1625

New-England or A Briefe Enarration of the Ayre, Earth, Water, Fish and Fowles of That Country. With a Description of the Natures, Orders, Habits, and Religion of the Natives; in Latine and English Verse

William Morrell

Andrew Gaudio, editor

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New-England or A Briefe
Enarration of the Ayre, Earth,
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Country. With a Description of
the Natures, Orders, Habits,
and Religion of the Natives;
in Latine and English Verse.

(London, 1625)

By William Morrell

Edited by Andrew Gaudio
This text, a Latin poem in dactylic hexameter with an accompanying English translation in heroic verse stands as the earliest surviving work of poetry about New England and the second oldest poem whose origins can be traced directly to the British American colonies. Only two copies of the original 1625 edition are known to survive; one is held at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, and the other is housed at the British Museum. The Latin portion comprises 309 lines and praises the geographic features, flora and fauna of New England, and spends a majority of its verses describing the Native Americans with awe and curiosity. The English version contains 366 lines, frequently uses obscure terminology, and departs too drastically from the original to be of any assistance for discerning the Latin. The author is William Morrell, (ca. 1590-after 1626) who received his Bachelors of Arts from Magdalene College, Cambridge in 1615. On May 23 and 24, 1619 Morrell was ordained as a deacon and priest respectively at Peterborough. Several years later in 1623, after receiving a commission by the ecclesiastical court to oversee and administer any churches which were already or might be instituted in the new colonies, Morrell accompanied English navy Captain Robert Gorges to New England, who was tasked with assisting the establishment of the short-lived Wessagusset Colony in present-day Weymouth. The colony was abandoned in the spring of 1624 due to financial difficulties and tensions with the Natives. Robert Gorges served as Governor-General of New
England between 1623 and 1624. Gorges returned to England in 1624, but Morrell remained behind in Plymouth for one year to learn more about New England. These two poems are the fruits of his observations. They were published in 1625 in London by John Dawson. These writings make it clear that Morrell was an able classical scholar. He frequently peppers his English with Latin maxims reminiscent of Virgil and Apuleius and he employs numerous references to classical mythological figures and events.

A Note on the Orthography

In the Early Modern English period, roughly corresponding to 1500-1650, “i” and “j” were not yet considered to be two separate letters, but two different ways to write the same letter. All instances where “j” would be used today would have been written using “i” with one exception: when a Latin word or Roman numeral ended in “ii”, the final “i” was frequently written as a “j”. Thus, Roman numeral ii would be represented as ij, iii as iij, and so on.

Similarly, “v” and “u” were not seen as distinct either. The general practice during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was that if a word began with a “u” or “v”, the “v” form was always used. If a “u” or “v” was employed in the middle of a word, “u” was used. As such, we find “loue” for “love”, and “vs” for “us”, etc. Additionally, “w” was oftentimes represented in printed texts as two “v” letters: vv or VV.
The ſ or long s was frequently employed during the Early Modern English period. This form of the letter “s” was only used in the lower case and could occur anywhere in a word except as its final letter.

In the Latin text, there is oftentimes a semicolon following the letter “q”. This was a common abbreviation used in medieval manuscripts which was preserved in printed texts until the eighteenth century. When a semicolon occurs after a “q” as in “atq;”, the semicolon represents the letters “ue”, rendering “atq;” as “atque”.

The double “s” ligature “ß”, which is still used in German, occurred in English during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. With Morrell however, its use is primarily confined to Latin with only a few instances of it in the English portion, where we find that “ſſ” is more commonly used.

Andrew Gaudio
Library of Congress
June, 2019
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or

A BRIEFE
ENARRATION
OF THE AYRE,
Earth, Water, Fish and
Fowles of that Country.

WITH

A DESCRIPTION
of the Natures, Orders, Habits,
and Religion of the Natives;

IN
Latine and English Verse.

Sat breve, si sat bene.

LONDON,
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TO

THE RIGHT
HONOVRABLE
THE LORDS, AND THE
Right Worshipfull Knights and
Gentlemen; Adventurers for
NEVV-ENGLAND.

Hat your favourable imployments haue taught me to obserue, I presume here briefly to relate I hope it will be acceptable, because innocent, though nothing excellent. Vera, non mira cano, assured that with your more acurate judgements. Plus valebit vera oratio quam carminis candida & maxime compta in singulos pedes commensuratio. Censure at the leaft would be my best sentence, if I should answer such service with a NIHIL DICIT. VVhen in contempt of Envy, I may present your Counsell with
The Epistle Dedicatory.

an OMNE BENE, at leaft, Certa sper boni, if the three noble Mistresses of Monarchies, Pietas, Pecunia, and Potentia, royally undertake and resolutely continue constant favourers to their well ordered and sweetly situated Colonies. Without these, at leaft the two latter (I suppose under favour) the Spanyard and Hollander had ad Græcas callendas rayfed to such sweet tones their western and eastern flourishing Plantations. But illorum postpono mea serea ludo. The keys of Kingdomes, judicious Statesmen are best able to open and explicate these closets and secrets of state. I may admire, but scarce without offence observe such princely attempts and royall secrets. Yet give me leave to you worthy favourers of Colonies, as in armes and architecture to be your rememberancer, first to accompt, and then to accompliſh: so power and abilitie shall crowne your proceedings with happie perfections. Beyond these I presume nothing, onely wishing every person in his several sphere such happie motion as may crowne him with immortall perfection.

Your Honors and Worships servant, late Preacher with the Right Wor: Cap: Rob: Gorge late Governour of New-England.

W I L L I A M M O R R E L L.

( ii )
Vnderstanding Reader;

V

Hen my melancholly leaſures firſt conceived these rude heroiks, my conscions Muſe cenſured them too tender-ſighted to be admitted the common light.

Induced byſome kinde friends, who are truely judicious of the publique good, I was unwillingly willing to adventure them the publique cenſure, defirous, I ingeniously confess:(and so I profess my selfe ever) in my best endeavours, to further such royall and religious imployments: if my poore judgement can assuredly observe pietie to be one prime end of plantation, and the vnder-taking probable to prosper. If (Gentle Reader) these lynes please thee, peruse and use gently: if not, Parce vati. You know that Ex quolibet ligno non fit Mercurius. Besides, error in Poëzie is leſſe blemishe than in Historie, Experience cannot plead me ignorant, much leſſe innocent, having seene and suffered. I should delude others vana spe, or falsa gaudio. What can be expected from false Relations, but unhappie proceedings, to the best intended, and most hopeful Colonies. So that want of provisions, and right information, begets in the distracted planter nothing but mutinies, fearfull execrations, and sometimes miserable interitures. But of all such perchance hereafter. These were at this time beyond my intent. I onely now and ever desire that my best incense may for ever waite vpon all truely zealous and religious planters and adventurers, who seriously endeavour the dilating of Chriff's kingdom, in the propagating of the Goffell, and so advisedly undertake so weightie and so worthie a Worke, as that they and theirs may paralell these worthies of the world in all externall, internall, and eternall abundances. Farewell with this one Memento; That the best intended conclusions, without an equivalent abilitie, produce nothing but losse, discontents, opprobries, and imperfections.

Thine if thy owne;

W. M.

(iii)
Lectori.

Candide si placidum dederis Philomuse Camoenae
Intuitum: tristi dulce levamen erit.
Optima mellifluis modulari carmina nervis
Illud Apollineis cantibus euge melos.
Mellea cœleste est effundere carmina munus,
Frustra de sicco pumice quæris aquam,
Dicere musa probe, breviter, simul, ordine, perge:
Gloria summa tibi dicere vera: Vale.

Gul: M.

Perlege: pars ultima, prima.
Nova Anglia.

