



### THE STORY OF LADY POCAHONTAS.

Pocahontas was baptized under the name of Rebecca. After her marriage with John Rolfe she went with her husband to England, where, being a chief's daughter, she was known as Lady Pocahontas. She was eighteen years old at her baptism, was very graceful and beautiful, and had learned much refinement from her intercourse with English society.

Her admiration for Captain John Smith seems to have been her ruling passion as long as that brave man remained in the colony. He treated her with the kindness of a father, he delighted in making her little presents that were surprises, and his courage made him appear to her as something more than human.

The Indians again and again sought the life of Smith. The brother of Powhatan once surrounded him with a body of



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hostile Indians. Smith ignored the Indians, and dared Opechancanough to a single combat. This so frightened and disconcerted the Indian that he had not the courage to order



CAPTAIN SMITH

his arrest. The chief of Paspahegh, a tribe near Jamestown, once attempted to surprise and shoot Smith. But the latter seized him before he could use his weapons. The chief was a very strong man, and he pushed his antagonist towards the



river, and, suddenly forcing him over the bank, attempted to drown him. But Smith was too nimble for him. He seized him by the throat, and, quickly drawing his sword, would have killed him had he not begun to beg and cry out for mercy. He led him a prisoner to Jamestown, and made war on the tribe and reduced them to submission.

Pocahontas twice saved the life of Smith at the risk of her own, and she is said to have loved him. She never visited Jamestown after he went away. They told her that he was dead.

Smith heard of the arrival of Pocahontas in England; he remembered her devotion with gratitude; he called on her and then sent an eloquent petition to the queen, asking that royal favor be shown her.

He said: —

“Being in Virginia and taken prisoner by Powhatan, I received from this savage great courtesy, and from his son Nantaquans, and his sister Pocahontas, the king’s most dear and well-beloved daughter, being but a child of twelve or thirteen years of age, whose compassionate, pitiful heart of my desperate estate gave me much cause to respect her. I being the first Christian this proud king and his grim attendants ever saw, and thus enthralled in their barbarous power, I cannot say I felt the least occasion of want that was in the power of those my mortal foes to prevent, notwithstanding all their threats. After some six weeks’ fattening amongst these savage countries, at the minute of my execution she hazarded the beating out of her own brains to save mine; and not only that, but so prevailed with her father, that I was safely conducted to Jamestown. . . .

“Such was the weakness of this poor commonwealth, as, had not the savages fed us, we directly had starved. And this relief, most gracious Queen, was commonly brought us by this lady, Pocahontas; notwithstanding all these passages when unconstant fortune turned our peace to war, this tender virgin would still not spare to dare to visit us, and by her our jars have been



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oft appeased, and our wants supplied. Were it the policy of her father thus to employ her, or the ordinance of God thus to make her his instrument, or her extraordinary affection for our nation, I know not; but of this I am sure, when her father, with the utmost of his policy and power, sought to surprise me, having but eighteen with me, the dark night could not affright her from coming through the irksome woods, and, with watered eyes, give me intelligence, with her best advice to escape his fury, which had he known he had surely slain her.

“Jamestown, with her wild train she as freely frequented as her father’s habitation; and during the time of two or three years, she, next under God, was still the instrument to preserve this colony from death, famine, and utter confusion. . . .

“As yet I never begged any thing of the state, and it is my want of ability and her exceeding desert; your birth, means, and authority; her birth, virtue, want, and simplicity, doth make me thus bold humbly to beseech your majesty to take this knowledge of her, though it be from one so unworthy to be the reporter as myself, her husband’s estate not being able to make her fit to attend your majesty.”

The English court received Pocahontas with delight. She was invited to the great receptions of the nobility, and enjoyed the splendors of civilization as much as she had delighted in the barbaric pomp of her father’s lodges.

The first meeting of Pocahontas and Smith in England was very touching. She started on seeing him, and gazed at him in silence. Then she buried her face in her hands and wept. She seemed to feel deeply injured. She said: —

“I showed you great kindness in my own country. You promised my father that what was yours should be his. You called Powhatan your father when *you* were in a land of strangers, and now that I am in a land of strangers you must allow me to do the same.”

Smith said that as she was a king’s daughter, it would not be allowable in court for her to call him “father.”



“I must call you father,” she said, “and you must call me child. I will be your countrywoman for ever. They told me you were dead.”

After remaining in England a year, Rolfe determined to return to America. Pocahontas did not wish to leave England. A child had been born to her, and in England the world looked beautiful, and the future bright and fair. She became very sad ; she seemed to feel some evil was approaching. She died at Gravesend, March, 1617, just as she was about to sail. Some of the noblest families of Virginia are descended from the infant son which she left in her sorrow and youth, when life seemed to lie so fair before her.