

thought, the other a man of action. One is concerned with the moral significance of human events, the other is preoccupied with surviving to tell his tale. One worships, the other explores. From the influence of these two types and the ways of living each represents, came the healthy tension out of which a nation not only could grow, but also could assess her growth with intelligence. Each was essential to the unfolding story of America.

Pocahontas

JOHN SMITH

Our comedies never endured long without a tragedie. Some idle exceptions being muttered against Captaine Smith, for not discovering the head of the Chickahamania river, and taxed by the Councell to be too slow in so worthy an attempt, the next voyage hee proceeded so farre that with much labour by cutting of trees insunder he made his passage; but when his barge could passe no farther, he left her in a broad bay out of danger of shot, commanding none should go ashore till his returne. Himselfe with two English and two salvages went up higher in a canowe. But hee was not long absent, but¹ his men went ashore, whose want of government gave both occasion and opportunity to the salvages to surprise one George Casen, whom they slew, and much failed not to have cut off the boat and all the rest.

Smith little dreaming of that accident, being got to the marshes at the river's head, twentie myles in the desert, had his two men slaine (as is supposed) sleeping by the canowe, whilst himselfe by fowling sought them victuall. Who finding

¹but: before

he was beset with 200 salvages, two of them he slew, still defending himselfe with the ayd of a salvage his guid, whom he bound to his arme with his garters, and used him as a buckler. Yet he was shot in his thigh a little, and had many arrowes that stuck in his cloathes, but no great hurt till at last they took him prisoner.

When this newes came to James towne, much was their sorrow for his losse, fewe expected what ensued.

Sixe or seven weakes those barbarians kept him prisoner; many strange triumphes and conjurations they made of him. Yet hee so demeaned himselfe amongst them, as he not only diverted them from surprising the fort,² but procured his owne libertie, and got himself and his company such estimation amongst them that those salvages admired him more than their owne Quiyouckosucks.

Their order in conducting him was thus. Drawing themselves all in fyle, the King in the middest had all their peeces and swords borne before him. Captaine Smith was led after him by three great salvages, holding him fast by each arme, and on each side went six in fyle with their arrowes nocked. . . . Smith they conducted to a long house, where thirtie or fortie tall fellowes did guard him; and ere long more bread and venison was brought him than would have served twentie men. I thinke his stomacke at that time was not very good. What he left they put in baskets and tyed over his head. About midnight they set the meate againe before him, till the next morning they brought him as much more, and they did eate all the old, and reserved the new as they had done the other, which made him thinke they would fat him to eat him. Yet in this desperate estate, to defend him from the cold, one Maocasser brought him his gowne, in requittal of some beads and toyes Smith had given him at his first arrival in Virginia.

At last they brought him to Meronocemoco, where was Powhatan their Emperor. Here more than two hundred of those grim courtiers stood wondering at him, as he had beene a monster, till Powhatan and his trayne had put themselves in their greatest braveries. Before a fire, upon a seat like a bed-

²fort: Jamestown

stead, he sat covered with a great robe made of rarowcun³ skinnes, and all the tayles hanging by. On either side did sit a young wench of 16 or 18 yeares, and along on each side the house, two rowes of men, and behind them as many women, with all their heads and shoulders painted red. Many of their heads bedecked with the white downe of birds, but every one with something, and a great chayne of white beads about their necks.

At his⁴ entrance before the King, all the people gave a great shout. The Queene of Appamatuck was appointed to bring him water to wash his hands, and another brought him a bunch of feathers in stead of a towell to dry them. Having feasted him after their best barbarous manner they could, a long consultation was held; but the conclusion was, two great stones were brought before Powhatan. Then as many as could, layd hands on him, dragged him to them, and thereon laid his head, and being ready with their clubs to beate out his braines. Pocahontas, the King's dearest daughter, when no in-treaty could prevaile, got his head in her armes, and laid her owne upon his to save him from death. Whereat the Emperor was contented he should live to make him hatchets, and her bells, beads, and copper; for they thought him as well of⁵ all occupations as themselves. For the King himselfe will make his owne robes, shooes, bowes, arrowes, pots; plant, hunt, or doe any thing as well as the rest.

They say he bore a pleasant shew,
But sure his heart was sad.
For who can pleasant be, and rest,
That lives in feare and dread,
And having life suspected, doth
It still suspected lead.