Acenus ignotum populis ego carmine primus,
Te Nova, de veteri cui contigit Anglia nomen,
Agredior trepidus pingui celebrare Minervâ,
Fer mibi numen opem, cupienti singula plectro
Pandere veridico, quae nuper vidimus ipsi:
Vt breviter vereq; sonent modulamina nostra,
Temperiem caeli, vim terræ, munera ponti,
Et varios gentis mores, velamina, cultus.
Anglia felici merito Nova nomine gaudens,
Sævos nativi mores pertæsa Coloni,
Indigni penitus populi tellure feraci,
Mæsta superfuṣis attollit fletibus ora,
Antiquos precibus flectens ardentibus Anglos,
Numinis æterni fælicem lumine gentem
Efficere: æternis quæ nunc peritura tenebris.
Gratum opus hoc Indis, dignumq; pijs opus Anglis,
Angelice quibus est nature nomen in umbra:
Cælica vt extremis dispersant femina terris.
Est locus occiduo procul hinc fratiosus in orbe,
Plurima regna tenens, populisq; incognitus ipsis:
Felix frugiferis fulcis, simul æquore felix:
Prædis perdives varijs, & flumine dives,
Axe satis calidus, rigidoq; a frigore tutus.
Proximus æthereo socius volitabilis igni
Aer, natali fæliens levitate; calore
Temperieq; satis felicibus, humidus ante
Nova-Anglia.

Omnia principia, innata virtute coacτus
Siſtere difficile in propria regione, volenti
Alterius motu penetrans loca, inania complens
Vi tenuj: fœtae regio quæ proximæ terræ
Solis ab igne, poli motu, terræq; vaporum,
Vndeq; attracτu calet hinc, hinc humida reſtat,
Hinc fit temperies: fit & hâc Nova terra beata:
Eſt aliquando tamen rapidis ſubiecta procellis,
Quæ ſceleri ſubitoq; ſolumq; ſalumq; minantur,
Flamine corripere, & terras diffundere caelis:
Mox tamen Æolio compreſs is carcere ventis
Omnia continuo remanent ſub ſidere tuta.
Inde ſuis vicibus lučtantes murmure venti
Qua data porta ruunt, quatientes turbine terras.
Magna parens tellus, reram communis alumna,
Frigida ſicca gravis ſubsidens vallibus imis,
Montibus extendens nemerοfa cacumina celfis
Longius intuitu nautis pergrata: ſeraci
Irriguoq; ſolo lætanti meſibus aequis
Optima frugiferis mandantes ſemina ſulcis.
Agricolis quam terra ferax, quæ grata minifrat
Aſfiduis alimenta viς: nulloq; ſerenti
Dulcia dat varie nature mora nucſeq;
Diſtimales, placidas tumidaq; in vitibus vuas
Innumeris, mixtas redolentes floribus herbas
Multigenis, morbo læſos medicare potentes
Ar tus, radices similis virtutis amaenas.
Diſmine gramineo nux ſubterranea ſuavis
Serpit humi, tenui flavo ſub cortice, pingui
Et placido nucleo nivei candoris ab intra,
Melliflua parcos hilarans dulcedine ghustus,
Donec in æſtvum Phæbus conſcenderit axem.
Nova-Anglia.

His nucleis laute verfutus vescitur Indus:
His exempta fames fegnis nostratibus omni:
Dulcibus his vires revocantur vičtibus alme.
Arboribus dives vernantibus, eſt quoq; tellus
Cedris, & fagis, Iuglandibus & Iovis alta
Arbore, fraxinea, gummosis pinibus, alnis,
Jupiperis, multiſq; alijs tum gramine & herbis,
Pastua quæ prebent animalibus, vnde fugaces
Pinguescunt cervi, vulpes urſiq; lupiq;
Linces, & fibri, musci, lutraq; polite
Pellibus eximij pretij, volucreſq; faporis
Perplacidi variae, pelliq; grueſq; palumbes,
Megulus & Phaſianus, anas, cignus Iovis ales,
Penelopeſq;, columbae, perdix, accipitreſq;;
Et capitolij aves variae tum carne ſapora,
Tum pennis placide decorantibus arte canautas:
E quibus ornatu capitis, fit plumula digna
Vertice ſublimi, quibus ad renovanda levanda,
Languida perplacidum completur membra cubile.
Intima frugiferæ vix cognita viſcera terræ
Prætereo: artifices gremium ſerutentur opimum.
Dulce ſolum cælumq; vides en terra ſerenis,
Perſpicuis, placidis, levibus, liquidisq; beata
Fontibus, & fluvijs facili quærentibus Eurum
Motu, precipiti cursu post flumina nimbos
In mare decurrunt ſlagnisq; paludibus Indis,
Aucupio placidis bene, piſcatuq; colonis.
Grata ſolum, cælumq; viris alimonia prebent.
Devia quam dives regio hæc? benediciſta ſereno
Aere, fecundis glebis, felicibus vndis.
Prospera tranquillus contingit littora portus
Altus, apertus, vbi valeant ſe condere naves.
Nova-Anglia.

Invitis. ventis, secure, rupe & arena
Æquora multiplices præbent tranquilla marinas
Temporibus solitis prædas utentibus hamis:
Halices, fagros, scombros cancroſq; locuſtas,
Oſtreæ curvatis conchis, conchaſq; trigones
Cete etiam rhombos, sargos, cum squatina afellos.
His naves vastas onerat piscaſtor honeſtus:
His mercator opes cumulat venerabilis almas,
His pius ampla fatis faciat ſibi lucra colonus:
Deniq; divitibus quibus intima cura ſuorum
Divitiae & pietas, licet hisce beare colonos.
Digna viris patria endignis, vbi mænia digna.
Principibus claris facile est fabricare columnis
Exceſsis, eheu nunc tota cupidinis antrum.
Sunt etenim populi minimi ſermonis, & oris
Auſteri, riſuſq; parum ſaviq; superbi,
Conſtricto nodis hirſuto crine ſinistro,
Imparibus formis tondentes ordine villos,
Mollia magnanima peragentes otia gentes,
Arte ſagittifera pollentes, curſibus, armis
Aſtute, recto, robusto corpore & alto,
Pellibus indulta cervinis, frigora contra
Aſpera, cum placeant converſis flamina pelles
Obvia ut impellant, caeleſcio pelle lacerto
Dextro, quo facilis ſıt flexile ſumere ſcornu,
Omnia ut extinguant ſubito in ſurgentia, & ipsos
Salvos defendant, inducuſtio tergore corpus
Villoſo, leviter miris ſe ſingula formis
Texta ligant, molles cingunt genitalia pelles,
Grande femur calige cervine curaq; longa
Exornant, plantas conservat calceus aptus,
Hos tamen exutos curant aliunde reverſi
Nova-Anglia.

