

from Of Plymouth Plantation

William Bradford

from Chapter 9

Of their Voyage, and how they Passed the Sea; and of their Safe Arrival at Cape Cod

September 6 [1620]. These troubles¹ being blown over, and now all being compact together in one ship, they put to sea again with a prosperous wind, which continued divers² days together, which was some encouragement unto them; yet, according to the usual manner, many were afflicted with seasickness. And I may not omit here a special work of God's providence. There was a proud and very profane³ young man, one of the seamen, of a lusty,⁴ able body, which made him the more haughty;⁵ he would always be condemning the poor people in their sickness and cursing them daily with grievous execrations;⁶ and did not let to tell them that he hoped to help to cast half of them overboard before they came to their journey's end, and to make merry with what they had; and if he were by any gently reprov'd,⁷ he would curse and swear most bitterly. But it pleased God before they came half seas over, to smite this young man with a grievous disease, of which he died in a desperate manner, and so was himself the first that

1. **troubles:** the return of the *Speedwell* to England and the transfer of her passengers to the *Mayflower*.
2. **divers** (di'vərz): many.
3. **profane:** irreverent.
4. **lusty:** energetic; robust.
5. **haughty** (hôt'ē): proud; disdainful of something or someone.
6. **execrations** (ek'si.krə'shənz): angry words; curses.