Publications of the Prince Society.

THE NEW

ENGLISH CANAÁN.
THE

NEW ENGLISH CANAAN

OF

THOMAS MORTON.

WITH INTRODUCTORY MATTER AND NOTES

BY

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, JR. Editor

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NEW ENGLISH CANAAN,
OR NEW CANAAN.

The Third Booke.

Containing a description of the People that are planted there, what remarkable Accidents have happened there since they were settled, what Tenents they should, together with the practice of their Church.

CHAP. I.

Of a great League made with the Plimouth Planters after their arrivall, by the Sachem of those Territories.¹

The Sachem of the Territories where the Planters of New England are settled, that are the first of the now Inhabitants of New Canaan, not knowing what they were, or whether they would be freindes or foes, and being desirous

¹ This is a confused, rambling acc. which took place during the first year count of the familiar Indian incidents after the landing at Plymouth. There is
After this, the water of the fountaine at Ma-re Mount was thought fit to be applyed unto her for a remedy, shee willingly used according to the quality thereof.

And when this Elegy came to be divulged, shee was so conscious of her crime that shee put up her pipes, and with the next shipp shee packt away to Virginea, (her former habitation,) quite cured of her mellancolly, with the helpe of the water of the fountaine at Ma-re Mount.

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*Chap. XIV.

Of the Revells of New Canaan.¹

The Inhabitants of Pasonage-fit, (having translated the name of their habitation from that ancient Salvage name to Ma-re Mount,² and being resolved to have the new name confirmed for a memorial to after ages,) did devise amongst themselves to have it performed in a solemne manner, with Revels and merriment after the old English custome; [they] prepared to sett up a Maypole upon the festivall day of Philip and Iacob, and therefore brewed a barrell of excellent beare and provided a case of bottles, to be spent, with other good cheare, for all commers of that day. And because they would have it in a compleat forme, they had prepared a song fitting to the time and present occasion. And upon Mayday they brought the Maypole to the place appointed, with

¹ Supra, 17-19.  
² Supra, 14, note 4.
with drums, gunnes, pistols and other fitting instruments, for that purpose; and there erected it with the help of Salvages, that came thereto of purpose to see the manner of our Revels. A goodly pine tree of 80. foote longe was reared up, with a peare of buckshorns nayled one somewhat neare unto the top of it: where it stood, as a faire sea marke for directions how to finde out the way to mine Hofsle of Ma-re Mount.

And because it should more fully appeare to what end it was placed there, they had a poem in readines made, which was fixed to the Maypole, to shew the new name confirmed upon that plantation; which, althought it were made according to the occurcents * of the time, it, being * 133 Enigmattically compoused, pufelled the Seperatists moft pittifully to expound it, which, (for the better information of the reader,) I have here inserted.

THE POEM.

Rise Oedipeus, and, if thou canst, unfoold
What meanes Caribdis underneath the mould,
When Scilla solitary on the ground
(Sitting in forme of Niobe,) was found,
Till Amphitrites Darling did acquaint
Grim Neptune with the Tenor of her plaint,
And causd him send forth Triton with the sound
Of Trumpet lowd, at which the Seas were found
So full of Protean formes that the bold Shore
Presented Scilla a new parramore

So
The man who brought her over was named Sampson Iob.

So stronge as Sampson and so patient
As Job himselfe, directed thus, by fate,
To comfort Scilla so unfortunate.
I doe profess, by Cupids beautious mother,
Heres Scogans choice\(^1\) for Scilla, and none other;
Though Scilla's sick with greife, because no signe
Can there be found of vertue masculine.
Esclapius come; I know right well
His laboure's lost when you may ring her Knell.
The fatall sisters doome none can withstand,
Nor Cithareas powre, who poyns to land
With proclamation that the first of May
At Ma-re Mount shall be kept holyday.

