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REV. RALPH SMITH
FIRST SETTLED MINISTER
OF PLYMOUTH

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By

EDWARD LEODORE SMITH
Member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

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PREFACE

It has long seemed to the writer that Ralph Smith, first settled minister of the pilgrim church in Plymouth, deserved a fairer presentation of his known career than has hitherto fallen to his memory, and that this gentle, if grave and severe-minded man, simple and unassuming as his life seems to have been, has a right to our esteem beyond what has heretofore been given when we recall the absence of that carping contentious spirit that engaged the abilities of so many of his contemporaries in the first pastorates in the Bay plantation.

In collating the sparse and scattered facts of his career, it has been an added pleasure to trace and establish the true story of his English birthplace.

EDWARD L. SMITH

Brookline, Mass., May 5, 1921.

REV. RALPH SMITH

FIRST SETTLED MINISTER
OF PLYMOUTH
1629-1636

On the 17th of April, 1629, the *Governor and Deputy of the New England Company for a Plantation in Massachusetts Bay* wrote a long letter of instructions and details of affairs to the "GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL FOR LONDON'S PLANTATION IN THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY IN NEW ENGLAND."

This letter was dated, "In Gravesend," and on April 21, a postscript was added stating that the letter was mainly a copy of one sent in the GEORGE [The George Bonaventure, Thomas Cox, Master,] "yett ryding in the Hope."

The TALBOT, and LYON'S WHELPE, of the same fleet, were at the time storm-bound at Blackwall below London in the Thames, and from a letter dated at London, May 28, 1629, we learn that the TALBOT, in which came the Rev. Ralph Smith, had set sail at last from the Isle of Wight "about" the 11th of May.

The ninth paragraph of that first long letter to Capt. John Endecott, Governor, and his associates reads:

Mr Raph Smith, a Minister, hath desired passage in or ships, wch was granted him before wee vnderstood of his difference in Judgmt in some things from or Ministers. But his p'visions for his voyage being shipt before notice was taken thereof, through many occasions wherewth those intrusted wth this business have been employed, and forasmuch as from

"Concerning
Mr. Smith
ye Minister

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hence it is feared there may growe some distract'con amongst yow if there should bee any syding, though wee have a very good opinion of his honesty [of purpose] wee shall not, [wee] hope, offend in Charitie to feare the worst that may grow from their different judgment. We haue therefore thought fitt to give yow this Order, that unless hee wilbe conformable to or govment, yow suffer him not to remaine wth in the limitts of or graunt."

The historian, Hubbard, wrote regarding this:

"Mr. Ralph Smith was likewise, at the same time, proffered to be accommodated with his passage to New England, provided he would give under his hand, that he would not exercise the ministry, either in public or in private, without the approbation of the Governor established there, nor yet to disturb their proceedings, but to submit unto such orders as should there be established."*

It may interest to note here the fitting out of the TALBOT for the voyage. February 26, 1628 [29], the Secretary entered in the Company's journal "Necessaries conseaved meete for o^r intended voiadge for Newe England to bee prepared forthwth."

"For the Talbut, if 100 passengers, & 35 maryners, 3 monthes, ye maryners accounted doble:—

45 tun beere, wrof 6 tun 4^s } beere;
 39 tun 6^s }
Mallea and Canari caske 16^s a tun;
6 tuns of water;
12 M. of bread, after 3¹/₄ C. to a man;
22 hheds of beiffe;
40 bushells peas, a peck a man ye voyadge;
20 bushells oatmeale;

*Rev. William Hubbard of Ipswich, whose History of New England was probably written at the request of the General Court, liked to give his own interpretation to events. He has succeeded here in giving an erroneous impression of a perfectly plain record that must have been well known to him. Ralph Smith was not called upon to sign any bood.

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- 14 C. haberdyne [cured codfish] 62 cople ech C., ech cople makes p1,
p¹/₂ a p^d a man p day;
- 8 dussen pounds of candeles;
- 2 terces of beere vyneger;
- 1½ bushells mustard seede;
- 20 gallons oyle, Gallipoly or Mayorke, a qrt a man;
- 2 fferkins of soape;
- 2 runlett Spanish wyne, 10 galls a p;
- 4 thousand of billets [dried codfish];
- 10 firkins of butter;
- 10 C. of cheese;
- 20 gallons aquavite.

Estimat of 100 men, chardge of them and their prvisions, wth others
noted:

100 men, their chardge, 15 ^l . a man,	£ 1500
Freight of the shippe Talbut, 5 monthes,	}
80 ^l . p. m. 400	
Victualls and wages 32 men, 70 ^l . a monthe 350	
	750 ^o

The TALBOT, Capt. Thomas Beecher, Master, made the round trip to Salem and back within four months. She brought 400 bushels of salt for curing fish, a large list of supplies of all sorts for the new plantation, and the household goods of her hundred passengers.

There is nothing preserved that would show Endecott did not receive Rev. Ralph Smith as kindly and generously as his station would deserve. He certainly allowed him to stay within the limits of the Company's patent, and doubtless pointed out the struggling little colony of Nantascot, now Hull, as a field for his endeavors. It was in all ways a poor settlement for a Cambridge man of studious habit and austere demeanor to thrive in. The settlement was in one of the most beautiful spots in the inner bay, but only a fishing station then and for long years after, and fishermen, then

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as now, are not comparable to sleek, well-fed, and decorous yeomen for parishioners.

William Bradford, in his priceless and revered manuscript "Of Plimoth Plantation," wrote under the happenings of the year 1629:

"I had like to have omitted an other passage that fell out ye begining of this year. Ther was one Mr. Ralfe Smith & his wife & familie, yt came over into ye Bay of ye Massachusets, and sojourned at presente with some stragling people that lived at Natascoe: here being a boat of this place putting in ther on some occasion, he earnestly desired that they would give him & his, passage for Plimoth, and some such things as they could well carrie; having before heard yt ther was liklyhood he might procure house-rooms for some time, till he should resolve to settle ther, if he might, or elswher as God should dispose; for he was werie of being in yt uncoth place, & in a poore house yt would neither keep him nor his goods drie. So, seeing him to be a grave man, & understood he had been a minister, though they had no order for any such thing, yet they presumed and brought him. He was here accordingly kindly entertained & housed & had ye rest of his goods & servants sente for, and exercised his gifts amongst them, and afterwards was chosen into ye ministrie, and so remained for sundrie years."

This notice of Rev. Ralph Smith, who was under Gov. Bradford's eye and government, should set at rest the ill-tempered imputation of the historian Hubbard, himself a minister, and by all accounts a man jealous not only of his calling, but of those concerned in it.

