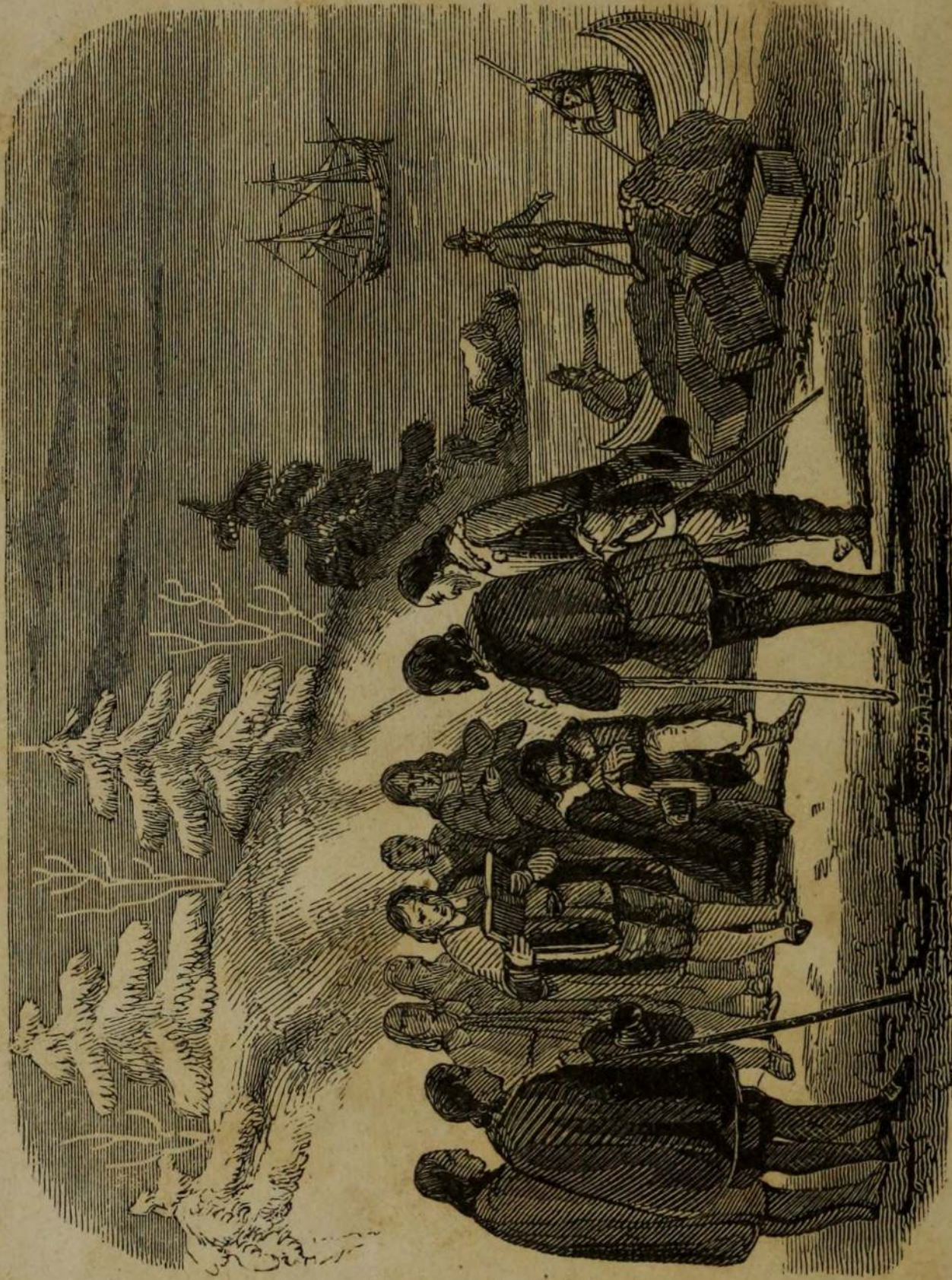




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Landing of the Pilgrims, Dec. 22d, 1620.

FRUITS OF THE MAYFLOWER ;

OR,

CONVERSATIONS

RESPECTING

THE PILGRIM FATHERS.

NEW YORK:

PUBLISHED BY M. W. DODD,

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P R E F A C E .

THE young American should be familiar with the history of those who laid the foundations of New England. The following volume contains an accurate, and somewhat full account of the origin of the Plymouth Colony, and of its progress during the first three years of its existence. The character and noble deeds of the Pilgrim Fathers are thus clearly brought to view. The facts stated are drawn from original documents. The conversational form is employed, as best adapted to engage the attention of the youthful reader.

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THE PILGRIM FATHERS.

CHAPTER I.

WHO WERE THE PILGRIMS?

FATHER, said Henry, what was the difference between the Puritans and the Pilgrims?

Mr. I. There was no difference—that is to say, the Pilgrims were Puritans. The Puritans were those who demanded a more thorough reformation from Popery, and a purer form of worship than was furnished by the Church of England. The Pilgrim Fathers were those Puritans who landed on Plymouth Rock, and laid the foundations of New England.

Henry. I have heard them called the pilgrims of Leyden.

Mr. I. They were called so, because they resided at Leyden in Holland, ten or eleven years before they came to this country.

Henry. Where had they lived before they went to Leyden?

Mr. I. In the western part of England. As they were persecuted for conscience' sake, they resolved to exile themselves from their native land, and take up their abode in Holland.

Henry. What made them go to Holland?

Mr. I. From the time that the Reformation triumphed in that country, there was religious liberty. Most of the Dutch were Presbyterians, but they allowed all sects to enjoy religious freedom.

Henry. Was the English government willing to have them leave the country?

Mr. I. No: they were not permitted to go into exile in peace. They hired a ship, and were to embark at Boston, in Lincolnshire. When the day came, the ship was not there. They were subject to great trouble and expense in waiting for her. She came at last, and they went on board in the night. When they and all their goods were on board, the treacherous captain informed the magistrates of the fact. They went and arrested them, and brought them back into the town, and committed them to prison. In the mean time,

their money, their books, and much of their goods had been rifled. After a month's imprisonment, the greater part were released; but seven of the principal men were still kept in prison.

Henry. What right had they to put them in prison? Had they not a right to go to another country, if they chose?

Mr. I. They were not lawfully imprisoned. How thankful ought we to be, that we live under a government of law! we have no fear of being imprisoned and oppressed, provided we do not violate the law. That we enjoy this security is owing, under God, to the labors and sufferings of our pilgrim fathers.

Henry. I should like to know all about them. What did they do next?

Mr. I. The attempt of which I have given an account, is not the only one which was made in vain, and not the only one in which they were betrayed. They were watched at all the ports, just as thieves and robbers are watched.

In the spring of the year 1608, they made an attempt which was more successful, though it was attended with much suffering. They made an agreement with the captain of a

Dutch ship, hoping to find him more faithful than they had found those of their own nation. They were to be taken on board at a place at some distance from any town. When the time came, the women and children were sent to the place in a small bark, and the men were to meet them by land. The little bark reached the place a day before the ship came. The sea was rough, which made the women and children very sick; so the seamen put the bark into a small creek, where she ran aground. The next morning the ship came, but the bark was fast, and could not move till high tide, which would happen about noon.

In the mean time, some of the men had arrived by land. The captain of the ship saw them walking on the shore, and sent a boat to take them on board. When the boat had taken a part of them on board, and was about to return for the rest, the captain saw an armed force of horse and foot hastening to the shore. As the wind was fair, he weighed anchor, and set sail, leaving the remainder of the men, and all the women and children.

Henry. Did the armed force come to prevent their going?

Mr. I. Yes.

Henry. Did they take those that were left ?

Mr. I. They took the women and children who were in the bark which lay aground, and such of the men as staid to assist and take care of the women. The rest made their escape before the troops were upon them.

Henry. Why did they not all escape ?

Mr. I. Because they loved their wives and children more than they loved themselves and their own liberty. That was no more than was to be expected from such men.

Henry. What did they do with the women and children ?

Mr. I. The magistrates did not know what to do with them : they hardly dared to send them to prison for desiring to go with their husbands. So they handed them over from one constable to another, till at length they were glad to let them go.

Henry. Did they go to their homes ?


Mr. I. They had no homes to go to. Everything had been sold before their attempt to embark. They wandered about from one place to another. How much they must have suffered ! Some of them separated from their husbands and fathers—their property wasted—their selves the subjects of hatred and perse-

cution ! Yet at length, in the good Providence of God, they all got over to Holland ; “some at one time, and some at another, and met according to their desires, with no small rejoicing.”

Great good was brought out of their sufferings. It caused them and their object to become extensively known in the land. Their patient endurance and godly behavior made friends to their cause, and thus prepared many to follow them with confidence, when they had laid their hearth-stones in the new world. We will next consider the case of those who were on board the ship.

CHAPTER II.

THE VOYAGE.

 AM now to tell you about those who were on board the ship, when, in consequence of the appearance of armed men on the shore, the captain set sail.

Henry. Why did he set sail?

Mr. I. I presume he was afraid, though I do not see what occasion he had for fear. Neither horsemen nor foot could reach him, and it does not appear that they had anything but small arms.

Henry. I should think the men on board must have felt very sad when they saw the soldiers seizing their wives and children.

Mr. I. No doubt they did. One who was on board with them informs us that they wept bitterly at the sight, and would have given anything to have been on shore again. Most of them had nothing with them, save the cloth-

ing they wore. All their property was on board the bark.

Henry. Did they never recover any of it?

Mr. I. Very little : if anything was saved, it was by those who voluntarily suffered themselves to be taken. The loss of property and separation from those they loved, was not their only trial. They had scarce got out to sea, before a dreadful storm arose. For seven days, they saw neither sun, moon, nor stars. They were driven to the coast of Norway. The ship was so far disabled and buried in the waves, that the seamen gave up all for lost. They ceased from all efforts to work the ship, and gave way to cries of despair. The water so filled the ship that it ran into their ears and mouths. The sailors cried out, " We are sinking," but even then, the Pilgrims " if not with a miraculous, yet with a great height of divine faith," says one of their number who was on board, exclaimed, " Yet, Lord, thou canst save; yet Lord, thou canst save." Prayers offered with such faith are never unanswered. When there was utter despair of help from man, the hand of God was stretched forth. The ship rose on the waves, so that the sailors were again encouraged to manage her. The storm

soon began to abate, and at the end of fourteen days they were brought to their desired haven.