Depositoq; suos calamos, arcusq; sonantes, Fessaq; constrato sua stramine membra soluti Tectis instar bare, dextre loca verna petentes, Adveniente hiemis glaciali tempore favae, Inq; suam patriam redeuntes sole benigno Calfaciente leves artus fervore, revisa Vt pereant inimica, soloq; nocentia, frugem Detaq; solum solitam, rutilis dant ignibus arva. Horum nonnulli regali nomine gaudent, Et consorte tori prognata sanguine tali, Regibus unde pari fuerit virtute propago, Rectores faciens regali prole parentes: Inferiore sibi capientes farpe maritas, Progeniem timidam credunt, cordisq; socordis Nec soliq; sceptrive sui fore posse capacem. Rex tenet imperium, pesas & præmia cunctis Confiatuit, dat iura; senes, viduasq; pupillos Et miseros curat, peregrinos moliter omnes Excipit hospitio semper, tamen inde (tributi Nomine) primitias rerum partemq; priorem, Venatu captæ prædae capit, atq; requirit. Cingitur obsequio regis plebs omnis, & ultero Arma capit, fortiaq; facit sua pralia dextra Pallida lethiferis, faciens præcordia telis Hoshum, & expugnans sceleratis fata sagittis. Insuper ornavit quorum Bellona corolla Tempera, præsudio, vita, virtute virili, Regibus incedunt comites tutamine certo. His reges capiunt consultis cautius arma; Cautius exacritis faciunt his fœdera bellis: Eloquijs horum concedere regibus omnis Subsidium, quodcunq; valet, plebs alma movetur,
Mundi acie tantum femel unde propecta reversa.
Nec prius exercet crudelia paruulus arma,
Quam patiens armorum ut sit pectus, amaram
Herbis compositam peramaris forbit vndam,
Vsq; in sanguineum vertatur lympha colorem,
Vndiq; sanguinea ex vomitu rebibenda tenellis.
Vsq; valent maribus: sic fit natura parata
Omnia dura pati: puer hoc cui potio grata
Pectore sit valido cumta expugnare pericla.
Magnanimis medici comites virtute periti
Artibus empericis, diro contamine, taetu,
Fletu, sudore, & percussus pectore palmis
Duriter expassis propio, pallentia eorum
Corpora refhtuunt facili medicamine fana:
Vulnera sanandi si nulla potentia verbis,
Artibus aut herbis, confestam spiritus illis,
Impius humana specie respondet iniquis
Reddidit iratus Deus artus morte solutos
Moribus: unde dolor nullis medicabilis herbis.
Deniq; sunt populi fungentes munere iussu,
Inflar servorum, quacunq; subire parati
Ardua, consiliiis subieciit, foemina, fumus,
Indicus ad certos inhibetur, & omnibus annos.
Postea liberior concessa potentia cumta,
Connubio multas siti coniuxisse maritas:
Ditior est plures nuptas qui duxerit omnis,
Viribus, & natis: nati quia summa parentum
Gaudia, descensus quorum (nam mortis hiatu
Compressos lachrimis decorant) longaqu; graviq;
Commemorant lucutu, tumulisq; cadivera mandant.
A genibus subrecta cavis pallentia cumta;
Impoestis opibus tumulis, Titanis ad ortus,
Attollunt facies, ad quem post tempora longa
Venturos credunt omnes, vbi præmia digna
Impośita accipient, fuerintq; gaudia summis
Exornata bonis: haec aes post funera gentis.
Est alia utilitas, multis vexoris arva,
Valde onerata tenent Cerealibus, omnis eorum
Nocte eieq; cibo gaudet quasi natus ut omnes
Illico consumat fruges, sua granaq; (Marte
Aripiente manu penetrantia tela) minutis
Abdita speluncis tutis, & ab hostibus, hoste
Decedente suo subito repetenda reponit.
Artibus Hybernus produxit temporis olim.
Multum Marte, levis, virtutus, durus, inermis,
Difficile edomitus donec secretas latebant
Iudicia, atq; doli taciti: fit & arte superbes.
Saevis hac Indus, victoris victor & ingens,
Femina preterea vultu plerumq; venusto,
Multos irridentis risus, linguamq; loquacem;
Iudicioq; gravi, genio placidoq; virili
Peclore, perrecta corpus per & omne statura;
Nervis conexa validis, manibusq; tenellis,
Pollice pergracili, digitis feliciter altis.
Inclita diversis faciendo est gramine corbes
Contextos formis, varioq; colore tapetum.
Stramine compositum tenui, miriṣq; figuris.
His decor eximius color est contrarius albo:
Ortibus unde suis per totum candidus artus
Et piceo facies est obsfucata colore.
Consuette tamen populis his femina ut omnis,
Omnia perficitat duri mandata laboris:
Arva fodiit manibus, committit femina terris,
Nova-Anglia.

Vtq; fēges crescit levibus fulcitur ab illa,
Continuo terris, fēgitem fārritq; refārit,
Tergore portat onus, viātumq; labore paratum,
Et breviter peragit mulier conamine prompto,
Omnia ad humanam fēctantia munera vitam.
Hinc Anglos Indi stolidos dixere maritos,
Cum videant operis ferventes omnibus illos,
Attamen uxores omnem deducere vitam
Molli, vel nullo fungendi munere dextra.
Quamlibet ob noxam manet alta mente reposita
Invidia & dirum gelido sub pectore vulner.
Vnde fugit sceleri pede fortia fortis in arma
Hosq; & inde sui laetans sit bona cubilis.
Præda fatis fēlix; hinc viāta iniuria mentis,
Deniq; cuiusdam cultores numinis omnes
Sunt, cui primitias reddunt, quotiesq; necesse,
Fortia discruciatur miserabile pectora, luētq;
Acriq; horrendis clamoribus æthera complent.
Omnia principio fēcisse agnoscitur illis,
Vnum principium, primos crevisse parentes,
Vnum terrarum dominum, conforte; duobus
His mortale genus divam sumptisse figuram:
Quorum progenies illi, quoq; flatpe racemi.
Insuper hunc dominum dominis posuisse creatis,
Optima iuris sacrae præcepta docenda,
Sacro perpetuis etatibus omnia iussu.
Haec est omnis longævae litera genti
Vix audita, viris petitusq; incognita cunctis.
Fas, non quid fasq: falsum non, fœdera curant:
Lumine naturæ summis sunt iuris amantes
Promissiq; dati; tanti sunt fœdera genti.
Nulla fides populis tamen est capiente jagittas,
Nova-Anglia.

Marte feras, fueris nisi sævis fortior armis.
Litera cuncta licet latet hos, modulamina quedam
Fiślulae disfaribus calamis facit, est & agrestis
Musica vocis ijs, minime iucundi, sonoris
Obtuňsq; sonis oblectans pectora, sensus,
Atq; suas aures, artis sublimis inanes.
Omnes, presèrtim multos provečus in annos,
Indus, quid cæli, cursus, quid fidera, vires
Sunt, bene concipiumt animis, cælumq; futurum:
Qua mibi notitia latet, aut quo numine certo.
Fešta tamen gens nulla nisi Cerealix servat:
Genti nulla dies sancto discrimine nota:
Annum & ignotus, notus tamen est bene mensis,
Nam sua lunari distinguunt tempora motu,
Non quot Phæbus habet cursus, sed quot sua coniux
Expletos vicibus convertat Cinthia cursus:
Nočibus enumerant sua tempora, nulla diebus,
Mosq; dijs Indis est inservire duobus,
Quorum mollis, amans, bona dans, inimica repellens.
Vnus, amore bonum venerantur: at invidus alter
Dires effundens cum turbine, fulgura, nimbos,
Afficiensq; malis varijs, morbisq; nefandis,
Et violentis: bunc gelida formidine adorant.
Nature gens luce sua sublimia tentat,
Agnosçens precepta dei pia singula summi,
Excepto de ducendis vxoribus vno,
Affectis etenim morbis vxoribus illis,
Vel gravidis, alijs opus est vxoribus illis.
Heu quam disimilis nature, gratia vera,
Humana & ratio. Sublimia gratia vitae
Añcit æternæ fidei bonitate potita:
Enervata suis ratio at virtutibus æquis.
Nova-Anglia.

