

OGDEN NASH



B O S T O N

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY

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TO HELEN AND RAYMOND EVERITT,  
WHOSE FIVE YEARS OF STEADFAST FRIENDSHIP,  
LAVISH CAJOLERY, AND VITUPERATIVE ENCOURAGE-  
MENT HAVE BROUGHT IT ON THEIR OWN HEADS,  
THIS BOOK IS GRATEFULLY ASCRIBED.

## CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH

Captain John Smith  
Didn't belong to the B'nai B'rith,  
He was a full-blooded Briton,  
The same as Boadicea and Bulwer-Lytton,  
But his problem and theirs were not quite the same,  
Because they didn't have to go around assuring every-  
body that that was their real name,  
And finally he said, This business of everybody raising  
their eyebrows when I register at an inn is getting  
very boring,  
So I guess I'll go exploring,  
So he went and explored the River James,  
Where they weren't as particular then as they are now  
about names,  
And he went for a walk in the forest,  
And the Indians caught him and my goodness wasn't  
he embarrassed!  
Yes, his heart turned to plasticene  
Because he certainly was the center of a nasty scene,  
And he was too Early-American to write for advice from  
Emily Post,  
So he prepared to give up the ghost,  
And he prayed a prayer but I don't know whether it  
was a silent one or a vocal one,  
Because the Indians were going to dash his brains out  
and they weren't going to give him an anaesthetic,  
not even a local one,  
But along came Pocahontas and she called off her  
father's savage minions,

Because she was one of the most prominent Virginians,  
And her eyes went flash flash,  
And she said, Scat, you po' red trash,  
And she begged Captain John Smith's pardon,  
And she took him for a walk in the gyarden,  
And she said, Ah reckon ah sho' would have felt bad  
if anything had happened to you-all,  
And she told him about her great-uncle Hiawatha and  
her cousin Sittin' Bull and her kissin' cousin King  
Philip, and I don't know who-all,  
And he said you'd better not marry me, you'd better  
marry John Rolfe,  
So he bade her farewell and went back to England,  
which adjoins Scotland, where they invented golf