A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson may not appear, at first glance, to be an appropriate text for categorization under American humor; however, the humor that emerges for a modern audience from Rowlandson’s often hypocritical actions and descriptions during her captivity align well with what Michael Dunne describes as Calvinist humor.

Could the text’s humor ultimately be meta-Calvinist? Rowlandson laughs at her captors because she thinks she’s better than them; we laugh at Rowlandson because we think we’re better than her.