Henry. Do you suppose the ship was saved in consequence of their prayers?

Mr. I. I do.

Henry. Do you think that God interposed in a miraculous way?

Mr. I. No, I do not. It was not necessary; all the powers of nature are in his hand, or, rather, are his powers. He governs nature, and brings about events, in accordance with the laws which he has established.

Henry. Do you not think it strange that he suffered such a storm to arise when such good men were on board?

Mr. I. I cannot say that I do. He has infinitely wise reasons for all that he does. When he designs to use men as instruments for the accomplishment of great purposes, he prepares them for the work. These men were to be the founders of a great nation, to do a work as important in the world's history as the establishment of the Israelites in Canaan. In order to perform this work, strong faith and patience were necessary. Their faith and power of endurance were therefore severely tried. Thus were they fitted for the sufferings

they were to endure in this western wilderness.

Henry. Where did they first land in Holland?

Mr. I. They went first to Amsterdam.

Henry. How did they live when they lost all their property?

Mr. I. They had a hard time of it, you may be sure. Mr. Bradford, one of their number, says, "though they saw fair and beautiful cities, flowing with abundance of all sorts of wealth and riches, yet it was not long before they saw the grim and grisly face of poverty coming on them like an armed man, with whom they must buckle and encounter, and from whom they could not fly. But they were armed with faith and patience against him, and all his encounters; and though they were sometimes foiled, yet by God's assistance they prevailed, and got the victory."

Mr. Robinson, their pastor, Mr. Brewster, and other leading men among the Pilgrims, came over last, for "they stayed to help the weakest over before them." The first thing they did after all were safely over, was to attend to the "ordering of the church affairs." Notwithstanding their great poverty, and the great need they had to attend to the supply of

their bodily wants, the first thing they did attend to, was the church. They sought first the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Henry. Was not that one of the reasons why they were prospered ?


Mr. I. It was. Those who attend first of all to God's cause, will find in the end that their own interests have not suffered in consequence. It was a regard for God's cause that led them to leave Amsterdam, "though they well knew it would be much to the prejudice of their outward estate, both at present and, in likelihood, in the future ; as indeed it proved to be."

Henry. What cause led them to leave Amsterdam ?

Mr. I. A division had sprung up between two English churches, which were there when they came. Finding that they could not make peace between the contending parties, and fearing lest they should become engaged in the contention, they concluded, after they had been there about a year, to remove to Leyden, though, as has been said, it was to their pecuniary detriment. But that was nothing to them. The question with them was, "What is best for God's cause ?"

CHAPTER III.

RESIDENCE AT LEYDEN.

ATHER, why were the Pilgrims called the pilgrims of Leyden?

Mr. I. Because they resided at Leyden for about twelve years previous to their coming to this country. I told you that they left Amsterdam, in order that they might not become involved in the disputes and difficulties which took place between the two English churches which were there before they came. They removed from Amsterdam to Leyden for the sake of Christ, bearing cheerfully the loss of property and the disadvantages to which they were thereby subjected.

Henry. Is not Leyden as pleasant a city as Amsterdam?

Mr. I. Yes, in some respects, it is a more pleasant city; but as it had less commerce than Amsterdam, the Pilgrims found more difficulty in getting employment there.

Henry. How far is Leyden from Amsterdam?

Mr. I. It is about twenty-two miles. The Pilgrims removed in the year 1608.

Henry. What did they do in Leyden?

Mr. I. In the first place, they served God. They sought first the kingdom of God, and in consequence, all things that were necessary to their support were added unto them. Many of them had been weavers in England, and brought over their looms with them. Others learned such trades as they judged would be most useful to them in procuring a livelihood. Mr. Brewster became a printer. By means of hard and diligent labor, they obtained a comfortable condition, enjoying much sweet and delightful society and spiritual comfort together, in the ways of God, under the able ministry of Mr. Robinson. When they were thus established, a great many came and joined them from various parts of England.

Henry. How large was Mr. Robinson's church in Leyden?

Mr. I. There were *about* three hundred communicants—we do not know the exact number. They were highly esteemed by the inhabitants of Leyden, on account of their in-

dustrious, honest, and peaceable behaviour. They could borrow money from the Dutch whenever they desired it ; because it was found that they were most scrupulously careful to keep their word. For the same reason, the Dutch strove to get their custom, and gave them employment in preference to their own people.

Henry. If the Dutch treated them so well, why did they not remain in Leyden? Did they ever have any difficulty there?

Mr. I. No. Just before they left, the magistrates of the city said, " These English have lived amongst us now these twelve years, and yet we never had any suit or accusation come against any of them." The Dutch continued friendly to them to the last. And when they had resolved to come to America, some of the leading men among the Dutch desired to have them form a settlement under the patronage of Holland, and made them very liberal offers, on condition that they would do so. They would doubtless have suffered fewer hardships, had they agreed to form a colony for Holland. Their wants would have been supplied, either by the government or by wealthy individuals.

Henry. I should not think they would have left Holland at all.

Mr. I. There were many reasons which led them to that determination. They were kindly treated by the Dutch, to be sure ; yet they were obliged to labor so constantly that many of them grew old before their time, and they could not bear to see their children subject to such severe burdens. Governor Bradford says that many of the young persons, "willing to bear part of their parent's burdens, were oftentimes so oppressed with their heavy labors, that although their minds were free and willing, yet their bodies bowed under the weight of the same, and became decrepit in their early youth ; the vigor of nature being consumed in the very bud." Besides, some of their children were led astray by the temptations of the place, and some went to sea, and some became soldiers. The Sabbath was not well kept in Leyden, and that was a great source of grief to them. And again, they could not give their children the education which they had themselves received. The treatment they had met with in England had not weaned them from their native land. They wished to live under the protection of England, and to retain the

language and the name of Englishmen. Another, and by no means the least motive for their coming to this land, was to advance the kingdom of Christ here, "yea though they should be but as stepping stones unto others for performing so great a work." These were the true motives that led them to leave Leyden. Some have falsely said that they were driven away. Some have ascribed their going to their restlessness and ambition. Such assertions are vile slanders.

Observe, that in all the motives above mentioned, none had reference to their own ease or benefit. It was the good of their children, and the honor and kingdom of Christ, that they had in view.

All the difficulties that lay in the way of coming to the wilderness were fully considered. It was no pleasure excursion that they designed to set out upon. The dangers of the sea, the exposure to savages, the horrors of famine, were all before them. There were also the warnings from the ill success which had attended the previous attempt which had been made; "besides their own experience in their former troubles and hardships in their removal into Holland, and how hard a thing

it was to live in that strange place, although it was a neighbor country, and a civil and rich commonwealth.”

“But it was answered,” says the noble Bradford, “that all great and honorable actions were accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courages.”

CHAPTER IV.

THE CONSULTATION AND DECISION.

DID the Pilgrims come to America as soon as they had made up their minds to leave Leyden?

Mr. I. No. They came to the conclusion to seek a new place of residence, in the year 1617, and they did not reach America until 1620. About three years were spent in preparing to remove.

Henry. I wonder that it took them so long to prepare.

Mr. I. You would not, if you knew all the difficulties which lay in their way. It is a matter of wonder that they ever removed at all.

Henry. What so great preparation had they to make?

Mr. I. In the first place, they offered their humble prayers to God for direction and assistance. Thus the very first step towards the

settlement of New England was taken with prayer. They had determined to go to the new world, but asked God to tell them where to go.

Henry. They did not expect God to answer them as he used to answer the Jews, did they?

Mr. I. They did not expect him to answer them by an audible voice, or to direct them by a pillar of cloud and fire; but they certainly expected that he would answer their prayers—that he would guide their counsels, and favor them by his Providence. Having thus sought the Lord in prayer, they had a general meeting for consultation with respect to the place they should fix upon for their future residence. Some wished to go to Guiana, in South America, and others to Virginia, where an English settlement was already begun.

Henry. Would it not have been better for them, if they had gone to South America? They would not have suffered so much from the cold, and the soil is a great deal more fertile there.

Mr. I. Providence thought it was best for them to come to the bleak and barren shores of New England. Very probably they would

have been cut off by the Spaniards if they had gone to South America ; or if not, they might have become enervated by abundance and luxury.

Henry. Why did they not go to Virginia, where there were some of their countrymen already ?

Mr. I. The colony in Virginia was made up of persons belonging to the Church of England, and had they gone there, the Pilgrims would have been subject to the same ecclesiastical authority which they had left England to avoid. They therefore resolved to go to some unoccupied portion of the country.

Henry. Were they at liberty to settle anywhere they pleased in this country ?

Mr. I. No, the whole coast from the eastern extremity of Maine to about as far south as Charleston, had been given by the king of England to two companies who were to colonize it.

Henry. How did the country belong to the king of England ?

Mr. I. He claimed it by right of discovery.

Henry. I should think that the country belonged to the Indians who lived in it.

Mr. I. Certainly it did. If the inhabitants

of some yet undiscovered island should send out a ship, and discover America, and should claim all our land by right of discovery, they would do just what England, and other European countries did when they discovered America. The only difference in the two cases would be, that the supposed islanders would not have power to enforce their claim, while the English had. Our Pilgrim Fathers, I would remark, recognized the rights of the Indians and purchased their lands. The king of England, I said, had given the whole coast, for one hundred miles inward, to two companies in England, who were to colonize it. These two companies were called the London and the Plymouth companies. The London company was to have the southern portion of the country, and the Plymouth company the northern portion.

Henry. Why was one company called the Plymouth company? Was it not formed before our fathers came to Plymouth?

Mr. I. Yes, and it had no connexion with that event. The London company was thus named, because its members were chiefly inhabitants of London; and the Plymouth company, because its members lived in Plymouth,

Bristol, and other places in the west of England. Each company was to be under the government of a council of thirteen members, and neither of them was to plant a colony within a hundred miles of a previous settlement made by the other. It was necessary that the Pilgrims should get a grant of land from one of these companies.

Henry. They applied to the Plymouth colony, did they not?