Hubbard's statement, taken from his "History," follows:

"In this way they continued till the year 1629, when one Mr. Ralph Smith, who came over into the Massachusetts, and finding no people there that stood in any need of his labors, *he was easily persuaded to remove to Plymouth*; him they called to exercise the office of a pastor, more induced thereunto, possibly, by his approving the rigid way of the Separation principles, than any fitness for the office he undertook; being much overmatched by him that he was joined with in the presbytery,

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[Brewster] both in point of discretion to rule, and aptness to teach, so as through many infirmities, being found unable to discharge the trust committed to him with any competent satisfaction, he was forced soon after to lay it down. Many times it is found that a total vacancy of an office is easier to be borne, than an under-performance thereof."

This statement by Hubbard seems to be the only harsh criticism by a contemporary and is perhaps the source of every adverse comment on Rev. Ralph Smith by later writers.

In 1669, Nathaniel Morton, writing the history of Plymouth Church, wrote to Samuel Gorton at Warwick doubtless for information regarding Ralph Smith and Roger Williams, with both of whom Gorton had come to grips. Gorton's letter, which seems fair and straightforward, gives evidence enough to show that Ralph Smith was a grave man, not at all of the fanatic brand so impressive in Elder William Brewster and Roger Williams. But Morton's statement in his history of Plymouth Church regarding Smith is:

"1629 - - - Although for minnistry it was low with us; for as was before Noted: they had Chosen Mr Ralph Smith fore named to be their Pastour yett hee proved but a poor healp to them in that being of very weake parts in the [work] of the Ministry; onely they had a Great healp by their Revered mr Brewster whoe was well Accomplished with Gifts and G[race] for such worke; they had alsoe some Good healp by a Godly [young;man] Called Mr. Roger Williams * * * *"

Nowhere do we find mention of Ralph Smith's family beyond general terms. Higginson mentions "his child," Bradford mentions his "wife" and "servants." Perhaps his wife and her maid, the child, and a man servant, comprised the family. Of the loss of his child, or his wife, no mention is made, though his wife was alive in 1638 it would seem from Gorton's statement.

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In late September, 1632, Governor Winthrop and a company from the new plantation travelled the Indian trail to Plymouth to pay their respects to the Government there.

Some minor clashes had occurred between those under the jurisdiction of the two Patents, and some servants had run away to escape hard masters in either plantation, and Winthrop, whose actions had been rather cool, if not overbearing, towards the Plymouth men, seems to have decided to make advances toward a more cordial understanding. Without doubt, the action of Bradford in sending Samuel Fuller over to Salem to break up a threatened epidemic of what was, perhaps, scurvy or ship-fever among those who came in the fleet in 1629, had borne good fruit,* and Winthrop deserves praise for going frankly on a mission of conciliation when it would have been easier to have let things drift.

On October 3, 1632, came Sunday, and the Bay Governor and his retinue sat in state in the little plank church on the burial hill and listened to a sermon by Ralph Smith. We can imagine him impressed by the grave demeanor and calm logic of Smith, even if the form of the worship did not appeal, so far apart were the religious ideas of the Bay and Plymouth.

In July, 1634, Bradford, Winslow and Rev. Ralph Smith went to Boston to protest against the detention of Captain John Alden, as a seeming unjust retaliation for the unfortunate affair of the Kennebec and to assert their right in

*Hubbard, again blundering, states that Endecott sent to Plymouth for help "of one Mr. Fuller, a deacon of Mr. Robinson's church, skilled in the designs of the country, which those people that first came over in those two years were filled withal, and also well versed in the way of church discipline practiced by Mr. Robinson's church"; thus intimating that church affairs was the object, whereas the ministrations of a physician seem to have been the sole reason.

Compare, also, Hubbard's statement that "July 2, came in the Talbot, which had been sore visited with the small-pox in her passage, and whereof fourteen died in the way," with Higginson's statement that "only one person died of the pox," though numbers were ill of it, and that "two children died," probably of the measles.

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upholding their claim to that trading post. They accomplished their ends, Winthrop and the Bay clergy being compelled to admit both logic and position as correct, and this without bitterness remaining on either side.

It was about this time that Plymouth sought to obtain Rev. John Norton for their pastor, and Ralph Smith stepped aside for a while, but Norton was not attracted by the Plymouth situation and disagreeing with the tenets of baptism as practiced by that church, went elsewhere.

With what must have been saintly forbearance, the duties of pastor were again taken up by Ralph Smith, to continue until March, 1636, when John Reynor began to preach on trial. Reynor was ordained the same year. Ralph Smith remained at Plymouth, however, for a while. In 1637, "Mr. Ralph Smith, Gent." was, with Elder Brewster, on the committee to revise the Ordinances of the Colony. This year he had a grant of land and in 1640 another grant was made to him.

It was in 1636 that Plymouth Church and Ralph Smith eased off their bonds. Bradford wrote:

"This year Mr. Smith layed downe his place of ministrie, partly by his owne willingnes, as thinking it too heavie a burthen, and partly at the desire, and by ye perswasion, of others."

Plymouth Colony records show that Ralph Smith was made a freeman in 1633. He had various grants of lands, but none of large proportions, and a house lot, mowing, orchard, and tilling sufficient for comfort, but not extensive enough to be more than a means of support, appear to be the extent of his holdings. From the fact that he is called "Gentleman" in the records, after retiring from the ministry, it would seem as if he had been of some means, and his estate, at his death, rather confirms that view.

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In 1636, Ralph Smith, still at that time pastor of the Plymouth Church, went through a most disagreeable affair in connection with Samuel Gorton. The following extract from Winslow's "*Hypocrisie Unmasked*," and the letter from Samuel Gorton to Nathaniel Morton, give the gist of the matter.*

"The first complaynt that came against him [Samuel Gorton] for wch hee was brought before authority, was by Mr Ralph Smith, who being of Gorton's acquaintance Receivid him & his famely in to his house wt Much humilety & christian Respeck, promising him as free use of it as him self: but gorton becomming trublesom, after means used to Remove ye ofences taken by Mr Smith, but to no purpose, Growing still more insolent, Mr Smyth desired him to provid elcewhere for himself: but Gorton Refused sayeing hee had as good intrest in the house as Mr. Smith had: and when hee was brought before authorety stoutly maintained it to our amasment, but was to depart by ordere, & to provid other ways for him self by a time apointed."

About thirty-one years after Gorton was driven out of Plymouth for his attempt to override constituted authority, he wrote a letter to Nathaniel Morton of Plymouth. This letter was dated at Warwick, 30 June, 1669. In it he wrote that he had been in New England thirty-three years. He claimed to be of gentle blood and in every way showed the manner of an educated man. In referring to Ralph Smith he said: "their preaching minister then with them, I knew to be a godly man and was familiarly acquainted with him *now above half a hundred yeares agoe*, in Gorton where I was born and bred and the fathers of my body for many generations." He further wrote:

*While it is amusing to the unbiased to read the fulsome defence of Gorton's career by a Chief Justice of Rhode Island, it is saddening to read in "*The Life and Times of Samuel Gorton*" the ignorant misapplication of supposed evidence in the case there displayed, in using facts in the career of one Ralph Smith, yeoman, to blacken the character of our Rev. Ralph Smith. This inexcusable carelessness shows that this was an ill considered attack on him to bolster up the assumed innocence of Gorton.

