CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.

REPLY TO MR. ALEXANDER BROWN'S ATTACK IN "THE GENESIS."

Defense of Smith by Mr. William Wirt Henry—His Baptism—Adventures As a Soldier—Exploits Against the Turks—Mr. Brown's Charges in Detail.

(From the Magazine of American History for April, 1891.)

In the "Genesis of the United States" Mr. Alexander Brown, of Virginia, has made an invaluable contribution to the history of the colonization of America by the English, in collecting and arranging 300 documents relating to the movement between 1605 and 1616, which resulted in establishing a colony at Jamestown. Of the documents printed nearly 300 are here for the first time given to the public, having been for the most part unearthed in the archives of Europe by the indefatigable author. The whole presents as a panorama the grand movement which established in North America a bulwark against the all-absorbing Spanish power, and finally gave North America to the English people as a theatre upon which to demonstrate that man is capable of self-goverment.

Mr. Brown is to be congratulated upon the grandeur with which he has invested the movement, in preserving the facts relating to it. And for his painstaking in this, as in the sketches of the actors appended, he deserves, as I am sure he will receive, the hearty thanks of all students of America history.

With so much to commend in his admirable volumes, it is a grief to the writer to notice that the author seems to be filled with a dislike, or rather a hatred, of the most conspicuous figure in the settlement of Jamestown during the first three years of its existence, the preserver of the colony and its historian. Mr. Brown but seldom, if ever, mentions the name of the celebrated Captain John Smith, the hero of so many adventures in Virginia and elsewhere, except to sneer at him or to denounce him. As a historian the author pronounces him unworthy of belief. He says: "It is true the accuracy of all his statements cannot be tested, but enough can be to make it evident that all must be before they can be safely taken for use in accurate history or biography." And of whom is this sweeping condemnation made? A man selected by the company in London to be one of the council which was to govern the colony, the truthfulness of whose writings upon Virginia was attested by numbers of men who were actors in the events described, one who enjoyed the friendship and confidence of many of the most learned and pious men of his age, and whose history was, from the time of its publication in 1624 till the rise of the race of iconoclasts in late years, known as the school of higher criticism, accepted as the standard authority upon the early English colonization of North America. Surely to expect to utterly discredit such a man displays a degree of self-confidence in our author which is remarkable.

SMITH'S ADVENTURES.

Fortunately for the old hero who is thus expected to be annihilated at a blow, he pointed to the authorities which attest his accuracy in the matters concerning which Mr. Brown makes the most determined assaults upon him, and by these the writer will permit him to stand or fall. In his sketch of Smith Mr. Brown fiercely attacks his account of his adventures before coming to Virginia, contained in "True Travels, Adventures and Observations of Captain John Smith," published in 1629, as well as his record of affairs in Virginia from the settlement in 1607 till the publication of his "Generall Historie of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles" in 1624. This attack will be noticed in some detail. As an instance of Smith's inaccuracy, Mr. Brown states that he was baptized 6th January, 1579, and his father died in April, 1596, his mother surviving, yet Smith tells us "his parents died when he was about thirteen years of age." Mr. Edward Arber in his admirable edition of Smith's works, printed in 1884, gives extracts from the register of Willoughby by Alford in Lincolnshire (p. xxi), by which it appears that "John the son of George Smayth was baptized the ixth dail of Januarye (1579, or according to modern reckoning 1580)," and that "George Smith of Willoughbi was buried ye iii day of April (1596)." Arber also gives (xix xx) the will of George Smith, dated 30th March, 1596, which provides for Alice his wife, and describes John as his oldest son. This George Smith is believed to have been the father of Captain John Smith, and by this record it would appear he was sixteen years old when his father died. The passage in Smith's "True Travels" is not accurately quoted by Mr. Brown. It is as follows: "His parents dying when he was about Thirteene yeeres of age," etc. The word parents may as well be the possessive case of parents as the plural, for Smith in his writings makes no distinction between the two, not using the modern sign of the possessive case ('). It may refer, therefore, solely to his father's dying. If this George Smith was the father of Captain John, it would follow that the "about Thirteene yeeres of age" was really sixteen, and that the writer, in recalling his youth in his fiftieth year, had not a very accurate recollection of his age when his father died. Mr. Brown can make the most of this, as Mr. Neill has done before him in "Virginia Vetusta," but to the ordinary reader it will hardly tend to discredit Smith in his narration of the events of his life. Very few people can remember the dates of their early experiences with accuracy. I doubt whether either Mr. Niell or Mr. Brown can recall, without reference to a register, the date of his father's death.

