

## NEWPORT RETURNS FROM VA. WITH GOLD!

Christopher Newport has just returned from Virginia with a glowing report of the new settlement there. Newport confirms that Virginia is a beautiful country with goodly tall trees and land so fertile that the wild strawberries there are larger and sweeter than any found in England. He has brought back with him a barrel full of earth that contains gold and he tells of the long chains of pearls worn by the Virginia natives. It appears that Virginia is a land of great wealth—living up to all our expectations.

Newport reports that upon entering the Chesapeake Bay, they found a broad and beautiful river with a deep channel that flowed from the northwest. They immediately named it the James River in honor of his majesty King James I, and followed it inland for many miles looking for a suitable place for a settlement. The place they chose is located some 40 or 50 miles up river from the Bay on a peninsula that is connected to the mainland by a sandy isthmus. At high tide the isthmus is flooded making the peninsula into an island.

This “semi-island” is low, but at the western end, where the fort is situated, there is some high ground and a channel in the river runs close to the shore there so the settlers are able to moor their ships to trees on the bank—a decided advantage. This same channel runs away from the island at the eastern end making it impossible for enemy ships to off load soldiers and attack the fort by land. Any ship approaching the fort at the western end would be forced by the channel to sail close enough to shore to come under fire from the cannon in the fort. The site can, therefore, be easily defended against a possible Spanish attack.

Captain Newport left Jamestown, as the settlement is called, on June 22. The 104 men and boys, he says, are well situated in their fort, which is in the shape of a triangle with bulwarks at every corner and 4 or 5 pieces of artillery mounted in them. They are well fortified against the Virginia Indians, some of whom have not been friendly, and the men on the Council of Government, headed by the president Edward Maria Wingfield, have promised to work together for the good of all.

The only black cloud on the horizon is the fact that the settlers are short of food. The voyage lasted much longer than expected—4 months and 24 days—and their arrival in Virginia was too late in the season to do much in the way of planting. However, Newport is pledged to return quickly with more supplies and settlers.