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“A difference betweene Mr. Ralph Smith and my selfe - - - - I say Mr. Ralph Smith as you please to call him, but why is not your Canonization not exercised upon him, he was your ancient pastor and of my knowledge as pure and precise in your religion as any of you all, What, was he not rich enough, or was he not honorable [well-born] enough or had neither himselfe nor his poets made verses enough to bring him into the ranke, What a wofull neglect was that, yet I never knew it before that without poetrie we cannot be esteemed holy and honorable;

In the time of these agitations Mr. Smith tooke offence at me whether of himselfe or instigated I know not, neither know I any ocaation I gave him, vnlesse it was because his ancient wife and others of his family frequented mine vsually morning and evening in the time of family exercises, and so did a religious maid living then with your teacher, Mr. Reyner, Mistriss Smith often expressing her selfe how glad she was that she could come into a family where her spirit was refreshed in the ordinances of god as in former dayes which she said was much decayed and almost worne out of religion since she came to Plimouth; In this offence taken by Mr. Smith he applied himselfe to the government of Plimouth for help to breake his covenant made with my self, I having hired one part of his house for the terme of foure whole yeares.”

Gorton and his son, Thomas, volunteered with other Plymouth men, June 7, 1638, for service in the Pequot war, under Thomas Prence.

Ralph Smith, having given up his pastoral relation to the Plymouth church late in 1636 and being engaged in the revision of the ordinances in 1637, yet remained in Plymouth for several years more. He had a grant of land from the town in 1637, and one in 1640 of eight acres in the “South Meddowes toward Aggawam, Colebrook Meddowes,” which would show him resident there as a townsman at that time.

“The xvij day of April 1642. Memorandum. That Mr. Ralph Smith doth acknowledge that for the sum of six score pounds he hath sold unto John Doane agent for the Church of Plymouth, all his house and buildings and garden plotts in Plymouth together with the six acres of upland in the field.”

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This brief deed of what was the parsonage of Plymouth Church, and was bought for Reyner's settlement, must mark about the time when Ralph Smith received his call to Jeffrey's Creek, since called Manchester. How long a pastorate it was is undetermined. He was preaching there in 1645 and "*Good News from New England*" printed in London in 1648, but probably written in 1647, states that he was pastor there then. He must have concluded his ministry to that little hamlet of seven families about this time, however, as a deed of what was formerly the estate of Deacon Richard Masterson, inserted further on, shows that he was planning to remove to Boston.

The Salem Church records show that a Ralph Smith was a member of that church in 1647, and a Mary Smith, presumably his wife, a little later.

Tradition says that the first meetings in Jeffrey's Creek were held in 1640 under a tree at what is now Gale's Point. But Thomas Jenner preached there earlier than that, it is known.

No meeting house was built at Jeffrey's Creek until 1656, so far as the records show. Another tradition, seemingly borne out by those who have gone into the matter carefully, is that it was at Jeffrey's Creek that Gov. Winthrop landed when he first came out of the *Arbella*. Seventy-five years ago the changes since Winthrop's time had been slight indeed and the hills still were overrun with wild strawberries as at the time when Masconomo treated the Governor and those with him to a feast of those lucious fruits, so grateful to the unsated palates of weary seafarers.

Among the most ancient place-names of that territory now are "Smith's Farm Spring," "Smith's Island," "Smith's Point," and "Smith's Landing." As no man by the name of Smith is known to have settled there until about 1700,

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except the Rev. Ralph Smith, these names may mark his brief residence there, though there is no positive proof of it.

From the following in the first book of deeds, Plymouth Colony Records, it is entirely probable that Rev. Ralph Smith had married the widow of Deacon Richard Masterson sometime between 1642 and 1648. Hence the settlement of Masterson's estate upon his children.

“This writting underneath was Recorded by order from the governor the 27 of October 1652.

We have graunted to Nathaniell Masterson our Lands in Wellingsley with our house there and the fences and the mersh and the upland in the woods; Reserving our trees for John Wood to enioy for our good and his, and to bee Remooved the next autume; And this we doe upon consideration; agreed betweene vs the 15th day of the fift month 1648, and heer unto have sett our hands.

Ralph Smith
and Mary Smith ^{her} M marke.

The trees are to bee
Johns whiles
they beare and halfe
the fruite to be sent
to Boston for vs while
Either of us live if God please.

Memorand the day and yeare first above written; That Nathaniell Masterson above mencioned doth acknowledge that for such consideration as wher with hee is satisfied hee hath freely and absolutely made over vnto John Wood of Plymouth senior; all his Right hee hath in the one halfe of all the Mersh Meddow hee hath at goose point neare plym: aforesaid; which said mersh the said Nathaniell bought of his father in law Mr Smith To have and to hold the said one halfe of the said Marsh and all the appurtenances belonging ther unto the onely pper vse of the said John Wood his heires and assignes for ever to belonge vnto the onely pper vse and behoofe of him the said John Wood his heires and assignes for ever;”

“1649.

Bradford Governor.

A deed appointed to bee Recorded.

Bee it known vnto all Men that I Mary Smith sometimes the wife of

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Richard Masterson desseased doe by these p^rsents acknowledg y^t I have ffreely and absolutly given and made over and doe by this my deed ffreely give and Resigne vnto my soon Nathaneel Masterson and vnto my daughter Sara the wife of John Wood all my Right title and Interest of and into an house in Leyden in Holland somtimes apertaining unto my desseased husband Richard Masterson aforsaid the house *to have and to hold vnto the said Nathaneel Masterson and Sara Wood to them their heaires and assignes for ever vnto the onely p^rper vse and behoof of them the said Nathaneel Masterson and Sara Wood vnto them and their heairs and assignes for ever.*”

The removal to Boston did not come about at that contemplated time it would seem, as Ralph Smith and his wife were in Ipswich in 1650 as shown by the following extract from the Aspinwall Notarial Records.

“22 (8) 165. [1650] Mr Raph Smith of Ipswich in N: Eng: constituted Mr Hugh Goodyeare of Leidon in Holland his true and lawfull Attr: granting him full power &c: to aske levie &c: for him & in his name & to his use & to the use of Mary his wife (sometime formerly wife of Rich: Masterson of Leidon) all rents arrearages due unto the afores^d Mary Smith for a certaine house or tenemt. Scituate upon the uppermost graft neere the quackle brigg in leiden afores^d & of the receipt to give acquitt: also to compound &c: & to appeare in any Court &c: to doe say sue &c: & generally to doe all things &c: further granting him power to sett lett &c: the s^d house dureing the naturall [life] of the s^d Mary: wth power to substitute &c: ratifying &c: in presence of W^m Worcester. Richard Cooke.