Illi nulla manet veræ scintilla salutis,
Talia quis fendo lachrimas non fundit amaras,
Divinæ lucis, virtutis viśq; capacem
Gentem, cœlestis veræ pietatis inanem.
Flebilis ardentes mitti Phlegetontis in undas.
Aβticis effigiem terræ, levis ætheris, vndae:
Aβticis antique mores, velamina, gentis:
Aβticis optatos, hilarantia littora, portus:
Aβticis bis modicum fæliciter (Ente faventi
Cælesti ceptis) letantia singula votum.
Si mea Barbaricæ prośint conamina genti:
Si valet Anglicanis incompta placere poēsis:
Et ſibi perfaciles bac reddere gente potentes,
Aβiduosq; pios ſibi persuadere Colonos:
Si doceat primi vitam vičtumq; parentis:
Angli ſi fuerint Indis exempla beate
Vivendi, capiant quibus ardua limina cæli:
Omnia succedunt votis: modulamina ßero
Hæc mea sublimis fuerint præſagia regni.
New-England so nam’d by your Princely Grace,
Dread Soveraigne, now, most humbly sues to see
Your Royall Highnes in your Regall place,
Wishing your Grace all peace, blisse, soveraignty,
Trusting your Goodnesse will her state and fame
Support, wch goodnesse once vouchsaf’d her
(name.
If thou Apollo hold'st thy Scepter forth,
To these harsh numbers that's thy Royall worth.
Vaine is all search in these to search that vaine,
Whose stately style is great Apollos strain.
Minerva ne're distil'd into my Muse
Her sacred droppes, my pumesse wants al iuce.
My Muse is plaine concise her fam's to tell
In truth, and method, Loue, or leave: Farewell.
Ev'ry Muse, 'cause first to sing her fame,
That's yet scarce known, vnlesse by Map or name;
A Grand-childe to earths Paradize is borne,
Well lim'd, well nerv'd, faire, rich, sweete, yet forlorne.
Thou blest director fo direct my Verfe,
That it may winne her people, friends commerce;
Whilst her sweete ayre, rich soile, blest, leafes my penne
Shall blaze, and tell the natures of her men.

New-England, happie in her new true stile,
Wearie of her cause she's to sad exile
Expos'd by her's vnworthy of her Land,
Intreates with teares Great Britaine to command
Her Empire, and to make her know the time,
Whose act and knowledge onely makes divine.
A Royall worke well worthy Englands King,
Theſe Natiues to true truth and grace to bring.
A Noble worke for all these Noble Peares
Which guide this State in their superiour spheres.

You holy Aarons let your Senfors nere
Ceafe burning, till these men Jehovah feare.
Westward a thousand leagues a spacious land,
If made vnknowne to them that it command.
Of fruitfull mould, and no leße fruitlesse maine
Inrich with springs and prey high-land and plaine.
The light well tempred, humid ayre, whose breath
Fils full all concaues betwixt heaven and earth,

So that the Region of the ayre is bleft
With what Earths mortals wish to be posseft.
Great Titan darts on her his heavenly rayes,
Whereby extreames he quells, and overfwayes.
Bleft is this ayre with what the ayre can bleffe;
Yet frequent ghuſts doe much this place diſtreſſe:
Here vnſeene ghuſts doe instant on-ſet giue,
As heaven and earth they would together driue.
An instant power doth furprize their rage,
In their vaſt prifon, and their force afſwage.
Thus in exchange a day or two is fpent,
In ſmiles and frownes: in great yet no content.
The earth grand-parent to all things on earth,
Cold, dry, and heavie, and the next beneath
The ayre by Natures arme with low diſcents,
Is as it were intrencht; againe afcents
Mount vp to heaven by Ioues omnipotence,
Whofe looming greeneſſe ioyes the Sea-mans ſence.
Invites him to a land if he can ſee,
Worthy the Thrones of ſtately ſoveraigntie.
The fruitfull and well watered earth doth glad
All hearts; when Flora's with her fpangles clad,
And yeelds an hundred fold for one,
To ſeede the Bee and to invite the drone.
O happie Planter if you knew the height
Of Planters honours where ther's ſuch delight;
There Natures bounties though not planted are,
Great flore and forts of berries great and faire:
The Filberd, Cherry, and the fruitfull Vine,
Which cheares the heart and makes it more divine.
Earths fpangled beauties pleaſing ſmell and ſight;
Objects for gallant choyce and chiefe delight.
A ground-Nut there runnes on a graſſie threed,
Along the shallow earth, as in a bed,
Yealow without, thin, filmd, ſweete, lilly white,
Of ſtrength to feede and cheare the appetite.
From these our natures may haue great content,
And good ſubſiſtance when our meanes is ſpent.
With these the Natiues doe their ſtrength maintaine
The Winter ſeaſon, which time they retaine
Their pleafant vertue, but if once the Spring
Returne, they are not worth the gathering.
All ore that Maine the Vernant trees abound,
Where Cedar, Cypres, Spruce, and Beech are found.
Aſh, Oake, and Wal-nut, Pines and Iunipere;
The Hafel, Palme, and hundred more are there.
Ther’s graſſe and hearbs contenting man and beaſt,
On which both Deare, and Beares, and Wolues do feaſt.
Foxes both gray and blacke, (though blacke I never
Beheld,) with Muſcarts, Lynces, Otter, Bever;
With many other which I here omit,
Fit for to warme vs, and to feede vs fit.
The Fowles that in those Bayes and Harbours feede,
Though in their ſeaſons they doe elf-where breede,
Are Swans and Geeſe, Herne, Pheſants, Duck & Crane,
Culvers and Divers all along the Maine:
The Turtle, Eagle, Partridge, and the Quaile,
Knot, Plover, Pigeons, which doe never faile,
Till Sommers heate commands them to retire,
And Winters cold begets their old deſire.
With theſe ſweete dainties man is ſweetly fed,
With theſe rich feathers Ladies plume their head;
Here’s fleſh and feathers both for vſe and eaſe,
To feede, adorne, and reſt thee if thou pleafe.

