

**A NEW DESCRIPTION OF
THAT FERTILE
AND PLEASANT
PROVINCE OF CAROLINA**

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A New Description of that Fertile and Pleasant Province of Carolina by John Archdale

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JOHN ARCHDALE

**A NEW DESCRIPTION OF
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A NEW
DESCRIPTION
OF THAT
Fertile and Pleasant Province
OF
CAROLINA:
WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF ITS
Discovery and Settling,
AND
THE GOVERNMENT

THEREOF TO THIS TIME.

With several Remarkable Passages of *Divine Providence* during my Time.

By **JOHN ARCHDALE**: LATE GOVERNOR OF
THE SAME.

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unsealed in the last Days: To the which that Excellent Poet *Davies* intimates in Queen *Elizabeth's* Days, in these Words,

O thou bright Mórning Star, thou rising Sun,
 Who in these latter Days hast brought to light,
 Those Mysteries that since the World begun,
 Lay hid in Darkness and eternal Night.

And because in all the Grand Scenes of Divine Providence, some preparative Stroakes are generally made as Preludiums to what is quickly to ensue, the Art of Printing, to beget Knowledge, hath been reserved for this last Age, as also the Compass to convey Knowledge, as aforesaid; and the Discovery of Gunpowder hath been another Medium to subdue Millions of People that lay under a Barbarous and Brutish State: As for Example, in *Mexico*, where was a Temple dedicated to their chief Idol larger than *Paul's* whose Walls were two Inches thick bespread or beplaister'd with Human Blood, sacrificed to their Deities or Devils: And although I cannot excuse the Barbarity or Cruelty of the *Spaniards* towards them, yet, as on God's part, it was justly brought upon them, who thereby gave them their own Blood to drink, in lieu of what they had most barbarously shed of their Neighbours. And indeed, Providence seemed wholly to design this Bloody Work for the *Spanish* Nation, and not for the *English*, who in their Natures, are not so Cruel as the other; witness the Inquisition, its Cruelty being most established in *Spain*. And, courteous Readers, I shall give you some farther Eminent Remark hereupon, and especially in the first Settlement of *Carolina*, where the Hand of God was eminently seen in thining the *Indians*, to make room for the *English*. As for Example in *Carolina*, in which were seated two Potent Nations, called the *Westoes*, and *Sarannah*, which contained many Thousands, who broke out into an unusual Civil War, and thereby reduced themselves into a small Number, and the *Westoes*, the more Cruel of the two, were at the

last forced quite out of that Province, and the *Savannahs* continued good Friends and useful Neighbours to the *English*. But again, it at other times pleased Almighty God to send unusual Sicknesses amongst them, as the Small-pox, &c. to lessen their Numbers: so that the *English*, in Comparison to the *Spaniard*, have but little *Indian* Blood to answer for. Now the *English* at first settling in small Numbers, there seemed a Necessity of thinning the barbarous *Indian* Nations; and therefore since our Cruelty is not the Instrument thereof, it pleases God to send, as I may say, an *Assyrian* Angel to do it himself. Yet will I not totally excuse the *English*, as being wholly clear of the Blood of the *Indians* in some Respects, which I at present pass over. But surely we are all much to blame, in being so negligent of executing the proper Means for their Soul's Salvation, which being a gradual Work, the introducing a Civilized State would be a good and stable Preparatory for the Gospel State; even as the Divine Hand of Providence prepared us by the *Romans*, as all Historians mention that relate to us. I shall farther add one late more immediate Example of God's more immediate Hand, in making a Consumption upon some *Indian* Nations in *North Carolina*, and that was in my time at the River *Pemlicoe*, and some Nations adjoining: This is a late Settlement, began about eight Years since. When I was in the *North* about eleven Years since, I was told then of a great Mortality that fell upon the *Pemlicoe Indians*; as also, that a Nation of *Indians* called the *Coranine*, a bloody and barbarous People, were most of them cut off by a Neighbouring Nation: Upon which I said, that it seemed to me as if God had an Intention speedily to plant an *English* Settlement thereabouts; which accordingly fell out in two or three Years, although at that time not one Family was there. I shall make one more general Remark, before I come more particularly to treat of *Carolina*: and that is, in short, to give an Account how this vast Continent of *America* was discovered, that lay hid for many Ages. The Reader may reasonably

