

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,  
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.

(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 f 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 “fl” is more commonly used.

Andrew Gaudio  
Library of Congress  
June, 2019

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 New-England.

O R

A B R I E F F E  
E N A R R A T I O N  
O F T H E A Y R E,  
Earth, Water, Fish and  
Fowles of that Country.

W I T H

A D E S C R I P T I O N  
of the Natures, Orders, Habits,  
and Religion of the *Natives*;

I N

Latine and English Verſe.

*Sat brevè, ſi ſat benè.*

---

L O N D O N,  
Imprinted by I. D.  
1 6 2 5.

 New-England.

*o R*

A B R I E F F E  
E N A R R A T I O N  
O F T H E A Y R E,  
Earth, Water, Fish and  
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*Sat brevè, ſi ſat benè.*

---

*L O N D O N ,*  
Imprinted by *I. D.*

1 6 2 5 .







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



Hat your favourable im-  
ployments 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 least  
would be my best sentence, if I should answer such  
service with a *NIHIL DICIT*. VWhen in con-  
tempt of Envy, I may present your Councell with

## *The Epistle Dedicatorie.*

an *OMNE BENE*, at least, *Certa spe 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 least the two latter (I suppose under favour) the *Spanyard* and *Hollander* had *ad Græcas callendas* rayfed to such sweet tones their westerne and easterne flourishing Plantations. But *illorum postpono mea fereæ 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 obserue such princely attempts and royall secrets. Yet giue me leaue to you worthy favourers of *Colonies*, as in armes and architecture to be your remembrancer, 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 severall 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.*

WILLIAM MORRELL.



VNDERSTANDING READER;

**V***Hen my melancholly leasures first conceived these rude heroiks, my conscious Muse censured them too tender-fighted to be admitted the common light.*

*Induced by some kinde friends, who are truly studious of the publique good, I was vnwillingly willing to adventure them the publique censure, desirous, I ingeniously confesse: (and so I professe my selfe ever) in my best endeavours, to further such royall and religious imployments: if my poore iudgement can assuredly obserue pietie to be one prime end of plantation, and the vnder-taking probable to prosper. If (Gentle Reader) these lynes please thee, peruse and vse vs gently: if not, Parce vati. You know that Ex quolibet ligno non fit Mercurius. Besides, error in Poesie is lesse blemish than in Historie, Experience cannot plead me ignorant, much lesse innocent, having seene and suffered. I should delude others vana spe, or falso gaudio. What can be expected from false Relations, but unhappie proceedings, to the best intended, and most hopefull Colonies. So that want of provisions, and right information, begets in the distracted planter nothing but mutinies, fearefull 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 truly zealous and religious planters and adventurers, who seriously endeavour the dilating of Christs kingdom, in the propagating of the Gospell, and so advisedly undertake so weightie and so worthie a Worke, as that they and theirs may parallell 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.



## ¶ *Lēctori.*

Candide si placidum dederis Philomuse Camoenae

Intuitum: tristi dulce levamen erit.

Optima mellifluis modulari carmina nervis

Illud Apollineis cantibus euge melos.

Mellea coeleste 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.*

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## ¶ NOVA ANGLIA.

**H** *Actenus ignotam populis ego carmine primus,  
 Te Nova, de veteri cui contigit Anglia nomen,  
 Aggredior trepidus pingui celebrare Minervâ,  
 Fer mihi numen opem, cupienti singula plectro  
 Pandere veridico, quae nuper vidimus ipsi:  
 Vt breviter vereq; sonent modulamina nostra,  
 Temperiem cæli, vim terræ, munera ponti,  
 Et varios gentis mores, velamina, cultus.  
 Anglia fælici meritò Nova nomine gaudens,  
 Sævos nativi mores pertæsa Coloni,  
 Indigni penitus populi tellure feraci,  
 Mæsta superfusis 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,  
 Angelicæ quibus est naturæ nomen in umbra:  
 Cælica ut extremis dispergant semina terris.  
 Est locus occiduo procul hinc spatiosus in orbe,  
 Plurima regna tenens, populisq; incognitus ipsis:  
 Fælix frugiferis sulcis, simul æquore fælix:  
 Prædis perdives varijs, & flumine dives,  
 Axe satis calidus, rigidoq; a frigore tutus.  
 Proximus æthereo socius volitabilis igni  
 Aer, natali saliens levitate; calore  
 Temperieq; satis fælicibus, humidus ante*