The treasures got, on earth, by *Titans* beames,
They best may search that have best art and means.
The ayre and earth if good, are blessings rare,
But when with these the waters blessed are,
The place is compleat, here each pleasant spring,
Is like those fountains where the *Muses* sing.
The easy channels gliding to the East,
Unleaved overflowed, then post to be releast,
The Ponds and places where the waters stay,
Content the Fowler with all pleasant prey.
Thus ayre and earth and water give content,
And highly honour this rich Continent.
As Nature hath this Soile blest, so each port
Abounds with bliss, abounding all report.
The careful Naucleare may a-farre discry
The land by smell, aſt’ loomes below the skie.
The prudent Master there his Ship may more,
Past winde and weather, then his God adore,
Man forth each Shalop with three men to Sea,
Which oft returne with wondrous store of prey;
As Oyſters, Cra-fish, Crab, and Lobſters great,
In great abundance when the Seaes retreate:
Torteife, and Herring, Turbut, Hacke and Bafe,
With other small fish, and fresh bleeding Place;
The mightie Whale doth in these Harbours lye,
Whose Oyle the careful Merchant deare will buy.
Besides all these and others in this Maine:
The costly Codd doth march with his rich traine:
With which the Sea-man fraughts his merry Ship:
With which the Merchant doth much riches get:
With which Plantations richly may subsist,
And pay their Merchants debt and interest:
Thus ayre and earth, both land and Sea yeelds store
Of Natures dainties both to rich and poore;
To whom if heavens a holy Vice-roy giue,
The state and people may moft richly liue:
And there ereçt a Pyramy of estate,
Which onely finne and Heaven can ruinate.
Let deepe discretion this great worke attend,
What's well begun for th' moft part well doth end:
So may our people peace and plentie finde,
And kill the Dragon that would kill mankinde.
Thoſe well ſeeene Natiues in graue Natures hefts,
All close deſignes conceale in their deepe breſts:
What ſtrange attempts fo ere they doe intend,
Are fairely vſherd in, till their laſt ende.
Their well adviſed talke evenly conveys
Their acts to their intents, and nere displayes
Their secret proiects, by high words or light,
Till they conclude their end by fraud or might.
No former friendship they in minde retaine,
If you offend once, or your loue detaine:
They're wondrous cruell, ſtrangely baſe and vile,
Quickly diſpleaſd, and hardly reconcild;
Stately and great, as read in Rules of state:
Incenſd, not caring what they perpetrate.
Whoſe hayre is cut with greeces, yet a locke
Is left; the left side bound vp in a knott:
Their males ſmall labour but great pleaſure know,
Who nimbly and expertly draw the bow;
Traind vp to ſuffer cruell heate and cold,
Or what attempt fo ere may make them bold;
Of body ſtraight, tall, ſtrong, mantled in skin
Of Deare or Bever, with the hayre-side in:
An Otter skin their right armes doth keepe warme,
To keepe them fit for vfe, and free from harme;
A Girdle fet with formes of birds or beafts,
Begirts their wast[e], which gently giues them eafe.
Each one doth modeftly binde vp his ſhame,
And Deare-skin Start-vps reach vp to the ſame;
A kinde of *Pinsen* keeps their feete from cold,
Which after travels they put off, vp-fold,
Themselves they warme, their vngirt limbes they reſt
In ſtraw, and houses, like to ſties: diſtreſt
With Winters cruell blaſts, a hotter clime
They quickly march to, when that extreame time
Is over, then contented they retire
To their old homes, burning vp all with fire.
Thus they their ground from all things quickly cleare,
And make it apt great ſtore of Corne to beare.
Each people hath his orders, ſtate, and head,
By which they’r rul’d, taught, ordered, and lead.
The firſt is by diſcent their Lord and King,
Pleas’d in his name likewiſe and governing:
The conſort of his bed muſt be of blood
Coequall, when an of-ſpring comes as good,
And highly bred in all high parts of ſtate,
As their Commanders of whom they’rs prognate.
If they vnequall loues at hymens hand
Should take, that vulgar ſeede would nere command
In ſuch high dread, great ſtate and deepe decrees
Their Kingdomes, as their Kings of high degrees:
Their Kings giue lawes, rewards to thoſe they giue,
That in good order, and high service liue.
The aged Widow and the Orphanes all,
Their Kings maintaine, and ſtrangers when they call,
They entertaine with kinde salute for which,
In homage, they haue part of what's moſt rich.
These heads are guarded with their ſtouteſt men,
By whoſe advice and ſkill, how, where, and when,
They enterprize all acts of conſequence,
Whether offenſiue or for ſafe defence.
These Potents doe invite all once a yeare,
To giue a kinde of tribute to their peere.
And here obſerue thou how each childe is traind,
To make him fit for Armes he is conſtraind
To drinke a potion made of hearbs moſt bitter,
Till turnd to blood with caſting, whence he's fitter,
Induring that to vnder-goe the worſt
Of hard attempts, or what may hurt him moſt.
The next in order are their well ſeene men
In herbes, and rootes, and plants, for medicen,
With which by touch, with clamors, teares, and ſweat,
With their curſt Magicke, as themſelues they beat,
They quickly eaſe: but when they cannot faue,
But are by death ſurprizd, then with the graue
The divell tells them he could not diſpence;
For God hath kild them for ſome great offence.
The loweſt people are as ſervants are,
Which doe themſelues for each command prepare:
They may not marry nor Tobacco vſe,
Tell certaine yeares, leaft they themſelues abufe.
At which yeares to each one is granted leaue,
A wife, or two, or more, for to receiue;
By having many wiues, two things they haue,
Firſt, children, which before all things to faue
They covet, 'cauſe by them their Kingdomes fild,
When as by fate or Armes their liues are fpild.

Whose death as all that dye they fore lament,
And fill the skies with cries: impatient
Of nothing more then pale and fearfull death,
Which old and young bereaues of vitall breath;
Their dead wrapt vp in Mats to th’ graue they giue,
Vpright from th knees, with goods whils they did liue,
Which they beft lou’d: their eyes turn’d to the East,
To which after much time, to be releaft
They all muſt March, where all fhall all things haue
That heart can wiſh, or they themselues can craue.
A second profit which by many wiu’es
They haue, is Corne, the ſtaffe of all their liues.
All are great eaters, he’s moſt rich whose bed
Affords him children, profit, pleaſure, bread.
But if fierce Mars, begins his bow to bend,
Each King ſtands on his guard, ſeekeſ to defend
Himſelfe, and his, and therefore hides his graine
In earths close concaues, to be fetch’d againe
If he ſurvives: thus saving of himſelfe,
He acts much mischiefe, and retains his wealth.
By this deepe wyle, the Iris’h long withſtood
The Engliſh power, whils they kept their food,
Their ſtrength of life their Corne; that loft, they long
Could not withſtand this Nation, wife, ſtouſt, ſtrong.
By this one Art, theſe Natiues oft ſurviue
Their great’ſt opponents, and in honour thrive.
Befides, their women, which for th’moſt part are
Of comely formes, not blacke, nor very faire:
Whose beautie is a beauteous blacke laid on
Their paler cheeke, which they moſt doat vpon.
For they by Nature are both faire and white,
Inricht with gracefull presence, and delight;
Deriding laughter, and all pratling, and
Of sober aspect, graft with grave command:
Of man-like courage, stature tall and straight,
Well neru’d, with hands and fingers small and right.
Their slender fingers on a grassy twine,
Make well form’d Baskets wrought with art and line;
A kind of Arras, or Straw-hangings, wrought
With divers forms, and colours, all about.
Theſe gentle pleasures, their fine fingers fit,
Which Nature seem’d to frame rather to fit.
Rare Stories, Princes, people, Kingdomes, Towers,
In curious finger-worke, or Parchment flowers:
Yet are these hands to labours all intent,
And what so ere without doors, give content.
Theſe hands doe digge the earth, and in it lay
Their faire choyce Corne, and take the weeds away
As they doe grow, rayfing with earth each hill,
As Ceres prospers to support it still.
Thus all worke-women doe, whilst men in play,
In hunting, Armes, and pleasures, end the day.
The Indians whilst our Englishmen they see
In all things servile exercisd to be:
And all our women freed, from labour all
Vanleſfe what’s easie: vs much fooles they call,
‘Caufe men doe all things; but our women liue
In that content which God to man did giue:
Each female likewise long reteines deepe wrath,
And s nere appeas’d till wrongs reveng’d shee hath:
For they when forraigne Princes Armes vp take
Against their Leige, quickly themſelues betake
To th’ adverſe Armie, where they’re entertain’d
With kinde falutes, and presently are daign’de
Worthy faire Hymens favours: thus offence
Obtaines by them an equall recompence.
Lastly, though they no lynes, nor Altars know,
Yet to an vnknowne God these people bow;
All feare some God, some God they worship all,
On whom in trouble and distresse they call;
To whom of all things they giue sacrificie,
Filling the ayre with her shrill shrikes and cries.
The knowledge of this God they say they haue
From their forefathers, wondrous wife and graue;
Who told them of one God, which did create
All things at first, himselfe though incrcate:
He our first parents made, yet made but two,
One man one woman, from which stocke did grow
Royall mankinde, of whom they also came
And tooke beginning, being, forme and frame:
Who gave them holy lawes, for aye to last,
Which each must teach his childe till time be past:
Their grosse fed bodies yet no Letters know,
No bonds nor bills they value, but their vow.
Thus without Arts bright lampe, by Natures eye,
They keepe iust promife, and loue equitie.
But if once discord his fierce ensigne weare,
Expect no promife vnle’ſt be for feare:
And, though these men no Letters know, yet their
Pans harſher numbers we may some where heare:
And vocall odes which vs affect with griefe;
Though to their mindes perchance they giue reliefe.
Besides these rude insights in Natures brest,
Each man by some meanes is with fence possedt
Of heavens great lights, bright ſtarres and influence,
But chiefly these of great experience:
Yet they no feasts (that I can learne) obserue,
Befides their *Ceres*, which do’th them preferue.
No dayes by them descernd from other dayes,
For holy certaine service kept alwayes.
Yet they when extreame heate doth kill their Corne,
Afflict themselfes some dayes, as men forelорne.
Their times they count not by the yeare as we,
But by the Moone their times distingui’ſht be.
Not by bright *Phœbus*, or his glorious light,
But by his *Phæbe* and her shadowed night.
They now accustom’d are two Gods to serue,
One good, which giues all good, and doth preserue;
This they for loue adore: the other bad,
Which hurts and wounds, yet they for feare are glad
To worship him: see here a people who
Are full of knowledge, yet doe nothing know
Of God aright; yet say his Lawes are good
All, except one, whereby their will’s withstood.
In having many wiuues, if they but one
Must haue, what must they doe when they haue none.
O how farre ſhort comes Nature of true grace,
Grace sees God here; hereafter face to face:
But Nature quite eneru’d of all ſuch right,
Reteines not one poore ſparcle of true light.
And now what foule diſſolues not into teares,
That hell must haue ten thousand thousand heires,
Which haue no true light of that truth divine,
Or sacred wisedome of th’ Eternall Trine.
O bleſſed *England* farre beyond all fence,
That knowes and loues this Trines omnipotence.
In briefe survey here water, earth, and ayre,
A people proud and what their orders are.

