



# The Southern Colonies

*Jacob Abbott*

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CHAPTER VII. PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLONY. FIRST EXPLORATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY. In 1608, in the month of June, when one of the vessels which had brought supplies to the colony was about returning, Smith, with a party of fifteen men, accompanied her down to the mouth of the river, in an open boat of about three tons burden, with a view of making an exploration of the broad expanse of water which opened to the northward, within the great entrance from the sea between Cape Charles and Cape Henry, since known as Chesapeake Bay. After reaching the mouth of the river they took leave of the ship which now proceeded to sea, while the boat was steered in the direction of Cape Charles, and thence proceeded to the eastern shore of the bay. The party cruised along the coast searching for bays and harbors, and now and then seeing small parties of Indians, until presently observing some islands lying to the westward of them they sailed out toward them, but on the way they encountered a terrible thunder gust, in which they narrowly escaped foundering. The islands were the Tanger Islands. Here they were in great distress for want of water. They searched all the islands for brooks or springs, but could not find any, and so they went back to the eastern shore of the bay and followed the coast to the northward, looking every where for water till at last they entered Pokomoke Bay. Here they landed, and after looking about for a long time they foun 1 a small pool of stagnant water just in time to save them from perishing. In cruising about after this they got among a group of islands now called Watt's Islands, but just before they reached them they encountered another squall by which their sail was torn to pieces and the mast carried away. The water at the same time ...

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