

## EPOCH II.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
ENGLISH COLONIES.

FROM 1607  
TO 1775



### THIS Epoch

traces the early history of the thirteen colonies—Virginia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. The Cavaliers land in Virginia, and the Puritans in Massachusetts. Immigration increases and the settlements multiply along the whole coast. The colonies, however, have little history in common. Each by itself struggles with the wilderness, contends with the Indian, and develops the principles of liberty.

*Questions on the Geography of the Second Epoch.*—Locate Jamestown. Salem. Boston. Swansea. Providence. Bristol. Hadley. Hatfield. Portsmouth. Dover. Hartford. Wethersfield. New Haven. Windsor. Saybrook. New York. Albany. Schenectady. Elizabethtown. Wilmington. Philadelphia. St. Mary's. Charleston. Savannah. Haverhill. Deerfield. St. Augustine. Quebec. Louisburg.

Locate Fort Venango. Oswego. Presque Isle. Fort Le Boeuf. Crown Point. Fort Ticonderoga. Fort Niagara. Fort Duquesne. Fort William Henry. Fort Edward.

Describe the Ohio River. Monongahela River. French Creek. Chowan River. Ashley River. Cooper River. River St. John. Potomac River. James River. Hudson River. Connecticut River. Mohawk River. Delaware River. Kennebec River. Penobscot River. Miami River. St. Lawrence River.

Locate Manhattan Island. Alleghany Mountains. Cape Breton. Massachusetts Bay. Chesapeake Bay.



## I.—VIRGINIA.

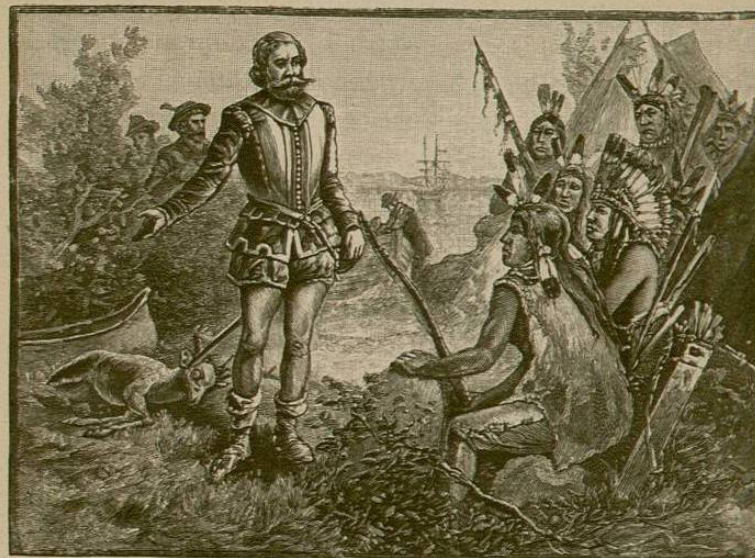
The Character of the colonists was poorly adapted to endure the hardships incident to a life in a new country. The settlers were mostly gentlemen by birth, unused to labor. They had no families, and came out in search of wealth or adventure, expecting, when rich, to return to England. The climate was unhealthy, and, before the first autumn, half of their number had perished.

John Smith\* saved the colony from ruin. First as a member of the council, and afterward as president, his services were invaluable. He persuaded the settlers to erect a fort, and to build log huts for the winter. He made long voyages, carefully exploring Chesapeake Bay, securing the friendship of the Indians, and bringing back boat-loads of supplies. He

