it being beyond the tropicke to make prize of them here therefore we admired the puissance of god in pietating vs from that danger: but from a farre great at Barbadoes, the very day we arrived, we found the Iland all in armes to the number of about 800 men, the seruants of the Iland had conspired to kill their masters and make themselves free, and then handsomely to take the first ship that came, and soe goe to sea, this first ship was ours and therefore it was the goodness of god to discover the treason by a seruant who was afraid to Joine in the plot with them, the ringleaders were 2 brothers named Westons Westerne men, whereof one was put to death but the other saued by means of friends, God be praised for this our deliverance. This is one of the 12 Charybbian Ilands which runne vp like a bow in the baye of Mexico, some 30 miles long, and 15 broad, 13 degrees from the line,
the clime is so hote as being now winter they can endure to weare noe more then a shirt, a pare of linneing drawers and linen stockings on them, that time their corne was newly reapt. they vse noe bede, but onely hamachoes which are curious blankets of fine cotton neatly wrought and painted on the outside, and hung vp a yard or lesse from ground by a rope at each end fastned to two posts when they goe to rest and on the day time taken away, and carried about with them when they trauail, here are many things as well pitable for trade, as full of content to behold, their trade is chieflie in corne and cotton, which cotton it deligted vs much to see grow vpon trees in such plentie, the cotton tree is not much higher then a barbara bush, but more treelike, it beares a little bude in bignesse like a wallnut, which at full time opening in the middle into fower quarter, their appears a knot of cotton white as snow, with six seede in the middle of the bignesse of vetches which with an intencion of wheede they take out and soc keep it till the merchants fetch it from them: here is a cabbage grows on a tree 180 foot high to be eaten raw or boiled, the stalke of it is for one yard from top good meat, to be eaten raw with pepper, it is in tast like the Spanish Cardo but sweeter, the tree beares but one yearely, and in wood is onely a leguminous substance: here are also foxhebbie trees, high as ash the berrie is of bignesse of a hazell nut with an vnoctus skin or couer which washeth secoureth and laddereth passing well, but is (as they say) somewhat too strong for fine linnen, of these I found and carried a number to Maryland, and haue them now in the ground: there is another tree called palm Christi, with a spongious stalke, it beares a great thorny cluster of ash-coloured seede speckled with blacke whereof is made an excellent oyle Oranges, lemmons, limes, pomegranade, peaches and such other fruite there are but not in any great plentie as yet; another fruite I saw called guaneos, in taste like quinces, in colour like gould, in figure like the smallest lemmons, a fruit very gratefull to taste; another there is like vnto these called Papares, ouer sweet and luscious, which they vse to eat boilerd with other meat. But the rarest of all other that I thinke is in the world, is the Charybbian Pineapple, of the colour of gould, mixed with an orient greene, bigge as three Spanish pineapples, and of the same figure externall to the eie, saue that the worke of this is more pfect, it is not hard to peele, but of softe and thinne skinne, of delitious taste not hauing one membranula or kernell, but all from highest part to lowest, cleane through equally dainty to taste, it beares in the toppe a Crowne of its owne leaues curiously compacte, and well it may for sure it is the queue of all meat fruits without exception, the taste, as neere as I can expresse it is an Aromaticallyall compound of wine and strawberries, and a better thing then this is of Soueraigne efficacy to preserve health, and so well tempered to mans bodie as though it would consuame a knife put thereing any time, there is nothing more restoritue: it grows from a thing like a Spanish thistle, one onely on every roote, but the leafe hath noe prickles, but a curious peake about its edges: in fine I wish one of them in your hand with this paper, for nothing can express it but it selfe: there is another speciall fruit called a plantaine, singular for pleasant and delightfull tast, fructus platani as in latine they terme it the tree is but a leguminous substance, to the hight and thickenesse of a tree of thickness of ones thigh, the leaues which are onely in the toppe for its ribbats are commonly a yard or more in length, and more then a quarter brood decently seamed with veines runeing like ribbs from the thicke in the middle as from the
