

Analysis Terms



A was thrown overboard. Thus his curses light on his own head, and it was an astonishment to all his fellows for they noted it to be the just hand of God upon him.

After they had enjoyed fair winds and weather for a season, they were encountered many times with crosswinds and met with many fierce storms with which the ship was shroudly⁸

B shaken, and her upper works made very leaky; and one of the main beams in the midships was bowed and cracked, which put them in some fear that the ship could not be able to perform the voyage. So some of the chief of the company, perceiving the mariners to fear the sufficiency of the ship as appeared by their mutterings, they entered into serious consultation with the master and other officers of the ship, to consider in time of the danger, and rather to return than to cast themselves into a desperate and inevitable peril. And truly there was great distraction and difference of opinion amongst the mariners themselves; fain⁹ would they do what could be done for their wages' sake (being now near half the seas over) and on the other hand they were loath¹⁰ to hazard their lives too desperately. But in examining of all opinions, the master and others affirmed they knew the ship to be strong and firm underwater; and for the buckling of the main beam, there was a great iron screw the passengers brought out of Holland, which would raise the beam into his place; the which being done, the carpenter and master affirmed that with a post put under it, set firm in the lower deck and otherways bound, he would make it sufficient. And as for the decks and upper works, they would caulk them as well as they could, and though with the working of the ship they would not long keep staunch,¹¹ yet there would otherwise be no great danger, if they did not overpress her with sails. So they committed themselves to the will of God and resolved to proceed.

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8. **shroudly** (*shrōōd'le'*): shrewdly, used here in its archaic sense of "wickedly."
9. **fain**: archaic for "gladly."
10. **loath**: reluctant.
11. **staunch**: watertight.

In sundry¹² of these storms the winds were so fierce and the seas so high, as they could not bear a knot of sail, but were forced to hull¹³ for divers days together. And in one of them, as they thus lay at hull in a mighty storm, a lusty young man called John Howland, coming upon some occasion above the gratings was, with a seele¹⁴ of the ship, thrown into sea; but it pleased God that he caught hold of the topsail halyards¹⁵ which hung overboard and ran out at length. Yet he held his hold (though he was sundry fathoms underwater) till he was hauled up by the same rope to the brim of the water, and then with a boathook and other means got into the ship again and his life saved. And though he was something ill with it, yet he lived many years after and became a profitable member both in church and commonwealth. In all this voyage there died but one of the passengers, which was William Butten, a youth, servant to Samuel Fuller, when they drew near the coast.

But to omit other things (that I may be brief) after long beating at sea they fell with that land which is called Cape Cod;¹⁶ the which being made and certainly known to be it, they were not a little joyful. After some deliberation had amongst themselves and with the master of the ship, they tacked about and resolved to stand for the southward (the wind and weather being fair) to find some place about Hudson's River¹⁷ for their habitation. But after they had sailed that course about half the day, they fell amongst dangerous shoals and roaring breakers, and they were so far entangled therewith as they conceived themselves in great danger; and the wind shrinking upon them withal, they resolved to bear up again for the Cape and thought themselves

12. **sundry**: some.
13. **hull**: to float without using the sails.
14. **seele** (*sēl*): sudden lurch to one side.
15. **halyards** (*hal'yōrdz*): ropes for raising a sail.
16. **Cape Cod**: They sighted Cape Cod at daybreak on November 9, 1620.
17. **Hudson's River**: They were trying for Manhattan Island. Henry Hudson had made his voyage in 1609 and had claimed the area for the Dutch, but the English did not recognize the Dutch claim.

Secondary Source

Plymouth

Perceptive readers will notice that Cape Cod is named before the Pilgrims landed. European explorers, fishermen,

When the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth in 1620, according to historian William Bradford,