Mr. I. No, they applied to the London company. This company was often called the Virginia company. John Carver and Robert Cushman were sent over to England, by the Pilgrims, as their agents to secure a patent or grant from that company. They were well received. The company was willing to grant them a patent with as ample privileges as they had it in their power to give, and many of its chief members tried to get the king to give them full liberty of conscience, and confirm it under the king's broad seal, but in vain. All that they could get the king to say was "that he would connive at them and not molest them, if they carried themselves peaceably." The agents returned and made their report to their fellow Pilgrims. Some were afraid to go un-

less they had the promise of religious liberty from the king, confirmed by the great seal, that is, a written promise signed and sealed with the king's seal: others said, that if the king should desire to wrong them, "a seal as broad as the house floor would not serve their turn." They finally resolved to commit that matter to God's providence. They then sent Mr. Brewster and Mr. Cushman to make the best terms with the company, they could. These brethren were not sent over till more than a year after those mentioned above—so slowly had matters make progress. They met with great and unexpected difficulties, and it was not till some time in the year 1619 that they succeeded in procuring a patent. The patent was taken in the name of Mr. John Wincob, a gentleman of England who intended to come over with them, but did not do so. Probably the patent was not given to any of the Leyden people, because they were out of the English realm.

Henry. Did the Pilgrims go as soon as they got the patent?

Mr. I. No. Their difficulties were by no means at an end. In fact, it turned out in

the end, that they made no use of the patent, so that all their trouble in procuring it was in vain. This, however, they did not know at that time, and they set themselves zealously to prepare for their departure.

CHAPTER V.

THE EMBARKATION AT DELFT-HAVEN.

THE first act of the Pilgrims, after the patent was sent over to them, was to hold a solemn meeting, and a day of humiliation, to seek the Lord for direction.

Henry. They kept such a day when they first resolved to leave Holland.

Mr. I. Yes, and no doubt the faithful among them implored also the blessing of God daily upon their great enterprise. It should be a great cause of thankfulness on our part, that our nation was cradled in prayer. On the occasion just mentioned, their pastor, Mr. Robinson, took this text; "And David's men said to him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we come to Keilah, against the armies of the Philistines. Then David inquired of the Lord again." 1 Sam. xxiii. 3, 4. The object of the discourse was to encourage them against their fears, and to

strengthen them in their resolutions. They next considered how many should go, and who should go first.

Henry. Why did they not all go?

Mr. I. They had not the means of transporting the whole company. As the greater number were to stay, they said that their pastor must stay with them.

Henry. Were those who went, to go without a minister?

Mr. I. Mr. Brewster, the ruling elder, who had assisted Mr. Robinson in the instruction of the congregation, was to go with those who went first.

Henry. How did they determine who should go, and who should stay? Did they cast lots?

Mr. I. It was agreed that such were to go as should freely offer themselves.

Henry. The church was then divided into two parts?

Mr. I. It was agreed that those who went should constitute a separate church; so that the first congregational church in America, existed at Plymouth as soon as the Pilgrims landed there. Those who were to go, sold

their estates, so far as they had any, and put the money into the common stock.

Henry. Did they have all things common, as some of the early Christians had?

Mr. I. No, except, from necessity, for a time. In order to get the means of transporting themselves over the water, and of supporting themselves after they arrived there, till they could produce the means of subsistence from the soil, they were obliged to form a partnership with some merchants in England. The Pilgrims were to put what money they had into a common stock, and each person who went, who was over sixteen years old, was to be rated at ten pounds, that is, he was to be counted as having ten pounds invested in the partnership. The merchants in England were to furnish what further money might be necessary. The business of the colony was to be conducted as a joint stock concern—all things were to be held in common for seven years. Then a division of all the property that had been gained was to be made—each one to share in proportion to the amount he had contributed to the original stock.

Henry. How were they to live during this seven years?

Mr. I. All were to be fed and clothed out of the common stock and goods of the colony.

Henry. Was that the best way to manage things?

Mr. I. It was the best the poor Pilgrims could do. They had to submit to those hard conditions, in order to get the means of removal.

Henry. Did the merchants enter into this arrangement with the expectation of making money by it?

Mr. I. That was no doubt the motive with the majority of them; some of them had for their aim "to do good and plant religion."

Henry. How long before the Pilgrims set out upon their voyage?

Mr. I. They set sail from Holland on the 22nd of July, 1620. They were to go first to England, where another vessel was hired and got in readiness. After having spent a day in public religious services, they went to Delft-Haven, a port about fourteen miles south of Leyden. I will give you an account of the embarkation in the words of Mr. Bradford, one of their number: "When they came to the place, they found the ship, and all things ready; and such of their friends as could not come

with them, followed after them ; and sundry also came from Amsterdam, to see them shipped and to take their leave of them. That night was spent with little sleep by the most, but with friendly entertainment and Christian discourse, and other real expressions of Christian love. The next day, the wind being fair, they went on board, and their friends with them ; when truly doleful was the sight of that sad and mournful parting ; to see what sighs, and sobs and prayers did sound amongst them ; what tears did gush from every eye, and pithy speeches pierced each other's heart, that sundry of the Dutch strangers, that stood on the quay as spectators, could not refrain from tears. Yet comfortable and sweet it was to see such lively and true expressions of dear and unfeigned love. But the tide, which stays for no man, calling them away, that were thus loth to depart, their reverend pastor, falling down on his knees, and they all with him, with watery cheeks commended them, with most fervent prayers, to the Lord and his blessing ; and then, with mutual embraces and many tears, they took their leaves of one another, which proved to be their last leave to many of them."

This account, as I said, was written by Mr. Bradford. You will not be displeased with an account given by another of that devoted band, Mr. Edward Winslow. "And when the ship was ready to carry us away, the brethren that stayed having again solemnly sought the Lord with us and for us, and we further engaging ourselves mutually as before, they, I say, that stayed at Leyden feasted us that were to go, at our Pastor's house, being large; where we refreshed ourselves, after tears, with singing of psalms, making joyful melody in our hearts, as well as with the voice, there being many of our congregation very expert in music; and indeed it was the sweetest melody that ever mine ears heard. After this they accompanied us to Delph's Haven, where we were to embark, and there feasted us again; and after prayer performed by our Pastor, where a flood of tears was poured out, they accompanied us to the ship, but were not able to speak one to another for the abundance of sorrow to part."

I have thus given you the account of this celebrated embarkation, by two eye-witnesses, in order that you may form a more perfect idea of it. It is the subject of one of the great

national paintings which adorn the capitol at Washington. If you should ever see that painting, you will be able to judge how far the painter has succeeded in delineating that interesting scene.

Henry. Where did they sail to, when they left Delft-Haven?

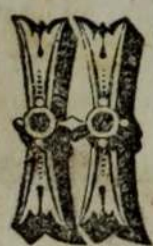
Mr. I. To Southampton in England, where another ship which they had hired was waiting for them.

Henry. Which of the two ships was the Mayflower?

Mr. I. The one which was waiting for them at Southampton. The one on board which they embarked in Holland was the Speedwell.

CHAPTER VI.

THE VOYAGE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.



HOW long was it after the pilgrims reached Southampton, before they sailed for America?

Mr. I. They were detained at Southampton about a week or a little more, in completing their preparation for the voyage. In the first place, the company was called together, and a letter from Mr. Robinson was read to them. It was a charming letter, filled with the noblest precepts of Christian wisdom. It is one among the many proofs which go to show that he was one of the most enlightened men of the age, or rather one of the most enlightened men which the world had then seen.

Henry. I wish he had come over here, and had been the founder of the colony.

Mr. I. He was in truth the founder of the colony. He was as much the founder of the

colony, as Washington was the deliverer of our country from the yoke of Britain. It was his instructions which, under God, prepared our fathers for their great work. After the letter had been read to them, they divided the company between the two ships, and appointed a governor and two or three assistants for each ship, and set sail about the fifth of August, 1620.

Henry. What did they want of governors in the ship—hadn't the ships any captains?

Mr. I. Yes, but the captains had enough to do to take care of the ship. The governors were wanted to keep the passengers in order.

Henry. They were all such good men, I should not think they would need to have any one to keep them in order.

Mr. I. They were good men, but good men are not perfect men. There never was, and never will be a company of men on earth so good, as not to need rulers and laws.

Henry. How many were there on board both ships?

Mr. I. About one hundred and twenty.

Henry. I heard there were one hundred and one pilgrims who landed at Plymouth.

Mr. I. You will see how it happened soon.

They had not sailed far, before the captain of the *Speedwell* complained that his vessel leaked so badly, that he feared to proceed on the voyage. So both ships put back, and put in at Dartmouth. There the *Speedwell* was repaired, and they put to sea a second time, after having been detained at Dartmouth eight days. After a short time, Captain Reynolds of the *Speedwell* again complained that he was afraid his ship would founder if he attempted to cross the ocean with her. So both the ships bore up again, and put in at Plymouth. There the *Speedwell* was again examined, "but no great matter appeared, but it was judged to be the general weakness of the ship." It was therefore resolved to dismiss her, with part of the company, while the rest should proceed in the *Mayflower*.

Henry. Were some of them discouraged?

Mr. I. No. There is no proof whatever that they were discouraged. Some of them were left from the necessity of the case. They could not all be transported in the *Mayflower*. About twenty went ashore, thus leaving about one hundred on board.

Henry Do you know what became of the *Speedwell*?

Mr. I. She made many successful voyages afterwards. It seems that she was "overmasted," as it is expressed; that is, there was some defect in rigging her. This was remedied. The real difficulty was the unwillingness of Captain Reynolds and his crew, to come to America and remain there a year, as he had engaged to do. So he made a pretence of the weakness of his ship, in order to get rid of his engagement.

Henry. Who was the captain of the Mayflower?

Mr. I. Mr. Jones.

Henry. Was he a faithful man?

Mr. I. I believe he was; that is, he faithfully performed his contract with the pilgrims. Some historians have asserted that he was bribed by the Dutch to carry the pilgrims north of the river Hudson, but no complaints were brought against him by the pilgrims themselves; nor was the charge made till nearly half a century after the landing at Plymouth; and when made, it was not supported by proof.