The will of John Whittingham of Ipswich, which is not dated, but was proved at the Ipswich court on the 27th, 1st mo., 1649, [March, 1650] contained a bequest of “twenty shillings to Mrs. Smith.” This was, beyond question, the wife of Ralph Smith. In a deed dated March 10th, 1652, [1653] Bishop to Waite, of land in Ipswich “bounded on land of Robert Beacham, now in possession of Mr. Ralph Smith,” we have, in the designation “Mr.,” very good evidence that this was Rev. Ralph Smith. And possibly this is the basis for Cotton Mather’s ill-graced statement in his

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“*Magnalia Christi*” that “there were indeed two other ministers early in the country, one of whom had turned to trading [Lyford] and one to farming.” [Smith]

There is no record of the death of any child of Ralph Smith, or of his two wives; no record of his marriage to Mary, the widow of Richard Masterson; but we know from Gorton’s letter to Nathaniel Morton, that the first or “ancient” wife was living in Plymouth in 1636. And we know that he had married Mary Masterson before July 15, 1648, when they signed the deed to Nathaniel Masterson.

It is probable that Ralph Smith continued to live in Ipswich with his son-in-law Nathaniel Masterson until about 1659. Masterson was fined in court at Ipswich, in 1658, for selling food and drink without a license. This was doubtless some petty persecution, for Masterson promptly appealed to the General Court at Boston, which as promptly remitted half the fine. Masterson left Ipswich and removed to York, Maine, where he was made Marshal in 1660. It would seem as if his mother must have been alive at this time, and that he settled her and his father-in-law comfortably in Boston before he started for York, but if so the time had come for natural changes and Boston records of deaths, under the year 1661, have: “Mr. Ralph Smith Pastor of the Church of Plymouth died the first of March.”

The Registry of Probate record has:

“At A meeteing of the magistrates this 18th Aprill 1661

Power of Administration to ye estate of the late Mr. Ralph Smith is granted unto Nathaniell Masterson his late wives sonne that lived A long time with him and was Serviceable to him for ye most part of his time to Administer according to law.

Present ye
Gouenor ye
Dep. Gounr
Major Atherton
and Recorder

A true Inventory
of ye goods of Mr.
Smith prized by
us whose names
are under written
this 16 Aprill (61)

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Imprimis

A bed bolster and pillow and 2 ruggs one cotton one greene rugg and two curtains	6.00.00
To two blankets and a flocke pillow	1.02.00
To old Cloth Cloake	2.10.00
To a blue long Coate	1.15.00
To a shift 4 ^s two pillow beeres 4 ^s 6 ^d	00.08.06
To old Capts 18 ^d bands 4 ^s towels 3/3	00.08.00
To two sheeftes 18 ^s one hatt 12 ^s	01.10.00
To a Silver tankard and two spoones	04.00.00
To 3 old Trunkes	01.00.00
To a little Trunke 5 ^s one box 4 ^s	00.09.00
To one Small box 18 ^s one Chest 6 ^d	00.18.06
To 4 Cushions 8 ^s 2 Chayers 14 ^s	01.02.00
To a nest of boxes 5 ^s in peage 11 ^s	00.16.00
To one old Case and Standige	00.03.00
To a payer of bellows 2 ^s 6 ^d to a warming pan 7 ^s 6 ^d	00.10.00
To a payer of tongs and fire shovell	00.05.00
To one Skellett and Candlesticke	00.05.00
To one pewter dish 12 ^d Snuffers 12 ^d	00.02.00
To earthen ware 8 ^d 2 Curtains 4 ^s	00.04.08
To a leaden stanage and Inkhorne	00.02.06
To one Apple roster 9 ^d	00.00.09
To bookes as ye prize first leaf of them appeared prized by Hezekiah Usher Junior	13.07.00
To a shooting horne and 6 wooden trenchers and a wooden platter	00.05.09
To one watsh	00.15.00
Summe is	£ 37.04.04

More found since in bookes to the value of 16^s

And a watsh Cloake or alarum at Mr. Clarkes at 20^s

And 3 other bookes at 13^s 4^d and a little hammer*

William Cotton

William English

Nathaniell Masterson Deposited at ye same time that this was A true Inventory of the estate of ye late Mr. Ralph Smith that came to his hand to his best knowledge that when hee knowes more he will discover it."

Those who have written of Rev. Ralph Smith in earlier days, have stated that he had his degree of A. B. at Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1613. As Higginson's statement, in his Mss., that "Ralph Smith's child born in nenton,

*See the erroneous statement of Goodwin in his "Pilgrim Republic," as to this matter.

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Lancashire," was crossed out by him, we have a fair field for conjecture open for the following reasons. First, there is no parish of "Nenton" in all England. Second, there is a Chapelry of Denton in Lancashire. And likewise a Chapelry of Denton in Durham. The Denton in Lancashire is a part of the old parish of Gorton, where Samuel Gorton lived, and where, he stated, he had known Ralph Smith fifty years before. There is nothing in the imperfect registers of Gorton, or Denton adjoining, to show that any Ralph Smith was there in 1618, the year we know Gorton claims to have been in his company there. On the other hand, the records of Denton, parish of Gainford, Durham, show a Ralph Smith was curate there as early as 1582, and as late as 1605, and perhaps until his death in 1615.

FROM THE REGISTERS OF THE PARISH OF GAINFORD, CO. DURHAM.

A. D. 1587-8. Jan. 29. Rauffe Smith and Catheran Mathewson married.
1590. Aprill 5. Rauffe Smithe baptised.
1614-15. Feb. 7. Rauffe Smithe buried.

FROM THE REGISTERS OF THE CHAPEL OF DENTON IN
THE PARISH OF GAINFORD, CO. DURHAM.

A. D. 1589, April 5, Raffe Smith baptz ye v of Aprill in ye p'ish church of gayforthe [Gainford] a'd brought to dento' the same day his godfathers m^r Farrand vicar of gaynford and John Burrell m^{rs} Hilton godmother.
A. D. 1595. Willya' Smythe baptised ye 16 of november ye sonne of Raffe Smythe of denton.

A marginal note appears in the Register opposite the record of Ralph Smith's baptism as follows: "R. S. sent to Cambridge ye 8 of maie 1604."

From the above we may judge that our Rev. Ralph Smith was born in Gainford about the end of March 1589, son of Ralph Smith, Curate of Denton, and his wife Catherine Mathewson, and that the curate died early in February, 1615.

The discrepancy of a year in the records of Ralph Smith's baptism is a clerical error only, as the Denton record proves.

Ralph Smith first settled Minister of Plymouth

What is probably the fact is that Higginson knew, from conversation with him, about Ralph Smith's birth in Denton in Durham, and of his pastorate at Denton in Lancaster, where it is probable Ralph Smith's child was born. In writing, he perhaps found his memory not clear as to the facts, and it being a non-essential statement, he drew his pen through it, and let it go at that.

It would further seem that Ralph Smith was a scholar at Cambridge University in 1610. He matriculated, July term, 1611, in Christ College. He received his B. A. degree there in 1614. Born in 1590, he was, sometime between 1614 and 1618 and perhaps much later, in Gorton parish, co. Lancashire, as stated by Samuel Gorton in his letter to Morton, noticed before.

