

THE LONDON GAZETTE

September 1606

LONDON CO. RECRUITS MEN FOR VIRGINIA

The London Company is now recruiting men for its first voyage to Virginia, which is planned for this December. Christopher Newport, who will be the admiral of the fleet of three ships sailing to Virginia, is busy putting together a crew of mariners and ships' boys for the journey. Two ships, *Susan Constant* and *Godspeed*, have been leased by the London Company to take the settlers to the New World. The third ship, the pinnace *Discovery*, has been purchased and will remain in Virginia for the use of the settlers. Newport is to command the largest ship, *Susan Constant*, while Bartholomew Gosnold and John Ratcliffe will command *Godspeed* and *Discovery* respectively.

Many merchants, members of government and wealthy individuals have invested in the London Company. Most of these investors will remain here in England and support the enterprise with their "purses"; others, however, will "adventure", as it is called, not only their "purses", but also their "persons" by going to Virginia as volunteers—paying for their passage and all their equipment. Many of these men, like John Smith, George Percy and Edward Maria Wingfield, are professional soldiers whose expertise will be needed in the New World.

In addition to the gentle men "volunteers" the company is also seeking soldiers, laborers and tradesmen such as surgeons, carpenters, bricklayers, barbers, tailors, blacksmiths and masons. These men will go to Virginia as employees of the London Company, but they will also be investors. When their term of employment is over, they will share in the profits. What an excellent opportunity for the ordinary person to become wealthy while participating in a great adventure that will bring glory to England. Interested persons should contact the officials of the London Company.