If the word parents was used in the plural, no mistake can be considered as proved as to Smith's mother, until Mr. Brown has adduced evidence that the Alice Smith, named in the will as wife of George Smith, was the mother and not the stepmother of John, or that, if the mother, she survived her husband a considerable time. As to the other misstatements charged upon Smith by Mr. Brown, the evidence adduced is inconclusive, and one is left in wonder that any one should have been condemned upon it.

SMITH AS A SOLDIER.

Smith states that after the death of his father he attended Mr. Peregrine Bertie into France, where he joined "his brother Robert then at Orleans, now Earle of Linsey, and Lord Great Chamberlaine of England," that by them he was sent back to his friends within a month or six weeks, but instead of returning to England he went to Havre de Grace, where he first began to learn the life of a soldier; that afterward he went with Captain Duxbury to the Low countries, where he served three or four years and then returned to England by way of Scotland, from whence after a short stay he returned to the "Low Countreyes." After a good deal of adventurous travel, he states that he entered the Austrian service in the regiment commanded by the Earl of Meldritch. Under him he first distinguished himself at the siege of Olumpagh by the Turks, which town he relieved by communicating with the Austrian commander by signals made with torches, upon a plan taught by him to the commander before the siege. Mr. Brown fixes the siege of Olumpagh after October, 1600, and states that Peregrine Bertie left England to travel abroad after June 26, 1599. Thus he concludes that Smith has crowded within less than eighteen months the events of at least five years.

PEREGRINE BERTIE.

If Smith left England soon after his father's death in April, 1596, as his narrative indicates, there was ample time before November, 1600, for the events he relates. Mr. Brown has not given references to authorities for his statements, but the departure of Peregrine Bertie from England to travel abroad is evidently taken from a passage in "Virginia Vestusa," purporting to be an extract from the Public Record office at London, as follows: "June 26, 1599. Licence to Peregrine Bertie, youngest son of Lord Willoughby of Eresby, to travel for three years with his tutor, two servants, two horses, and 60 £ in money." It seems, therefore, that because Peregrine Bertie traveled on the continent after June 26, 1599, Mr. Brown has concluded that he did not visit France before, which is clearly a non sequitir. It is worthy of note that the "True Travels," etc., of Smith, were dedicated to three prominent men, one of whom was Robert Bertie, Earl of Lindsey, whom Smith met, as he says, on this visit to France about 1596. To have made a false statement as to this meeting under such circumstances would have been most remarkable.

RELIEF OF OLUMPAGH.

A further instance of Mr. Brown's careless attack upon Smith is found in his reference to the stratagem of signals by which he relieved Olumpagh. Mr. Brown would make us believe that Smith claimed the credit of inventing it, while it is in fact described in William Bourne's "Inventions of 1578." A little attention to Smith's text would have shown our author that Smith did not claim the credit of inventing it. He says he "acquainted Baron Kissell, Generall of the Archduke's artillery, he had taught the Governour, his worthy friend, such a rule, that he would undertake to make him know anything he intended and have his answer, would they bring him but to some place where he might make the flame of a torch seene to the towne."

The governor was Lord Ebersbaught, with whom Smith had previously been acquainted and who had recommended him to Baron Kissell, and Smith only claims to have taught him the rule, not to have invented it. But while Mr. Brown discredits all of Smith's adventures under Earl Meldritch, he seems to be satisfied that he has effectually exploded his claim to have killed in single combat three Turks before the town of Regall. Mr. Brown states that at that time the Turks were the allies of Sigismundus, under whom Earl Meldritch was fighting. He thereupon broadly insinuates that Smith forged the patent recorded in the Heralds' Office, purporting to have been given him by Sigismundus in recognition of his services at Regall. As to this, however, and of all the adventures of Smith while serving under the Earl of Meldritch, we have a remarkable confirmation by a disinterested witness.

PURCHAS' PILGRIMS.