Henry. How long were the pilgrims on the deep, after they finally set sail?

Mr. I. They were from the sixth of Sep-

tember to the ninth of November,—when they came in sight of Cape Cod. They had fair winds at first, but afterwards contrary winds and fierce storms. The upper works of the vessel became very leaky, and one of the main beams of the ship became bent so as to lead them to fear that she would not be able to perform the voyage. One of the pilgrims had brought a strong iron screw on board. By means of it, the beam was brought into place, and the vessel kept on her way.

Henry. Did they land immediately on their arrival at Cape Cod?

Mr. I. No. They at first bore away southward, to find some place about the Hudson river, but they soon fell in with shoals and breakers, which led them to put back, and cast anchor, on the eleventh of November, in what is now called Provincetown harbor. On that day, they signed the agreement which has since become so celebrated, as the Mayflower compact.

Henry. What agreement was it?

Mr. I. It was an agreement to be governed by such laws as the majority should enact. The document is not as interesting in itself as a story is, yet every young person should know

what it was, since it is so often referred to in history and in public addresses. It was as follows :

“ 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, &c., having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do, by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and of 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 to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitution and offices, 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 hereof we have underscribed our names, at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James, of Eng-

land, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, anno Domino 1620."

The above was signed by all the men of the company, forty-one in number. At the head of the list stands the name of John Carver, who was chosen their first governor.

Henry. Did the Pilgrims mean to make a constitution of government?

Mr. I. No. They were led to the adoption of the agreement, in consequence of "observing some not well affected to unity and concord, but gave some appearance of faction."

Henry. They were not all good men then?

Mr. I. They were not all perfect men. Where there is human nature, even in its best form, there will be some "not well affected to unity and concord." On the same day that the compact was signed, sixteen men landed on the cape, for the purpose of procuring wood, and "also to see what the land was, and what inhabitants they could meet with."

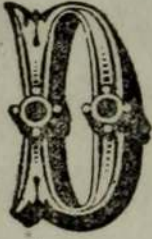
Henry. Did they meet with any Indians?

Mr. I. No; they came on board with a supply of wood, without having seen any signs of inhabitants. The next day was the Sab-

bath, on which they rested, and on Monday they unshipped the shallop in order to repair her, that they might explore the coast and find a place to land, and to build their habitations.

CHAPTER VI.

THE EXPLORING PARTY.

ID not the Pilgrims land as soon as they cast anchor? I should think they would—they had been so long crowded in close quarters.

Mr. I. Some few went on shore to procure wood and water; but the main body did not leave the ship until they had selected their place of habitation. The first thing they did was to unship and repair the shallop, that they might explore the coast, and find a suitable harbor. But the carpenter made very slow progress in repairing the boat, insomuch that some of the men became very impatient, and wished to set out on an exploring expedition on foot.

Henry. Did they go?

Mr. I. Yes. They were permitted to go, though not without great reluctance on the part of the majority, or their leaders. Six-

teen men were allowed to go; each one was armed with a musket, and sword and corslet, and a great many cautions and directions were given them, as though they were going into an enemy's camp, or to the storming of a fort. They were put under the command of Captain Miles Standish.

Henry. Was he one of the Pilgrims?

Mr. I. He was not of the number who left England with Mr. Robinson's congregation. He was at first a soldier in the English army, and was sent over to the Continent, to aid the Dutch against the Spaniards. When he was discharged from the service, he fell in with the Pilgrims at Leyden, attached himself to them, and came over with them to America. He was not a member of the church.

Henry. Was he not a pious man?

Mr. I. I do not know. One would hardly think that a soldier would join the band unless he felt a deep interest in religion, to say the least. It would not seem that a desire for money or for military glory could have influenced him, for he could expect neither from joining the poor Pilgrims, and coming with them to the wilderness.

Henry. He did gain a great deal of fame,

did he not? I have heard his name mentioned a great many times. Were not the Standish Guards named after him?

Mr. I. Yes. All the Pilgrims have obtained a place in history which they never expected to obtain. Standish was a very brave man, somewhat hasty in his temper, but a very faithful defender of the colony. He was placed, as I said, at the head of this exploring party, and William Bradford and two others were appointed his counsellors. They were set on shore on the 15th of November. They there arranged themselves in single file, and commenced their march.

Henry. Where were they set on shore?

Mr. I. We do not certainly know, but probably at Long Point—a point which, you know, runs out into Cape Cod harbor. When they had gone about a mile, they saw five or six Indians and a dog. When the Indians saw them, they ran into the woods and called the dog after them by whistling. Captain Standish, and his men followed them. When the Indians saw that they were pursued, they fled much faster. They were soon out of sight, but the Pilgrims followed their tracks till night overtook them. They then col-

lected some wood, kindled a fire, posted three sentinels, and made themselves as comfortable for the night as circumstances would allow. In the morning, they set out again in pursuit of the Indians, following their tracks.

Henry. What did they follow the Indians for? Did they wish to kill them?

Mr. I. By no means. They wished to become acquainted with them, and to be on friendly terms with them. They wished to learn something about the country from them, and to purchase provisions from them, if possible. I suppose their immediate object in following them was to find their dwellings. They thought their tracks would lead them to their dwellings.

Henry. Were they led thus to the Indians' wigwams?

Mr. I. They neither found dwellings nor fresh water, of which they began to feel the need. They brought none with them, nor any provisions except buiscuit and Holland cheese, and a small bottle of rum.

Henry. I am sorry they had rum with them.

Mr. I. They used it very sparingly, and had no idea that there was any evil in so doing. About ten o'clock, they came into a

deep valley, through which there were little paths made by the deer. They saw a deer, and found springs of fresh water, "of which," said Mr. Bradford, "we were heartily glad, and sat down and drunk our first New England water, with as much delight as we ever drunk drink in all our lives."

Henry. That was better than to drink New England rum.

Mr. I. Far better. New England rum was the invention of a later day. Let all the descendants of the Pilgrims, be content with New England water, and drink it with "delight," as did their fathers.

Henry. I should like to see that spring from which our fathers "drunk their first drink." It would be a fine place to hold a temperance meeting. Is it known where the spring is?

Mr. I. The valley mentioned is doubtless the valley near the small village of East Harbor. There is no spring in the valley now.

Henry. What has become of it?

Mr. I. It is choked up with sand, and the waters which used to issue there, have found vent somewhere else. Such changes are constantly taking place, especially in sandy

regions. In a rocky region, the springs are more permanent. From this valley, they went south till they came to a pond of fresh water. This pond still remains, though it is not now more than half as wide as it was represented to be by our explorers. From this pond they continued their course southward, and came to some cleared land where the Indians had formerly planted corn.

Henry. Where did they get corn to plant?


Mr. I. Indian corn is a native of America. It is found everywhere on the continent from Canada to the extreme part of South America. It was not known in Europe till after the discovery of America.

Henry. Does it grow in Europe now?

Mr. I. It is cultivated largely in the southern part of France, and its cultivation is on the increase in other countries of Southern Europe. It will not grow in England. The climate is not warm enough. In my next, I will tell you what discoveries our adventurers made in the vicinity of the Indian cornfield.

CHAPTER VIII.

DISCOVERIES ON LAND.

OU were next to tell me what Captain Standish and his men found near the Indian cornfield.

Mr. I. As they were going along, they came to a little path which they followed until they came to some heaps of sand. One of them was covered with old mats, and a kind of wooden bowl was turned upside down on the top of it.

Henry. What was there under the heap?

Mr. I. They dug into the heap just mentioned, and found a bow and something which they took to be arrows, which were rotten. They concluded that the heap was an Indian grave; so they put everything in its place just as they found it, because, said they, "we thought it would be odious unto them to ransack their sepulchres."

Henry. What else did they find?

Mr. I. They went on, and came to a corn-field which had borne corn that year. A little further on, they found the remains of a house.

Henry. A wigwam?

Mr. I. No, it was probably the remains of a hut which had been built by shipwrecked sailors. There were four or five old planks laid together, also a great kettle which had probably belonged to some ship. Here also they found a heap of sand which had been newly made, the hand prints of the Indians being still fresh in the sand. They dug into this heap, and found a small basket full of corn. They dug a little further and found another large basket full of "very fair corn," some yellow, and some red, and some mixed with blue.

Henry. Were the baskets like those which we have?

Mr. I. They were round and narrow at the top—something like a jug. The larger one which they found here, held three or four bushels, and was "very handsomely and cunningly made."

Henry. What did they do with the corn?

Mr. I. They were at a loss what to do with

the corn and the kettle. They finally concluded to take the kettle, and as much corn as they could carry.

Henry. What right had they to take it? Did it not belong to the Indians?

Mr. I. Yes, but the pilgrims were in great want of the corn, and were willing to pay for it. They concluded, that, in the circumstances in which they were placed, it would be right for them to take it, fully purposing, if they could find the owners, to satisfy them to their "full content."

Henry. Did they ever do so?

Mr. I. Yes, within eight months, they gave the Indians, who claimed to be the owners, full satisfaction for all they had taken. They could not take all the corn; so they buried again what they could not carry.

Henry. I should think that sixteen men could have carried a great deal!

Mr. I. They had nothing but the kettle and their pockets to carry it in, and then they inform us, that they were "so laden with armor," that they could not carry much.

Near this place they also found the remains of a kind of fort, which may have been built by the same persons who built the hut. They

went south as far as Pamet river, as it is now called, where they found two canoes. They then turned back, for they were ordered to be absent from the ship only two days. They spent the night at the fresh water pond which they had passed in the morning, making a great fire, and keeping a strict watch all night. In the morning, they set out for their return, and got lost in the woods. In the course of their wanderings, they found a young sapling bent down to the ground, with a noose at the end of the rope attached to it. Some acorns were spread on the ground under it. While those who first discovered it, were standing around it, and considering what it was for, Mr. Bradford came up to look at it, and getting his foot in the rope, "it gave a sudden jerk up, and he was immediately caught by the leg."

Henry. What was it?

Mr. I. It was a trap to catch deer or foxes, or some other animals.

Henry. I should not think it would be strong enough to swing up a deer.

Mr. I. It is related, that a horse who once broke away from his owners and ran wild, was at length found hanging in one of these

traps. It must have been a pretty large tree that was bent down in that case, if the story be true.