## Nova-Anglia.

*Omnia principia, innata virtute coactus  
 Sistere difficile in propria regione, volenti  
 Alterius motu penetrans loca, inania complens  
 Vi tenuj: fætæ regio quæ proximæ terræ  
 Solis ab igne, poli motu, terræq; vaporum,  
 Vnde; attractu calet hinc, hinc humida restat,  
 Hinc fit temperies: fit & hæc Nova terra beata:  
 Est aliquando tamen rapidis subiecta procellis,  
 Quæ sceleri subitoq; solumq; salumq; minantur,  
 Flamine corripere, & terras diffundere caelis:  
 Mox tamen Æolio compressis carcere ventis  
 Omnia continuo remanent sub fidere tuta.  
 Inde suis vicibus luctantes murmure venti  
 Qua data porta ruunt, quatientes turbine terras.  
 Magna parens tellus, reram communis alumna,  
 Frigida sicca gravis subsidens vallibus imis,  
 Montibus extendens nemerosa cacumina celsis  
 Longius intuitu nautis pergrata: seraci  
 Irriguoq; solo lætanti messibus aequis  
 Optima frugiferis mandantes semina fulcis.  
 Agricolis quam terra ferax, quæ grata ministrat  
 Assiduis alimenta viris: nulloq; serenti  
 Dulcia dat variæ naturæ mora nuceq;  
 Dissimales, placidas tumidasq; in vitibus vuas  
 Innumeris, mixtas redolentes floribus herbas  
 Multigenis, morbo læsos medicare potentes  
 Artus, radices similis virtutis amœnas.  
 Dimine gramineo nux subterranea suavis  
 Serpit humi, tenui flavo sub cortice, pingui  
 Et placido nucleo nivei candoris ab intra,  
 Melliflua parcos hilarans dulcedine gburstus,  
 Donec in æstivum Phæbus conscenderit axem.*

*His nucleis laute versutus vefcitur Indus:*  
*His exempta fames fegnis noftratibus omni:*  
*Dulcibus his vires revocantur viētibus almæ.*  
*Arboribus dives vernantibus, eſt quoq; tellus*  
*Cedris, & fagis, Iuglandibus & Iovis alta*  
*Arbore, fraxinea, gummoſis pinibus, alnis,*  
*Iuniperis, multiſq; alijs tum gramine & herbis,*  
*Pafcua quæ prebent animalibus, vnde fugaces*  
*Pingueſcunt cervi, vulpes vrſiq; lupiq;*  
*Linces, & fibri, muſci, lutraq; politæ*  
*Pellibus eximij pretij, volucresq; ſaporis*  
*Perplacidi variæ, pelliq; grueſq; palumbes,*  
*Megulus & Phaſianus, anas, cignus Iovis ales,*  
*Penelopeſq;, columbæ, perdix, accipitresq;,*  
*Et capitoliſ aves variæ 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: artiſices gremium ſerutentur opimum.*  
*Dulce ſolum cælumq; vides en terra ſerenis,*  
*Perſpicuis, placidis, levibus, liquidisq; beata*  
*Fontibus, & fluvijs facili quærentibus Eurum*  
*Motu, præcipiti curſu poſt flumina nimbos*  
*In mare decurrunt ſtagnisq; paludibus Indis,*  
*Aucupio placidis bene, piſcatuq; colonis.*  
*Grata ſolum, cælumq; viris alimonia præbent.*  
*Devia quam dives regio hæc? benediſta ſereno*  
*Æere, fæcundis glebis, fælicibus vndis.*  
*Proſpera tranquilluſ contingit littora portuſ*  
*Altus, apertus, vbi valeant ſe condere naves*