He may have been in charge of Denton, a chapelry of Gorton, and his child may have been born there.

In searching out evidences of those who have been inclined to write in a somewhat slighting manner of the labors of Plymouth's first minister, nothing has been found consistent with their tone. Bradford's statement that Smith laid down his ministry partly because it was burdensome, and partly because the Church wished it, covers the whole ground. It is recorded that he was a grave and serious man. There is evidence enough that he was an educated one. Indeed, he and William Brewster were the only ones of University education in Plymouth at that time, they both being Cambridge men. If he did not write such verse as Bradford wrote, the world lost little. Mather found him anathema in his sight because in the Hocking affair Smith "bore down on the Bay ministers" and compelled recognition of the absolute justness of Plymouth's position. No one's pride was humbled, but Winthrop took a different and more conciliatory stand toward Plymouth Government after that episode.



As Higginson's narrative has been mentioned and as a fellow voyager with Smith his journal of the trip is most interesting, it is printed here as having a proper relation to this brief review of the modest career of the first settled minister of Plymouth.

A true relation of the last voyage to New England, declaring all circumstances with the manner of the passage we had by sea, and what manner of country and inhabitants we found when we came to land; and what is the present state and condition of the English people that are there already.

Faithfully recorded according to the very truth, for the satisfaction of very many of my loving friends, who have earnestly requested to be truly notified in these things.

Written from New England July 24, 1629.

Any curious criticke that lookes for exactnes of phrases, or expert seaman that regards propriety of sea-terms, may be disappointed.

FRANCIS HIGGINSON'S JOURNAL

OR

NARRATIVE OF HIS VOYAGE TO THE BAY PLANTATION

- - - Mr Higgeson, a grave man,
& of worthy commendations; he
cometh in the Talbott - - - -

—Letter to Capt. John Endecott.

A true relation of the last voyage to New England, made the last summer, begun the 25th of April, being Saturday Anno Domini, 1629.

The Company of New England consisting of many worthy gentlemen in the city of London, Dorchester, and other places, ayming at the glory of God, the propagation of the gospell of Christ, the conversion of the Indians, and the enlargement of the King's Majesty's dominions in America, and being authorised by his royal letters patents for that end, at their very great cost and charges, furnished 5 ships to go to New England, for the further settling of the English plantation that had already begun there.

The names of the five shippes were as followeth.

The first is called the *Talbot*, a good and strong ship of 300 tunnes, and 19 pieces of ordinance, and served with 30 mariners. This ship carried about an 100 planters, 6 goates, 5 great pieces of ordinance, with meale, oatmeale, pease, and all manner of munition and provision for the plantation for a twelve monthe.

The second the *George*, another strong ship also, about 300 tunnes, 20 pieces of ordinance, served with about 30 mariners; her chiefe carriage were cattell, 12 mares, 30 kyne, and some goats, also there gad in her 52 planters and other provision.

The third is called the *Lyon's Whelp*, a neat and nimble ship of 120 tunnes, 8 pieces of ordinance, carrying in her many mariners and about 40 planters, specially from Dorchester and other places thereabouts, with provision, and 4 goats.

The 4th is called the *Four Sisters*, as I heare, of about 300 tunns, which sayme ship carried many cattell, with passengers and provision.

The 5th is called the *Mayflower*, carrying passengers and provision.

Now amongst these 5 ships, the *George* having the special and urgent cause of hastening her passage, set sayle before the rest about the middle of April. And the *Four Sisters* and the *Mayflower*, not being throughly furnished, intended, as we heard, to set forth about 3 weeks after us: But we that were in the *Talbot* and the *Lyon's Whelp*, being ready for our voyage, by the good hand of God's providence, hoisted our sayle from *Graves-end* on Saturday the 25th of April, about 7 o'clock in the morning. Having but a faint wind we could not go farre that day, but at night we ancred against *Lie*, which is 12 miles from *Gravesend*, and there we rested that night, and kept Sabbath the next day.

On Monday, (the 27th) we sat forward and came to the flats, a passage somewhat difficult by reason of the narrownes of the channel and shallownes of the water; and going over this we were in some daunger: for our ship being heavy laden and drawing deepe water was sensibly felt of us all to strike 3 or 4 tymes on the ground: but the wind blowing somewhat strong we were carried swiftly on, and at last by God's blessing came safe to ancre at Gorin roade.

Tuesday (28th) we went a little further, and ancred over against Margret Downe, staying for a wind for the Downes.

Wednesday (29) we came safely through with much turning and tacking thorow the Gullies into the Downes, and stayed that night.

Thursday, (30th) Fryday and Saturday (May 1st & 2nd) the wind blew hard from south west and caused our ship to daunce, and divers of our passengers and my wiffe specially were sea sicke. Here the King's ship called the Assurance, pressed 2 of our mariners. Here we saw many porpuses playing in the sea, which they say is a signe of foule weather.

(May 3) Sabbath day, a windye day and could: We kept Sabbath staying still at the Downes.

Monday (4th) God sent us a fayre gale of winde, North N. East, whereby we came merrily from the Downes, and passing Dover we saw 6 or 7 saile of Dunkirkers wafting after us; but it seemed they saw our company was too strong for them, for then we had with us 3 or 4 ships that went for the Streights: So they returned backe from pursuing us any longer. But sayling with a good wind we went speedily, and at night came near the Isle of Wight, but being darke, we durst not put into the channell, but put backe for sea-roome 4 hours, and then other 4 houres sayled backe agayne the same way.

Tuesday (5th) early in the morning we entered the channel, the wind being weake and calme, and passed by Portsmouth very slowly; but in the afternoone the wind quickened, and we were forced to ancre a little on this side of Cowcastle, but the wind growing more favourable, we weighed and came to ancre again, right against Cowcastle, thinking to stay that night, the wind being very calme. Here I and my wiffe and my daughter Mary, and 2 maids, and some others with us, obtained of the master of the ship to go a shoare to refresh us, and to wash our linnens, and so we lay at Cowes that night. But the wind turning when we were absent, they hoysted sayle and left us there, and ancred 8 miles further, over against Yarmouth, about 8 of the clocke at night.

Wednesday (6th) betyme in the morning the shalope was sent from the ship to fetch us to Yarmouth, but the water proved rough and our women desired to be sett on shoare 3 miles short of Yarmouth, and so went on foote by land and lodge in Yarmouth that night.

On Thursday and Fryday (7th & 8th) there master Becher, allowed by the Company, gave me 40 s. to make our provision of what things we would for the voyage.

Saturday (9th) we went to board again; and on this day we had 2 other men pressed to serve the King's ship; but we got one agayne by entreaty.

The Sabbath next day (10th) we kept the ship, where I preached in the morning; and in the afternoone was intreated to preach at Yarmouth, where Mr. Meare and Captain Borley entertained us very kyndly, and earnestly desired to be noetified of our safe arrivall in New England, and of the state of the country.