backe bone, it growes as high as a Cherry tree in the top from the very middle pith springeth a purple sheath like a sugar loafe full of blossomes, which with its weight turnes the head downward and thene thereon the fruit in a cluster like and hundred cucubers together, but being ripe yellow coloured and somewhat bigger, they are of curious taste like Marmalate and much of that temper, very delightfull fit to preserve, bake, or eat rawe. The potato root is of the very same colour skinne and figure of artichoke rootes, but in taste and temper much like a carrot, but farre more excellent: here is the Cinnamon tree, the Aualto tree the rope tree, which from the top sendeth out long suckers, which take root in the ground and so spread ouer large places, the wilde figge tree, the Maw forest tree which is poison; the monkey tree bearing fruit, a plaine and sweet unkeeks face, and many others: fowle I see little, save some few pigeons stocdoes, and some others, vines will not grow there, the place is a plaine ground, growne ouer with trees and undershrubs without passage, except where the planters have cleared, some few Catholiques there be both English and Irish, here we staid from January 3 to the 24th by which meanes we came to enjoy againe our pinnace, with not knowing of our coming was guided, to our soe great comfort as if that day we had beene revieued to life againe: for before we saw her in the harbour we gave her for lost in that hideous storme: herein gods mercy was shewed towards vs, and noe lesse again in staying vs here till the Spanish ships, in number fuen, were gone out of our way: for so it happened, five great Spanish men of warre came to scour the Charybbian Coaste, and make prize of whomsoever they saw saile, beyond the grave Meridian or tropicke; and had beene those very dayes before St Christophers, where findeing 2 small english barkes, and 2 or 3 great Hollanders guarded with a man of warre, by way of Salue gave them a piece of ordinance, or two: (willing to wrong the priviledge of that pinshend plantation, to which they had gien time till one halfe years end to be gone and prvide them elsewhere, or else to expect blowes to enforce them, this plantation was once afore destroyed by the Spaniard, save some few hidden in the mountaines, by whome with much miserie the place was againe restored) the holland man of warre for his salute, returned a bullet, and weighing anchour made to sea, to enter fight, and withall engagd the 2 English barkes to doe the like: of those fuen English and Hollands, onely 2 had ordinance; but the Spaniards each about 30 brasse pieces, the manner of this feight I know not, but in fine all runne away except the man of warre, who either fired her selfe or sunke when she could hold out no longer, for she cannot be heard of. If we had come the whilstes, tis like enough we had beene to forward with the rest, haveing so pitt a ship soe well gunn'd and man'd, and whether we had wonne or lost, our ship had certainly spoild for saile til she had been reaped, but god who endareth the spirittual good of Maryland preserved vs from danger, Protector noster et merces nostra magna nimis: the 24th of January we weighed from Barba: and by noone next day made St Lucia= one the Charybbies, divided in it selfe, the servants (being Negroes) against the Saluage maisters; then about 4 in the evening we came before Matinela\(^1\) where we came to anchor, and 2 Canoves, of starnaked Indians came paddling aboard vs, with paruats, pumpkins, callabashes, bonana-s muskellons watermelons and the like to exchange with vs; they much feared at first the greatnesse of our ship,

\(^1\) Probably Martinique; called by the Spaniards Martinico, and formerly by the natives Madiana.