*Invitis. ventis, securæ, rupe & arena*  
*Æquora multiplices præbent tranquilla marinas*  
*Temporibus solitis prædas utentibus hamis:*  
*Halices, fagros, scombroscosq; locustas,*  
*Ostrea curvatis conchis, conchasq; trigones*  
*Cete etiam rhombos, fargos, cum squatina asellos.*  
*His naves vastas onerat piscator honestus:*  
*His mercator opes cumulat venerabilis almas,*  
*His pius ampla satis faciat sibi lucra colonus:*  
*Deniq; divitibus quibus intima cura suorum*  
*Divitiæ & pietas, licet hisce beare colonos.*  
*Digna viris patria endignis, ubi 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 magnanimæ peragentes otia gentes,*  
*Arte sagittifera pollentes, cursibus, armis*  
*Astutæ, recto, robusto corpore & alto,*  
*Pellibus indultæ cervinis, frigora contra*  
*Aspera, cum placeant conversis flamina pelles*  
*Obvia ut impellant, calefacto pelle lacerto*  
*Dextro, quo facilis sit flexile sumere cornu,*  
*Omnia ut extinguant subito in surgentia, & ipsos*  
*Salvos defendant, inducto tergore corpus*  
*Villoso, leviter miris se singula formis*  
*Texta ligant, molles cingunt genitalia pelles,*  
*Grande femur caligæ cervinæ curaq; longa*  
*Exornant, plantas conservat calceus aptus,*  
*Hos tamen exutos curant aliunde reversi*

*Depositosq; suos calamos, arcusq; sonantes,  
Fessaq; confrato sua stramine membra soluti  
Tectis instar haræ, dextre loca verna petentes,  
Adveniente hiemis glaciale tempore sævæ,  
Inq; suam patriam redeuntes sole benigno  
Calfaciente leves artus fervore, revisa  
Vt pereant inimica, soloq; nocentia, frugem  
Detq; 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 stirpe maritas,  
Progeniem timidam credunt, cordisq; socordis  
Nec solij, sceptrive sui fore posse capacem.  
Rex tenet imperium, pœnas & præmia cunctis  
Constituit, dat iura; senes, viduasq; pupillos  
Et miseros curat, peregrinos moliter omnes  
Excipit hospitio semper, tamen inde (tributi  
Nomine) primitias rerum partemq; priorem,  
Venatu captæ prædæ capit, atq; requirit.  
Cingitur obsequio regis plebs omnis, & ultro  
Arma capit, fortiq; facit sua pralia dextra  
Pallida lethiferis, faciens præcordia telis  
Hostium, & expugnans sceleratis fata sagittis.  
Insuper ornavit quorum Bellona corolla  
Tempera, præsidio, vita, virtute virili,  
Regibus incedunt comites tutamine certo.  
His reges capiunt consultis cautius arma;  
Cautius exactis faciunt his fœdera bellis:  
Eloquijs horum concedere regibus omnis  
Subsidium, quodcunq; valet, plebs alma movetur,*

*Mundi acie tantum semel unde profecta reversa.  
 Nec prius excercet crudelia paruulus arma,  
 Quam patiens armorum ut sit sibi pectus, amaram  
 Herbis compositam peramaris sorbiat undam,  
 Vsq; in sanguineum vertatur lymphæ colorem,  
 Vndiq; sanguinea ex vomitu rebibenda tenellis.  
 Vsq; valent maribus: sic fit natura parata  
 Omnia dura pati: puer hæc cui potio grata  
 Pectore fit valido cuncta expugnare pericla.  
 Magnanimis medici comites virtute periti  
 Artibus empericis, diro contaminate, tactu,  
 Fletu, sudore, & percussio pectore palmis  
 Duriter expaſſis proprio, pallentia eorum  
 Corpora restituunt facili medicamine sana:  
 Vulnere sanandi si nulla potentia verbis,  
 Artibus aut herbis, confectum 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,  
 Instar servorum, quacunq; subire parati  
 Ardua, consilij subiecti, foemina, fumus,  
 Indicus ad certos inhibetur, & omnibus annos.  
 Postea liberior concessa potentia cunctis,  
 Connubio multas sibi coniunxisse maritas:  
 Ditiore est plures nuptas qui duxerit omnis,  
 Viribus, & natis: nati quia summa parentum  
 Gaudia, descessus quorum (nam mortis biatu  
 Compressos lacrimis decorant) longoq; graviq;  
 Commemorant luctu, tumulisq; cadivera mandant.  
 A genibus subrepta cavis pallentia cuncta;  
 Impositis opibus tumulis, Titanis ad ortus,*