Henry. And a pretty strong rope too.

Mr. I. Yes. Our explorers at length got out of the woods. They then saw three deer, but did not succeed in getting any of them. They also saw a few partridges, and large flocks of wild geese, but they were very shy, so that they could not get a shot at them. At last they came near the ship. They fired some guns as a signal, and the long boat was sent to take them on board.

Henry. How long had they been gone?

Mr. I. They had been out two nights. They were very weary, and were glad to get back to the ship.

Henry. What did they do with their corn?

Mr. I. They laid it aside for seed; "for," said they, "we knew not how to come by any, and therefore were very glad, purposing, so soon as we could meet with any of the inhabitants of that place, to make them large satisfaction." Which thing, as I have said before, they afterwards did.

Henry. What was the next thing they did?

Mr. I. They had to wait a week or more,

after the return of this expedition, before the shallop was ready for use. In the meantime, they staid on board at night, and some of them went on shore during the day, though this last was very inconvenient. They often had to wade up to their knees in the water in getting on shore. This was the occasion of coughs and colds to many, which in many instances proved fatal. We will next consider the exploring expedition made in the shallop.

CHAPTER IX.

THE EXPEDITION IN THE SHALLOP.

MEN days after the excursion which I told you about, at our last conversation, the shallop was ready for service, and about twenty-four of the Pilgrims, fully armed as before, were appointed to go and explore the neighboring bays and rivers, to find a harbor where their ship could ride in safety, and a place to build their new homes. Captain Jones, the commander of the Mayflower, desired to go with them on this expedition. He was permitted to do so, and was appointed to take the command of it. He took with him about ten of his sailors. They set out on the 27th of November. The day proved stormy. "It blowed, and did snow all that day and night, and froze withal." Several days were spent in this expedition. Some of the party were landed on the Cape, and travelled along the shore southward, while those in the shal-

lop sailed along near them. They revisited the place where they had found corn. They found some more corn there, and also in another place—in all ten bushels, which they thought was as much as they would need for seed.

Henry. Did they see any Indians?

Mr. I. I believe not. They discovered, as I have just said, some more of their corn, and also some more of their graves. They opened one or two, and found, along with the remains, mats, and bowls, and trays, and various trinkets. They at length discovered two houses.

Henry. Were there any Indians in them?

Mr. I. No.

Henry. Were they built of logs?

Mr. I. No, they were made of long young saplings bent over, with both ends fastened in the ground. They were made round, with a small hole on one side for a door, and another in the top for a chimney. The sides were lined within and without with mats. Mats lay around the place for the fire. They found in the houses, wooden bowls, trays, earthen pots, and baskets. The Indians had not been gone long from their dwelling, for they found several heads of deer which were

quite fresh. They also found some pieces of venison, thrust into a hollow tree, but, said they, "we thought it fitter for the dogs than for us." They took some things from the house. "But so soon as we can meet conveniently with them," was their language, "we will give them full satisfaction." They returned to the ship, not having found anything very inviting upon Cape Cod. Some thought they had better settle there. They reminded the company that they had seen what excellent corn the soil produced; they also thought it would be a fine place for fishing, for a great many whales came and played around the ship. Winter was now upon them, and they could not go upon coasting and discovery without danger of losing men and boat. But it was finally concluded that they would explore the bay, in hopes to find some more eligible place to commence a settlement. So ten of the leading men, with Captain Standish at their head, besides about half a dozen of the crew of the vessel, set out in the shallop on the sixth of December. It was very cold, "for," says one of the party, "the water froze on our clothes, and made them,

many times, like coats of iron." They coasted along the shore of the Cape.

Henry. They were on the inner side of the Cape?

Mr. I. Yes, they were on the bay side, that is, were in the bay. They coasted along the shore, till at length they saw ten or twelve Indians cutting up a grampus (whale) which had been cast on shore. The Indians ran when they saw them. At evening the company went on shore, and lighted a fire, built such lodgings as they could, set their sentinels, and slept.

The next day, some staid on board the shallop, and others travelled on the land. They found a few deserted Indian houses, but no Indians. At night the shallop drew near the shore, and furnished them with provisions, which they had been without all day. They then made such arrangements for lodging as their circumstances allowed. About midnight their sentinels aroused them, on hearing "a great and hideous cry." The cry, it was supposed, came from wolves. It ceased after they had discharged a couple of muskets.

The next morning, they were attacked by Indians with arrows, making a cry that was

“dreadful,” to their ears. They were soon repulsed, without having done any injury. “Then,” said one of them, “we all shouted together two several times, and shot off a couple of muskets. This we did that they might see that we were not afraid of them, nor discouraged.”

They were also in great danger this day of being wrecked, for the gale broke the mast of the shallop in three pieces. That night the shallop lay at anchor near Clark’s Island. They went on shore, and kept their watch all night in the rain.

Henry. Was it called Clark’s Island then?

Mr. I. It was named after the mate of the Mayflower, who is said to have been the first to step ashore on it.

“In the morning,” says Governor Bradford, “they find the place to be a small island, secure from Indians. And this being the last day of the week, they here dry their stuff, fix their pieces, rest themselves, return God thanks for their many deliverances; and here, the next day, keep their Christian Sabbath.”

Henry. Had they any houses to stop in?

Mr. I. Of course not.

Henry. Wouldn't it have been right for them to have kept on exploring?

Mr. I. They did not think so. They had prayers daily, and kept the Sabbath—a noble example for their descendants to imitate. The next day, December 11th, they landed at Plymouth.

Henry. I thought they landed on the 22d of December.

Mr. I. December 11th, Old Style, corresponds to December 22d, New Style.

Henry. Did they land on The Rock?

Mr. I. Yes. The rock is now nearly covered by a wharf which has been built over it. Just before the Revolution, some of the warm liberty men attempted to remove it to the town square, intending to place a liberty pole over it. In the attempt, it was split in two parts. The larger part was lowered to its bed again, and the smaller conveyed to the public square. It is now in front of the Pilgrim Hall, and is protected by an iron railing, upon which are inscribed the names of the signers of the compact.

Henry. Are we sure that our fathers first landed on that rock?

Mr. I. I think there can be no doubt about

it. There is the evidence of general and undisputed tradition, as well as positive proof. Elder Thomas Faunce, the last ruling elder of the first church of Plymouth, was born in 1646, and lived ninety-nine years. In 1741, he heard that a wharf was to be built near or over the rock. He felt troubled about it. Though residing three miles from the village of Plymouth, and then in declining health, he left home, and in the presence of many citizens, pointed out the rock, and declared that the Pilgrims, many of whom he had seen, had uniformly informed him that it was the one on which they first landed. This fact was related by Hon. Ephraim Spooner, who was present on the occasion. He died in 1818, aged eighty-three. Here is direct and positive testimony, and it is confirmed from other sources. There can be no doubt that Forefather's Rock, is the rock that was first pressed by the feet of the Pilgrims.

Henry. Is it known who landed first?


Mr. I. It is not. Tradition has assigned that honor to John Alden, though some of the descendants of Mary Chilton, claim it for her. The weight of tradition is in favor of John,

though authentic history is silent upon the subject.

The explorers having discovered this place, returned to the ship with the good news. Measures were immediately taken to bring the ship into Plymouth Bay.

CHAPTER X.

THE LANDING AT PLYMOUTH.

N the 15th of December (O. S.), that is, on the 26th of December, according to our mode of reckoning, they weighed anchor on board the Mayflower, for the purpose of bringing her into Plymouth harbor. The wind did not permit them to enter the harbor till the next day.

Henry. Did they go on shore immediately?

Mr. I. No. The next day was the Sabbath, on which they rested. On Monday, they sent a party on shore to fix upon a place to build. Some desired to build on Clark's Island, some near Jones' River, so called by them, after the captain of their ship. On the 20th, after they had called on God for direction, they fixed upon the place now occupied by the town of Plymouth.

Henry. What led them to fix upon that place?

Mr. I. There was a good deal of cleared land there, and a good brook of fresh water. Besides, there was the hill, now called burial hill, on which they proposed to plant their cannon, as they thus could command all the vicinity. A storm prevented them from doing anything for several days. They then went on shore, and went to work to provide stuff for building. Remember, that this was in the midst of winter. It was about the 4th day of January (N. S.), that they began to prepare to build. Remember they had no materials but such as were to be found in the forests, and no saw-mills or any machinery to aid them, and you can form some idea of the difficulty of the work they undertook. Storms very frequent, often so violent that they could not work at all: then they worked in constant fear of the savages, frequently being alarmed by what they took to be their cries.

Henry. How many houses did they begin to build?

Mr. I. They intended to build as few as possible. They arranged it that all single men should join some family; by that means they reduced the number of families to nine-

teen. They marked out the building lots, making them very small, so that the whole could be the more easily enclosed by a fence of high pickets for defence.

Henry. Did they sleep on board the ship while they were at work?

Mr. I. Yes; and as the ship lay a mile or more from shore, it was very inconvenient. The weather was such that they could not work more than the half of each week. If God in his providence had not caused the winter to be very mild, they would not have been able to build at all, and thus the colony would have perished, or have been obliged to return to Europe.

Henry. They helped one another in building, I suppose?

Mr. I. Yes. It was agreed that every one should build his own house, "thinking that by that course men would make more haste than working in common." They doubtless changed works with one another, and they all worked on the "common house." Many of the company were sick and unable to work, and several had already died. Mr. Bradford was taken very ill, but "in time, through God's mercy in the use of means, recovered."

They were greatly troubled at the supposed loss of two men by the Indians. Thus far they had seen no Indians since they had landed, though they had seen their fires at a distance. One day two men, who were at work in the woods, as they went to eat their dinner by a pond of fresh water, saw a deer there. They had two dogs with them. The dogs chased the deer, and the men followed after them till they lost themselves in the woods. They wandered all the afternoon, and could not find their way to their friends, nor did they meet with any Indian houses. Night came on. They had no shelter, and nothing to eat. They had no arms, and nothing to defend themselves with, except each of them a sickle, with which they were cutting thatch. They laid down upon the earth, with nothing but the heavens for a covering. There they heard, as they supposed, two lions roar, and a third answered them. This last one seemed to be very near them.

