

neighbor Indians did abandon those places for fear of death, fleeing more west and by south, observing that the east and by northern parts were most smit with the contagion. The Aboriginny men, consisting of Mattachusetts, Whippanaps, and Tarratines, were greatly weakened, and more especially the three Kingdoms or Saggamore ships of the Mattachusetts, who were before this mortality most populous, having under them seven Dukedom, or petty Saggamores. The Nianticks and Narragansetts, who before this time were but of little note, yet were they now much increased by such as fled thither for fear of death. The Pecods (who retained the name of a warlike people, till afterwards conquered by the English) were also smitten at this time. Their disease being a sore consumption, sweeping away whole families, chiefly young men and children, the very seeds of increase. Their powwows, which are their doctors, working partly by charm, partly by medicine, were much amazed to see their wigwams (houses) lie full of dead corpses, and now that neither Squantam nor Abomocho could help, which are their good and bad God. By this means, Christ not only made room for his people to plant, but also tamed the cruel hearts of these barbarous Indians, insomuch that half an handful of his people, landing not long after in Plymouth plantation, found little resistance."

The Indians of South and North Carolina were swept away by diseases and intestine wars. Mr. Archdale, a person of honor, who had been Governor of Carolina, and was a proprietary, writes thus of them: "Providence was visible in thinning the Indians, to make room for the English. There were two potent Nations, the Westoes and the Savannas, who broke out into an unusual civil war, before the English arrived; and from many thousands, reduced themselves to a small number. The most cruel of them, the Westoes, were driven out of the Province; and the Savannas continued good friends and useful neighbors to the English. It pleased God also to send unusual sickness among them, as the small pox, &c. The Pemlico Indians in North Carolina were lately swept away by a pestilence; and the Coramine by a war."

Pennsylvania was settled first by the Swedes and Dutch, we know not in what condition they found it, but when Mr. Pen came with the English thither, he purchased of the natives ground, and they never had any wars with them. These Indians also fell into unusual distempers and died; perhaps it may be considered as a Providential visitation, at least a judicious historian tells us, an Indian war captain, in his sickness, made this serious expostulation with himself: "What is the matter with us Indians, that we are thus sick in our own air, and these strangers well? 'Tis as if they were sent hither to inherit our lands in our steads; but the reason is plain, they love the great God, and we do not." A reflection very surprising in a barbarian; but Mr. Pen heard it, and attested it to be matter of fact to the historian.

5. This was the condition of the people and country, when the English made their first settlements in America. The people were poor

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\*Vid. *English Empire in America*, p. 162.