

**To my Dear and Well beloved Friends and Country-
Men, in old and new England.**

I present you with a *Key*; I have not heard of the like, yet framed, since it pleased God to bring that mighty *Continent of America* to light: Others of my Country-men have often, and excellently, and lately written of the *Country* (and none that I know beyond the goodness and worth of it.)

This *Key*, respects the *Native Language* of it, and happily may unlock some *Rarities* concerning the *Natives* themselves, not yet discovered.

I drew the *Materials* in a rude lump at Sea, as a private *help* to my own memory, that I might not by my present absence *lightly lose* what I had so *dearly bought* in some few years *hardship*, and *charges* among the *Barbarians*; yet being reminded by some, what pity it were to bury those *Materials* in my *Grave* at land or *Sea*; and withal, remembering how often I have been importuned by *worthy friends*, of all sorts, to afford them some help this way.

I resolved (by the assistance of the *most High*) to cast those *Materials* into this *Key*, *pleasant* and *profitable* for *All*, but especially for my *friends* residing in those parts:

A little *Key* may open a *Box*, where lies a *bunch* of *Keys*. With this I have entered into the secrets of those *Countries*, wherever *English* dwell about two hundred miles, between the *French* and *Dutch* Plantations; for want of this, I know what gross *mistakes* myself and others have run into.

There is a mixture of this *Language North* and *South*, from the place of my abode, about six hundred miles; yet within the two hundred miles (aforementioned) their *Dialects* do exceedingly differ; yet no so, but (within that compass) a man may, by this *help*, converse with *thousands* of *Natives* all over the *Country*: and by such converse it may please the *Father* of *Mercies* to spread *civility*, (and in his own most holy season) *Christianity*; for *one Candle* will light ten thousand, and it may please *God* to bless a *little Leaven* to season the *mighty Lump* of those *Peoples* and *Territories*.

It is expected, that having had so much converse with these *Natives*, I should write some little of them.

Concerning them (a little to gratify expectation), I shall touch upon *four heads*:
First, by what *Names* they are distinguished.
Secondly, Their *Original* and *Descent*.
Thirdly, their *Religion*, *Manners*, *Customs*, etc.
Fourthly, That great *Point* of their *Conversion*.