In 1625 the Rev. Samuel Purchas published his great work, "Purchas His Pilgrimes." The author is described by Boissard, who is followed by Chalmers and by the "Encyclopædia Britannica," as "a man exquisitely skilled in languages, and all arts, divine and human; a very great philosopher, historian, and divine; a faithful presbyter of the Church of England, very famous for many excellent writings." This learned man and eminent divine was personally well acquainted with Smith, and has given his unqualified indorsement of him as a historian in his writings. Chapter eleven of the second volume of "His Pilgrimes" is devoted to "The travels of Captain John Smith in divers parts of the world." It commences with Smith's second visit to the continent, and relates his adventures till he enlisted under Earl Meldritch, and adds: "With whom going to Vienna in Austria hee made him captaine of 250 souldiers, under whose regiments how he spent his time, this ensuing discourse will declare, as it is written in a book intituled the Warres of Transilvania, Wallachi and Moldavia, written by Francisco Ferneza, a learned Italian, secretarie to Sigismundus Bathor the Prince." Then follows quotations, "Extracts of Captaine Smith's Transylvanian acts out of Fr. Fer." These quoted extracts relate the sieges of Olumpagh and Stowile-Wesenburg, and the strategems of Smith at each, and also the siege of Regall and the combats of Smith with three Turks. After relating these the author continues as follows: "The Prince (Sigismundus) coming to view the armie presented with the Prisoners, and six and thirtie ensignes (after his accustomed manner, having given thanks to God), he was acquainted what service Smith had done at Olumpagh, Stolewisenberge, and Regall; for which with great honor and solemnitie, he gave him three Turkes heads in a shield for armes, with an oath ever to weare them in his colours, his picture in gold, and three hundred duckats yeerely for a pension." Purchas also relates the battle of Rottenton upon the authority of this Italian author, and adds a brief account of Smith's capture there, and of his sale into captivity, his escape and return home. In his own account of the incidents thus related, including the extracts from Ferneza, Smith follows the text of Purchas, and there is nothing for which Mr. Brown attacks him as to this period that is not given on the authority of the private secretary of Sigismundus. As to the fact that at the siege of Regall Smith was fighting against the Turks, and was not their ally, the following extract from Ferneza as given by Purchas should be conclusive:

AGAINST THE TURKS.

"Duke Mercurie, dividing his armie, sent the Earle Meldritch (of whose company was Captaine Smith in this encounter) to assist the Lord Basta, generall for the Emperor Rudolph, against Sigismundus Bathur, the Prince of Transylvania, who, beyond all men's belief, newly returned from Poland and established in his estate. The Earle, neither finding pay nor such regard as he expected, persuaded his troops rather to serve the Prince against the Turkes than Basta against the Prince. The souldiers, worne out with these payless travels, upon hope to make bootie of what they could get from the Turkes, were easily persuaded to follow him wheresoever; especially to help regaine or ransack his father's country, then possessed by the Turkes, which (they had) notwithstanding those warres was rich and unspoyled. . . . The Earle having made many incursions into the land of Zarkain, amongst the rockie mountains, where the people were some Turkes, some Tartars, some Jewes, but most banditoes, renegadoes, and such like, which sometimes he forced into the Plaines of Regall." Then follows the siege of that town as related by Smith. Strange to say, this conclusive authority adduced by Purchas is not noticed by Mr. Brown.

I might well conclude this branch of my subject here, but in consideration of the difficulties which seems to beset Mr. Brown's mind, I will notice the only authority which he has adduced. It will be well to recall to the reader that Sigismundus Bathori, king of Poland, claimed also the crown of Transylvania. In 1599 he resigned his claim in favor of his brother Andreas, who was attacked and defeated by Michael the Brave in conjunction with an Austrian army under General Basti. Micheal then seized the reins of government, but there was a revolt of the people, and General Basti heading it drove him out. He made favor, however, with the emperor, and returned with a force under Basti and attacked Sigismundus, who had again laid claim to the crown. Soon afterward Michael was murdered, and it was then that Earl Meldrich was detached from the Austrian army under the Duke de Mercœur and sent to the aid of Basti. Meldritch was born in Transylvania, and finding a part of the territory in the possession of the Austrians, a part in the possession of Sigismundus, and a part in possession of a band of outlaws, among whom were some Turks, carried his men over to Sigismundus and asked permission to drive out the outlaws. This being granted, he drove them into Regall and laid siege to the town. Mr. Brown claims, apparently upon the authority of Knoll's "History of the Turks," that the army of Sigismundus was composed of "Polonians, Turks and Tartars." If this be so, yet it would not make the Turks among the "Banditoes and Renegadoes" driven into Regall, allies of Sigismundus; and so Mr. Brown's great point against Smith amounts to nothing.

SIGISMUNDUS.

Sigismundus was forced to retire from Transylvania after making terms with the Austrians. After Smith's return from captivity he tells us he visited him at "Lipswick in Misenland, who gave him his passe, intimating the service he had done and the honors he had received, with fifteene hundred ducats of gold to repaire his losses." This paper is the one recorded at the Herald's office, and bears date 9th December, 1603. It was evidently given instead of the patent previously given in 1602, as related by Ferneza, which last, no doubt, had been lost when Smith was captured at Rottenton. Mr. Brown's cavil that Sigismundus was no longer "Duke of Transylvania," etc., as described in the paper of 1603, is remarkable, in view of the habit of sovereigns to retain titles once assumed long after they have lost the territories on which they were based. An instance stares Mr. Brown in the face in the charters to the London company given in his book, wherein James describes himself as "King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland," when France had been lost to the English Crown since the days of Henry VI.

Removing Shoes.