and though we put out a white flagge of peace, yet they desired we would put forth our nations proper colours, which done, they receiv'd whence we were, and then boldly came aboard: this people is bigger then ours, and fatt and tawny coloured with ointments and oiles wherewith they be painted, something wee trucked with them, as knives, bells and the like; and so they returned, saiesing if we would ride there till morneing they would bring better trucke, as hammehoes, baskets and the like: they are a fierce nation, feeding on mans flesh wthout all knowledge of god, and haue heretofore cut of some English enterprisers: the Iland is all a hill, yet wonderfull fruitfull and flourishing it is the serious report of seamen, vpon report of a french wreeke, that here hath beene sene the Carbuncle, hauing in his head a precious stone, light as a glowinge coale, of infinite valew flodes sit penes autorem: next morning by dawninge of the day we made Guadalupe an Ile so called for the similitude it hath with Guadalupe of Spaine, mountainous, almost as the other, by noone we came before Monserrat, where is a noble plantation of Irish Catholique whom the virginiens would not suffer to live with them because of their religion thence next morneing wee came to Maucis,

1 an Iland infamous for agues by reason of the bad aire, here hauing staid a day, next morninge we came to S Christopheres hard by, where we staid 10 dayes, nobly enterntained by S Thomas Woroner, governour, Captaine Jefferson, lieutenant Coronell, by 2 Catholique Capt: Cauerley, and Capt. Pellam, and my selfe in particular by the governour of the french Colonie: in the same Iland, here is beside the varities of Barbadoes, a hill of brimstone and much more to be admired, here is also the virgin plant, or Parthenia, wth they terme the sensible tree, which after the least touch of ones hand I see fall downe withered, and then againe revived after a little space; here is the locust tree which I supposed to be that whereon S John Baptist lived in the wildernesse, it is high as an elme, soe loved of bees as they build their Combes on it, I have seen and tasted the bonnie, then wth settinge aside the name Wilde, there is none purer of taste and colour, the fruit is also called a locust, hauing a hard sheath as bigge as six beane code, containing in it a tough substance in taste like meale and honey, with fower or 5 seeds of colour and greatnesse like chestnut, some of them we have planted, from this place we came to Virginia february the 27th, much contrary to My Ls instructions, we expected here every hower to be staid by the Councell, desiring noethings more then our ruine, at this time Captaine Claborne was there from whom we understood the Indians were all in armes to resist vs, hauing heard that 6 Spanish ships were a cominge to destroie them all the rumour was most like to have begunne from himselfe, we had the kings letters, and my Lord treasurer's to the governours, which made him shew to us the best vsage, the place afforded with pamise to furnish vs with all manner of Provisions for our plantation though much against his Councells will, not doubting I suppose to receive noble gratification from my L by whose helpe he hoped to recover a great summe of money due to him out of the exchequer; here we staid 8 or 9 daies not wthout imminent daunger, vnder Commande of the Castle, and then on the 3 of March came into Chesapeake bay, at the mouth of Patomecke, this baye is the most delightfull water I ever saw, between two sweet lande, with a channel : 5 : 6 : 7: and 8 fathom deeppe, some 10 leagues broad, some of yeare full of fish, yet it doth yeeld to Patomecke, wth have made S Gregories; this is the sweetest and greatest I
have seen, so that the Thames is but a little finger to it, there are no marshes or swamps about it, but solid firm ground, with great variety of woode, not choked up with vndershrubs, but commonly so farre distant from each other as a coach and fower horses may travaile without molestation; at our first coming we found (as we were told) all in armes; the king of Pascaуoway had drawne together 500 bowmen, great fires were made by night over all the Country, and the biggnesse of our ship made the natives reporte, we came in a Canow as bigg as an Iland, with so many men, as trees were in a wood, with great terour vnto them all: thus we sailed some 20 leagues up the river to Herne Iland, so called for infinite swarmes of herons thereon, this we called St Clements, here we first came ashore; here by the overturning of a shallope we had allmost lost our mades which wee brought along, the linnen, they went to wash was much of it lost, which is noe small matter in these partes: the ground is heare, (as in very many places covered with pokierbes, (a little wilde walnut hard of shell, but with a sweet kernell) with ackhorne, black walnut, cedar, saxafras, vines, salladherbes, and such like; it is not above 400 acres, and therefore too little to seat vpon for vs: therefore they have designe it for a fort to Command the river, meaneing to raise another on the maine land against it, and so to keep the river from forraigne trade, here being the narrowest of the river: in this place on our b: Ladies day in lent, we first offered, erected a crosse, and with devotion tooke solemne possession of the Country: here our governour was aduised not to settle himselfe, till he spake