

Excerpt from *Of Plymouth  
Plantation*

By William Bradford

I shall a little return back and begin with a combination made by them before they came ashore, being the first foundation of their government in this place; occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship—that when they came ashore they would use their own liberty; for none had power to command them, the patent they had being for Virginia, and not for New England,

which belonged to another Government, with which the Virginia Company had nothing to do. And partly that such an act by them done (this their condition considered) might be as firm as any patent, and in some respects more sure. The form was as followeth:

In the Name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of

the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; Do by these present, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid: And by virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet

and convenient for the general  
good of the colony; unto which  
we promise all due submission  
and obedience.

In Witness whereof we have  
hereunto subscribed our names  
at Cape Cod the eleventh of  
November, in the reign of our  
Sovereign Lord King James, of  
England, France, and Ireland,  
the eighteenth, and of Scotland  
the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini,  
1620.



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Handwriting practice lines (top section).

Handwriting practice lines (middle section).

Handwriting practice lines (lower middle section).

Main body of handwriting practice lines.

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