It is well-known that a visitor when about to enter a Japanese house must lay aside his street shoes, lest he should soil the immaculate mats, and the follower of Mahomet does the same upon entering his sacred places. It seems also that the visitor to the Old Schloss (palace) at Berlin is required to make a similar change.

"As we entered the palace," writes a friend, "we were detained in one of the corridors, and all were obliged to put on soft thick gray felt slippers, in which we noiselessly passed over the polished floors, leaving no mark upon the shining surface. These slippers consist merely of a toe and a sole, with no heel. We were each obliged to step up in turn before the guard, who dropped them before us, and then skate off over the slippery floors as best we could."

No attention is paid to the fit, of course. Each must take them as they come. "Mine," says my friend, "were tremendous. I believe they would have been too large for the biggest man I ever saw; so you may imagine that I had to slide along cautiously, lest I should lose them. The occasional glimpses of ourselves that we had in the mirrors were very ridiculous—standing in these great canal-boats."—Wide Awake.

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

FACTS AND FANCIES LIKELY TO PLEASE THEM.

Poor Robin—A Touching Account of What Befell a Redbreast's Home—An Enterprising Little Prince—How the Heir Apparent Amuses Himself.

Back from the South, the advance guard of a great army numbering many millions, is now coming to invade the Northern States. Only pickets and scouts are appearing now above the line that used to mark the division between the Northern and Southern States, but very soon these scouts and pickets will be followed by platoons, regiments and brigades. There is nothing alarming, however, in this invasion. On the contrary, we shall all be delighted to see and glad to welcome the bold invaders.

Among the first of the scouts will be the little friend of every boy and girl, and the subject of sweet memory in every adult, Master Robin Redbreast, with his brisk and blithesome ways and his short but melodious song. Then will come their other feathered acquaintances, the bluebird, the woodpecker, the lark, the thrush, the chippy and the plaintive "pee-wee." Meantime we shall see, passing proudly over our heads (if we have the good fortune to be in the line of march), the grand army corps of pigeons, ducks and geese.

These large birds do not often stop to visit us now. Their old tarrying grounds have been cut up into farms, and the awful shotgun awaits them on every hand. They go far to the Northward now, the pigeons chiefly to the great forests in Canada, and the ducks and geese to the lakes away up in the neighborhood of the Arctic circle.

Our little friends, whom we shall now see flitting among the trees near our homes, frisking about our lawns, perching on garden fences and on housetops, are of far more interest to the lover of nature than are the armies of large birds, which are chiefly suggestive of something good to eat.

Undoubtedly the robin, as we call him in America, or redbreast, as they call him in England, is the prime favorite among all so-called wild birds. He is not so handsome as the oriole, or the bluebird, or the tiny yellow bird, or even some varieties of blackbird, but he is so affectionate, so gentle, and so wonderfully devoted to his family, that he seems a little dearer to us than any other of the feathered friends that delight us with their presence and charm us with their songs.

The robin seems more trustful in the good intentions of mankind than any other bird. In selecting places for their nests they apparently have but little fear of molestation from human hands. In fact, there is reason to believe that their usually kind treatment leads them to rely, to some extent, on humanity to protect them from natural enemies. Any way, a pair will often build their nests within hand reach of the window of a house, and they have been known to nest and bring forth their brood in a room that was purposely kept accessible to them.

There is one peculiar trait in the robin. While all the rest of our song birds and chippers dissolve their marriage ties at the end of the season, and then form new matrimonial alliances next year, Robin Redbreast and his mate cling together until death separates them. You never see robins in flocks. The pairs live solely for each other and their little ones, and their devotion to one another is hardly paralleled in any other of nature's creatures.

The distress of one of the pair when the other has been killed, or of the two when mishap has befallen their young ones, is most pitiable. The survivor will restlessly fly about from one tree to another, constantly emitting a piteous wail, refusing to eat or sleep, and often finally falling dead from exhaustion. The writer witnessed the following in his boyhood days in the Susquehanna Valley:

A pair of robins had made their nest in an orchard tree near the house. The young brood had just emerged from the shells and the parents, one at a time, were joyously skirmishing about for choice tidbits for their little ones, meantime expressing their happiness in constant songs and chirps. Near evening one day it was noticed that the female was flying about restlessly near the nest, emitting the quick, sharp cry indicative of trouble. The male could not be seen and the heads of the young ones were visible at the top of the nest, with expansive mouths, eager for their supper.

The distress of the female constantly increased. She would not remain still a second, but wildly flew about near the nest, uttering that wild wail of anguish. It was evidenced that something had happened to her mate. He would not remain away from his little family so long if he were able to get home.