³rarowcun: raccoon

⁴his: Smith's

⁵well of: skillful in

FOR DISCUSSION

1. This account of Captain Smith's rescue by Pocahontas—now an American legend—was first published in England in 1624, fifteen years after the incident took place. Why do you think it would appeal to English readers for whom it was written? What impression would they gain of the New World and of the “salvages” who inhabited it? Why does Smith refer to their braves as courtiers and to their chief as Emperor?
2. Today, the historian is expected to state and interpret his facts accurately and objectively. Assuming that Smith's account is substantially true, what evidence can you find that the facts are, or are not, stated and interpreted objectively? Point out comments, descriptive words, or choice of details which will support your opinion.
3. Who is the “he” referred to in the lines of poetry which conclude this episode? Judging from this short excerpt, what kind of person was the famous Captain Smith?

On Their Safe Arrival at Cape Cod

WILLIAM BRADFORD

Being thus arived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they [the Pilgrims] fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven, who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the periles and miseries thereof, againe to set their feete on the firme and stable earth, their proper elemente. And no marvell if they were thus joyefull. . . .

But hear I cannot but stay and make a pause, and stand half amased at this poore people's presente condition; and so I thinke will the reader too, when he well considers the same. Being thus passed the vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before in their preparation (as may be remembered by that which wente before), they had now no friends to wellcome them, nor inns to entertaine or refresh their weather-beaten bodys, no houses or much less townes to repaire too, to seeke for succoure. It is recorded in scripture as a mercie to the apostle and his shipwraked company, that the barbarians shewed them no smale kindnes in refreshing them;¹ but these savage barbar-

¹It is . . . them: The apostle Paul was being taken as a prisoner from Jerusalem to Rome. The ship ran aground on the island of Malta, where the natives fed the travelers and kindled a fire for them.

ians, when they mette with them (as after will appeare) were readier to fill their sides full of arrows then otherwise. And for the season, it was winter, and they that know the winters of that cuntry know them to be sharp and violent, and subjecte to cruell and feirce stormes, deangerous to travill to known places, much more to serch an unknown coast.

Besides, what could they see but a hidious and desolate wildernes, full of wild beasts and willd men? And what multi-tudes their might be of them they knew not. . . .

For summer being done, all things stand upon them with a wether beaten face; and the whole cuntry full of woods and thickets, represented a wild and savage hiew.² If they looked behind them, ther was the mighty ocean which they had passed, and was now as a maine barr and goulfe to separate them from all the civill parts of the world. If it be said they had a ship to succour³ them, it is trew; but what heard they daly from the master and company, but that with speede they should looke out a place with their shallop,⁴ where they would be at some near distance. For the season was shuch as he would not stirr from thence till a safe harbor was discovered by them wher they would be, and he might goe without danger; and that victells consumed apace, but he must and would keepe sufficient for them selves⁵ and their returne. Yea, it was muttered by some that if they gott not a place in time, they would turne them and their goods ashore and leave them.

Let it also be considered what weake hopes of supply and succoure they left behinde them, that might bear up their minds in this sade condition and trialls they were under, and they could not but be very smale. It is true, indeed, the affections and love of their brethren at Leyden⁶ was cordiall and entire towards them; but they had litle power to help them, or them selves; and how the case stood betweene them and the merchants⁷ at their coming away, hath allready been declared.

²hiew: appearance

³succour: sustain

⁴shallop: small boat

⁵themselves: the sailors

⁶Leyden: The Puritans had gone to Leyden, Holland, before embarking for America.

⁷merchants: The colonists had agreed to give the products of their labor during the first seven years to the London merchants who had provided the money for the trip.

What could not sustaine them but the spirite of God and his Grace? May not and ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: *Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this willdernes; but they cried unto the Lord, and he heard their voyce, and looked on their adversitie, etc. Let them therefore praise the Lord, because he is good, and his mercies endure for ever. Yea, let them which have been redeemed of the Lord, shew how he hath delivered them from the hand of the oppressour. When they wandered in the deserte willdernes out of the way, and found no citie to dwell in, both hungrie, and thirstie, their soule was overwhelmed in them. Let them confess before the Lord his loving kindnes, and his wonderfull works before the sons of men.*

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Bradford's history *Of Plimmoth Plantation*, which was written between the years 1630 and 1648, was discovered in 1855 in the library of the Bishop of London and published. What makes you think it was printed exactly as he had written it down on paper?
2. Some critics have called this history one of the most important of early American documents, not only for its historical significance, but also for its literary style. Which sentences have much the same rhythm as lines from the Bible? Which words would you use to describe the tone of the writing—solemn, dignified, emotional, religious?
3. Point out what you consider the most important differences between this account and John Smith's account in what they chose to record and in the way they recorded it.

FOR COMPOSITION

Write a theme comparing and contrasting John Smith and William Bradford. Point out qualities each had that say something about the American character.