

CHAPTER XL

Captain Harley coming to me with a new proposition of other hopes.

WHILE I was laboring by what means I might best continue life in my languishing hopes, there comes one Captain Henry Harley unto me, bringing with him a native of the island of Capawick [Martha's Vineyard,] a place seated to the southward of Cape Cod, whose name was Epenowe, a person of a goodly stature, strong and well proportioned. This man was taken upon the main with some twenty-nine others by a ship of London, that endeavored to sell them for slaves in Spain ; but being understood that they were Americans, and found to be unapt for their uses, they would not meddle with them, this being one of them they refused. Wherein they expressed more worth than those that brought them to the market, who could not but know that our nation was at that time in travail for settling of Christian colonies upon that continent, it being an act much tending to our prejudice, when we came into that part of the countries, as it shall further appear. How Captain Harley came to be possessed of this savage, I know not ; but I understood by others how he had been showed in London for a wonder. It is true (as I have said) he was a goodly man, of a brave aspect, stout, and sober in his demeanor, and had learned so much English as to bid those that wondered at him, "*Welcome ! Welcome !*" this being the last and best use they could make of him, that was not grown out of the people's wonder. The Captain, falling further into his familiarity, found him to be of acquaintance and friendship with those subject to the Bashaba, whom the Captain well knew, being himself one of the Plantation sent over by the Lord Chief Justice, and by that means understood much of his language, found out the place of his birth, nature of the country, their several kinds of commodities and the like ; by

which he conceived great hope that good might be made of him, if means could be found for his employment. But finding adventurers of that kind were worn out of date, after so many failings and so soon upon the return of our late colony, the gentleman calling to mind my aptness to designs of that nature, lays up his rest to discover his greatest secrets to me, by whom he had hoped to rise or fall in this action. After he had spoken with me, and that I had seen his savage, though I had some reason to believe the gentleman in what he told me, yet I thought it not amiss to take some time before I undertook a business (as I thought) so improbable in some particulars. But yet I doubted not, my resolution being such (as is said) I might make some use of his service; and therefore wished him to leave him with me, giving him my word, that when I saw my time to send again to those parts, he should have notice of it, and I would be glad to accept of his service, and that with as great kindness as he freely offered it; in the mean time, he might be pleased to take his own course,

CHAPTER XII.

The reasons of my undertaking the employment for the island of Capawick.

At the time this new savage came unto me, I had recovered Assacumet, one of the natives I sent with Captain Chalownes in his unhappy employment, with whom I lodged Epenaw, who at the first hardly understood one the other's speech; till after a while I perceived the difference was no more than that as ours is between the Northern and Southern people; so that I was a little eased in the use I made of my old servant, whom I engaged to give account of what he learned by conference between themselves, and he as faithfully performed it. Being fully satisfied of what he was able to say, and the time of making ready drawing on, following my pretended designs, I thought it became me to acquaint the thrice-honored Lord of Southampton with it, for that I knew the Captain had some relation to his Lord-

ship, and I not willing in those days to undertake any matter extraordinary without his Lordship's advice; who approved of it so well that he adventured one hundred pounds in that employment, and his Lordship being at that time commander of the Isle of Wight, where the Captain had his abiding under his Lordship, out of his nobleness was pleased to furnish me with some land soldiers, and to commend to me a grave gentleman, one Captain Hobson, who was willing to go that voyage and to adventure one hundred pounds himself. To him I gave the command of the ship, all things being ready, and the company came together, attending but for a fair wind. They set sail in June, in anno 1614, being fully instructed how to demean themselves in every kind, carrying with them Epenow, Assacomet, and Wenape, another native of those parts, sent me out of the Isle of Wight for my better information in the parts of the country of his knowledge. When as it pleased God that they were arrived upon the coast, they were piloted from place to place by the natives themselves as well as their hearts could desire. And coming to the harbor where Epenow was to make good his undertaking, the principal inhabitants of the place came aboard, some of them being his brothers, others his near cousins; who, after they had communed together, and were kindly entertained by the Captain, departed in their canoes, promising the next morning to come aboard again, and bring some trade with them. But Epenow privately (as it appeared) had contracted with his friends how he might make his escape without performing what he had undertaken, being in truth no more than he had told me he was to do though with loss of his life; for otherwise, if it were found that he had discovered the secrets of his country, he was sure to have his brains knocked out as soon as he came ashore. For that cause I gave the Captain strict charge to endeavor by all means to prevent his escaping from them; and for the more surety, I gave order to have three gentlemen of my own kindred (two brothers of Sturton's, and Master Matthews) to be ever at hand with him, clothing him with

long garments, fitly to be laid hold on if occasion should require. Notwithstanding all this, his friends being all come at the time appointed with twenty canoes, and lying at a certain distance with their bows ready, the Captain calls to them to come aboard; but they not moving, he speaks to Epenow to come unto him where he was, in the forecastle of the ship. He, being then in the waist of the ship between two of the gentlemen that had him in guard, starts suddenly from them, and coming to the Captain, calls to his friends in English to come aboard; in the interim slips himself overboard, and although he was taken hold of by one of the company, yet being a strong and heavy man, could not be stayed, and was no sooner in the water but the natives sent such a shower of arrows, and came withal desperately so near the ship, that they carried him away in despite of all the musketeers aboard, who were for the number as good as our nation did afford. And thus were my hopes of that particular made void and frustrate, and they returned without doing more, though otherwise ordered how to have spent that summer to good purpose. But such are the fruits to be looked for, by employing men more zealous of gain than fraught with experience how to make it.