

in America, and had failed. He concluded that the cost of such an undertaking was greater than one man could bear. So he turned his charter over to a trading company of London merchants. Raieigh had failed, but he had pointed out the way and had shown what the difficulties were. Now that the Spaniards were driven from the sea, and supplies could be safely sent from home, the way was clear to plant English colonies in the New World and to protect them there.

The London Company. — The London Company fitted out a little fleet, under Captain Newport, and started it for Virginia, bearing about a hundred colonists (1606). The voyage was a long one, and their provisions were nearly used up before they arrived. There was trouble among the men; and before America was reached, they had arrested and bound in chains a certain John Smith, who later proved to be the wisest of them all.



JOHN SMITH.

Jamestown Founded. — The ships entered Chesapeake bay and sailed up a river, which they named the James in honor of the King. After fighting with one Indian tribe and smoking the pipe of peace with another, the company landed and decided to build their settlement upon a peninsula, which they called Jamestown, about fifty miles up the river.

The Outlook Dark. — The site for their settlement was not wisely chosen, for it was low and swampy and might breed disease. However, axes were soon busy felling forest