

4/28/71

Pioneer Days

When I was asked about three months ago to speak on this occasion I began in spare moments ~~(since when did you have any?)~~ ^{consider} to ~~ruminate on the question~~ what would be a good subject to present ^{at} ~~the~~ annual banquet of RXXV FS°.

During the spring ~~va~~ vacation I was much impressed ~~by the~~ by my visit to ~~the~~ the site of Jamestown/, the first permanent English settlement in America. There more than in any other place I have been I felt that one could ~~get~~ ^(hw?) ~~derive~~ ~~acquire~~ a realization of the situation that faced the early settlers. Today there remain only the ruins of only one or two buildings and a few foundations; otherwise it is a bleak open peninsula ^() of land (superfluous) from which one looks directly upon the great bay stretching out toward the vast ocean beyond. After ~~three months~~ ten week^s or more of seeing nothing but water and sky the settlers landed on this shore. The ship departed and they were entirely dependent on what they had been able to bring with them and what little they had been able to get raise from the soil and shoot in the woods forest fish from the water bay river. As I thought of them, watching the ships (plural?) and wondering when they would next see a ship, ~~and~~ receive any news from their homeland, or receive any sort of provisions or equipment again, it occurred to me that a discussion of the joys and experiences of pioneering might make an interesting topic to discuss at the annual banquet of the Sem°. our annual banquet.

Settlement of Va° was a difficult task. In 16 (?) Sir Walter Raleigh sent a group of settlers to ^{found a colony} ~~a spot~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ on the Va° shore. (?) months later another ship came to the place but no trace of the settlers was ever found. No one knows what happened to them. The next effort made was in Jamestown. Here and the settlers suffered danger from Indians, /shortage of food. In one year three-fourths of the people died from lack of food to carry them through the winter. At one time in 16 (?) they became so discouraged that they left the colony and started back for to return to England. They were met As they began to go out into the open river they were met by Lord Delaware De La Warr (?) bringing new provisions and more settlers. A few years later A Jamestown there is a monument to the ~~beginni~~ ^{beginning} beginning of glassmaking glass making in America.