

“ Before we present you the matters of fact, it is fit to offer to your view the Stage whereon they were acted, for as Geography without History seemeth a carkasse without motion, so History without Geography wandreth as a Vagrant without certaine habitation. Those Islands lie in the huge maine Ocean, and two hundred leagues from any continent, situated in 32 degrees and 25 minutes of northerly latitude, and distant from *England*, West-South-West, about 3300 miles, some twenty miles in length, and not past two miles and a halfe in breadth, enuironed with Rocks, which to the North-ward, West-ward, and south-East extend further than they have been yet well discovered: by reason of those Rocks the Country is naturally very strong, for there is but two places, and scarce two vnlesse to them who know them well, where shipping may safely come in, and those now are exceeding well fortified, but within is roome to entertaine a Royall Fleet: the Rocks in most places appeare at a low water, neither are they much couered at a high, for it ebbs and flowes not past fīue foot; the shore for most part is a Rocke, so hardened with the sunne, wind, and sea, that it is not apt to be worne away with the waues, whose violence is also broke by the Rocks before they can come to the shore: it is very vneuen, distributed into hills and dales, the mold is of diuers colors, neither clay nor sand, but a meane between; the red which resembleth clay is the worst, the whitest resembling sand and the blackest is good, but the browne betwixt them both, which they call white, because there is mingled with it a white meale, is the best; vnder the mold two or three foot deep, and sometimes lesse, is a kinde of white hard substance which they call the Rocke: the trees vsually fasten their roots in it, neither is it indeed Rocke or stone, or so hard, though for most part more harder than chalke; nor so white, but pumish-like and spungy, easily recieuing and containing much water. In some places Clay is found under it, it seemes to be engendered with raine water draining through the earth,