

More's garden, "where, sitting upon green turfs," Raphael told them of what he had seen. More says that they were not inquisitive to hear about monsters and strange or incredible things, because that was no news. But they asked him about how other nations lived and were governed. For, he says,

To find citizens ruled by good and wholesome laws, that is an exceeding rare and hard thing. But as he marked many foolish laws in these new found lands, so he rehearsed divers laws and constitutions whereby these our cities, nations, countries and kingdoms may take example to amend their faults, enormities and errors.

More asked Raphael if he had ever been in England. He said he had for four or five months. He goes on to tell what he thought of the government and customs of England, and shows many things in them that ought not to be so. Among other things, he says that thieves are punished by death, and yet there are a great many thieves, and stealing is always going on; and he thinks that the punishment is too severe, and does no good. Rents, he says, are too high; there are too many idle people who must either steal or starve; there are too many soldiers; not enough men working on farms; food and clothing are too dear; the rich are greedy and unjust; too much money is spent on war; the learned men, even the clergy, do not lead good lives. Finally, he says that he had never seen really good government and well ordered people, except in Utopia, where he lived for five years. More asks if he will not tell them all about it, and Raphael says that nothing would please him better, but it will take a long time. So they go in to dinner, and, after they have dined, they come out to the garden again to hear all about Utopia.

This is the end of the first book. And this is the way More takes of telling what he thinks of the state of England. So, in the second book, he tells how he thinks a nation ought to be ruled, by describing the imaginary country, Utopia.

The name "Utopia" means "Nowhere," and the name of its capital, "Amaurote," means "Not easy to be seen." We are not told where it is, but Raphael Hythlodaye says that he was with Amerigo Vespucci on all four voyages, and that he was left behind in the New World when Vespucci returned to Europe, and that he then travelled through and about many countries, of which Utopia was one. Utopia is an island, in the shape of a new moon, and about 200 miles broad at its broadest part. It has fifty-four cities, all built and situated alike, and

no two further apart than one day's walk. In the country there are large and well furnished farm-houses, with room for forty persons in each. The townspeople take turns in living on the farms, so that every man and woman may learn farming, which is an industry very highly esteemed. At harvest time the citizens come out to the farms to help, so that in one fair day all the harvest work is done. Cattle and horses are bred, and corn and fruit are grown.

They bring up a great multitude of chickens, and that by a marvellous policy. For the hen doth not sit upon the eggs; but by keeping them in a certain equal heat they bring life into them and hatch them. The chickens, as soon as they come out of the shell, follow men and women, instead of the hens.

The streets of the cities are wide and handsome, with houses "of fair and gorgeous building" of brick or plaster, and perfectly fireproof. Each house has a large and beautiful garden. The doors are never locked, and anyone may go in, "for there is nothing private, or any man's own." And every tenth year they change houses by lot. The size of families is regulated by law. If there are more children than the law allows in one family, some of them have to be sent to make up the number in a household where there are too few. And in the same way, if the people in a city are too many, some have to move to another city; or, if all the cities are full, a new one is founded.

The prince of the country is chosen by the magistrates, or officers, from four who are named by the people, and he holds his office for life, unless he is put down for tyranny. Other officers of state are changed yearly, but never without due care. The Utopians detest war, and think nothing of the glory gained in battle. But both men and women are drilled so that they can fight, if need be, to defend their country, or to deliver people who are oppressed. They would rather conquer by craft than by fighting. For, they say, beasts fight with bodily strength; but only man can win by the power of his mind. They hold the lives of their citizens too dear to be spent in war. So they hire other people to fight for them. They also offer rewards to those who will kill the princes and leaders of their enemies.

They have slaves, who are obtained in three ways. Those of their own people who are punished for great offences, they treat with great severity. Those who have been condemned to death in other countries they buy, and treat