\* Captain John Smith was born to adventure. While yet a boy he leaves his home in Lincolnshire, England, to engage in Holland wars. After a four-years service he builds a lodge of boughs in a forest, where he hunts, rides, and studies military tactics. Next we hear of him on his way to fight the Turks. Before reaching France he is robbed, and escapes death from want only by begging alms. Having embarked for Italy, a fearful storm arises; he, being a heretic, is deemed the cause, and is thrown overboard, but he swims to land. In the East, a famous Mussulman wishes to fight some Christian knight "to please the ladies"; Smith offers himself and slays three champions in succession. Taken prisoner in battle and sold as a slave, his head is shaved and his neck bound with an iron ring; he kills his master, arrays himself in the dead man's garments, mounts a horse and spurs his way to a Russian camp. Having returned to England, he embarks for the new world. On the voyage, he excites the jealousy of his fellows and is landed in chains; but his worth becomes so apparent that he is finally made president of the colony. His marvelous escapes seem now more abundant than ever. A certain fish inflicts a dangerous wound, but he finds an antidote, and afterward eats part of the same fish with great relish. He is poisoned, but overcomes the dose and severely beats the poisoner. His party of fifteen is attacked by Opechancanough (Op e kán'ka no), brother and successor of Powhatan, with seven hundred warriors; Smith drags the old chief by his long hair into the midst of the Indian braves, who, amazed at such audacity, immediately surrender. He is shockingly burned on a boat by the explosion of a bag of powder at his side; but he leaps into the water, where he barely escapes death by drowning. These and many other wonderful exploits he published in a book after his return to England. Historians very generally discredit them. His services were, however, of unquestionable value to Virginia; and his disinterestedness appears from the fact that he never received a foot of land in the colony his wisdom had saved.

trained the tender gentlemen till they learned how to swing the ax in the forest. He declared that "he who would not work, might not eat." He taught them that industry and self-reliance are the surest guarantees to fortune.

*Smith's Adventures* were of the most romantic character. In one of his expeditions up the Chickahominy\* he was



SMITH TRADING WITH THE INDIANS.

taken prisoner by the Indians. With singular coolness, he immediately tried to interest his captors by explaining the use of his pocket compass, and the motions of the moon and stars. At last, they allowed him to write a letter to Jamestown. When they found that this informed his friends of his misfortune, they were filled with astonishment.† They

\* This was undertaken by the express order of the company, to seek a passage to the Pacific Ocean, and thus to India. Captain Newport, before his return to England, made a trip up the James River for the same purpose, but on reaching the falls concluded that the way to India did not lie in that direction. These attempts show what inadequate ideas then prevailed concerning the size of this continent.

† As another evidence of the simplicity of the Indians, it is said that having seized



could not understand by what magical art he made a few marks on paper express his thoughts. They considered him a being of a superior order and treated him with the utmost respect. He was carried from one tribe to another\* and at last brought to the great chief, Pow ha tăn', by whom he was condemned to die. His head was laid on a stone, and the huge war-club of the Indian executioner was raised to strike the fatal blow. Suddenly, Po ca hōn'tas, the young daughter of the chief, who had already become attached to the prisoner, threw herself upon his neck and pleaded for his pardon.† The favorite of the tribe was given her desire. Smith was released, and soon sent home with promises of friendship. His little protector was often thereafter to be seen going to Jamestown with baskets of corn for the white men.

**A Second Charter (1609)** was now obtained by the company. This vested the authority in a governor instead of a local council. The colonists were not consulted with regard to the change, nor did the charter guarantee to them any rights.

**The "Starving Time."**—Unfortunately, Smith was disabled by a severe wound and compelled to return to England. His influence being removed, the settlers became a prey to disease and famine. Some were killed by the Indians. Some, in their despair, seized a boat and became pirates. The winter of 1609-10 was long known as the Starving Time. In six months, the colonists were reduced from 490 to 60. At last, they determined to flee from the wretched place. "None dropped a tear, for none had enjoyed one day of happiness."

a quantity of gunpowder belonging to the colonists, they planted it for seed, expecting to reap a full harvest of ammunition for the next contest.

\* His route was over the peninsula, since made famous by McClellan's campaign.

† This incident has been discredited because Smith did not mention it in his first account (1608) of his adventures, but describes it in the second one, published 16 years later. It should be remembered, however, that this conduct of Pocahontas

The next morning, as they slowly moved down with the tide, to their great joy they met their new governor, Lord Delaware, with abundant supplies and a company of immigrants. All returned to the homes they had just deserted, and Jamestown colony was once more rescued from ruin.

**The Third Charter.**—Up to this time, the colony had proved a failure and was publicly ridiculed in London. To quiet the outcry, the charter was changed (1612). The council in London was abolished, and the stockholders were given power to regulate the affairs of the company themselves.