\(^*\) 134  The setting up of this Maypole was a lamentable spectacle to the precise Separatists, that lived at new Plimouth. They termed it an Idol; yea, they called it the Calfe of Horeb, and stood at defiance with the place, naming it Mount Dagon; threatening to make it a woeful mount and not a merry mount.

The Riddle, for want of Oedipus, they could not expound; onely they made some explication of part of it, and sayd it was meant by Sampson Iob, the carpenter of the shipp that brought

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\(^1\) John Scogan was the famous court buffoon, attached to the household of Edward IV., whose head Justice Shallow makes the youthful Falstaff break at the court gate (Henry IV. Part II. act iii. sc. 2), though Falstaff is represented as having died at least twenty years before Scogan could have been born. In regard to him, see Doran's Court Fools, pp. 123-39. "Scogan's choice," in Morton's day, seems to have been a popular expression, signifying that a choice of some fort is better than no power to choose at all. It was derived probably from the story of Scogan, that he was once ordered to be hanged, but allowed the privilege of choosing the tree. He escaped the penalty by being unable to find a tree to his liking. Morton uses the expression again, see infra, *137. But the reference here is as obscure as "the poem."
brought over a woman to her husband, that had bin there longe before and thrived so well that hee sent for her and her children to come to him; where shortly after hee died: having no reason, but because of the sound of those two words; when as, (the truth is,) the man they applyed it to was altogether unknowne to the Author.

There was likewise a merry song made, which, (to make their Revells more fashionable,) was sung with a Corus, every man bearing his part; which they performed in a daunce, hand in hand about the Maypole, whiles one of the Company sung and filled out the good liquor, like gamedes and Jupiter.

**THE SONGE.**

*Cor.*

Drinke and be merry, merry, merry boyes;
Let all your delight be in the Hymens ioyes;
Jo to Hymen, now the day is come,
About the merry Maypole take a Roome.
Make greene garlons, bring bottles out
And fill sweet Neclar freely about.
* Uncover thy head and feare no harme,
For hers good liquor to keepe it warme.
Then drinke and be merry, &c.

Iro to Hymen, &c.

Neclar is a thing assign'd
By the Deities owne minde
To cure the hart opprest with greife,
And of good liquors is the cheife.
Then drinke, &c.

Iro to Hymen, &c.  

*Give
Give to the Mellancolly man
A cup or two of 't now and than;
This physick will soone revive his bloud,
And make him be of a merrier moode.
Then drinke, &c.
Io to Hymen, &c.
Give to the Nymphe thats free from scorne
No Irish stuff nor Scotch over worne.
Lasses in beaver coats come away,
Yee shall be welcome to us night and day.
To drinke and be merry &c.
Io to Hymen, &c.

This harmles mirth made by younge men, (that lived in hope to have wifes brought over to them, that would save them a laboure to make a voyage to fetch any over,) was much diftasted of the precife Seperatists, that keepe much a doe about the tyth of Muit and Cummin, troubling their braines more then reason would require about things that are indifferent: and from that time sought occasion *136 against my* honest Hoft of Ma-re Mount, to overthrow his undertakings and to destroy his plantation quite and cleane. But because they presumed with their imaginary gifts, (which they have out of Phaos box,1) they could expound hidden misteries, to convince them of blindness, as well in this as in other matters of more consequence, I will illustrate the poem, according to the true intent of the authors of these Revells, so much diftasted by those Moles.

Oedipus is generally receaved for the absolute reader of riddles, who is invoaked: Silla and Caribdis are two danger-

1 Infra, 348, note.
oys places for seamen to encounter, neere unto Vennice; and have bin by poets formerly resembled to man and wife. The like licence the author challenged for a paire of his nomination, the one lamenting for the losse of the other as Niobe for her children. Amphitrite is an arme of the Sea, by which the newes was carried up and downe of a rich widow, now to be tane up or laid downe. By Triton is the fame spread that caused the Suters to muster, (as it had bin to Penellope of Greece;) and, the Coast lying circuler, all our passage to and froe is made more convenient by Sea then Land. Many aimed at this marke; but hee that played Proteus beft and could comply with her humor must be the man that would carry her; and hee had need have Sampfons strenght to deale with a Dallila, and as much patience as Iob that should come there, for a thing that I did ob-serve in the life-time of the former.

