

**AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF SOME
MEMORABLE ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY
IN VIRGINIA; ALSO AGAINST THE
ADMIRAL OF ALGIER, AND IN THE EAST
INDIES: PERFORMED FOR THE SERVICE
OF HIS PRINCE AND COUNTRY**

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An Historical Account of Some Memorable Actions, Particularly in Virginia; also against the admiral of algier, and in the East indies: performed for the service of his prince and country by Sir Thomas Grantham & R. A. Brock

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SIR THOMAS GRANTHAM & R. A. BROCK

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Historical Account

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MEMORABLE ACTIONS,

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Against the Admiral of Algier, and in the
East Indies: Performed for the Ser-
vice of his Prince and Country,

BY SIR THOMAS GRANTHAM, KNIGHT,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

517 BY R. A. BROCK, ESQUIRE,

Secretary Virginia Historical Society.

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PREFACE.

At a meeting of the Joint Library Committee of the Legislature of Virginia, held February 18, 1882, Colonel SHERWIN McRAE, the Librarian, presented the following report concerning the book now reprinted:

"The volume containing 'THE MEMORABLE ACTIONS OF SIR THOMAS GRANTHAM, PARTICULARLY IN VIRGINIA,' is for the Library a most fortunate acquisition; throwing much light, as it does, on a part of the history of Virginia on which historians and scholars differ. This merit alone would demand its purchase, but in addition, there is good reason to believe that this copy which the Library possesses is the only one in existence. This fact (if so), independently of the intrinsic worth of the book, greatly increases its money value."

After the reading of the above, the Committee heard the application of the publisher for the privilege of reprinting, and unanimously passed the following resolution, which limits the edition to one hundred copies; but as the minutes were not written immediately, the Secretary has failed to note that the publisher was allowed discre-

tion in that matter, to the extent necessary to secure himself from loss:

"Leave was granted Mr. Carlton McCarthy to take from the Library the rare book entitled 'THE MEMORABLE ACTIONS OF SIR THOMAS GRANTHAM, 1716,' and to print therefrom one hundred copies, upon condition that he return the book in good order, and give the Library ten of the copies so printed."

True copy from Journal of Joint Library Committee, February 18, 1882.

SHERWIN McRAE,
Assistant and Acting Librarian.

INTRODUCTION.

The original of the little tract, which is herewith for the first time reprinted, is in the Library of the State of Virginia, for which it was recently purchased in the city of New York. Upon the tract the critical bibliographer Sabin thus comments: "A very rare piece. I have only seen one copy." (Dictionary of Books relating to America, No. 28,323.) It is the judgment of Colonel Sherwin McRae, the State Librarian, who has given the matter careful investigation, that the copy in his custody and that noted by Sabin are one and the same, and that it is in all probability the only copy in America. The tract is mentioned by Lowndes (Manual of Bibliography), who ascribes to the same author, also, "The Prisoner against the Prelate, or a Dialogue between the Common Gaol and the Cathedral of London, 1650. 8vo."

Allibone (Dictionary of Authors) gives the following only as the productions of Sir Thomas Grantham: "The Prisoner against the Prelate, 1650; Christianismus and Primitivus, 1678, folio; other theological works, 1644—80." The present tract, aside from its rarity, is of interest and value in the novel details which it furnishes of one of the most memorable episodes in the early history of Virginia—that popular uprising known as Bacon's Rebellion.

The leader in this movement was Nathaniel Bacon, Jr., a member of the distinguished English family of the name, and whose life gave no uncertain assurance of his noble heritage.

Scarcely thirty years of age, possessed of ample fortune, learned, eloquent, invested with the honorable station of Councillor, popular with all classes, a happy husband and father, his patriotism and philanthropy cannot justly be questioned. He had all to lose and nothing to gain by opposing the existing authorities. His oratorical powers are strikingly evidenced in the lofty declaration quoted in the tract (pp. 12, 13), which is a noble vindication, as well, of the purity of his motives.

Virginia groaned beneath the accumulated oppressions of Charles the Second and his insatiate minions. The profligate monarch found a fitting viceroy in the choleric and uncompromising Berkeley, who gives infamous testimony to his own character in his memorable reply to an inquiry of the English Council: "I thank God there are no free-schools, nor printing, and I hope we shall not have these three hundred years; for learning has brought disobedience into the world, and printing has divulged them and libels against the best government. God keep us from both!"*

To the intolerable grievances of the Colonists, was added another, imminently vital, in their defenceless surrender by the Governor to Indian massacre. Denied protection by him, they had no recourse but in revolt. They found a leader in Bacon, who had an immediate stimulant in the murder by the savages of his overseer and a favorite servant, at his plantation near Richmond, on the stream still known as Bacon Quarter Branch.

* Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. ii, p. 511.