**The Marriage of Pocahontas (1613).**—The little Indian girl had now grown to womanhood. John Rolfe, a young English planter, had won her love and wished to marry her. In the little church at Jamestown, rough almost as an Indian's wigwam, she received Christian baptism, and, in broken English, stammered the marriage vows according to the service of the Church of England.

Three years after, with her husband, she visited London. The child-like simplicity and winning grace of Lady Rebecca, as she was called, attracted universal admiration. She was introduced at court and received every mark of attention. As she was about to return to her native land with her husband and infant son,\* she suddenly died.

**First Colonial Assembly.**—Governor Yeardley (yeerd li) believed that the colonists should have "a hande in the governing of themselves". He accordingly called at Jamestown, July 30, 1619, THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE BODY THAT EVER ASSEMBLED IN AMERICA. It consisted of the governor, council, and deputies, or "burgesses", as they were called, chosen from the various plantations, or "boroughs". Its laws had to be

was entirely in accord with Indian usage, while it does not seem wise to drop out of our early history such a characteristic and beautiful legend.

\* This son became a man of distinction. Many of the leading families of Virginia have been proud to say that the blood of Pocahontas coursed through their veins.



ratified by the company in England; but, in turn, the orders from London were not binding unless ratified by the colonial assembly. These privileges were afterward (1621) embodied in a WRITTEN CONSTITUTION—the first of the kind in America. A measure of freedom was thus granted the young colony, and Jamestown became a nursery of liberty.

X **Prosperity of the Colony.**—The old famine troubles had now all passed. The attempt to work in common had been given up, and each man tilled his own land and received the avails. Tobacco was an article of export. The colonists were so eager in its cultivation that, at one time, they planted it even in the streets of Jamestown. Gold-hunting had ceased,\* and many of the former servants of the company owned plantations. Settlements lined both banks of the James for 140 miles. Best of all, young women of good character were brought over by the company. These sold readily as wives to the settlers. The price, at first, was fixed at the cost of the passage—100 pounds of tobacco—but wives were in such demand that it soon went up to 150 pounds. Domestic ties were formed. The colonists, having homes, now became Virginians. All freemen had the right to vote. Religious toleration was enjoyed. Virginia became almost an independent republic.

**Slavery Introduced.**—In 1619, the captain of a Dutch trading vessel sold to the colonists twenty negroes.† They were employed in cultivating tobacco. As their labor was found profitable, large numbers were afterward imported.

**Indian Troubles.**—After the death of Powhatan, the firm

\* In the early life of this colony, particles of mica glittering in the brook were mistaken for gold dust. "There was no talk, no hope, but dig gold, wash gold, refine gold, load gold." Newport carried to England a ship-load of the worthless stuff. Smith remonstrated in vain against this folly.

† From this circumstance, small as it seemed at the time, the most momentous consequences ensued,—consequences that, long after, rent the republic with strife, and moistened its soil with blood.

friend of the English, the Indians formed a plan for the extermination of the colony. So secretly was this managed that on the very morning of the massacre (March 22, 1622), they visited the houses and sat at the tables of those whose murder they were plotting. At a preconcerted moment, they attacked the colonists on all their widely-scattered plantations. Over three hundred men, women, and children fell in one day. Fortunately, a converted Indian had informed a friend whom he wished to save, and thus Jamestown and the settlements near by were prepared. A merciless war ensued, during which the colony was reduced from 4,000 to 2,500; but the Indians were so severely punished that they remained quiet for twenty years. Then came a fearful massacre of five hundred settlers (1644), which ended in the natives being expelled from the region.

**Virginia a Royal Province.**—The majority of the stockholders gladly granted to the infant colony those rights for which they were struggling at home. King James, becoming jealous of the company, because of its republican sentiments, took away the charter (1624), and made Virginia a royal province. Henceforth, the king appointed the governor and council, though the colony still retained its assembly.

