

ORIGINAL NARRATIVES
OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

570

NARRATIVES
OF EARLY MARYLAND

1633—1684

EDITED BY

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WITH A MAP AND TWO FACSIMILES

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
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A BRIEFE RELATION OF THE VOYAGE UNTO
MARYLAND, BY FATHER ANDREW WHITE,
1634¹

ON S^t Cecilians 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, w^{ch} very kindly saluted us, how beit 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^t night soe strong a faire winde as forced a ffrench barke from her ankour hold driveing her foule upon 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 necessarily to follow, least we should part companie, and thus God frustrated the plot of our Seamen. This was the 23 of Novemb: on S^t 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 upon the rockes, t- other upon the sand.² I omitt 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 served us so well, that next day by 9 of Clocke we got beyond the westernne Cape of England, and so steered along not soe strongly as wee might because of our pinnace slow saileinge, whome

¹ The original manuscript is not divided into paragraphs and contains but little punctuation. The beginnings of sentences are not even marked by capital letters. The punctuation and capitalization of this text are such as the sense requires.

² "The one upon the rocks, the other," etc.

we feared to leave behinde, for feare shee might meet wth Turkes or some other pirates though we see none. By this meanes a faire shipp of London overtooke us 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 gave the other a topsaile and yet held with her. This done we stroke one course of our sailes, and staid for our pinnace, which was farre short of us, and the *Draggon*, for soe shee was called, runne from us 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 ffamouth,¹ 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 us to tell that if shee were in distresse shee would shew two lights in her shroodes. 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 choise, whether he would returne England as the *Draggon* did, or saile so close up to the winde, as if he should not hold it he must necessarily fall upon the Irish shoare, so infamous for rockes of greatest danger: of these two, out of a certaine hardinesse and desire to trie the goodnesse of his shipp, in which he had never beene at Sea afore, he resolved to keep the sea, with great danger, wanting Sea-roome. The winde grew still lowder and lowder, makeing a boysterous sea, and about midnight we espied our pinnace with her two lights, as she had forewarned us, in the shroodes, from w^{ch} time till six weekes, we never see her more, thinkeing shee had assuredly beene foundred 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 *Dragons* Company shee came to the long reach² and Canarie Iles, God provideing a convenient guard for that small vessell.

¹ Falmouth.

² The long stretch of open sea from the Canaries to the West Indies.

This night thus frightfull being past, the winde came about to South west, full against us, though not very stronge, so that with many tackes about we scarce crept on our way, soe all the 26 27 and 28 dayes the winde altered little. On the 29th the windes were all day a gathering and toward night poured forth such a sea of winde as if they would have blowen our shipp under water at every blast. All next day beinge the blessed apostle S^t Andrewes day, the like cloude 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 battaile array against us. This evening the master saw the sunne fish to swimme against the sunnes course, a thing evidently shewing fearfull stormes to come: about 10 in the night a blacke cloud shede a pittifull shower upon us, and presently such a furious winde followed as wee were able to beare noe cloath at all, and yet before we could take in our maine Course,¹ w^{ch} we onely carried, a furious impression of winde suddainely came, and splitt it from top to toae, and cast one part of it into the sea. This amazed the stoutest hearte, even of the sailours, who confessed they had seene ships cast away with lesse violence of weather, all the Catholiques fell to praier, Confessiones, and vowes, and then the helme being bound up, and ship left without saile or government to the windes and waves, floated at hull like a dish till god were pleased to take pittie upon her. Thus we were in feare 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 horours. This deliverie in a manner assured us of Gods mercy towards us, and those infidells Conversion of Maryland, his holy Goodness be forever praised, Amen.

From this time to our journeyes end, about 3 monethes, we had not one howre of bad weather, but soe prosperous 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 S^t Christophers, for we were at sea onely 7 weekes and 2 daies, w^{ch} is held a speedy passage. From this time all alonge the Spanish Coast we had

¹ Mainsail.