But marriage and hanging, (they say,) comes by defteny and Scogans choife\(^1\) tis better [than] none at all. Hee that *playd Proteus, (with the helpe of Pria-\(^{137}\)pus,) put their noses out of joynt, as the Proverbe is.

And this the whole company of the Revellers at Mære Mount knew to be the true fence and exposition of the riddle that was fixed to the Maypole, which the Seperatifts were at defiance with. Some of them affirmed that the first institution thereof was in memory of a whore;\(^2\) not knowing that it was a Trophe erected at first in honor of Maja, the Lady of learning which they despife, vilifying the two universties

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1 Supra, 278, note 1.  
2 "Ye Roman Goddes Flora." (Bradford, p. 237.)
universities with uncivile termes, accounting what is there obtained by study is but unnecessary learning; not considering that learning does enable mens mindes to converse with eliments of a higher nature then is to be found within the habitation of the Mole.

**Chap. XV.**

*Of a great Monster supposed to be at Ma-re-Mount; and the preparation made to destroy it.*

The Separatists, envying the prosperity and hope of the Plantation at Ma-re Mount, (which they perceaved to come forward, and to be in a good way for gaine in the Beaver trade,) conspired together against mine Host especially, (who was the owner of that Plantation,) and made up a party against him; and mustred up what aide they could, accounting of him as of a great Monster.

Many threatening speeches were given out both against his person and his Habitation, which they divulged shoulde be consumed with fire: And taking advantage of the time when his company, (which seemed little to regard their threats,) were gone up into the Inlands to trade with the Salvages for Beaver, they set upon my honest host at a place called Weffaguscus, where, by accident, they found him. The inhabitants there were in good hope of the subversion of the plantation at Mare Mount, (which they principally aymed at;) and the rather because mine host was a man

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1 In regard to the arrest of Morton by Standish, in June, 1628, see supra, 27-9.
man that indeavoured to advaunce the dignity of the Church of England; which they, (on the contrary part,) would laboure to vilifie with uncivile termes: enveying against the sacred booke of common prayer, and mine host that used it in a laudable manner amongst his family, as a practife of piety.

There hee would be a meanes to bringe sacks to their mill, (such is the thirst after Beaver,) and helped the conspiratores to surprife mine host, (who was there all alone;) and they charged him, (because they would see me to have some reasonable cause against him to set a gloss upon their mallice,) with criminall things; whichindeede had beene done by such a person, but was of their conspiracy; mine host demanded of the conspirators who it was that was author of that information, that seemed to be their ground for what they now intended. And because they answered they would not tell him, hee as peremptorily replyed, that hee would not say whether he had, or he had not done as they had bin informed.

* The answere made no matter, (as it seemed,) whether it had bin negatively or affirmatively made; for they had resolved what hee should suffer, because, (as they boasted,) they were now become the greater number: they had shaked of their shackles of servitude, and were become Masters, and masterles people.

It appeares they were like beares whelpes in former time, when mine host's plantation was of as much strengthen as theirs, but now, (theirs being stronger,) they, (like overgroune beares,) seemed monstrous. In breife, mine host must indure to be their prisoner untill they could contrive it so that they might
might send him for England, (as they said,) there to suffer according to the merit of the fact which they intended to father upon him; supposing, (belike,) it would prove a hainous crime.

Much rejoicing was made that they had gotten their cappitall enemy, (as they concluded him;) whome they purposed to hamper in such fort that hee should not be able to uphold his plantation at Ma-re Mount.

The Conspirators sported themselves at my honest host, that meant them no hurt, and were so joccund that they feasted their bodies, and fell to tippeling as if they had obtained a great prize; like the Trojans when they had the custody of Hippeus pinetree horse.