Next morning poor little Robin Redbreast was found dead under a tree at the farther end of the orchard. While industriously gathering food for those little mouths in the nest, he had been cruelly killed by some gunner that had passed along the adjacent road. The weird wail of the bereaved mate had been heard at daylight, and she was flying about more wildly than before. The young ones were clamoring for their breakfast. Occasionally the old one would hastily capture a worm and take it to them, but the food was evidently insufficient.

On the morning of the second day the poor mother was found dead under the tree, and two of the four little ones were dead in the nest. The other two died the same day.

It was a clear case of death from exhaustion caused by grief as to the mother, and the resultant want of parental care as to the young ones.

Only a little broken-hearted robin!—Philadelphia Times.

An Enterprising Little Prince.

The German Crown Prince has already posed before the Berlin public in a series of exploits that would reflect credit on the inventive genius of an American boy. At his father's accession to the throne the tiny Prince Frederick Wilhelm became Crown Prince of the Empire. The dignity, honor, and responsibility of the position were carefully explained to him.

He pondered deeply over the first two considerations, and with startling results. One day while out driving with his governess, as they approached the Potsdam palace, he requested the worthy Countess to sit on the opposite side of the carriage.

"What for?" demanded the lady in astonishment.

"Because," replied the youthful dignitary, "I am going to be the Kaiser of Germany, and it is not fitting that you should sit on the same seat with me."

The Countess, not liking to indulge this silly whim, coaxed, reasoned, protested, but all to no purpose. His Royal Highness was inexorable, and finally cut all argument short by giving the signal that stopped the carriage, and then he gravely informed the lady that she must either sit with her back to the horses or get out and walk.

The Prince's guardians were aghast at the dilemma. They dislike to make such a scene as might have occurred had it been a case of Master Tommy Smith or Dickey Brown, and it was against all precedent for the Prince to ride alone. However, the Countess, very wisely, as it proved, decided on the latter course as the less of two evils. She alighted from the carriage in as dignified a manner as was compatible with having been turned out of it by royalty, and quietly said:

"Very well, Your Royal Highness may ride alone and I shall walk, but as soon as I reach the palace I shall immediately lay this matter before your imperial papa."

So the Crown Prince traveled to his ancestral halls in solitary grandeur, while the lady trudged the distance on foot. Once arrived at the palace she was as good as her word, and His Royal Highness was speedily cited to appear at a domestic tribunal in which judge and jury were represented by the Emperor of Germany. The governess told her story, the Crown Prince told his, and then—alas, for human pretensions, the Court literally took the law into its own hands and administered to the too previous aspirant for imperial honors what is vulgarly known as a sound spanking.

Among the gentlemen of the household is one who is a great favorite with the little Princes, because he possesses a fascinating toy in the shape of a crush hat, which it is the royal children's delight to shut up with a bang.

One day the Rev. Marktahller had an informal audience with the Kaiser, and left his hat—a clerical black silk article—in an anteroom adjoining the audience chamber. Into the former apartment strolled the little Crown Prince and announced his presence with a howl of delight just as the pastor was bowing himself out of the audience chamber. The Kaiser, hearing his son's voice, stepped to the door of the ante-room and encountered that princeling, his face flushed with triumph, and in his hand the almost unrecognizable ruin of the preacher's high silk hat, which His Royal Highness had forcibly compelled to perform the opera hat trick, as he ingeniously explained.

"Papa, at first it wouldn't, but finally I sat down on it and made it."

Papa was profuse in his apologies to his clerical visitor for the mishap, but the minister of the gospel was quite charmed with the novel mark of royal attention, and no doubt keeps his ruined hat under a glass case.

Like a true Hohenzollern, the Crown Prince is intensely military in his tastes; his favorite toys are soldiers and cannon, and he faithfully transmits to his little brothers the lesson learned from his drill-master. One day the Kaiser in his study was much puzzled over the number of military salutes given by the guard at the opposite guard-house. The salutes continuing, the Kaiser's curiosity was so thoroughly aroused that he went himself to investigate, remarking that he did not know there were so many generals in the German Empire. The supposed procession of generals soon resolved itself into one small royal kid, who would show himself at a conspicuous window, receive a salute, which he acknowledged by making faces at the guard, and then disappear to repeat the performance inside of two minutes, the soldiers meanwhile making herculean efforts to keep straight faces, until the farce was stopped by the Kaiser's sending for the delinquent and delivering to him a short lecture on the dignity of the German army, and utterly prohibiting its use as a plaything.

All the little German Princes are very strictly brought up to habits of industry, punctuality and early rising, while their daily food is much plainer than that of most middle-class German children.

The Crown Prince and his next younger brother may often be seen in their carriage driving through Unter den Linden, which pastime the poor little fellows cannot find very enjoyable, as they have to keep their hands constantly up to their hats returning, with military salute, the bows of the people, who always line the street to see them pass. They would be noticed for bright, fine-looking boys anywhere, and the second one, Eitel Friedrich, has a remarkably sweet face.