The fragrant flowers, and the Vernant Groues,
The merry Shores, and Storme-affrantaing Coues.
In briefe, a briefe of what may make man bleft,
If man’s content abroad can be posleft.
If these poore lines may winne this Country loue,
Or kinde compassion in the English moue;
Perfwade our mightie and renowned State,
This pore-blinde people to comiferate;
Or painefull men to this good Land invite,
Whose holy workes these Natiues may inlight:
If Heavens graunt these, to fee here built I truft;
An English Kingdome from this Indian duft.

FINIS.
Excuse this Postscript, perchance more profitable than the Prefcript. It may be a necessary Caveat for many who too familiarly doe Serò sapere. The discreet artificer is not onely happie to understand what may faery and infallibly further his duly considered designs and determinations: but to discover and remove what obstacle forever may oppose his well-advised purposes, and probable conclusions. I therefore, desiring that every man may be a Promethius, not an Epimethius, have here underwriten such impediments as I have observed wonderfully offensive to all Plantations; Quæ prodeſse quæant & delectare legentem.

First therefore I conceive that far distance of plantations produce many inconveniences and diseabilities of planters, when as severall Colonies consist but of twenty, or thirtie, or about that number, which in a vast uncommanded Continent, makes them liable to many and miserable exigents, which weaken all union, and leaves them difficulty to be assisted against a potent or a daily enemy, and dangerously to be commanded; when as some one Bay well fortified would maintaine and enrich some thousands of persons, if it be planted with men, able, ingenious, and laborious, being well furnished with all provisions and necessaries for plantations. Besides, if one Bay be well peopled, its easily defended, surveyed, disciplined, and commanded, be the seasons never so unseasonable, and all their Forces in few houres ready in Armes, either offensively to pursue, or defensively to subsist convenient numbers ever at sea, and sufficient ever at home for all service, intellligence and discovery.

Secondly, Ignorance of seasons, servants, situation, want of people, provisions, supplies, with resolution, courage and patience, in and against all opposition, distress and affliction.
Vincit patientia durum. Fishermen, manuall artificers, engeners, and good fowlers are excellent servants, and onely fit for plantations. Let not Gentlemen or Citizens once imagine that I preiudize their reputations, for I speake no word beyond truth, for they are too high, or not patient of such service: though they may be very necessary for Martiall discipline, or excellent, (if pious) for example to the seditious and inconsiderate multitude.

Boats with all their furniture, as sayles, hookes, and lines, and other appendences, afford the painfulfull planter both variety of comfort, and a sufficient competent, and an happy estate. Good mastiues are singular defences to plantations, in the terrifying or pursuing of the light-footed Natiues. Hogs and Goats are easie, present, and abundant profit, living and feeding on the Ile-lands almost without any care or cost.

Plantations cannot possibely, profitably subsist without chattels and boats, which are the onely means for surveying and conveying both our persons and provisions to the well advised situation. Without these, plantations may with much patience, and well fortified resolution indure but difficultly, though with much time flourishe and contentedly subsist. For when men are landed upon an unknowne shore, per adven ture weake in number and naturall powers, for want of boats and carriages; are compelled to stay where they are first landed, having no means to remove themselues or their goods, be the place never so fruitlese or inconvenient for planting, building bouses, boats, or stages, or the harbours never so unfit for fishing, fouling, or mooring their boats. Of all which, and many other things necessary for plantation, I purpose to enforme thee hereafter. Wishing thee in the interim all furtherance, all fortunatenesse.

Farewell.
Bibliography


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Fraser, William. “[Note on *Ex Quovis Ligno Non Fit Mercurius*].” Notes and Queries, vol. 6, ser. 1, 2 Dec. 1854, p. 447


Notes

Notes are keyed to the page and line number of the present volume. The line count includes headings, but not ornaments or running heads. Page numbers in parentheses do not appear in the original.

B.1-5 This text ... colonies. ] It is not known whether Morrell actually wrote the Latin poem and English translation in Massachusetts or if he committed his observations to paper upon his return to England. Moreover, the distinction for being the first known poem with a direct connection to British America goes to a short piece written in 1610 called Newes from Virginia by R. Rich, a soldier in Virginia. Only 25 copies of the earlier work were printed in London.

(i).14-15 Vera, ... cano, ] I sing of true things, not remarkable things. This is reminiscent of the opening line to Virgil’s Aeneid: Arma virumque cano.

(i).16-18 Plus ... commenſurato. ] True speech will be more worthy than the clear and exceedingly elegant measuring of a verse into individual feet.

(i).20 Nihil dicit ] Literally “He says nothing”; i.e. he will answer with no response.

(ii).1 Omne bene ] All is well.


(ii).2-3 Pietas, Pecunia, and Potentia ] Piety, money, and power.


(ii).8 ad Grecas callendas ] Literally at the Greek calends; i.e. never; or that something will never occur, since a Greek calends did not exist. The calends is a date (the first day of each month) only used in the Roman calendar. The English equivalent would be “when pigs fly.”
Notes

(ii).10  Plantations | colonies

(ii).10-11  illorum postpono mea seria ludo. | Based on “Posthabui tamen illorum mea seria ludo” from Virgil’s Eclogues. Morrell’s rendition means “I have disregarded my serious endeavors for their pleasure.” “Their” (illorum) refers to the English colonies; seria is misspelled and should read seria.

(ii).18  to accompt | to make an account or explanation

(ii).22  severall | separate

(ii).22  sphere | Social rank

(ii).25  Gorge | Robert Gorges was a captain in the English Navy and Governor-General of New England from 1623-1624.

(iii).3  heroiks, | Heroics; the style and meter associated with heroic verse. Classical heroic poetry uses hexameter, while English employs iambic pentameter.

(iii).6-7  adventure | obsolete verb meaning risk

(iii).7  them | Refers to Morrell’s “heroiks”

(iii).9  prime end | important result

(iii).9  plantation | colonization

(iii).11  Parce vati | Spare the poet.

(iii).12  Ex ... Mercurius | “Whithersoever it pleases, Mercury is not made from wood.” The more common rendition is Ex quovis lingo non fit Mercurius which ultimately derives from Apuleius’ De Magni Oratio: “Non enim ex omni ligne, ut Pythagoras dicebat, debet Mercurius exculpi.” William Fraser, writing in 1854 asserts that it came to mean: “You cannot make a genius out of a blockhead”.