with the emperour of Pascaуoway, and told him the cause of his coming (to wit) to teach them a divine doctrine, whereby to lead them to heaven, and to enrich with such ornaments of civill life as our owne country abounded withall, not doubting but this emperour beinge satisfied, the other kings would be more peaceable, with this intention he tooke our pinnace and went therein higher vp the river, in their way they found still all the Indians feede from their houses; till coming to Patomecke towne, he found there the king thereof a Childe, governed by Archihoe, his vnele: here, by an Interpretour, they had some speech with Archihoe (a graue and considerate man, and shewed his errours in part vnto him, which he seemed to acknowledge, bidding them all very welcome; they could peed but little with him in matters of religion, their interpreters being a pestant of Virginia, but promised shortly to returne to him, some one or other; which he desired they would and promised they should have the best entertainment they could make them and his men should hunt and fish for them, and he and they would devide what soever they got, being (as they all generally be) of a very loveing and kinde nature from here they went to Pascaуoway, the seat of the Emperour, where 500 bowmen came to meet them at the water side, here the Emperour, lesse feareing then the rest came privately aboard, where he found kind vsage, and receiuing we came with good meaneing towards them, gave leave to vs to sett downe where we pleased; the king being aboard, his men by the water side feared some treason, till by interpreturns, we assured them otherwise. In this journey our governour tooke Captaine Henrie s fleet, and his 3 barkes, who had beene a firebrand to inflame the Indians against vs. this Capt: brought aboard our shipp accepted of a portion in our beaver trade, for to serve my Lord, excellent in language, love, and experience with the Indians, most of all other, thus he remained, vntill havinge talked with Clborne, another of our chiefe enemies, he revolted, and leavinge vs went againe
and traded with out leave, and got that time above 200 skins, and as we feared incensed the Indians against vs; yet first he had brought vs to as noble a seat as could be wished, and as good ground as I suppose is in all Europe; whilst our governour was abroad, the Indians began to loose feare and come to our court of guarde, and sometimes aboard our shipp, wondering where that tree should grow, out of which so great a canow should be hewen, supposing it all of one piece, as their canows vse to be, they trembeld to heare our ordinance thinking them fearfuller then any thunder they had ever heard: the governour being returned from Pascatoway, by fleets directions, we came some 9 or 10 leagues lower in the riuere Patomecke; to a lesser riuere on the north side of it, as bigge as Thames, which we call St. Georges, this riuere makes 2 excellent bayses, wherein might harbour 300 saile of 1000 tunne a piece with very great saftetie, the one called St. George's bay, the other, more inward St. Maries, on the one side of this riuere lives the king of Yoaconaco, on the other our plantation is seated, about halfe a mile from the water, and our town we call St. Maries. To avoid all occasion of dislike, and Colour of wrong we bought the space of thirtie miles of ground of them, for axes, hoes, cloth and hatchets, which we call Augusto Carolino: it made them more willing to enterteine vs, for that they had warres wth the Sasquashanannockes, who come sometimes vpon them, and waste and spoile them and their country, for thus they hope by our means to be safe. God disposeing things thus for those which were to come to bring the light of his holy law to these distressed, poore infidels, so that they doe indeed like vs better for comeing so well provided assuring themselves of greater saftetie, by liveing by vs. Is not this miracular that a nation a few daies before in generall armes against vs, and our enterprise should like lambes yeeld themselves, glad of our company, giving vs houses land, and liveings for a trifle, Digitus dei est hic, and some great good is meant toward this people; some few Indians are here to stay by vs till next yeare, and then the land is wholly to be ours alone. The natives of pson be very pper and tall men, by nature swarthy, but much more by art, painting themselves with colours in oile a darke read, especially about the head, which they doe to keep away the gnats, wherein I confesse there is more ease then honesty; as for their faces they vse sometimes other colours, as blew from the nose downward, and read vpward, and sometimes contrary wise with great variety, and in gastly manner, they have noe bearde till they be very old, but instead thereof sometimes draw long lines with colours from the sides of their mouth to their eares, they weare their diversely some hauing it cut all short, one halfe of the head, and, long on the other; others have it all long, but generally they weare all a like at the left eare, and sometimes at both eares which they fold vp with a string of wampampeake or roanoake about it; some of their Caucorouses as they terme them, or great men weare the forme of a fish of Copper in their foreheads; they all weare beade about their neckes, men and women, with otherwhiles a haukes bill or the talents of an eagles or the teeth of beasts, or sometimes a pare of great eagles wings linked togethers and much more of the like; their apparell is deere skins and other furrs, which they weare loose like mantles, vnder which all their women, and those which are come to mans stature weare peizomata of skins, which keep them decently covered from all offence of sharpes, all the rest are naked, and sometimes the men of the younger sort weare nothing at all; their weapons are a bow and bundle of arrowes, an ell long, feathered with turkies