Henry. Were there formerly lions in this country?

Mr. I. No, but the Pilgrims had never seen or heard either lions or wolves; it was quite natural therefore for them to mistake the one

for the other. There were many wolves in that vicinity, and it was their howling which terrified them.

Henry. What did they do?

Mr. I. They thought they would climb up in a tree, and thus get out of the way of the *lions*. So they stood all night at the root of a tree ready to spring up into its branches as soon as their enemies came. "But it pleased God," said they, "so to dispose that the wild beasts came not. It was a very cold night. In the morning they set out again, and wandered till, in the afternoon, from the top of a high hill, they discovered the way, and the place of the plantation, which they reached at night, almost dead from cold and hunger. One of them, Mr. Goodman, was obliged to cut his shoes from his feet.

Henry. Were there a great many wolves about there then?

Mr. I. Mr. Goodman fell in with some a second time. The first day that he was able to walk after his return, he went a little way from the houses, with a small dog with him. Pretty soon two great wolves ran after the dog, who ran to him for protection. He took up a stick and threw it at them, and hit one


of them, and they turned and ran away. Pretty soon they came back again. He got a stake, which he held in his hand for defence, "and they," says one of the Pilgrims, "sat on their tails grinning at him a good while; and went their way and left him."

Henry. It seems they had more to fear from wild beasts than from savages.

Mr. I. Yes. They were in great danger also from fire. Their roofs were covered with reeds or grass resembling straw, which readily took fire from sparks. The house in which Gov. Carver and Mr. Bradford lay sick, once took fire, and the roof was burned off, though no great damage was done. Afterwards, the house in which the sick lay took fire in the same manner. You have little idea of the hardships which the Pilgrims suffered.

CHAPTER XI.

INTERVIEW WITH THE INDIANS.

OW long was it before the Pilgrims fell in with the Indians?

Mr. I. They did not see any until the ship had been more than a month in the bay. They then saw two Indians who had been on the island which was near the ship. They were so far off when they saw them, that they could not speak to them. About a fortnight afterwards, as one was trying to kill some fowl about a mile from the plantation, he saw twelve Indians going toward the plantation, and heard many more in the woods. As soon as they were out of sight, he hurried home and gave the alarm.

Henry. Did the Indians attack the plantation?

Mr. I. No. On the same day, Captain Standish and another man left their tools in the woods where they were at work, and

when they came back they found that their tools had been taken away by the Indians.

Henry. What did they do ?

Mr. I. The Pilgrims now chose Captain Standish as their commander, and considered what else was to be done. While they were in consultation, they saw two Indians on the top of what is now called Watson's Hill. The Indians made signs to the Pilgrims to come to them. The Pilgrims did the same. They armed themselves, stood ready, and then sent Captain Standish and Stephen Hopkins towards the Indians. Though they made signs of peace, yet the Indians did not wait for them to come near, but went away. The Pilgrims heard a great many more Indians behind the hill, but saw only those two. They were a good deal alarmed, and planted their artillery, which they now brought on shore, "in places most convenient."

Henry. Did the Pilgrims have cannon ?

Mr. I. Yes, but not very large ones. One of their pieces was called a minion ; it had a bore three and a quarter inches in diameter. They had another a little larger.

They saw nothing more of any Indians until about the middle of March. While one

day they were consulting about measures for defence, an Indian came boldly into the midst of them and was about to pass into the inclosed space. They hindered his going in there, for they did not wish him to know how few and sickly they were.

Henry. Did he come as an enemy?

Mr. I. No, he saluted them in English, and bade them welcome.

Henry. How did it happen that he could speak English?

Mr. I. I do not think that he knew many words of English. He had learned what little he knew from the English he had fallen in with on the eastern coast, who came there for the sake of fishing. He had no clothes on at all; only he had a strap of leather about his waist. They gave him food and drink, with which he was well pleased. He gave them some information about the Indians in that region, and told that about four years before, all the Indians in the place died of a plague. That accounted for the cleared lands being without occupants. You see that God in his providence prepared the way for them, and guided them to the spot. The Indian would stay all night, so they lodged him "at Stephen

Hopkins' house, and watched him." The next day they dismissed him with presents, and told him to bring some of the tribe to which he belonged with him to trade with them.

Henry. To what tribe did he belong?

Mr. I. He belonged to a tribe over which Massasoit ruled. In a day or two the Indian came back with five others with him. They laid aside their bows and arrows about a quarter of a mile before they reached the houses. They were well entertained by the Pilgrims. They brought the tools which had been taken from the woods. It was on Sunday that their visit was made, and in consequence, the Pilgrims would not trade with them for the skins they brought, but dismissed them as soon as they could. The Indian who brought them, Samoset by name, would not go with them, but stayed until Wednesday morning. They then sent him away to the Indians, to know why they did not come and trade with them, as they had promised. Soon after he had gone, they saw two or three Indians on the hill. They used threatening gestures, but when Captain Standish and a few others went towards them, they ran away. The next day, Samoset came again, and


Squanto or Tisquantum, an Indian who had been in England, and could speak a little English, and three others.

Henry. What led him to go to England?

Mr. I. A captain by the name of Hunt, who was on the coast trading with the Indians, seized about twenty of them as they came on board his vessel and carried them away, and I believe, sold them for slaves. Squanto was one of them. He had by some means been carried to England, where he was kindly treated, and finally sent home. He was therefore friendly to the English. Samoset told them that their king, Massasoit, was near at hand, with all his men. After a while he came, and was received by Gov. Carver, attended by drum and trumpet. A treaty of peace was entered into between them. Massasoit engaged to be their friend, and to exert his influence with other tribes to keep them from injuring them. Both parties agreed to assist each other in case they were wrongfully attacked. This treaty was faithfully kept by Massasoit as long as he lived.

CHAPTER XII.

THE STATE OF THE COLONY IN THE SPRING.

 HAVE given you some account of the early intercourse of the Pilgrims with the Indians, and of the treaty made with Massasoit. I will now give an account of the state of the Colony in the spring. I will give you the words of one who was on the spot at the time. "March 24. Dies Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Winslow. N. B. This month thirteen of our number die. And in three months past, dies half our company; the greatest part in the depth of winter, wanting houses and other comforts, being afflicted with the scurvy and other diseases which their long voyage brought upon them; so as there die sometimes two or three a day. Of an hundred persons, scarce fifty remain; the living scarce able to bury the dead; the well not sufficient to tend the sick, there being, in their time of greatest distress, but six or seven, who spare

no pains to help them." Two of the seven, were Mr. Brewster their reverend Elder, and Mr. Standish their captain.

Henry. Don't you think that they wished they had not left Holland?

Mr. I. There is no proof whatever that they ever regretted the step they had taken. They bore their sore afflictions as from God, with entire submission. And when, about the first of April, the Mayflower set sail for England, not one of the Pilgrims returned in her.

Henry. Did the Mayflower stay all winter in this country?

Mr. I. You know it was not till January that the people began to build their houses, and until those were built, they had to live on board the ship. The ship of course must stay until their houses were built and their stores landed. By that time, so many of the sailors had died, and so many were ill, that the captain did not dare to set sail till the spring opened. He sailed the 15th of April (N. S.), and arrived in England on the 16th of May.

Henry. The Pilgrims were left entirely alone then? I should think they would have felt very bad.

Mr. I. Their health was then much improved, and they were very busy planting corn and other things at that time. Just before the *Mayflower* sailed, the first offence for which any one was called publicly to account, was committed.

Henry. Who was the offender?

Mr. I. John Billington. He was called to account before the whole company "for his contempt of the captain's lawful commands, with opprobrious speeches."

Henry. What did they do with him?

Mr. I. They sentenced him "to have his neck and heels tied together;" but he humbled himself, and was forgiven.

Henry. Do you not think it was rather strange that one of the Pilgrims should act in that manner?

Mr. I. Billington was not one of the Pilgrims of Leyden. Gov. Bradford says, "He came from London, and I know not by what friends shuffled into our company." His character was soon discovered. "He is a knave," says Gov. Bradford in a letter to Mr. Cushman, "and so will live and die." He was hung about ten years afterwards for waylaying and shooting a young man, named John

Newcomen. Billington Sea, a sheet of water near Plymouth, was named after his son Francis, who discovered it.

Henry. I don't see why a wicked man should join such a company.

Mr. I. It is impossible to understand all the motives of hypocrites. The next event of importance which I have to notice, is the death of Gov. Carver. He came in from the field, one day, very sick, and complained greatly of his head. In a few hours, reason and speech failed him, and after a few days, he died. He was from the first a leader in the enterprise. He was a deacon of the church in Leyden. He had considerable property, and parted with it freely to promote the enterprise. He was eminent for piety, and was of the greatest service to the infant colony. It would seem as though they could have spared almost any one sooner than him. But God saw fit to take away their leading man.

Henry. Who was chosen governor in his place?

Mr. I. Mr. William Bradford. In the month of May, the first marriage in New England took place. Mr. Edward Winslow was married to Mrs. Susanna White, widow

of William White. Mr. White died in the latter part of February, and Mrs. Winslow in the latter part of March.

Henry. Don't you think they were rather in haste to marry?

Mr. I. You must consider the circumstances in which they were placed. Those circumstances rendered it proper, and often necessary, that they should depart from usages which they would otherwise have been most careful to conform to.

About the last of June the first duel in New England was fought.

Henry. Was it fought at Plymouth? Were our Pilgrim fathers duelists?

Mr. I. No. The duel was fought between two men by the name of Dotey and Leister. They were servants of Mr. Hopkins.

Henry. They were not Pilgrims, then?

Mr. I. No. Mr. Hopkins, their master, was not of the church of Leyden. He joined them in England. He was one of the signers of the compact on board the Mayflower in Cape Cod harbor.

Henry. What was the origin of the duel?

Mr. I. I do not know: it was fought "with sword and dagger."

Henry. Which was killed ?


Mr. I. Neither of them, but both were wounded, the one in the hand and the other in the thigh.

Henry. What was done with them ?

Mr. I. They were “adjudged by the whole company to have their head and feet tied together, and so to lie for twenty-four hours, without meat and drink. Only a part of the sentence was inflicted. “Because of their great pains, at their own and their master’s humble request, upon promise of better carriage, they are released by the Governor.”