To conclude with the latest story afloat, one day the two little brothers were playing in a room adjoining the Kaiser's study, and the racket got so furious, being accompanied by various howls and war-whoops, that papa stepped in to inquire the cause. He discovered the older boy sitting on the younger one, whom he was pounding with both fists in true pugilistic style.

"What is the meaning of this?" demanded the Kaiser.

"I was just showing Eitel Fritz who's Crown Prince," modestly explained the victor.

His Majesty was equal to the emergency. Said he: "Young man, you come here and I'll show you who's Kaiser."

Probably it was the afternoon of this day and in amicable adjustment of the morning's dispute that the two little fellows, driving through the Thiergarten, were observed to hug and kiss each other as if they had been parted for years.—New York World.

Corean Wonders.

Corea, like the world of the ancient, has its "seven wonders." Briefly stated, they are as follows: First, a hot mineral spring near Kim-Shantao, the healing properties of which are believed to be miraculous. No matter what disease may afflict the patient a dip in the water proves efficacious. The second wonder is two springs situated at a considerable distance from each other, in fact, they have the breadth of the entire peninsula between them. They have two peculiarities. When one is full the other is alway empty, and, notwithstanding the obvious fact that they are connected by a subterranean passage, one is of the bitterest bitter, and the other pure and sweet.

The third wonder is Cold Wave cave, a cavern from which a wintry wind perpetually blows. The force of the wind from the cave is such that a strong man cannot stand before it. A forest that cannot be eradicated is the fourth wonder. No matter what injury is done to the roots of the trees, which are large pines, they will sprout up again directly—like the phœnix from her ashes. The fifth is the most wonderful of all. It is the famous "floating stone." It stands, or seems to stand, in front of the palace erected in its honor. It is an irregular cube of great bulk. It appears to be resting on the ground, free from supports on all sides, but, strange to say, two men at opposite ends of a rope may pass it under the stone without encountering any obstacle whatever.

The sixth wonder is the "hot stone," which from remote ages has lain glowing with heat on the top of a high hill. The seventh and last Corean wonder is a drop of the sweat of Buddha. For thirty paces around the large temple in which it is enshrined not a blade of grass will grow. There are no trees or flowers inside the sacred square. Even the animals decline to profane a spot so holy.—St. Louis Republic.

Captain Kidd's Treasures.

A few months ago an enterprising stranger, sojourning in a village near the eastern end of Long Island, hit upon a device for raising money. He spent days and days exploring certain parts of the shore, where tradition has it that the famous pirate, Captain Kidd, buried a portion of his treasures previous to his arrest and trial for freebooting. After a month or so devoted to the mysterious explorations and digging here and there in the earth, this enterprising genius, whose name was Morton, caused it to be widespread about that he had found Kidd's bank of deposit and secured some of his coin. When addressed on the subject he was very reluctant to talk, and his reluctance only whetted public curiosity. The report of his "find" was confirmed by the woman at whose house he boarded; her prying eyes had looked upon a dozen or more silver coins of very ancient date in his room, and their antiquity was further evidenced by their blackness through long disuse. She whispered the momentous secret, and one day while he was detained elsewhere by convivial companions, his room was examined by two or three men who had appointed themselves a committee of investigation. They saw and handled the coins, all of them bearing date of the seventeenth century, the period in which Kidd's piracies were committed. Excitement ran high, and then further questioning led Morton to tell his story.

He said he had learned from a rudely drawn map, which came into his possession through a descendant of one of Kidd's men, the locality where the treasure lay, but the map was not sufficiently explicit to define the spot within a hundred yards or more. Consequently, he had been compelled to dig in many places. He had finally found the deposit, but was only able to take away a few of the coins, as he reached the treasure just as day was breaking. He had hastily filled the hole, and since then he was not able to go to the spot in consequence of being so closely watched. He knew there was a large chest, or the remains of one, and that it appeared to be full of coin, and that was all he could tell. He offered to sell a half share in the "find" for $1,000, just for the sake of protection and security, though he would not take $10,000, or even $20,000 for the whole of it.