feathers, and headed with points of deeres horns, peeces of
glasse, or flints, which they make fast with an excellent glee
which they have for that purpose, the shaft is a small cane or
sticke, wherewith I have seene them kill at 20 yards dis-
tance, little birds of the bignesse of sparrows, and they use to
practise themselves by casting vp small stickes in the aire,
and meeting it with an arrow before it come to ground: their
bow is but weake and shoots level but a little way, they daily
catch partridge, deere, turkies, squirrels and the like of which
there is wonderfull, but as yet we dare not venture ourselves
in the woods to seake them, nor have we pleasure; their houses
are built in an halfe ovall forme 20 foot long, and 9 or 10
foot high with a place open in the top, halfe a yard square,
whereby they admit the light, and let forth the smoke, for
they build their fire, after the manner of ancient halls of
England, in the middle of the house, about which they lie
to sleep vpon mats, spread on a low scaffold hate a yard from
ground: in one of these houses we now doe celebrate, having
it dressed a little better then by the Indians, till we get a
better, which shall be shortly as may be: the naturall wit of
these men is good, conceiuing a thing quick to; they excell
in smell and taste, and have farre sharper sight then we have
their diet is poane, made of wheat, and hominie, of the same
with pease and beanes together, to which sometimes they add
fish, foule, and venisone, especially at solemn feasts: they are
very tempate from wines and bote waters, and will hardly
taste them, save those whome our English have corrupted:
for chastity I never see any action in man or woman tendinge
to soe much as levity, and yet the poore soules are daily with
vs and bring vs turkie, partridge, oisters, squirells as good as
any rabbit, bread and the like, running to vs with smileing
countenance and will help vs in fishing, fouling, hunting, or
what we please: they hold it lawfull to have many wines,
but all keep the rigour of coniugall faith to their husbands
the very aspect of the women is modest and grave; they are
generally so noble, as you can doe them noe favour, but they
will returne it: there is small passion amongst them, they vse
in discourse of great affairs to be silent, after a question
asked, and then after a little studdie to answere in few words,
and stand constant to their resolution: if these were once
christian, they would doubtlesse be a vertuous and renowned
nation; they exceedingly desire civil life and Christian
apparrell and long since had they bene cloathed, had the
covetous English merchants (who would exchange cloath for
nought but beauer, which every one could not get) held them
from it (God forbid we should do the like): as for religion
we neither have language as yet to finde it out, nor care wee
trust therein the testament interpreters; Mr Altham, hath
writ sometim thereof, we himselfe can witness: and likewise
Mr Thorowgood, who drive trade with the Indians;
They acknowledge one god of heaven, whome they call our
god, and crie a 1000 shames on those that so lightly offend
soe good a god, but give noe externall honnour to him But
vse all their might to please an Okee which signifies a fran-
tique spirit, for feare of harme from him. I heare also, they
adore wheat and fire, as gods very beneficall to mans nature,
In the Matchoomac, or temple of the Patuxans, this cere-
monie was seene by our trades, at a day appointed the
townes about mett together, and built a great fire, then
standinge all about the same, lifted vp their hands to heaven
Crying Tabo Tabo, after this was brought forth a bagge of
Peake, which is their tobacco, with a great tobacco pipe, and
carried about the fire, a young man following it, crying Tabo
Tabo, with great variety of gesture of body, this done they
filled the pipe, and gave to every one a draught of smoke from it which they breathed out on all parts of their bodies, as it were to sanctifie them to the service of their god, this is all I can say, save that we perceive they have notice by tradition of Noah his flood we have not beene above one moneth Conversant amongst them and therefore must reserve further particulars to the next ship; I will end therefore with the soyle, which is excellent so that we cannot set downe a foot, but tread on Strawberries, raspries, fallen mulberrie vines, acchorns, walnuts, saxafras &c: and those in the wildest woods, the ground is commonly a blace mould above, and a foot within ground of a readish colour; all is high woods except where the Indians have cleared for corne, it abounds with delicate springs which are our best drinke. Birds diversely feathered there are infinite, as eagles, swans, hernes, geese, bitters, duckes, partridge read, blew, partie coloured, and the like, by which will appeare, the place abounds not alone with pitt, but also with pleasure +

Laus Deo