CHAPTER XIII.

THE EMBASSY TO THE INDIAN KING.

ID Massasoit ever come to see the Pilgrims again?

Mr. I. His people came very frequently, so that they occasioned a good deal of trouble. They were friendly, but they interrupted our fathers in their work, and then, as provisions were scarce, it was something of a burden to show them due hospitality. The governor, therefore, resolved to send Mr. Stephen Hopkins and Mr. Edward Winslow to visit Massasoit, to ask him to restrain his people somewhat from coming, and to signify to him the desire of the colony to live in peace and friendship with him.

Henry. Where did Massasoit live?

Mr. I. At a place called Pokanoket. Pokanoket was a general name for the northern shore of Narraganset Bay, between Providence and Taunton rivers, comprehending

the present townships of Bristol and Warren and Barrington, in the State of Rhode Island, and Swanzey in Massachusetts. Its northern extent is unknown. Massasoit had two principal seats. The precise situation of one of them is doubtful. One was Mount Hope. At what place he was when Hopkins and Winslow visited him, I do not know.

Henry. Had they learned the Indian language?

Mr. I. No. But they had, as an interpreter, an Indian named Tisquantum, who could speak English. They took with them a red cotton coat for the king, and a copper chain. They started on Tuesday morning, July 3. Their guide told them they would pass the first night at Namaschet, one of Massasoit's own towns. They thought the town was quite near to Plymouth; but they found it "to be some fifteen English miles." Namaschet was in what is now called Middleborough. They reached the place about three o'clock in the afternoon, and were kindly entertained by the Indians; but concluded to go on eight miles further that night. They did so, and came to a place where the Indians were fishing. This was probably at or near the place

where the village of Titicut now stands, on the Taunton river. The Indians gave them plenty of fish, and they in return gave the Indians a part of the provisions they had brought with them. They slept in the open air, and were on their way again early in the morning, six of the savages going with them. In the course of their journey, they found a great deal of cleared land with no one to cultivate it. It had formerly been cultivated by Indians who were swept away by the pestilence, as I told you some time ago. When they reached the place where they expected to find Massasoit, he was not at home. They sent for him, and waited till he came. Massasoit welcomed them kindly, and took them into his house. Then they put the red coat upon him, and the copper chain about his neck. He was not a little proud of his gay dress, and his subjects were also gratified to see their king make such a *splendid appearance*. They told him they wished to live in peace with him, and requested him to furnish them with corn for seed. They told him about the corn they had found buried upon Cape Cod, and as they had heard that the owners of it had fled for fear of them, they requested him to send

some of his men to tell them that they wished to pay them for the corn to their content.

The king then made a speech to his men, which was greatly applauded by them. He then gave his guests some tobacco to smoke, and then fell to talking to them about England. They began to feel hungry, but he said nothing about eating. The fact was, he had no food to offer them. They were soon sorry that they had parted with their provisions so freely on the way. They did so because they thought they should not want when they reached the residence of their royal friend.

Henry. What did they do ?

Mr. I. They went to bed without their supper. "He laid us," said Mr. Winslow, "on the bed with himself and his wife—they at the one end and we at the other—it being only planks laid a foot from the ground and a thin mat upon them. Two more of his chief men, for want of room, pressed by and upon us: so that we were worse weary of our lodging than of our journey."

Henry. How long did they stay with Massasoit ?

Mr. I. They staid all the next day and night, that is, two nights and one day. I told

you that they went to bed without their supper. They did not get anything to eat until some time after noon the next day. Then two fishes were procured and boiled, but as about forty persons helped to eat them, they did not go far towards satisfying the cravings of hunger. The next day, which was Friday, they set out for home, before sunrise. The king pressed them to stay longer; but they desired to keep the Sabbath at home, and were afraid if they staid any longer, that in consequence of the want of sleep and food, they would not have strength to get home. The king was grieved and ashamed that he could not entertain them any better; but they took the will for the deed. They told him, when he wished them to do anything for him, he must send a messenger with the copper chain, and then they would know that they could believe what the messenger said. They returned the same way they came, except that they went five miles out of their way in hope of finding food, but were disappointed, "and so were but worse able to return home." They passed the night at the same place at which they passed it on their way to Pokanoket. One of the Indians who were there

shot a shad, and gave one half of it to the ambassadors. The Indians then all left them except two, who went for fish, "and it pleased God to give them good store of fish, so that we were well refreshed." In the night a heavy rain came on, which continued during the whole day. They were obliged to travel through the rain the whole day, and reached home at night, wet and weary enough, but with thankful hearts.

Messrs. Hopkins and Winslow were thus the first ambassadors that were ever appointed in New England. Their mode of travelling and their reception and entertainment, was somewhat different from that experienced by Messrs Everett and Bancroft at the court of St. James.

CHAPTER XIV.

PROSPECT OF HOSTILITIES.

IN our last conversation, I told you about the embassy that was sent by the Pilgrims to Massasoit. Very soon after their return, they had to go into the Indian country again. They heard that Corbitant, a petty Sachem under Massasoit, was at Namaschet, (now Middleborough,) and that he was plotting with the Narragansets, the enemies of Massasoit, and that he had taken Tisquantum, the interpreter, with the intention of putting him to death, "for he said if he were dead the English had lost their tongue." The day after this news came, Captain Standish and about a dozen men set out for Namaschet.

Henry. What did they go there for?

Mr. I. To fulfil their treaty with Massasoit. By that treaty they were bound to defend him, if he was unjustly attacked, and he was bound to defend them in like manner. They also

wished to avenge the death of Tisquantum. They went, and surrounded the house in which they supposed the Sachem was. The Indians were greatly terrified. Captain Standish told them to keep quiet and they would not be hurt. Some of them, however, attempted to make their escape, and were wounded. Pretty soon it was found that Tisquantum had not been killed. He came to them, and all the Indians that sided with Corbitant fled. Those who had been wounded, were told that if they would go to Plymouth they should be healed of their wounds.

Henry. I think that was rather poor consolation. I should not like to have a man wound me, and then tell me, if I would go home with him, he would try to cure me.

Mr. I. Captain Standish was, I think, too hasty in the matter: and yet, in the circumstances in which they were placed, perhaps it was necessary to act promptly and boldly in order to strike terror into the Indians. The Pilgrims were only a handful in the midst of many Indians.

Soon after the return of this expedition, a party of the Pilgrims visited, for the first time, the place where Boston now stands.

Henry. What did they go there for?

Mr. I. The Indians who were called Massachusetts, lived there, and they had often threatened to make war upon the colonists at Plymouth. The colonists made this visit to them "partly to see the country, partly to make peace with them, and partly to procure their truck," that is, to trade with them. They sailed in the shallop into the bay of Boston, and landed near Copp's hill. They visited several places in the vicinity. The Indians were very much afraid of them at first, but by "our gentle carriage towards them, they took heart and entertained us in the best manner they could." Tisquantum, who was of the party, advised them to rob the women of their skins, "for, he said, they are bad people, and have often threatened you." But our answer was, were they never so bad, we would not wrong them, or give them any just occasion against us." Such was the spirit of our fathers. They entered into treaty with the only Sachem they saw, and returned home at the end of four days, "with a considerable quantity of beaver, and a good report of the place, wishing we had been seated there,"

says Gov. Bradford. The next thing they did was to get in their harvest.

Henry. What harvest had they?

Mr. I. Indian corn was the principal crop. They had a little barley, but not a good crop, and their peas were not worth harvesting, because they did not know when to sow them; they were too late sown.

Henry. How did they know when to plant corn?

Mr. I. They followed the Indians' rule. The Indians said it was time to plant corn "when the leaves of the white oak are as big as the ears of a mouse." The following is an account of their first harvest festival. It is taken from a letter written at the time by Mr. Winslow. "Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men out fowling, so that we might, after a special manner, rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help besides, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest, their greatest king, Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for

three days we entertained and feasted; and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation, and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the captain and others." The writer adds, that it was not always so plentiful with them.

In the latter part of November, 1622, the ship *Fortune* arrived, bringing about thirty new colonists. The Indians told them a ship was coming, and they thought it must be a hostile vessel, for they did not expect "a friend so soon." "But when we perceived," says Winslow, "that she made for our bay, the Governor commanded a great piece to be shot off, to call home such as were abroad at work. Whereupon every man, yea boy, that could handle a gun, was ready, with full resolution that, if she were an enemy, we would stand in our just defence, not fearing them."

Henry. Don't you think our fathers were rather fond of fighting?

Mr. I. They were fearless in the defence of their just rights. They trusted in God, but did not let that prevent their using the proper means for defence. Trust in God is always to be accompanied with the use of means.

Cromwell once told his soldiers in a time of danger. "Trust in God, and mind and keep your powder dry." He had right views of trust and dependence; though the above remark has often been quoted to show that he had not.

Henry. How long did the Fortune remain in this country?

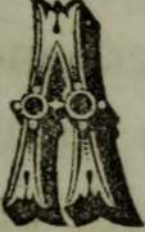
Mr. I. About a month. She then returned to England loaded with two hogsheads of beaver and other skins, and good clapboards as full as she can hold." On her way home, she was captured by the French, and thus the cargo was lost. The new comers did not bring any provisions with them. It was soon found that their provisions would scarce hold out for six months at half allowance.

Henry. I thought their sufferings for lack of food and shelter were over the first winter.

Mr. I. They suffered for want of provisions the second winter, and though they had houses built, yet they were far from being very comfortable ones. It appears that, instead of glass, they had oiled paper for windows. Their houses, therefore, could not have been very warm.

CHAPTER XV.

MEASURES FOR DEFENCE.

FTER the departure of the ship Fortune, the colonists were alarmed by a report that all the Indians in the country were plotting against them. At length, Canonicus, the great sachem of the Narragansets, sent a messenger to Plymouth with a bundle of new arrows, fastened together by a rattlesnake's skin. The messenger left the arrows, and was in haste to depart. But he was kept in custody until the next day, when he was allowed to go.

Henry. Did he not say anything?