*Attollunt facies, ad quem post tempora longa  
 Venturos credunt omnes, ubi præmia digna  
 Imposita accipient, fuerintq; salutis ad hortos  
 Elysios vecti, mirandaq; gaudia, summis  
 Exornata bonis: hæc spes post funera gentis.  
 Est alia utilitas, multis vxoribus arva,  
 Valde onerata tenent Cerealibus, omnis eorum  
 Nocte dieq; 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, virsutus, durus, inermis,  
 Difficile edomitus donec secreta latebant  
 Iudicia, atq; doli taciti: fit & arte superstes.  
 Sæpius hac Indus, victoris victor & ingens,  
 Fæmina præterea vultu plerumq; venusto,  
 Multos irridens risus, linguamq; loquacem;  
 Iudicioq; gravi, genio placidoq; virili  
 Pectore, 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, mirisq; figuris.  
 His decor eximius color est contrarius albo:  
 Orbitus vnde suis per totum candidus artus  
 Et piceo facies est obfucata colore.  
 Consuetudo tamen populis his fæmina ut omnis,  
 Omnia perficiat duri mandata laboris:  
 Arva fodit manibus, committit semina terris,*

*Vtq; seges crescit levibus fulcitur ab illa,  
 Continuo terris, segitem sarritq; refarit,  
 Tergore portat onus, victumq; labore paratum,  
 Et breviter peragit mulier conamine prompto,  
 Omnia ad humanam spectantia 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 vulnus.  
 Vnde fugit sceleri pede fortia fortis in arma  
 Hostis, & inde sui letans fit sponsa cubilis.  
 Præda satis felix; hinc victa iniuria mentis,  
 Deniq; cuiusdam cultores numinis omnes  
 Sunt, cui primitias reddunt, quotiesq; necesse,  
 Fortia discruciat miserabile pectora, luctu  
 Acriq; horrendis clamoribus æthera complent.  
 Omnia principio fecisse agnoscitur illis,  
 Vnum principium, primos crevisse parentes,  
 Vnum terrarum dominum, consorte; duobus  
 His mortale genus divam sumpsisse figuram:  
 Quorum progenies illi, quoq; stirpe racemi.  
 Insuper hunc dominum dominis posuisse creatis,  
 Optima iustitiæ sacræ præcepta docenda,  
 Sacro perpetuis ætatibus omnia iussu.  
 Hactenus est omnis longævæ litera genti  
 Vix audita, viris penitusq; incognita cunctis.  
 Fas, non quid fasti: falsum non, fœdera curant:  
 Lumine naturæ summi sunt iuris amantes  
 Promissi; dati; tanti sunt fœdera genti.  
 Nulla fides populis tamen est capiente sagittas,*

*Marte feras, fueris nisi sævis fortior armis.  
Litera cuncta licet latet hos, modulamina quædam  
Fistulae disparibus calamis facit, est & agrestis  
Musica vocis ijs, minime iucundi, sonoris  
Obtusisq; sonis oblectans pectora, sensus,  
Atq; suas aures, artis sublimis inanes.  
Omnes, præsertim multos provectus in annos,  
Indus, quid cæli, cursus, quid sidera, vires  
Sunt, bene concipiunt animis, cælumq; futurum:  
Qua mihi notitia latet, aut quo numine certo.  
Festa tamen gens nulla nisi Cerealia servat:  
Genti nulla dies sancto discrimine nota:  
Annus & 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:  
Noctibus 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: hunc gelida formidine adorant.  
Naturæ gens luce suæ sublimia tentat,  
Agnosens præcepta dei pia singula summi,  
Excepto de ducendis vxoribus vno,  
Affectis etenim morbis vxoribus illis,  
Vel gravidis, alijs opus est vxoribus illis.  
Heu quam dissimilis naturæ, gratia vera,  
Humana & ratio. Sublimia gratia vitæ  
Afficit æternæ fidei bonitate potita:  
Enervata suis ratio at virtutibus æquis.*