The hopes of the villagers were high, and it was proposed to raise the $1,000 among them at once. The matter was under discussion in the village store one evening, and the coins were freely passed from hand to hand as indications of the genuineness of the discovery. Nobody doubted the truth of the stranger's story, which was confirmed by the rude and very ancient map which had guided him in his search. A young man, whose head was filled with tales of the pirate Kidd, but who was unusually well versed in his history, was allowed to look at the coins. He examined them attentively, and suddenly remarked that it was very strange that one of them was dated 1699. "Captain Kidd was a pirate in the East Indies," said the young man, "in the years 1697 and '98. Then he came back to the West Indies, where he was in April, 1699, and he was in Boston, where he was arrested in June of the same year. Now, I don't see how it was possible for a dollar, which was coined in Spain in 1699, to be sent to the East Indies so that Captain Kidd could capture it in that year and get to the West Indies by April or to Boston by June." A light dawned upon the listeners, and the stranger said he would go to his boarding place and bring documents that would satisfy everybody. He left the store hastily and was not again seen by any of the villagers. His scheme was well planned, and would quite likely have been crowned with success had he not made the blunder just described of including a coin of 1699 in his recollection. The bright young man, who remembered what he had read and reasoned therefrom, is now regarded with great respect by his elders.—Colonel Knox in Chicago Tribune.

HICKOK'S NO. 1, H. D. C., FIG, AND CAROLINE SUN-CURED ARE PURE, CLEAN AND CHOICE SUN-CURED TOBACCOS. TRY THEM.

INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1890, of the actual condition of the U. S. Branch of the THAMES AND MERSEY MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, limited, organized under the laws of Great Britain, made to the Auditor of Public Accounts for the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to sections 1280 and 1281, Code 1887, regulating the reports of Insurance Companies.

Name of the company in full—THAMES AND MERSEY MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY (limited).
Home or principal office of said company—Nos. 69 Wall street, New York city.
Character of the company, whether fire, fire and marine, or marine insurance company—MARINE.
Chairman—S. SANDBACK PARKER, Liverpool.
Manager and Principal Agent in United States—A. J. MACDONALD.
Secretary—J. KIDMAN, Liverpool.
Organized and incorporated—JULY, 1880.
Commenced business—AUGUST, 1880.
Name of the General Agent in Virginia—B. C. WHERRY.
Residence of the General Agent in Virginia—RICHMOND.

I. CAPITAL.

The amount of subscribed capital stock of such corporation (in Great Britain)	$10,000,000 00
The amount of said capital stock paid up in cash	1,000,000 00
The amount still unpaid for	9,000,000 00

II. ASSETS.

Account of Stocks, Bonds and Treasury Notes of the United States and of this State and other States, and also of Stocks and Bonds of Incorporated Cities in this State, and of all other Stocks and Bonds, owned absolutely by the Company:

	Total Par Value.	Total Market Value.	
United States registered 4 per cent. bonds @ 121½	$ 375,000 00	$ 455,625 00	
Chicago and Northwestern railroad company general consolidated 7 per cent. gold bonds @ 125	80,000 00	100,000 00	
			555,625 00
Total par and market value, carried out at market value	$455,000 00	$555,625 00	
Cash in Company's principal office, 69 Wall street, New York city			4,221 95
Cash deposited in bank (name bank) National city			9,019 41
Gross premiums in course of collection not more than three months due			18,364 43
All other property belonging to the Company, viz.: due from other companies for reinsurance on losses already paid (name of companies) New York Insurance Company, $455.06; Providence Washington Insurance Company, $27.80. Total			482 86
The gross amount of all the assets of the Company			587,713 65
Amount of premiums unpaid on policies which have been issued more than three months, $249.92			
Aggregate amount of all the assets of the Company, stated at their actual value			587,713 65

III. LIABILITIES.

The liabilities of said company:		
Gross losses in process of adjustment, or in suspense, including all reported and supposed losses	$ 15,688 00	
Losses resisted, including interest, costs and other expenses thereon	20,763 00	
Total gross amount of claims for losses	36,451 00	
Deduct reinsurance thereon	5,737 00	
Net amount of unpaid losses		$ 30,714 00
Gross premiums (cash and bills) received and receivable upon all unexpired marine risks	$ 24,700 00	
Total unearned premiums as computed above		24,700 00
All other demands against the company, absolute and contingent, due and to become due, admitted and contested—viz., State, city, county or other taxes and assessments, commissions, brokerage and other charges due and to become due to agents and brokers on premiums paid and in course of collection, $687.66; reinsuring companies, $1,911.38		2,599 04
Total amount of all liabilities, except capital stock and net surplus		58,013 04
Surplus beyond capital and all other liabilities		529,700 61
Aggregate amount of all liabilities, including paid-up capital stock and net surplus		$ 587,713 65

IV. INCOME.

The income of said company during the preceding twelve months, and from what source derived:

	For Marine and Inland Risks.	
Gross premiums received in cash without any deduction	$ 239,417 22	
Gross cash receipts for premiums	$ 239,417 22	
Deduct only reinsurance, rebate, abatement and return premiums	41,417 17	
Net cash actually received for premiums		$ 198,000 05
Received for interest and dividends on stocks and bonds, collateral loans, and from all other sources		22,000 00
Aggregate amount of income actually received during the year		220,000 05