Mr. I. It does not appear that he delivered any message from his master. The act was understood to be a challenge on the part of Canonicus. He was an enemy to Massasoit, and the more hostile to the colony on account of the friendship which existed between the colony and Massasoit. After consulting with

Tisquantum, after his return, (for he was away when the messenger of Canonicus came) the Governor took the rattlesnake skin, and stuffed it full of powder and shot, and sent it back to Canonicus. Canonicus was very much afraid when he saw it. He would not touch it, or suffer it to remain in his house or country. So it was passed from place to place, and at length came back to Plymouth. The colonists took measures to defend themselves from the attacks which they expected would be made upon them. Captain Standish divided the men into four companies, and placed a suitable man at the head of each company. They also enclosed the town with paling. They had four gates, which were locked every night.

It was now time to fulfil a promise which they had made to the Indians about the harbor of Boston, to come and trade with them. A friendly Indian told them they had better not go, for he feared the Indians there had joined a confederacy against the colony, and would cut off the party, while the Narragansets might attack the town in the mean time. The Governor and Captain called together the principal men, and asked their advice; the conclusion to which they came was, that

they had better appear bold and fearless, which, "by the blessing of God, might be a means to discourage and weaken their proceedings." Accordingly Captain Standish and ten others set out in the shallop; but they had not gone far, before they heard three of the heavy guns at Plymouth, which they knew was for them to return. They did so, and found the men with their arms in their hands. It seems that an Indian, belonging to Tisquantum's family, had come to them, informing them that a number of sachems, with Massasoit among the rest, had assembled at Namaschet, with the purpose of falling upon the settlement. An Indian named Hobbamock, who was one of Massasoit's men, assured the people that the story was false—that Massasoit was their true friend. He sent his wife to see how matters stood, and she finding all things quiet, told Massasoit what had been said respecting him. It appeared that the report was made up by Tisquantum, who wished to involve the colony in war with Massasoit, thinking that it would turn out to his own advantage.

Henry. What did they do to him when they discovered his treachery?

Mr. I. The Governor rebuked him sharply,

but did not punish him ; for he was so useful as an interpreter that he could not well dispense with his services. Massasoit was greatly enraged against him, and sent to the Governor desiring that he should be put to death. The Governor answered that he deserved to die, yet since he was the only one who could interpret between them, he begged that he might be spared. With this answer the messenger returned home, but soon came back again, in company with others, demanding Tisquantum, in accordance with the treaty which existed between the Pilgrims and Massasoit. Massasoit sent his own knife, with which to cut off the head and hands of Tisquantum. The Governor sent for Tisquantum, who made no attempt to escape, but came prepared to meet his fate. But the Governor, not being willing to do without his services, made an excuse for not sending him : upon which the messengers returned in a great rage.

Henry. What became of him finally ?

Mr. I. He died in the fall of the same year, of a fever. Before he died he desired Governor Bradford to pray that he "might go to the Englishman's God in heaven."

Henry. Was he a Christian ?

Mr. I. There is nothing to lead us to suppose he was. He was very useful to our fathers, and notwithstanding the misconduct which I have mentioned, deserves to be held in grateful remembrance.


By the end of May [1622] their provisions were wholly spent, and Winslow was sent in the shallop to the eastward to procure provisions from the ships which were there employed in the cod fishery. He met with good success. The ships supplied him with provisions which, "through the provident and discreet care of the governor," sufficed to keep them alive till their own harvest came in. These provisions were freely given by those on board the ships to the colony; not one "would take any bills for the same."

In the mean time the Pilgrims heard of the massacre of a large number of the English in the Virginia colony, and this led them to erect a fort, which they did on Burial Hill. "This work," says one of their number, "was begun with great eagerness, and with the approbation of all men, hoping that this being once finished, and a continual guard kept there, it would utterly discourage the savages from having any hopes or thoughts of rising against

us. And though it took the greatest part of our strength from dressing our corn, yet life being continued, we hoped God would raise some means instead thereof for our further preservation.”

CHAPTER XVI.

THE WESTON COLONY.

 HAVE now given you an account of the colony at Plymouth for the space of nearly two years. You have formed an idea of what kind of men they were, and how they prospered. I will now give you a short account of a colony founded by a very different class of men. I refer to Weston's colony. Early in July, 1622, about sixty men arrived, who were sent over by Mr. Weston. They were entertained at Plymouth, where the body of them remained, while some sought out a place for settlement. The following extract from Winslow will show you what kind of men they were. "That little store of corn we had was exceedingly wasted by the unjust and dishonest walking of these strangers; who, though they would sometimes seem to help us in our labor about our corn, yet spared not day and night to steal the same, it being then

eatable and pleasant to taste, though green and unprofitable ; and though they received much kindness, set light both by it and us, not sparing to requite the love we showed them with secret backbitings, revilings, &c., the chief of them being forestalled and made against us before they came, as after appeared. Nevertheless, for their master's sake (Mr. Weston) we continued to do them whatsoever good or furtherance we could, attributing these things to the want of conscience and discretion, expecting each day when God in his providence would disburden us of them, sorrowing that their overseers were not of more ability and fitness for their places, and much fearing what would be the issue of such raw and unconscionable beginnings."

Henry. What was the issue ?

Mr. I. They formed a settlement at Weymouth, and though they had abundance of provisions left them, and were every way better situated than the Pilgrims when they began, yet in a short time they were in want, and at war with the Indians, so that Captain Standish had to go to their aid. Seven Indians were there slain by his men, and the colony was broken up in less than a year from its com-

mencement. This was the first blood shed by our fathers, and it was brought about not by any misconduct on their part. When the news of this reached Mr. Robinson at Leyden, he wrote to the church "to consider the disposition of their captain, who was of a warm temper. He hoped that the Lord had sent him among them for good, if they used him right; but he doubted whether there was not wanting that tenderness of the life of man, made after God's image, which was meet;" and he concludes with saying, "Oh, how happy a thing had it been that you had converted some before you killed any."

Henry. Was Captain Standish to blame for killing the Indians?

Mr. I. It has generally been regarded as an act of necessity. There is reason to believe that a plot had been formed by the Indians to cut off not only the Weston colony, who had justly offended them, but the Plymouth colony also. Probably this decided and early blow struck by the captain, prevented further scenes of bloodshed.

Henry. Might not the story of a plot be false in this case, as it was on a former occasion?

Mr. I. No. We have the testimony of Massasoit. News came that Massasoit was sick. So the governor sent Mr. Winslow to see him. He found him very ill, and stone blind. However Winslow nursed him, and gave him medicine, so that he soon began to recover, and his sight returned to him. "Now," said he, "I see the English are my friends, and love me; and whilst I live I will never forget this kindness they have showed me." He then revealed the plot against the whites, saying that he had earnestly been solicited to join in it, but had refused. He advised that the principal plotters be killed at once, as many lives would thereby be saved.

In April, 1623, it was agreed that lands should be allotted to each, so that every one could work for himself. Up to this time everything had been held in common. So they began to prepare their ground for planting with renewed zeal. But after planting there came a long drought, which threatened the total failure of a crop. They then held a public day of fasting and prayer, and though the morning was perfectly clear, without any appearance of rain, yet before the religious exercises of the day were over (they were

continued some eight or nine hours) the clouds began to gather, and on the next morning, "soft, sweet, moderate" showers of rain began to fall, which continued a long time, and was followed by such favorable weather, that the corn was revived, and promised well for an abundant harvest. This was the first fast-day held in New England. The Indians noticed the extraordinary answer to prayer, and expressed their wonder at "the bounty and goodness of our God."

Henry. They held a fast-day before they held a thanksgiving-day.

Mr. I. Yes. The first thanksgiving-day was appointed after harvest of the same year. They had, on a former year, held a festival after the gathering in of harvest, but this was the first day of thanksgiving and praise to God. The first fast-day, and the first thanksgiving day occurred in the year 1623.

In August of the same year two ships, the ANNE and the LITTLE JAMES arrived, bringing upwards of forty persons to join the Pilgrims. "When these passengers," says Bradford, "see our poor and low condition ashore, they are much dismayed, and full of sadness; only our old friends rejoice to see us, and that it is

no worse, and now hope that we shall enjoy better days together. The best dish we could present them with, is a lobster, or a piece of fish without bread, or anything else but a cup of fair spring water ; and the long continuance of this diet, with our labors abroad, has somewhat abated the freshness of our complexion ; but God gives us health.”

One who came over in the Anne, Mrs. Alice Southworth, widow, was soon married to Governor Bradford.

After harvest this year, no general scarcity of provisions was felt. The colony continued to make sure, though slow progress, until the little one has become a great nation.

Henry. Did not many of the Pilgrims live to a great age ?

Mr. I. Many of those who survived the hardships of the first winter did, and so did many of their descendants. Two of the grandchildren of John Alden were living at the time of the Declaration of Independence.

Henry. Two of the grandchildren living in the time of the revolution !

Mr. I. Yes. If it had been foretold to the Pilgrim that his grandchildren would see the country peopled by more than three million of

inhabitants, and waging a successful war with the mother country, it would have required a strong faith on his part to have induced belief. From one of the daughters of the same Pilgrim were descended two of the presidents of the United States—John Adams, and his son John Quincy.

Henry. I did not know that they were descended from the Pilgrims.

Mr. I. They were descended from Ruth Alden, the daughter of the Pilgrim. The first poet of America is in like manner descended from the same stock.

Henry. You refer to Mr. Bryant.

Mr. I. Of course I do.

Henry. The fact that two great presidents and one great poet hail from Plymouth Rock is new to me.

Mr. I. Have you ever read his poem, on the Twenty-second of December?

Henry. No, sir.

Mr. I. I will turn to it. Its perusal will form an appropriate close to our conversations respecting the Pilgrims.

“ Wild was the day; the wintry sea
Moaned sadly on New England's strand,

When first the thoughtful and the free,
Our Fathers, trod the desert land.

They little thought how pure a light,
With years, should gather round that day;
How love should keep their memories bright,
How wide a realm their sons should sway.

Green are their bays; and greener still
Shall round their spreading fame be wreathed,
And regions, now untrod, shall thrill
With reverence when their names are breathed,

Till where the sun, with softer fires,
Looks on the vast Pacific's deep,
The children of the Pilgrim Sires
This hallowed day like us shall keep."

THE END.



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