## Nova-Anglia.

*Illi nulla manet veræ scintilla salutis,  
Talia quis fando lachrimas non fundit amaras,  
Divinæ lucis, virtutis visq; capacem  
Gentem, cœlestis veræ pietatis inanem.  
Flebilis ardentem mitti Phlegetontis in undas.  
Assicis effigiem terræ, levis ætheris, vndæ:  
Assicis antiquæ mores, velamina, gentis:  
Assicis optatos, hilarantia littora, portus:  
Assicis his modicum fœliciter (Ente faventi  
Cœlesti cœptis) letantia singula votum.  
Si mea Barbaricæ prosint conamina genti:  
Si valet Anglicanis incompta placere poesis:  
Et sibi perfaciles hac reddere gente potentes,  
Assiduosq; pios sibi persuadere Colonos:  
Si doceat primi vitam victumq; parentis:  
Angli si fuerint Indis exempla beate  
Vivendi, capiant quibus ardua limina cœli:  
Omnia succedunt votis: modulamina spero  
Hæc mea sublimis fuerint præsagia regni.*

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*New-England* so nam'd by your Princely *Grace*,  
*Dread Sovereigne*, now, most humbly fues 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, w<sup>ch</sup> *goodnesse* once vouchsaf'd her  
 (name.




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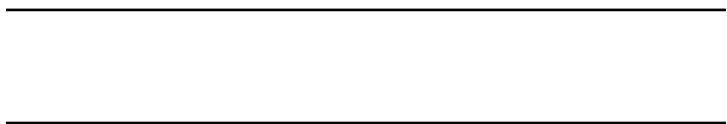


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*If thou Apollo hold'st thy Scepter forth,  
 To these harsh numbers that's thy Royall worth.  
 Vaine is all search in these to search that vaine,  
 Whose stately style is great Apolloes straine,  
 Minerva ne're distil'd into my Muse  
 Her sacred droppes, my pumesse wants all iuce.  
 My Muse is plaine concise her fam's to tell  
 In truth, and method, Loue, or leaue: Farewell.*





## N E W V V – E N G L A N D

**F**Eare not poore 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 so direct my Verse,  
 That it may winne her people, friends commerce;  
 Whilst her sweet ayre, rich soile, blest, seases 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,  
 Intreats with teares *Great Brittain*e 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 Sensors nere  
 Cease burning, till these men *Iehovah* 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  
 Fills full all concaues betwixt heaven and earth,

So that the Region of the ayre is blest  
With what Earths mortals wish to be posselt.  
Great *Titan* darts on her his heavenly rayes,  
Whereby extreames he quells, and overfwaves.  
Blest 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 surprize their rage,  
In their vast prifon, and their force affwage.  
Thus in exchange a day or two is spent,  
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 difcents,  
Is as it were intrencht; againe ascents  
Mount vp to heaven by *Ioues* omnipotence,  
Whose looming greenesse ioyes the Sea-mans fence.  
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 spangles clad,  
And yeelds an hundred fold for one,  
To feede 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 store and forts of berries great and faire:  
The Filberd, Cherry, and the fruitfull Vine,  
Which cheares the heart and makes it more divine.  
Earths spangled beauties pleasing smell and sight;  
Objects for gallant choyce and chiefe delight.

