

Excerpt from *The sovereignty & goodness of God: together, with the faithfulness of his promises displayed: being a narrative of the captivity and restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson: commended by her, to all that desires to know the Lords doings to, and dealings with her: especially to her dear children and relations*  
Rowlandson, Mary White, 1637?-1710

### ***The Fifth Remove.***

*The occasion (as I thought) of their moving at this time, was the English Army's being near and following them:* For they went as if they had gone for their lives, for some considerable way; and then they made a stop, and chose some of their stoutest men, and sent them back to hold the *English Army* in play whilst the rest escaped; and then *like Jehu, they marched on furiously, with their old and young: Some carried their old decrepit mothers, some carried one, and some another.* Four of them carried a great *Indian* upon a Bier; but going through a thick Wood with him, they were hindred, and could make no hast; whereupon they took him upon their backs, and carried him one at a time, till we came to *Bacquang* River. Upon a *Friday* a little after noon we came to this River: When all the company was come up, and were gathered together, I thought to count the number of them, but they were so many, and being somewhat in motion, it was beyond my skill. In this travel, because of my wound, I was somewhat favoured in my load: I carried only my knitting work, and two quarts of parched meal: Being very faint, I asked my mistriss to give me one spoonful of the meal, but she would not give me a taste. They quickly fell to cutting dry trees, to make Rafts to carry them over the river, and soon my turn came to go over: By the advantage of some brush which they had laid upon the Raft to sit on, I did not wet my foot, (which many of themselves at the other end were mid-leg deep) which cannot but be acknowledged as a favour of God to my weakened body, it being a very cold time. I was not before acquainted with such kind of doings, or dangers. *When thou passest thorough the waters I will be with thee, and thorough the Rivers they shall not overflow thee.* Isai. 43. 2. A certain number of us got over the River that night, but it was the night after the Sabbath before all the Company was got over. On the *Saturday* they boyled an old Horse's Leg (which they had got) and so we drank of the broth, as soon as they thought it was ready, and when it was almost all gone, they filled it up again.

*The first Week of my being among them, I hardly ate any thing: The second week I found my stomach grow very faint for want of something; and yet it was very hard to get down their filthy trash; but the third week (though I could think how formerly my stomach would turn against this or that, and I could starve and die before I could eat such things, yet they were sweet and savoury to my taste.* I was at this time knitting a pair of white cotton stockings for my mistress: and I had not yet wrought upon a Sabbath Day; when the Sabbath came, they bade me go to work; I told them it was Sabbath-day, and desired them to let me rest, and told them I would do as much more to morrow; to which they answered me, they would break my Face. And here I cannot but take notice of the strange providence of God in preserving the heathen: They were many hundreds, old and young, some sick and some lame, many had *Papooses* at their backs, the greatest number at this time with us, were *Squams*, and they travelled with all they had, bag and baggage, and yet they got over this River aforesaid; and on *Munday* they set their *Wignams* on fire, and away

they went: On that very day came the *English* Army after them to this River, and saw the smock of their *Wigwams*, and yet this River put a stop to them. God did not give them courage or activity to go over after us; we were not ready for so great a mercy as victory and deliverance; if we had been, God would have found out a way for the *English* to have passed this River, as well as for the *Indians* with their *Squaws* and *Children*, and all their *Luggage*. *Oh that my People had bearkened to me, and Israel had walked in my ways, I should soon have subdued their Enemies, and turned my hand against their Adversaries.* Psal. 81. 13, 14.

### ***The Sixth Remove.***

On Munday (*as I said*) *they set their Wigwams on fire, and went away.* It was a cold morning, and before us there was a great Brook with ice on it; some waded through it, up to the knees & higher, but others went till they came to a Beaver-Dam, and I amongst them, where thorough the good providence of God, I did not wet my foot. I went along that day, mourning and lamenting, leaving farther my own Country, and travelling into the vast and howling *Wilderness* and I understood something of *Lot's Wife's Temptation, when she looked back:* We came that day to a great Swamp, by the side of which we took up our lodging that Night. When I came to the brow of the hill, that looked toward the Swamp, I thought we had been come to a great *Indian Town.* (though there were none but our own Company) The *Indians* were as thick as the trees; it seemed as if there had been a thousand Hatchets going at once: if one looked before one, there was nothing but *Indians*, and behind one, nothing but *Indians*; and so on either hand: And I my self in the midst, and no Christian Soul near me, *and yet how* hath Lord preserved me in Safety? Oh the experience that I have had of the goodness of to me and mine!