

The discovery of the printed *Declaration* is an event of distinct interest also in the record of American bibliography. It has not been supposed that this or a later generation of bibliographers would see the addition of another fundamental tract to the literature of English colonial settlement, yet exactly this has happened. After performing the service for which it was intended, this first descriptive tract of one of the earliest English colonies disappeared from memory and record. That it should have come to view again after three hundred years is one of those romantic occurrences that stir the blood of bookmen and make their seemingly dull pursuit the happiest of quests.

But even if the *Declaration* were entirely lacking in historical and bibliographical interest, it would still command more than the esteem due a curious relic from those who are interested in ideas and in their transmission by means of the written and printed word. It is a document closely associated in thought with Father Andrew White, one of the most picturesque of the lesser figures in the story of American colonization, and a restless, zealous priest, teacher and missionary conspicuous in an Order noted for men of his type.⁹ He acquired respected rank as a casuist, he attained academic distinction in a Society of learned men, and as professor of theology at Louvain and at Liège embarrassed his superiors by insistence upon a *ne varietur* attitude in interpreting the theological system of the Angelic Doctor, Thomas Aquinas. In the midst of his professorial career, he risked liberty more than once in missions to England (one thinks inevitably of Esmond's Father Holt in reading of him), and when, because of his almost fanatical Thomism, he was removed from his chair at