Monday morning (11th) blewe a fayre wind from E. S. E. and the Lion's Whelp having taken in all her pro-

vision for passengers, about 3 of the clock in the afternoone we hoysed sayle for the Needles, and by God's guidance safely passed that narrow passage a little after 4 a clocke in the afternoone. And being entred into the sea, from the top of the mast, we discerned 4 sayle of ships lying southward from us. But night coming on we tooke in our long boat and shalope. And the next day (12th) we had a fayre gale of Easterly wind that brought us towards night as farre as the Lizzard.

Wednesday (13th) the wind still houlding easterly, we came as farre as to the land's end, in the utmost part of Cornewall, and so left our dear native soyle of England behind us; and sayling about 10 leagues further we passed the Iles of Sillie and launched the same day a great way into the maine ocean. And now my wiffe and other passengers began to feele the tossing waves of the westerne sea, and so were very sea sicke.

And this is to be noted, that all this while our passage hath beene upon the coast of England, so ought truly to be accounted the first day of our parting with Ould England.

Thursday (14th) the same easterly wind blew all day and night, and the next day (15th) so that some of the seamen thought we were come by this tyme 100 leagues from England, but towards night the winde was calme.

Saturday (16th) we were becalmed all day. This day met us a little ship that came from Christopher islands.

Sabbath (17th) being the first Lord's day we held at sea was very calm, especially in the morning, but we were disturbed in our morning service by the appearance of a Biskainers ship, a man of warre. that made towards us, and manned out his boate to view us: But finding us too strong for him he dared not venture to assault us, but made off.

This day my two children Samuel and Mary began to

be sicke of the small-pocks and purples together, which was brought into the ship by one Mr. Browne who was sicke of the same at Graves-end, whom it pleased God to make the first occasion of bringing that contagious sickness among us; where with many were after afflicted.

Monday (18th) calme still, the wind being N. W. blowing a little towards evening, but contrary to our course.

Tuesday (19th) wind S. W. as little helpfull as the former, and blowing very weake. This day the master of the ship, myself and another went aboard the *Lion's Whelpe*, where Mr. Gibs made us welcome with bountiful entertainment. And this day towards night my daughter grew sicker, and many blew spots were seene upon her breast, which affrighted us. At the first we thought they had beene the plague tokens; but we found afterwarde that it was only an high measure of the infection of the pocks, which were struck agayne into the child, and so it was God's will the child dyed about 5 of the clocke at night, being the first in our ship that was buried in the bowels of the great Atlantic sea; which, as it was a grieffe to us her parents and a terrour to all the rest, as being the beginning of a contagious disease and mortality, so in the same judgement it pleased God to remember mercy in the child, in freeing it from a world of misery wherein otherwise she had lived all her daies. For being about 4 years ould, a yeare since, we know not by what means, sweyd in the backe, so that it was broken and grew crooked and the joynts of her hipps were loosed, and her knees went crooked, pittiful to see. Since which she hath had a most lamentable payne in her belly and would oft tymes cry out in the day and in her sleep also, my belly! which declared her extraordinary distemper. So that in respect of her we had cause to take her death as a blessing from the Lord to shorten her miserie.

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Wednesday (20th) a wet morning, the wind was W. S. W. and in the afternoon N. W. & by W., both being contrary to our course, which was to saile W. & by S. Thus it pleased God to lay his hand upon us by sickness and death and contrary winds; and stirred up some of us to make the motion of humbling ourselves under the hand of God, by keeping a solemn day of fasting and prayer unto God, to beseech him to remove the continuance and further increase of these evils from us, which was willingly condescended unto as a duty very fitting and needful for our present state and condition.

Thursday (21st) there being two ministers in the ship, Mr. Smith and my selfe, we endeavoured, together with others, to consecrate the day as a solemn fasting and humiliation to Almighty God, as a furtherance of our present worke. And it pleased God the ship was becalmed all day, so that we were freed from any encumbrance; and as soone as we had done prayers, see and behold the goodnes of God, about 7 a clocke at night the wind turned to N. E. and we had a fayre gale that night, as a manifest evidence of the Lord's hearing our prayers. I heard some of the mariners say, they thought this was the first sea-fast that ever was kept, and that they never heard of the like performed at sea before.

Fryday (22nd) The wind fayre and East northerly, and for our purpose for New England. It did blow strongly and carried us amayne with tossing waves, which did affright them that were not wonted to such sights.

Saturday (23rd) The same wind blowing but more gently. Now we were comforted with the hope of my sonne Samuel's recovery of the pockes.

(24th) The 2d Lord's day, an ordely wind and prosperous.

On Monday (25th) a fayre frumme gale, the wind S. S. W.

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Tuesday (26th) about 10 of the clocke in the morning, whilst we were at prayers a strong and sudden blast came from the north, that hoysed up the waves and tossed us more than ever before, and held us all the day till toward night, and then abated little by little till it was calme. This day Mr. Goffe's great dog fell overboard and could not be recovered.

Wednesday (27th) the wind still N. and calme in the morning, but about noone there arose a So. wind which increased more and more, so that it seemed to us that are landmen a sore and terrible storm; for the wind blew mightily, the rain fell vehemently, the sea roared and the waves tossed us horribly; besides it was fearfull darke and the mariners maid was afraid; and noyse on the other side with their running here and there, lowd crying one to another to pull at this and that rope. The waves powred themselves over the ship that the two boats were filled with water, that they were fayne to strike holes in the midst of them to let the water out. Yea by the violence of the waves the long boat's coard which held it was broken, and it had liked to have been washed overboard, had not the mariners with much payne and daunger recovered the same. But this lasted not many houres; after which it became a calmish day. All which while I lay close and warm in my cabine but farre from having list to sleepe with Jonah; my thoughts were otherwise employed as the tyme and place required. Then I saw the truth of the scripture. Psal. 107 from the 23d to the 32d. And my feare at this tyme was the lesse, when I remembered what a loving friend of myne, a minister accustomed to sea storms said to me that I might not be dismayed at such storms, for they were ordinary at sea, and it seldom falls out that a ship perisheth at storms, if it have sea-roome. Which I the rather wryte that others, as well as myselfe by

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the knowledge hereof may be encouraged and prepared against these ordinary sea-storms.

Thursday (28th) So. wind calme at night. Mr. Smith's child of nenton in Lancashire there borne, sicke this day.*

On Fryday (29th) a boistrous wind blowing crosse, but was allayed towards night with a shower of rayne.

Saturday (30th) So. Wind, but fayre and quiett.

Sabbath day (31st) being the 3d. Lord's day. fayre and calme; we saw abundance of grampus fishes, 2 or 3 yards long, and a body as bigge as an oxe.