V. EXPENDITURES.

The expenditures of said company, giving a detailed statement of the same:

	On Marine and Inland Risks.	
Gross amount actually paid for losses, including $20,533.00 losses occurring in previous years	$ 78,494 50	
Deduct all amounts actually received for salvages (whether on losses of the last or of previous years: $9,179.71, and all amounts actually received for reinsurance in other companies, $3,732.76	12,912 47	
Net amount paid during the year for losses		$ 65,582 03
Paid for commissions or brokerage		15,099 61
Paid for salaries, fees and all other charges of officers, clerks, agents and all other employes		15,675 96
Paid for state, national and local taxes in this and other States		9,127 37
All other payments and expenditures—viz., interest on borrowed money, rent, supplies, &c., $8,332.19; legal expenses, $6,602.52. Total		15,534 71
Aggregate amount of actual expenses during the year		$ 121,019 68

Remitted to home office, Liverpool, during year, $102,574.89.

A. J. MACDOLALD, Manager and Principal Agent in the United States.

STATE OF NEW YORK, CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, } ss.

Be it remembered that on the 16th day of January, 1891, at the city aforesaid, before me, Edwin F. Corey, a Commissioner resident in said city, duly commissioned and qualified by the executive authority, and under the laws of the State of Virginia, to take acknowledgment of deeds, &c., to be used or recorded therein, personally appeared A. J. Macdonald, manager and principal agent in the United States of the Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Company (limited) of London, England, who, being sworn, deposes and says, that the above-described officer of the said company, and that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of the actual condition of said organization on the last day of its fiscal year—to-wit, the 31st day of December, 1890, according to the best of their information, knowledge and belief respectively.

(SEAL) In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office on the 16th day of January, 1891.

EDWIN F. COREY, Commissioner.

B. C. WHERRY, Agent,
1111 East Main Street, Richmond, Va.
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ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1890, OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, CHAPTER 33, SECTIONS 1280 AND 1281, REGULATING THE REPORTS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Name of the company in full, THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.
Home or principal office of said company, 120 Broadway, New York City.
Character of the company—whether life, accident, casualty, city co-operative association, brotherhood, live stock, or any other association insuring life—Life.
President, HENRY B. HYDE.
Vice-President, JAMES W. ALEXANDER.
Secretary, WILLIAM ALEXANDER.
Cashier, SIDNEY D. RIPLEY.
Comptroller, JOHN A. MCCALL.
Organized and incorporated July 26, 1859.
Commenced business July 28, 1859.
Name of the general agent in Virginia, JOHN R. WEST.
Residence of the general agent in Virginia, Richmond.

The number of policies issued during the year	54,576
The amount of insurance effected thereby	$ 202,273,915 00
The amount of premiums received during the year	29,553,369 63
The amount of interest received, and all other receipts	35,036,683 24
The amount of losses and allowances, also endowments and additions paid during the year	8,817,940 27
The amount of expenses	7,537,390 37
The whole number of policies in force	197,825
The amount of liabilities or risks thereon, and all other liabilities	95,503,297 13
The amount of capital stock, if any	100,000 00
The amount of assets and how invested	119,243,744 47
Cash on hand and deposit in trust companies at interest	8,694,854 78
Real estate, including purchases under foreclosure	27,159,037 31
Bonds and stocks owned by the company	51,729,253 60
Loans on bonds and mortgages, and on stocks and bonds	28,145,766 88
Interest and rents due and accrued, deferred premiums and other securities	3,514,831 88
Amount of dividends	1,066,930 20

STATE OF NEW YORK, CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, } ss:

Be it remembered, That on the 27th day of February, 1891, at the city aforesaid, before me, Charles Nettleton, a commissioner resident in the said city, duly commissioned and qualified by the executive authority, and under the laws of the State of Virginia, to take acknowledgment of deeds, &c., to be used or recorded therein, personally appeared John A. McCall, Comptroller, and William Alexander, Secretary, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, a Life Insurance Company of New York city, N. Y., who being duly sworn, depose and say, and each for himself says, that they are the above-described officers of the said company, and that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of the actual condition of said organization on the last days of its fiscal year—to-wit: the 31st day of December, 1890, according to the best of their knowledge, information and belief, respectively.

JOHN A. MCCALL, Comptroller.
W. ALEXANDER, Secretary.

(SEAL) In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office, on the 27th day of February, 1891.

CHARLES NETTLETON,
Commissioner for Virginia in New York.

JOHN R. WEST,
MANAGER,
NO. 4 S. TWELFTH ST., RICHMOND, VA.
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