A ground-Nut there runnes on a graffie threed,  
Along the fhallow earth, as in a bed,  
Yealow without, thin, filmd, fweete, lilly white,  
Of ftrength to feede and cheare the appetite.  
From thefe our natures may haue great content,  
And good fubftitance when our meanes is fpent.  
With thefe the Natiues doe their ftrength maintaine  
The Winter feafon, 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.  
Afh, Oake, and Wal-nut, Pines and Iunipere;  
The Hafel, Palme, and hundred more are there.  
Ther's graffe and hearbs contenting man and beaft,  
On which both Deare, and Beares, and Wolues do feaft.  
Foxes both gray and blacke, (though blacke I never  
Beheld,) with Mufcats, Lynces, Otter, Bever;  
With many other which I here omit,  
Fit for to warme vs, and to feede vs fit.  
The Fowles that in thofe Bayes and Harbours feede,  
Though in their feafons they doe elf-where breede,  
Are Swans and Geefe, Herne, Phefants, 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 defire.  
With thefe fweete dainties man is fweetly fed,  
With thefe rich feathers Ladies plume their head;  
Here's flefh and feathers both for vfe and eafe,  
To feede, adorne, and reft thee if thou pleafe.

The treafures got, on earth, by *Titans* beames,  
They beft may search that haue beft art and meanes.  
The ayre and earth if good, are bleffings rare,  
But when with thefe the waters bleffed are,  
The place is compleat, here each pleafant fpring,  
Is like thofe fountaines where the *Mufes* fing.  
The eafie channels gliding to the Eaft,  
Vnleffe oreflowed, then poft to be releaft,  
The Ponds and places where the waters ftay,  
Content the Fowler with all pleafant prey.  
Thus ayre and earth and water giue content,  
And highly honour this rich Continent.  
As Nature hath this Soile bleft, fo each port  
Abounds with bliffe, abounding all report.  
The carefull Naucleare may a-farre difcry  
The land by fmell, aft' loomes below the skie.  
The prudent Mafter there his Ship may more,  
Paft winde and weather, then his God adore,  
Man forth each Shalop with three men to Sea,  
Which oft returne with wondrous ftore of prey;  
As Oyfters, Cra-fifh, Crab, and Lobfters great,  
In great abundance when the Seaes retreat:  
Torteife, and Herring, Turbut, Hacke and Bafe,  
With other fmall fifh, and frefh bleeding Place;  
The mightie Whale doth in thefe Harbours lye,  
Whofe Oyle the carefull Merchant deare will buy.  
Besides all thefe and others in this Maine:  
The coftly 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 fubfift,  
And pay their Merchants debt and intereft:

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 most richly liue:  
And there erect a *Pyramy* of estate,  
Which onely finne and Heaven can ruinate.  
Let deepe discretion this great worke attend,  
What's well begun for th' most part well doth end:  
So may our people peace and plentie finde,  
And kill the Dragon that would kill mankinde.  
Thofe well feene Natiues in graue Natures hefts,  
All clofe designs conceale in their deepe brefts:  
What strange attempts so ere they doe intend,  
Are fairely vsher'd in, till their last ende.  
Their well advised talke evenly conueyes  
Their acts to their intents, and nere displays  
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 displeas'd, and hardly reconcild;  
Stately and great, as read in Rules of state:  
Incens'd, 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 nimble and expertly draw the bow;  
Traind vp to suffer cruell heate and cold,  
Or what attempt so 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 vse, and free from harme;  
 A Girdle set with formes of birds or beafts,  
 Begirts their waste, which gently giues them ease.  
 Each one doth modestly binde vp his shame,  
 And Deare-skin Start-vps reach vp to the fame;  
 A kinde of *Pinfen* keeps their feete from cold,  
 Which after travels they put off, vp-fold,  
 Themselues 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 confort 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 feede 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 ſaue,  
But are by death ſurprizd, then with the graue  
The diuell 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 uſe,  
Tell certaine yeares, leaſt they themſelues abuſe.  
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 ſaue  
They covet, 'cauſe by them their Kingdomes ſild,  
When as by fate or Armes their liues are ſpild.