Mine host fained greefe, and could not be perswaded either to cate or drinke; because hee knew emptines would be a meanes to make him as watchfull as the Geefe kept in the Roman Cappitall: whereon, the contrary part, the conspirators would be so drowsy that hee might have an *140 opportunity to give them a *flip, insteade of a tester.

Six persons of the conspiracy were set to watch him at Weffaguscus: But hee kept waking; and in the dead of night, (one lying on the bed for further suerty,) up gets mine Host and got to the second dore that hee was to passe, which, notwithstanding the lock, hee got open, and shut it after him with such violence that it affrighted some of the conspirators.

The word, which was given with an alarme, was, ô he 's gon, he 's gon, what shall wee doe, he 's gon! The rest, (halfe a sleepe,) start up in a maze, and, like rames, ran theire heads one at another full butt in the darke.

Theire
Theire grande leader, Captaine Shrimp, tooke on most furiously and tore his clothes for anger, to see the empty neft, and their bird gone.

The rest were eager to have torne their hair from their heads; but it was so short that it would give them no hold. Now Captaine Shrimp thought in the losse of this prize, (which hee accounted his Master piece,) all his honor would be lost for ever.

In the meane time mine Host was got home to Ma-re Mount through the woods, eight miles round about the head of the river Monatoquit that parted the two Plantations, finding his way by the helpe of the lightening, (for it thun-dred as hee went terribly;) and there hee prepared powder, three pounds dried, for his present employement, and four good gunnes for him and the two assistants left at his howse, with bullets of severall fizes, three hunderd or thereabouts, to be used if the conspirators should pursue him thither: and these two persons promised their aides in the quarrell, and confirmed that promise with health in good rofa folis.

Now Captaine Shrimp, the first Captaine in the Land, (as hee supposed,) must doe some new act to repaire this losse, and, to vindicate his reputation, who had sustained blemish by this oversight, begins now to study, how to repaire or sur-vive his honor: in this manner, callinge of Councell, they conclude.

Hee takes eight persons more to him, and, (like the nine Worthies of New Canaan,) they imbarque with preparation against Ma-re-Mount, where this Monster of a man, as their phrase was, had his denne; the whole number, had the rest not
not bin from home, being but seaven, would have given Cap-
taine Shrimpe, (a quondam Drummer,) such a wellcome as
would have made him wish for a Drume as bigg as Diogenes
tubb, that hee might have crept into it out of sight.

Now the nine Worthies are approached, and mine Hoft
prepared: having intelligence by a Salvage, that hastened in
love from Wesagufcus to give him notice of their intent.

One of mine Hofts men prooved a craven: the other had
prooved his wits to purchase a little valoure, before mine
Hoft had observed his posture.

* The nine worthies comming before the Denne of
this suppos'd Monfter, (this seaven headed hydra, as
they termed him,) and began, like Don Quixote against
the Windmill, to beate a parly, and to offer quarter, if mine Hoft
would yeald; for they resolvd to fend him for England;
and bad him lay by his armes.

But hee, (who was the Sonne of a Souldier,) having taken
up armes in his just defence, replyd that hee would not lay
by those armes, because they were so needfull at Sea, if hee
should be sent over. Yet, to save the effusion of so much
worthy bloud, as would haue issu'd out of the vaynes of these
9. worthies of New Canaan, if mine Hoft shoul'd have played
upon them out at his port holes, (for they came within dan-
ger like a flocke of wild geefe, as if they had bin tayled one
to another, as coults to be fold at a faier,) mine Hoft was
content to yeelde upon quarter; and did capitulate with
them in what manner it shoul'd be for more certainety,
because hee knew what Captaine Shrimpe was.

Hee express'd that no violence shoul'd be offered to his
perfon, none to his goods, nor any of his Howsehold: but
that
that hee shou'd have his armes, and what els was requisit for the voyage: which theire Herald returnes, it was agreed upon, and shou'd be performed.

