

NEW ENGLAND'S TRIALS

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New England's trials by John Smith & Charles Deane

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JOHN SMITH & CHARLES DEANE

NEW ENGLAND'S TRIALS

Providence Library -
from the Editor -
C. W.

Cambridge Mass. U.S.A.

Sept 6. 1873 -

NEW ENGLAND'S TRIALS

WRITTEN BY

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH

A REPRINT OF THE RARE FIRST EDITION OF 1620

WITH A PREFATORY NOTE



BY CHARLES DEANE

CAMBRIDGE

PRESS OF JOHN WILSON AND SON

1873.

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FIFTY COPIES PRINTED.

PREFACE TO THIS EDITION.

ON my first visit to the Bodleian Library at Oxford, in 1866, the first book I asked to look at was Hariot's *Virginia*, 1588; and the second was the first edition of Captain John Smith's "New England's *Trials*," 1620, both of which I had understood to be in that library. These books are of exceeding rarity; and though the British Museum also has a copy of each, I am not aware that either can be found in this country. I had for some years possessed a copy of the second edition of the "*Trials*," 1622, which is the one usually cited. Considerable additions were made to the second edition. The first contains only eight leaves of text, while the second contains fourteen. Neither edition is paged. By the phrase "New England's *Trials*," the author does not mean New England's afflictions or sufferings, but the *attempts* or *experiments* made in the prosecution of voyages thither for settlement or for fishing. The book was published four years after his "Description of New England," in which he gives an account of his only visit here two years before.

There is nothing in either edition to indicate that a map was published with it; yet it seems most probable

that Smith's map of New England, first issued in the "Description of New England," 1616, was reissued in both. The map is found in some of his later publications, and was also inserted as late as 1635 in Sparks's "Historia Mundi." The result of a collation of many copies of the map, by Mr. Lenox and myself, has shown that it was issued in at least nine different conditions, all from the same copperplate, but additions and alterations were made in the plate from time to time at subsequent issues of the map. The map was first published in its simplest form in the "Description of New England," 1616. One of these may be seen in a copy of this tract in the Prince Library. The second issue of the map, it is conjectured, was published in the "New England's Trials" of 1620. On this the date "1614," the year of Smith's visit to New England, was introduced under the scale of leagues, as are "P. Travers" and "Gerrard Isles," near Pembrock's Bay. These, so far as observed, are the only additions to the map in its second stage. A lithographic *fac-simile* of the map in this stage (except that a number of ships in the body of it are wanting) is prefixed to the reprint of Smith's "Advertisements," in 3 Mass. Hist. Coll., iii. 1.

This reprint of "New England's Trials" is made from a transcript taken from a copy of the original tract in the Bodleian Library. It is reprinted page for page according to the original. The vignettes and the ornamented initial letters are not *fac-similes*, but are selected from Mr. Wilson's font. The copy of this tract in the

British Museum is dedicated "To the Right Worshipful the Maister, the Wardens, and the Companie of the Fish-mongers"; but the language of the dedication is the same, line for line, as that in the Bodleian copy.

It is quite unnecessary to dwell here on the well-known career of Captain Smith. After living about two years and a half in Virginia, he left that settlement in 1609, "about Michaelmas" (the last of September), for England, never to return. We hear little further of him till, in 1614, he embarked for New England, then called North Virginia, "with two ships, sent out," as he says, "at the charge of Captain Marmaduke Roydon, Captain George Langan, M. Iohn Buley, and W. Skelton," merchants of London. "I went from the Downs the third of March, and arrived in New England the last of April, where I was to have stayed but with ten men to keep possession of those large territories." (*New England's Trials, second ed.*) He failed in making a settlement, and returned on the 18th of July, arriving at Plymouth the latter end of August. He brought back in the ship in which he sailed a large quantity of fish, furs, and oil, and a map of the country which he had drawn while there.

In March of the following year, 1615, Smith set sail from Plymouth with two vessels, fitted out by Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and others, for New England, where, "when the fishing was done, only with fifteen I was to stay in the country; but ill weather breaking all my masts, I was forced to return to Plymouth." The other