guess, that before the Knowledge of the Compass, Navigation was very imperfect, as also the Knowledge of the Globe; yea, so Ignorant was former Ages that one *Vigilius*, a Gentleman of *Italy*, was adjudged a Heretick, for affirming Antipodes; so that the Providential seeming Casualty of Human Affairs, appeared rather to make the Discovery, than any premeditated Skill or Art of Man. For, according to the best Accounts, a certain *Spanish* Colonel sailing into the West Ocean towards the Isles of the *Canaries*, by a forcible continued Easterly Wind, the Vessel was drove upon the *American* Coast; but being ill provided for such a Voyage, by Hunger and Hardship all died save the Pilot and three or four more; who afterwards returning back, came to the *Maderaes*, and after that died at the House of one *Christopher Colon* or *Columbus*, born in the Territory of *Genoa*; and the said Pilot left him his Maps and Cards of his Voyage; and he himself having some Skill in Navigation, was much affected with the Relation, and was very desirous to procure the same, but wanting of Wealth to get Shipping, and Protection of some *European* King, to secure the Riches he should come to possess, he first made an Essay by his Brother *Barther Colon* upon *Henry VIIth* of *England*; at that time a Wealthy Prince; but he rejected the same as a fantastical Matter, as the Discoveries both of Nature and Grace are at the first looked upon by most; for the Beginning of the Reformation quickly succeeding this grand Discovery of the New World, was as lightly esteemed at first in the Spiritual Appearance of it. But *Colon* or *Columbus*, not wholly daunted at the first Repulse, was introduced into the Favour of the King and Queen of *Spain*, about *Anno* 1490, the same Year that the *Moors* lost *Granada*, their principal Hold at that time in *Spain*; and then he was furnished with three Ships, and departed for the *Indies* in the Kalends of *September*; 1491, and fell in first with the *Canaries*, not long before discovered, *Anno*, 1405, inhabited by savage and wild People; he sailed thence 33 Days, and discovering no Land, his

Men mutined, and design'd to cast him into the Sea; but he with gentle Words and large Promises, appeas'd their Fury, and putting them off some few Days, he discovered Land, so long looked for; and so by Degrees settled the same, as Historians at large declare.

Now, candid Readers, I have introduced you into the general Discovery and *Spanish* Settlement in *America*; I shall now proceed to shew unto you the Occasion of the Settlement of *Carolina*, that lies in the very Heart of *America*.

I have hinted how *Henry* the VIIIth having lost the Opportunity of possessing the *Spanish* Mines of *Mexico*, the Fame of which rais'd up the Spirit of the said *Henry* to get some share of this *American* Continent; he therefore about *Anno* 1500, furnished Sr. *Sebastian Cabot* with Shipping, who was born at *Bristol*, though his Father was a *Venetian*, to make a farther Discovery, who fell upon the Coast of *Florida*, and having sailed along the Continent a considerably way *North-East*, returned again, but made no Settlement that time. And although the *English* were the first Discoverers of this Noble and Fertile Tract of Land, from the Latitude of 25 to $36\frac{1}{2}$; yet was no Colony planted in it, till several of the *English* Nobility stir'd up with a pious Zeal, to propagate the Christian Religion; and with a Heroick Spirit, to enlarge the Dominion of the Crown of *England*, procur'd a large and ample Patent, with extraordinary Privileges both for themselves, and the People that would Plant and Inhabit them, as appears by the Patent of *Cha. II.* unto *George* Duke of *Albermarle*, *Edw. E.* of *Clarendon*, *W.* Earl of *Craven*, *John* Lord *Berkley*, *Anthony* Lord *Ashley*, now *E.* of *Shaftsbury*, *Sir George* Cartwright, after that Lord *Cartwright*, and *Sir John* Colleton, Knight and Baronet, who were thereby created the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of the Province of *Carolina*, and the same to be held in *Capite* of the Crown of *England*, to Them, their Heirs, and Assigns for ever; which said Province begins at the Latitude of 29 De-

grees, and reaches to the Latitude of $36\frac{1}{2}$ North Latitude; and the said Province is to enjoy all the Privileges and Liberties that the Bishop of *Durham*, hath or ought to have. These aforesaid Lords therefore enter'd into a joynt Stock, and fitted out Ships on their own proper Charges, to transport People and Cattle thither, to the Value of about 12000 Pounds, besides several Thousands laid out by single Proprietors, to advance the Colony; and all their Rents and Incomes have since the Beginning been also expended in public Services.

I shall now come to the particular Description of the Country itself, and that not by a bare Report, but as an Eye Witness. I have hinted how Sir *Sebastian Cabot*, at the Charge of *Henry VIIIth*, first discovered that part of the Continent which is called *Florida*, which begins at *Cape Florida*, in the Latitude of about 25, and runs *North East* to $36\frac{1}{2}$. Now *Carolina*, only is its *Northern Part*, viz: from 29 Degrees to $36\frac{1}{2}$, and is indeed the very Center of the habitable Part of the *Northern Hemisphere*; for taking it to be Habitable from the Equinoctial to 64 Degrees, the Centre of *Carolina* lies in about 32, which is about the Middle of 64, lying parallel with the Land of *Canaan*, and may be called the Temperate Zone comparatively, as not being pestered with the violent Heats of the more Southern Colonies, or the extreame and violent Colds of the more Northern Settlements. Its Production doth answer the Title of *Florida*, quia regio est Florida, being indeed a most Fertile and flourishing Region, every thing generally growing there, that will grow in any Parts of *Europe*, there being already many sorts of Fruits, as Apples, Pears, Apricocks, Nectarines, &c. and they that once tast of them, will for the future despise the watry and washee Tast of them here in *England*; yet doth their Plenty make them the Food of the Swine of their Country; for from a Stone in 4 or 5 Years they come to be bearing Trees of a considerable Bigness; likewise all sorts of Grain, as Wheat, Barly, Peas, &c. and I have measured some Wheat Ears 7 or 8 of my