Whose death as all that dye they fore lament,  
 And fill the skies with cryes: impatient  
 Of nothing more then pale and fearefull 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 whilst they did liue,  
 Which they best lou'd: their eyes turn'd to the East,  
 To which after much time, to be releast  
 They all must March, where all shall all things haue  
 That heart can wish, or they themselues can craue.  
 A second profit which by many wiues  
 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 suruiues: thus saving of himselfe,  
 He acts much mischief, and retains his wealth.  
 By this deepe wyle, the *Irish* long withstood  
 The *English* power, whilst they kept their food,  
 Their strength of life their Corne; that lost, they long  
 Could not withstand this Nation, wise, stout, strong.  
 By this one Art, these Natiues oft suruiue  
 Their great'st opponents, and in honour thriue.  
 Besides, 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 prating, and  
Of sober aspect, graft with graue command:  
Of man-like courage, stature tall and straight,  
Well neru'd, with hands and fingers small and right.  
Their slender fingers on a grasse twyne,  
Make well form'd Baskets wrought with art and lyne;  
A kinde of Arras, or Straw-hangings, wrought  
With divers formes, 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 doores, giue 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 ser vile exercis'd to be:  
And all our women freed, from labour all  
Vnlesse what's easie: vs much fooles they call,  
'Cause 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' aduerse Armie, where they're entertaind  
With kinde salutes, 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 sacrifice,  
 Filling the ayre with her shrill shrieks and cries.  
 The knowledge of this God they say they haue  
 From their forefathers, wondrous wise and graue;  
 Who told them of one God, which did create  
 All things at first, himselfe though increate:  
 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 gaue 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 promise, and loue equitie.  
 But if once discord his fierce ensigne weare,  
 Expect no promise vnle'ft 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 sence possesse  
 Of heavens great lights, bright starres and influence,  
 But chiefly those of great experience:

Yet they no feasts (that I can learne) obserue,  
Besides their *Ceres*, which do'th them preferue.  
No dayes by them descern'd from other dayes,  
For holy certaine service kept alwayes.  
Yet they when extreame heate doth kill their Corne,  
Afflict themselues some dayes, as men forelorne.  
Their times they count not by the yeare as we,  
But by the Moone their times distingui'sht be.  
Not by bright *Phæbus*, 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 wiues, 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 enerv'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 diuine,  
Or sacred wisedome of th' Eternall Trine.  
O blessed *England* farre beyond all fence,  
That knowes and loues this Trines omnipotence.  
In brieve 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-affranting Coues.  
In briefe, a briefe of what may make man blest,  
If man's content abroad can be posselt.  
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 comiserate;  
Or painefull men to this good Land invite,  
Whose holy workes these Natiues may inlight:  
If Heavens graunt these, to see here built I trust;  
An *English* Kingdome from this *Indian* dust.

*F I N I S.*



*E*Xcuse this Postscript, perchance more profitable than the Prescript. It may be a necessary Caveat for many who too familiarly doe Serò sapere. The discreet artificer is not onely happie to vnderstand what may fayrely and infallibly further his duly considered designs and determinations: but to discover and remoue what obstacle soever may oppose his well-advised purposes, and probable conclusions. I therefore, desiring that every man may be a Prometheus, not an Epimethius, haue here vnderwritten such impediments as I haue observed wonderfully offensiue to all Plantations; Quæ prodesse quæant & delectare legentem.

First therefore I conceiue that far distance of plantations produce many inconveniences and disabilities of planters, when as severall Colonies consist but of twentie, or thirtie, or about that number, which in a vast vncommanded Continent, makes them liable to many and miserable exigents, which weakens all vnion, and leaues them difficultly 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 vnseasonable, and all their Forces in few houres readie in Armes, either offensively to pursue, or defensively to subsist convenient numbers ever at sea, and sufficient ever at home for all service, intelligence and discoverie.

Secondly, Ignorance of seasons, servants, situation, want of people, provisions, supplies, with resolution, courage and patience, in and against all opposition, distresse and affliction.

*Vincit patientia durum. Fishermen, manuell 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, bookes, and lines, and other appendences, afford the painefull 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 possibly, profitably subsist without chatchets and boats, which are the onely meanes for surveying and conveying both our persons and provisions to the well advised scituation. Without these, plantations may with much patience, and well fortified resolution indure but difficultly, though with much time flourish and contentedly subsist. For when men are landed vpon an vnknowne shore, per adventure weake in number and naturall powers, for want of boats and cariages; are compelled to stay where they are first landed, having no meanes to remoue themselues or their goods, be the place never so fruitlesse or inconvenient for planting, building houses, boats, or stages, or the harbours never so vnfit for fishing, fowling, 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.