Monday (June 1) The wind westerly and calme. But besides our being stayed by contrary winds we begun to find the temperature of the ayre to alter and to become more solety and subject to unwholesome foggs. For coming now to the the height of the Westerne Islands, some of our men fell sicke of scurvie and other of the small pockes, which more and more increased: Yet thanks be to God none dyed of it but my owne child mentioned. And therefore, according to our great need, we appointed another fast for the next day.

Tuesday (2nd) we solemnly celebrated another fast. The Lord that day heard us before we prayed and gave us an answer before we called; for early in the morning the wind turned full east, being as fitt a wind as could blow. And sitting at my study on the ship's poope I saw many bonny fishes and porposes pursuing one another, and leaying some of them a yard above the water. Also as we were at prayers under the hatch, some that were above saw a whale puffing up water not farre from the ship. Now my wiffe was pretty well recovered of her sea sicknesse.

*The words "Mr. Smith's child of nenton in Lancashire there borne, sicke this day" were crossed out with a pen in the copy. The name of the town is indistinct. The original manuscript has been lost for many years.

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Wednesday (3d) a fayre day and fine gale of full East wind. This day myselfe and others saw a large round fish sayling by the ship's side, about a yard in length and rounders every way. The mariners called it a sunne fish; it spreadeth out the finnes like beames on every side 4 or 5.

Thursday and Fryday (4th & 5th) the wind full E. we were carried with admiration on our journey. By this we were more than half way to New England. This day a fish very straunge to me, they call it a carvell; which came by the ship side, wafting along the top of the water. It appeared at the first like a bubble above the water as bigg as a man's fist, but the fish itselfe is about the bigness of a man's thum, so that the fish itselfe and the bubble resemble a ship with sayles, which therefore is called a carvell.

Saturday (6th) wind direct East still.

(7th) The 4th Sabbath we kept at sea. The wind easterly till noone, and then it came full S. E. a strong gale that night and the next day (8th) till night. Tuesday (9th) the same wind held till 9 a clock in the morning; and then a great showre which lasted till about 7 at night, and then it was a very calme. There we sounded with a dipled lyne above 100 fadome and found no bottom. This day we saw a fish called a turkle, a great and large shell fish, swimming above the water neere the ship.

Wednesday (10th) wind northerly, a fine gale but calmish in the afternoone.

Thursday (11th) the wind at N. an easye gale and fayre morning. We saw a mountayne of ice shining as white as snow like to a great rocke or clift on shoare, it stood still and therefore we thought it to be on ground and to reach the bottome of the sea. For though there came a mighty streame from the north yet it moved not, which made us sound, and we found a banke of 40 fathom deepe whereupon we judged

it to rest; and the height above was as much. We saw also 6 or 7 pieces of ice floating on the sea, which was broken off from the former mountayne: We also saw great store of water fowle swimming by the ship within musket shott, of a pyde colour and about the bigness of a wild duck, about 40 in a company. The mariners call them hag birds. Towards night came a fogge, that the Lion's Whelp was lost till morning. And now we saw many bony toes and grampuses every day more and more.

Fryday (12th) Foggie and calmish, the wind northerly in the morning, but about noon it came S. E. a dainty loome gale which carried us 6 leagues a watch.

Saturday (13) the same wind till night, and we saw great store of porpuses and grampuses.

The 5th Sabbath, (14th) The same wind, towards noon it began to be foggie, and then it rained till night, we went 4 or 5 leagues a watch.

Monday (15th) A fayer day but foggie, the same wind blowing but with fresh gales carried us 7 leagues a watch, In the afternoon it blew harder, so the sea was rough, and we lost the sight of the Lion's Whelpe: it being foggie we drummed for them, and they shot off a great piece of ordinance, but we feared not one another.

Tuesday (16th) wind S. by E. foggie till about 10 a clocke. While we were at prayers it cleared up about an houre, and then we saw the Lion's Whelpe, distant about 2 leagues southward. We presently tackt about to meet her, and she did the same to meet us, but before we could get together a thick fogge came, that we were long in finding each other. This day we sounded divers tymes, and found ourselves on another banke, at first 40 fathom, after 36, after 33, after 24. We thought it to have been the bank over against Cape Sable, but we were deceived, for we knew not

certainly where we were because of the fogge, After 3 or 4 hours company we lost the Lion's Whelpe agayne, and beate the drum and and shot of a great piece of ordinance, and yet heard not of them. But perceiving the bank to grow still shallower we found it 27 and 24 fathoms. Therefore, being a fogge and fearing we were too near land we tackt about for sea-roome for 2 or 3 watches and steered southeast.

Wednesday (17th) very foggie still, and wind S. and by W. and sounding found no bottom that we could reach.

Thursday (18th) wind full W. and contrary to us. This day a notorious wicked fellow that was given to swering and boasting of his former wickedness, bragged that he had got a wench with child before he came this voyage, and mocked at our daies of fast, railing and jesting against puritans, this fellow fell sick of the pockes and dyed. We sounded and found 38 fathom, and stayed for a little while to take some cod fish, and feasted ourselves merrily.

Fryday (19th) wind west still, a very fayre cleare day. About 4 a clocke in the afternoon some went up to the top of the mast, and affirmed to our great comfort they saw land to the north eastward.

Saturday (20th) wind S. W. a fayre gale. We sounded and found 40, 30, 22, and a little after no ground.

Sabbath (21st) being the 6th Lord's day; wind westerly and calm.

Monday (22nd) wind easterly, a fayre gale. This day we saw a great deal of froth not farre from us: we feared it might be some breach of water against some sunken ledge, therefore the master of our ship hoisted out the shallop and went with some of the men to see what it was, but found it onely to be a froathe carried by the streame.

Tuesday (23rd) The wind N. E. a fayre gale.

Wednesday (24th) wind N. E. a fayre day and clear;

about 9 a clocke in the morning we espied a shipp about 4 leagues behind us; which proved the *Lion's Whelpe*, which had been a weeke separated from us, we stopped for her company. This day a child of good man Blacke, which had a consumption before it came to shipp, died. This day we had all a cleare and comfortable sight of America, and of the Cape Sable that was over against us 7 or 8 leagues northward. Here we saw yellow gilliflowers on the sea.

Thursday (25th) wind still N. E. a full and fresh gale. In the afternoon we had a cleare sight of many islands and hills by the sea shoare. Now we saw abundance of mackrill, a great store of great whales puffing up water as they goe, some of them neare our shipp: their greatness did astonish us that saw them not before; their back appeared like a little island. At 5 a clocke at night the wind turned S. E. a fayre gale. This day we caught mackrill.

Fryday (26th) A foggie morning, but after cleare and wind calme, We saw many scools of mackrill, infinate multitudes on every side our ship. The sea was abundantly stored with rock weed and yellow flowers like gilly flowers. By noon we were within 3 leagues of Capan, and as we sayled along the coasts we saw every hill and dale and every island full of gay woods and high trees. The nearer we came to the shoare the more flowers in abundance, sometyme scattered abroad, sometymes joyned in sheets 9 or 10 yards long, which we supposed to be brought from the low meadowes by the tyde. Now what with fine woods and greene trees by land, and these yellow flowers paynting the sea, made us all desirous to see our new paradise of New England, whence we saw such forerunning signals of fertilitie afarre off. Coming near the harbour towards night we tackt about for sea-roome.