(iii).14  Poeſie | obsolete term for poetry

(iii).16  vana spe | with empty hope

(iii).16  falſo gaudio | with false joy

(iii).17  Relations, | reporting

(iii).19  planter | colonist

(iii).20  interitures | deaths, from Latin intereo, interire, interii, interitus
Notes

(iii).22  *incenſe* ] homage

(iii).24  *dilating* ] expansion

(iii).28  Memento ] reminder

(iii).30  *diſcontents* ] The typeface used for this portion of the work is exceedingly small and oftentimes broken; “disconsents” may also be a possibility here. The typeface is too imprecise to determine for certain.

(iii).30  *opprobies* ] disgrace or poor reputation; from Latin *opprobrium, opprobrii*

(iv).2  Philomuſe Camoenae ] Roman goddess of poetry

(iv).8  Dicere ] The version used for this edition is housed in the British Museum which has Dicere in this line. The extant 1625 copy from the Huntington Library in California uses Dicito rather than Dicere. Neither dicito nor dicere corrupt the metrics of the line, but it is likely that Dicere is a printing error. The spelling dicere can represent either the present active infinitive or present passive imperative. Given the sense of the line, an active imperative is preferred. Dicito, the future active imperative satisfies both the meaning and meter. This inconsistency suggests that Dicere was an error during this poem’s printing in 1625, and was subsequently changed before the print run was completed. More evidence to indicate alterations during the printing of this text includes discrepancies in pagination. The Huntington Library version is missing page number 21 while the British Museum text is missing page number 2. Furthermore, in *The American Apollo* published in 1792, there is a reprint of Morrell’s poem. Throughout this late eighteenth century reproduction, an editor who remains anonymous amended the spelling of some words which were originally printed incorrectly and also included Dicito in line 8. It is not clear whether that edition is based on a 1625 copy which had Dicito, or if it was reproduced from an imprint which had Dicere and this alteration was an editorial decision.
Notes

(iv).9 dicere ] Here, dicere is a complementary infinitive governed by the imperative perge in the preceding line. Both 1625 copies have dicere in this place.

1.26-2.3 Aer ... complens ] All the nominative adjectives and participles stand in apposition to Aer.

2.5. ab igne ] Literally fire but here “rays” is more appropriate.

2.11 Æolio ] Aeolus, mentioned in the Odyssey and the Aneid as the Keeper of the Winds.

2.17 nemeroſa ] Printing error; should be nemorosa.

2.18. intuitu ] supine of intueor, intueri, intuitus sum governed by pergrata- “very pleasing for the sailors to look at from a distance”

2.18 ſeraci ] printing error for feraci.

2.23 dat ] governs all accusatives until multigenis.

2.24 Diosimales ] error for Dissimiles

2.28 Dimine ] error for Vimine

2.31 gustus ] gustus

3.1 vefcitur ] takes the ablative

3.2 omni ] error for omnis.

3.5-6 Iovis alta Arbore ] oak tree

3.6 alnis ] alder tree

3.10 musci ] In Classical Latin, muscus, musci referred to moss. However, in the late antique period, we find the first reference to musk in Talmud (Berkhot 43a) in the fifth century. It is thought that the word originated from Sanskrit मुस्कस् muská meaning testicle, and made its way westward to Latin via Middle Persian مَشْرَکَ musk, then Greek μόσχος moskos, and finally Latin muscus.

3.15 capitolij aves variae ] Leo M. Kaiser indicates that the birds here are geese, and the reference to Capitoline Hill reflects the geese whose cackles alerted the Romans to an attack from the Gauls and thus saved the city in 392 B.C.
Notes

3.8-16 *vnde fugaces ... canautas:* The vocabulary used here is obscure and I offer the following notes and translation of the passage: “Whence migrating stags, foxes, bears, wolves, lynxes, beavers and otters with skins suitable for excellent prices, grow fat; and diverse birds of a mild taste and herons, and cranes, and seagulls, and diving birds, and pheasants, ducks, swans, guans, doves, partridges, and hawks, and various birds of the Capitoline Hill not only [used] for tasty meat but also for feathers embellishing the decorations on one’s head in a delicate manner.”

Morrell uses *sapor, saporis* as a first declension feminine adjective in the ablative modifying *carne* to imply the birds’ use as meat. Based on the sense of this passage, it is evident that the verb *utor, uti, usus sum*, though omitted, is to be understood here.

*Pelli, (pellus/os, pelli)* is a rare term for a heron whose definition is found in the *Thesaurus Linguae Romanae et Britannicae* published in 1565 by bishop and lexicographer Thomas Cooper.

Moreover, *utor* also takes the ablative case, the case of *carne saporae*. Had Morrell written *carne saporae*, a dative of purpose would be implied. Lastly, the word *canautas* is a very obscure noun rarely encountered. It is first mentioned in the aforementioned *Thesaurus Linguae Romanae et Britannicae* wherein the nominative entry is *canautae* and occurs only in the plural. It is defined as “ornaments of the head.”

4.4 *Halices* Herring; In Classical Latin, there is no h. The word is simply *alex, alicis*.

4.4 *fagros* From the Greek φάγρος- the sea bream. Rendered into Neo-Latin as *pagrus* the name of which currently serves as a label for a genus of sea bream.

4.12 *endignis* There should be a space separating *en* and *dignis*,

4.14 *Excelsis* *Excelsis* is the emendation from the 1792 reprint in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

4.22 *indultae* should be *indutae*
Notes

4.30 curaq; ] should be cruraque

5.2 soluti ] should be solutis

5.8 Detq; solum solitam, ] Here, solum is the adverb “only”.

5.9 nomine ] should be nomini

6.11 contamine ] should be cantamine

6.32 Impoñitis ] should be Impoñita

7.10 Aripiente ] should read Arripiente

7.13 Hybernum ] Unconventional spelling of Hibernus, an Irishman. Here used with a plural sense as the Irish.

7.29 obfuscata ] should read obfuscata.

8.1 levibus ] Refers to arva (arvum, arvi) in the previous line (7.32).

8.1 ab illa ] Refers to femina in the previous line (7.32)

8.20 creviffe ] Creavisse could also be a possible alternative to crevisse. It is unclear whether Morrell used crevisse or if the “a” had been omitted by the printer as both words convey a sense of being born.

8.29 & 8.31 faedera ] should read foedera

9.2 licet ] used as the conjunction “although”

9.16 Cinthia ] Unconventional spelling of Cynthia, an epithet for Artemis and Selena.

9.22 Afficienf; ] This participle uses an ablative object.

10.2. lachrimas ] Unconventional spelling of lachrymas


11.2 Dread Soveraigne ] Revered or held in awe. This sense is now obsolete. It was also used in the 1620 Mayflower Compact: “In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc.”

11.2 fues ] follows, ensues

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Notes

11.6 wch ] abbreviation for “which”
12.3-4 Vaine is all ... fraine ] It is futile to seek the quality of Apollo’s verse in these lines of poetry.
12.5 ne’er ] contraction of never
12.6 pumef[te] pumice stone
12.6 iuce ] juice
13.1 ENGLAND ] amended from “ENGLNAD” in the original printed text
13.8 bleft, feales ] “blessed seas”; the comma is misplaced and should occur after “seases”.
13.18 Peares ] peers, refers to peerage
13.20 Aarons ] church leaders or officials
13.20 Senfors ] censers
13.27 concaues ] hollow spaces
14.3 Titan ] Titans were a race of gods descended from Uranus and Gaia. Hyperion was one of their 12 offspring who in turn had a son Helios, the Greek god and personification of the sun. Here, Titan refers to Helios.
14.4 overfwayes ] overpowers
14.13 grand-parent to all things on earth ] The phrase stands in apposition to the preceding words “the earth”. The line would read clearer with a comma after the first instance of earth.
14.21 doth glad ] gladden
14.29 Filberd ] hazelnut
15.1 ground-Nut ] Apios americana, called the groundnut or sometimes potato bean, is a vine that bears edible beans and tubers.
15.3 Yealow without ] yellow on the outside
15.11 All ore that Maine ] all on the edge of the coast
15.11 Vernant ] flourishing
15.15 contenting ] making content
Notes

15.18 Muſcats ] Obsolete name for any animal that secretes musk. Here Morrell is referring to the muskrat, whose first use in English can be found in Ralph Hamor’s *A true discourse of the present estate of Virginia*... (London, 1615).