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## 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).1 *Certa spe boni,* ] With certain hope of something good.
- (ii).2-3 *Pietas, Pecunia, and Potentia* ] Piety, money, and power.
- (ii).5 *fcituated* ] Archaic spelling of situated.
- (ii).8 *ad Græcas 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 ſerea 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; *serea* 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 lingō non fit Mercurius* which ultimately derives from Apuleius’ *De Magni Oratio*: “*Non enim ex omni ligne, ut Pythagoras dicebat, debet Mercurius exsculpi.*” 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     Philomufe 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 Dicit rather than Dicere. Neither dicit 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. Dicit, 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 Dicit in line 8. It is not clear whether that edition is based on a 1625 copy which had Dicit, 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 *Aeneid* 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        *feraci* ] printing error for *feraci*.
- 2.23        *dat* ] governs all accusatives until *multigenis*.
- 2.24        *Dissimales* ] error for *Dissimiles*
- 2.28        *Dimine* ] error for *Vimine*
- 2.31        *ghustus* ] *gustus*
- 3.1        *vescitur* ] 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 *muṣkā* meaning testicle, and made its way westward to Latin via Middle Persian مشک *musk*, then Greek μόσχος *moskhos*, 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*, *pellī*) 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 saporā*. 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      *Exceſſis* ] *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      *foluti* ] should be *solutis*
- 5.8      *Detq; solum folitam,* ] Here, *solum* is the adverb “only”.
- 5.9      *nomine* ] should be *nomini*
- 6.11      *contamine* ] should be *cantamine*
- 6.32      *Impofitis* ] should be *Imposita*
- 7.10      *Aripiente* ] should read *Arripiente*
- 7.13      *Hybernus* ] Unconventional spelling of *Hibernus*, an Irish-man. Here used with a plural sense as the Irish.
- 7.29      *obfucata* ] 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      *creviſſe* ] *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      *Afficienſq;* ] This participle uses an ablative object.
- 10.2.      *lachrimas* ] Unconventional spelling of *lachrymas*
- 10.19      *ſuerint* ] Potential subjunctive form of *sum*, *eſſe*, *ſui*, *futurus*.
- 11.2      *Dread Sovereigne* ] 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      *ſues* ] follows, ensues

## Notes

- 11.6      w<sup>ch</sup> ] abbreviation for “which”
- 12.3-4    *Vaine is all ... ftraine* ] 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      *pumeffe*] pumice stone
- 12.6      *iuce* ] juice
- 13.1      ENGLAND ] amended from “ENGLNAD” in the original printed text
- 13.8      *bleft, feafes* ] “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 Mufcats ] 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-fish ] 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 ftor ] 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 flame ] genitals
- 18.6       Start-vps ] Literally the meaning is a half-boot. In this in-  
            stance, James Baxter, editor of the three volume work *Sir*  
            *Ferdinando Gorges and his province of Maine...* indicates  
            that it means leggings.
- 18.7       *Pinſen* ] 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      difcent ] descent
- 18.21      confort 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 chiefdom was held, a ritual

## Notes

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 leaft ] lest  
19.27 leaue ] permission  
19.31 fild ] filled  
19.32 are fpild ] i.e., are killed  
20.12 ftaffe ] 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'de ] 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'ft ] contracted form of *unless it*
- 22.26 *Pans* harfher 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 feafst ] 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'ht ] 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 withftood ] 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 ... truft; ] If the heavens grant these things, I trust to see here built
- (25).3 Sero fapere ] 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

## 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).9     *offensive* ] harmful.
- (25).10    *quaeant* ] should be “queant”
- (25).10-11 *Quae prodesse ... 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    *union* ] harmony
- (25).22    *if one* ] should be “if one”
- (25).23-24 *be the seasons ... unseasonable* ] i.e. provided that the seasons are not too harsh
- (25).25    *subfist* ] 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     *inconfiderate* ] 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    *mastives* ] English mastiffs
- (26).11    *singular* ] sole or exclusive
- (26).21    *per adventure* ] by chance
- (26).25    *stages* ] 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.*