But mine Host no sooner had set open the dore, and issu'd out, but instantauly Captaine Shrimpe and the rest of the wor-ties stepped to him, layd hold of his armes, and had him downe: and so eagerly was every man bent against him, (not regarding any agreement made with such a carnall man,) that they fell upon him as if they would have eaten him: some of them were so violent that they would have a slice with scabbert, and all for haste; untill an old Souldier, (of the Queenes, as the Proverbe is,) that was there by accident, clapt his gunne under the weapons, and sharply rebuked these worthies for their unworthy practises. So the matter was taken into more deliberate consideration.

Captaine Shrimpe, and the rest of the nine worthies, made themselves, (by this outrageous riot,) Masters of mine Hoste of Ma-re Mount, and disposed of what hee had at his plantation.

This they knew, (in the eye of the Salvages,) would add to their glory, and diminish the reputation of mine honest Host; whome they practis'd to be ridd of upon any termes, as willingly as if hee had bin the very Hidra of the time.

Chapter XVI.
How the 9. worthies put mine Hoft of Ma-re-Mount into the inchaunted Castle at Plimmouth, and terrified him with the Monster Briareus.

The nine worthies of New Canaan having now the Law in their owne hands, (there being no generall Governour in the Land; nor none of the Separation that regarded the duety they owe their Soveraigne, whose naturall borne Subjects they were, though translated out of Holland, from whence they had learned to worke all to their owne ends, and make a great shewe of Religion, but no humanity,) for they were now to fit in Counsell on the cause.

And much it stood mine honest Hoft upon to be very circumspect, and to take Eacus\(^1\) to talke; for that his voyce was more allowed of then both the other: and had not mine Hoft confounded all the arguments that Eacus could make in their defence, and confuted him that fwaied the ref, they would have made him unable to drinke in fuch manner of merriment any more. So that following this private counfell, given him by one that knew who ruled the roft, the Hiracano ceased that els would fplit his pinace.

A conclusion was made and sentence given that mine Hoft shou'd be sent to England a prisoner. But when hee was brought to the shippes for that purpose, no man durt be

\(^1\) See infra, 291, note.
be so foole hardy as to undertake carry him. So these
Worthies set mine Host upon an Island, without gunne,
powther, or shot or dogge or so much as a knife to get any
thinge to feede upon, or any other cloathes to shelter him
with at winter then a thinne suite which hee had one at that
time. Home hee could not get to Ma-re-Mount. Upon this
Island hee stayed a moneth at least, and was releaved by
Salvages that tooke notice that mine Host was a Sachem of
Paffonageffit, and would bringe bottles of strong liquor
to him, and unite themselves * into a league of brother * 145
hood with mine Host; so full of humanity are these
infidels before those Christians.

From this place for England failed mine Host in a Plim-
mouth shipp, (that came into the Land to fish upon the
Coast,) that landed him safe in England at Plimmouth: and
hee stayed in England untill the ordinary time for shipping
to set forth for these parts, and then returned: 2 Noe man
being able to taxe him of any thinge.

But the Worthies, (in the meane time,) hoped they had
bin ridd of him.

Chapter XVII.

1 Morton here confounds his experience in Boston, two years later, with that
at Plymouth in 1628. In 1630 the mater of the Gift refused to carry him back
to England. (Supra, 44.) In the spring of 1628, however, no vessell seems to have
arrived at Plymouth from England, as Allerton then brought over an assortment of goods, and came in a fishing-
vessell by way of the Maine stations. (Bradford, p. 232.) Allerton returned
to London in the course of the succeeding summer or autumn, but it is not
probable then any vessel left Plymouth in June, 1628, bound for England. (Su-
pra, 29.)

2 It was not until towards the close of the summer of the next year that Morton
returned to Massachufetts, in company with Allerton. (Supra, 36-7.)