Saturday (27th) A foggie morning; but after 8 o'clock

in the morning very cleare, the wind being somewhat contrary at So. and by West, we tackt to and againe with getting little; but with much adoe, about 4 o'clock in the afternoone, having with much payne compassed the harbour and being ready to enter the same, see how things may suddenly change; There came a fearful gust of wind and rayne and thunder and lightning, whereby we were borne with no little terrour and trouble to our mariners, having very much adoe to loose downe the sayles when the fury of the storme held up. But God be praised it lasted but a while and soon abated agayne. And hereby the Lord showed us what he could have done with us, if it had pleased him. But blessed be God, he soone removed this storme, and it was a fayre and sweet evening.

We had a westerly wind which brought us between 5 and 6 o'clock to a fyne and sweet harbour, 7 miles from the head point of Capan. This harbour 20 ships may easily ryde therein, where there was an island whither four of our men with a boat went, and brought back agayne ripe strawberries, and gooseberries, and sweet single roses. Thus God was merciful to us in giving us a taste and smell of the sweet fruit as an earnest of his bountiful goodnes to welcome us at our first arrivall. This harbour was two leagues and something more from the harbour at Naimkecke where our ships were to rest and the plantation is already begun. But because the passage is difficult and night drew on, we put into Capan harbour.

(28) The Sabbath, being the first we kept in America, and the 7th Lord's day after we parted with England.

Monday (29th) we came from Capan, to go to Naimkecke, the wind northerly. I should have told you before that the planters spying our English colours, the Governour sent a shalop with 2 men on Saturday to pilot us. These

rested the Sabbath with us at Capan; and this day, by God's blessing and their directions, we passed the curious and difficult entrance into the large spacious harbour of Naimkecke. And as we passed along it was wonderful to behold so many islands replenished with thicke wood and high trees, and many fayre green pastures. And being come into the harbour we saw the George to our great comfort then being come on Tuesday, which was 7 daies before us. We rested that night with glad and thankful hearts to God who had put an end to our long and tedious journey through the greatest sea in the world.

The next morning (30th) the governour came aboard to our ship, and bade us kindly welcome, and invited me and my wiffe to come on shoare, and take our lodging in his house which we did accordingly.

Thus you have a faithful report collected from day to day of all the particulars that were worth noting in our passage.

Now for the present condition of the plantation what it is. When we came first to Naimkecke, now called Salem, we found about half a score houses built: and a fayre house newly built for the governour, and we found also abundance of corne planted by them, excellent good and well liking. We brought with us about 200 passengers and planters more, which now by common consent of all the ould planters are all now combyned together into one body politique under the same governor. There are with us in all ould and new planters 300, whereof 200 are settled at Naimkecke, now called Salem, and the rest plant themselves at Massachusetts bay, being to build a towne there called Charleston or Charlestowne; we that are settled at Salem make what haste we can to build, so that within a short tyme we shall have a fayre towne. We have great ordnance whereof we doubt not to fortifye ourselves in short tyme, to keep out a potent

adversarye. But that which is our greatest comfort and means of defence above all others, is, that we have here the true religion and holy ordinances of Almighty God amongst us. Thanks be to God, we have plenty of preaching and diligent catechising, with strict and carefull exercise of good and commendable orders to bring our people to Christian conversation which whilst we do we doubt not but God will be with us, and so Rom. 8.31, what shall we then say to these things. If God be with us who can be against us?

Now in our passage divers things are remarkable.

First through God's blessing our passage was short and speedy, for whereas we had 1000 leagues, that is 3000 miles English to saile from Ould to New England, we performed the same in 6 weeks and 3 dayes.

Secondly, our passage was comfortable and easie for the most part, being ordinarily fayre and moderate wind, and being freed for the most part from stormie and rough seas, saving one night onely, which we that were not used thought to be more terrible than indeed it was, and this was Wednesday at night May 27th.

Thirdly, our passage was also health full to our passengers, being freed from the great contagion of the scurvie and other maledictions, which in other passages to other places had taken away the lives of many. And yet we were in all reason in wonderful danger all the way, our ship being greatly crowded with passengers; but through God's great goodness we had none that died of the pockes but that wicked fellow that scorned at fasting and prayer. There were indeed 2 little children, one of my owne and another beside; but I do not impute it merely to the passage; for they were both very sickly children, and not likely to have lived long, if they had not gone to sea. And take this for a rule, if children be healthfull when they come to sea, the younger they are the

better they can endure the sea, and are not troubled with seasickness as older people are, as we had experience in many children that went this voyage. My wiffe indeed, in tossing weather, was something ill by vomiting, but in calme weather she recovered agayne, and is now much better for the seasickness. And for my owne part, whereas I have for divers years past been very sickly and ready to cast up whatever I have eaten, and was very sicke at London and Gravesend, yet from the tyme I came on shipboard to this day, I have been straungely healthfull. And now I can digest our ship diett very well, which I could not when I was at land. And indeed in this regard I have great cause to give God praise, that he hath made my coming to be a method to cure me of a wonderful weake stomacke and continued payne of melancholly wynd from the splene: Also divers children were sicke of the small pockes, but are safely recovered agayne, and 2 or 3 passengers towards the latter end of the voyage fell sicke of the scurvie, but coming to land receovered in a short tyme.

Fourthly, our passage was both pleasurable and profitable. For we received instruction and delight in behoulding the wonders of the Lord in the deepe waters, and sometimes seeing the sea round us appearing with a terrible countenance, and as it were full of high hills, and deepe valleys; and sometimes it appeared as a vast and even meadow. And ever and anon we saw divers kynds of fishes sporting in the great waters, great grampuses and huge whales going by companies and puffing up water-streames. Those that love their owne chimney corner, and dare not go farre beyond their owne townes end shall never have the honour to see these wonderfull workes of Almighty God.

Fifthly, we had a pious and Christian-like passage; for I suppose passengers shall seldom find a company of more

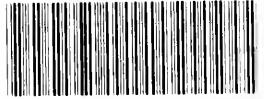
religious honest and kynd seamen that we had. We constantly served God morning and evening by reading and expounding a chapter singing and prayer. And the Sabbath was solemnly kept by adding to the former, preaching twice and catechising. And in our great need we kept 2 solemne fasts, and found a gracious effect. Let all that love and use fasting and praying take notice that it is as prevaileable by sea as by land, wheresoever it is faithfully performed. Besides the ship master and his company used every night to sett their 8 and 12 a clocke watches with singing a psalme and prayer that was not read out of a booke. This I wryte not for boasting and flattery; but for the benefit of those that have a mynd to come to New England hereafter, that if they looke for and desyre to have as prosperous a voyage as we had, they may use the same meanes to attayne the same.







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