15.18 Lynces ] lynxes

15.20 Fit ... fit.] Fit to warm us and fit to feed us.

15.23 Herne ] herons

15.24 the Maine ] the coast

15.26 Knot ] The knot, also known as the red knot, is a common shore bird in Europe, but not found in this part of the New World. Morrell is using the name of a European shorebird for the one he is documenting here.

15.26 doe never faile ] are never absent

16.1 Titans beames ] sun’s rays

16.8 poft ] soon after

16.15 Naucleare ] from the Latin *nauclerum*, ship captain

16.16 aft’ loomes ] is seen from a distance; “ast’” should be “as’t”—a contraction of “as it”.

16.17 more ] moor

16.19 Shalop ] small vessel propelled by oars, a little larger than a dory

16.21 Cra-ﬁlth ] In modern usage, crayﬁsh refers to a freshwater crustacean. In Early Modern English, it was a general term for all large edible crustacea.

16.23 Hacke ] hake, fish of the cod family

16.23 Bafe ] The sea bass is a common marine fish native to the shores of Europe. It is unclear what native fish Morrell refers to here.

16.28 traine ] Archaic term for oil extracted from sea animals, primarily marine mammals; in this instance the reference is to cod liver oil.

17.1 ﬂtor ] store; *i.e.* a supply

17.5 Pyramy ] archaic spelling of pyramid
Notes

17.6 ruinate ] destroy
17.11 hefts ] commands
17.30 ere ] earlier
17.16 nere ] obsolete contracted form of never
17.25 greeces ] greces, literally steps or stairs; i.e. cutting the hair in an uneven steps or rows
17.31 mantled ] cloaked
18.4 Begirts ] surrounds
18.5 his shame ] genitals
18.6 Start-vps ] Literally the meaning is a half-boot. In this instance, James Baxter, editor of the three volume work Sir Ferdinando Gorges and his province of Maine... indicates that it means leggings.
18.7 Pinfen ] Alternative spelling for the obsolete pinson, a thin shoe or slipper, seldom worn after ca. 1600.
18.14 burning vp all with fire ] referring to their slash-and-burn methods of agriculture
18.16 And make ... Corne to beare] And make it fit to supply a great amount of corn
18.19 dифent ] descent
18.21 consort of his bed ] wife
18.23 highly bred ... state ] educated or cultivated
18.24 they'rs ] should read “they’re”
18.24 prognate ] descended
18.25-28 If they vnequall ... Their Kingdomes,] I.e. Children fathered on consorts of lower standing would not command such high respect.
19.3 These heads ] refers to their kings
19.7 Potents ] powerful figures having great authority or influence
19.8 their peere ] referring to the king they serve
19.11-12 To drinke a potion ... casting, ] casting: vomiting. In many Native American tribes particularly in the southeast, whenever a council of the chieftdom was held, a ritual
beverage known as black drink would be consumed by adult men, which was thought to purify and rid the body of toxins and to promote social cohesion. The main ingredient was a type of holly (*Ilex vomitoria*). Black drink is extremely bitter, has high caffeine content, and in large doses serves as an emetic. When consumed in great amounts, this drink can cause projectile vomiting. Morrell is describing an equivalent ceremony among New England’s native inhabitants.

19.19  eafe: ]  give themselves relief  
19.21  divell ]  obsolete spelling of devil  
19.26  Tell ]  should be “Till”  
19.26  leaf ]  lest  
19.27  leaue ]  permission  
19.31  fild ]  filled  
19.32  are fpild ]  i.e., are killed  
20.12  staffe ]  basis  
20.17  and his ]  his possessions are implied here  
20.18  concaues ]  caves  
20.21  wyle ]  wile, deceit  
20.30  doat vpon ]  dote, admire  
21.5  graffie twyne ]  cord or string of grass  
21.6  lyne ]  cords of plant material  
21.7  Arras ]  tapestry that hangs on a wall  
21.12  finger-worke ]  movement of fingers  
21.14  what fo ere ]  whatsoever  
21.18  Ceres ]  Roman goddess of grain  
21.26  content ]  satisfaction  
21.28  And s nere ]  And is never  
21.30  Leige ]  the superior to whom one owes feudal allegiance and service
Notes

21.32 daign’d’e ] esteemed
22.1 Worthy faire Hymens favours ] suitable for marriage or
sexual congress
22.3 lynes ] Bible verses
22.27 for aye ] forever
22.20 bills ] documents
22.24 vnle’ſt ] contracted form of unless it
22.26 Pans harſher numbers ] Pan was the ancient Greek god
of nature, rustic music and impromptus; this refers to
panpipes and by extension the songs of the Indians.
23.1 feaſts ] religious feasts; i.e. feast days
23.2 do’th ] contraction of doeth; obsolete third person,
singular, present, indicative, active of do.
23.8 distingui’ſht ] misplaced apostrophe; should read
“distinguish’t”
23.9 Phoebus ] Apollo, god of the sun
23.10 Phoebe ] Epithet for Selene, the ancient Greek goddess
of the moon; i.e. the moon
23.17 aright ] proper, in the postpositive sense
23.18 withſtood ] contradicted
23.28 Eternall Trine ] Holy trinity
24.2 affranting ] affronting
24.6 moue ] Literally, the English move to New England
24.8 pore-blinde ] purblind, partially blind
24.11 If Heavens graunt ... truſt; ] If the heavens grant these
things, I trust to see here built
(25).3 Sero ſapere ] Literally late to understand, i.e. understand
too late.
(25).4 fayrely ] fairly
(25).8 Promethius, not an Epimethius, ] In Greek mythology,
Prometheus and Epimetheus were Titan brothers.
Prometheus, who is credited with stealing fire from

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Notes

the gods and giving it to mankind is viewed as clever. Epithemeus, who was tasked with bestowing a positive trait to animals, could not think of one to give man and is subsequently seen as foolish and unintelligent.

(25).10  quaeant ] should be “queant”
(25).10-11 Quae prodeffe ... legentem. ] Let that which is able to benefit and please the reader.
(25).15  number ] Refers to the number of English inhabitants in a particular colony.
(25).16  vnion ] harmony
(25).22  f one ] should be “if one”
(25).23-24 be the seasons ... unſeasonable ] i.e. provided that the seasons are not too harsh
(25).25  ſubſift ] maintain
(26).1  Vincit patientia durum. ] Patience overcomes hardships.
(26).1-2 engeners] engineers, specifically someone who builds military equipment or someone who constructs public utilities such as bridges, roads, etc.
(26).4  preiudize ] prejudice
(26).5  patient ] disposed
(26).7  inconsiderate ] unruly
(26).8  furniture ] provisions
(26).9  appendences ] additional supplies
(26).10  competent ] means or resources
(26).11  eſtate ] general condition or state
(26).11  maſtiues ] English mastiffs
(26).11  singular ] sole or exclusive
(26).21  per adventure ] by chance
(26).25  flages ] stagecoaches
(26).27  enforme ] inform
COLOPHON

Composed for the most part in Junicode types, with occasional resort to IM Fell English, IM Fell DW Pica, IM Fell Double Pica, IM Fell 3-Line Pica, Fell Flowers, IFAO Greek Unicode, Deja Vu Sans, and Simplified Arabic. The page design and layout are based on the 1625 London edition, and page breaks in that version are preserved. Ornaments are reconstructions of those in the first edition.