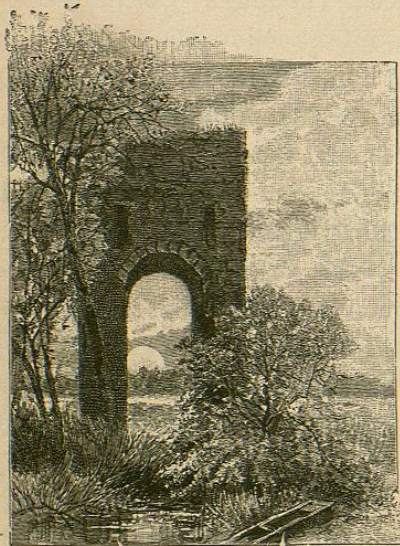
**A Period of Oppression.**—The British Parliament enforced the Navigation Act (1660), which ordered that the commerce of the colony should be carried on in English vessels, and that their tobacco should be shipped to England. Besides this, their own assembly was composed mainly of royalists, who levied exorbitant taxes, refused to go out of office when their term had expired, fixed their salary at about \$9 per day (equal to \$36 at the present time), restricted the right of voting to "freeholders and housekeepers", and imposed on Quakers a monthly fine of one hundred dollars for absence from worship in the English Church. Two parties



gradually sprung up in their midst: one, the aristocratic party, was composed of the rich planters and the office-holders; the other comprised the liberty-loving portion of the people, who felt themselves deprived of their rights.\*

**Bacon's Rebellion.**—These difficulties came to a crisis in 1676—a century before Independence Day—when Governor Berkeley failed to provide for the defense of the settlements against the Indians. At this juncture, Nathaniel Bacon, a patriotic young lawyer, rallied a company, defeated the Indians, and then turned to meet the governor, who had denounced him as a traitor. During the contest which followed, Berkeley was driven out of Jamestown and the village itself burned.† In the midst of this success, Bacon died. No leader could be found worthy to take his place, and the people

\* It is a curious fact that the royalists who fled from England in Cromwell's time took refuge in Virginia, and were hospitably entertained, while the "regicides" (the judges who condemned Charles I.) fled to Massachusetts and were concealed from their pursuers.



THE RUINS AT JAMESTOWN.

† Going up the James River, just before reaching City Point, one sees on the right-hand bank the ruins of an old church. The crumbling tower, with its arched doorways, is almost hidden by the profusion of shrubbery which surrounds it. Its moss-covered walls, entwined with ivy planted by loving hands which have since crumbled into dust, look desolately out upon the old church-yard at its back. Here, pushing aside the rank vines and tangled bushes which conceal them, one finds a few weather-beaten tombstones. A huge button-wood-tree, taking root below, has burst apart one of these old slabs, and now, with its many fellows, spreads its lofty branches high over the solitary dead. And this is all that remains of that Jamestown whose struggles we have here recorded.

dispersed. Berkeley revenged himself with terrible severity. On hearing of the facts, Charles II. impatiently declared, "He has taken more lives in that naked country than I did for the murder of my father."

## II.—MASSACHUSETTS.

The Plymouth Company made several attempts to explore North Virginia. Captain John Smith, already so famous in South Virginia, examined the coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod, drew a map of it, and called the country NEW ENGLAND. The company, stirred to action by his glowing accounts, obtained a new patent (1620) under the name of the Council for New England. This authorized them to make settlements and laws, and to carry on trade through a region reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and comprising over a million square miles. New England, however, was settled with no consent of king or council.

### 1. PLYMOUTH COLONY.

**Settlement.**—*Landing of the Pilgrims.*\*—One stormy day in the autumn of 1620, the Mayflower, with a band of

\* They were called *Pilgrims* because of their wanderings. About seventy years before this time the state religion of England had been changed from Catholic to Protestant; but a large number of the clergy and people were dissatisfied with what they thought to be a half-way policy on the part of the new church, and called for a more complete purification from old observances and doctrines. For this, they were called Puritans. They still believed in a state church, *i. e.*, that the *nation* of England was the *church* of England; and that the queen, as the head of both, could appoint church officers and prescribe the form of religious worship. They, however, wanted a change, and desired the government to make it to suit them. The government not only refused, but punished the Puritan clergy for not using the prescribed form of worship. This led some of them to question the authority of the government in religious matters. They came to believe that any body of Christians might declare itself a church, choose its own officers, and be independent of all external authority. When they began to form these local churches, they separated themselves from the Church of England, and for this reason are called *Separatists* and *Independents*. One of these churches of SEPARATISTS was at Scrooby, in the east of England. Not being allowed to worship in peace, they fled to Holland (1608), where they lived twelve