



Emigration of Mr. Hooker and his Company.

## CHAPTER II.

### SETTLEMENT OF NEW ENGLAND.

THE more seriously we contemplate the struggles and principles of the Puritan settlers of New England, the more powerfully are we impressed with the greatness of the men, and the greatness of their cause. They were not adventurers in quest of wealth; they were not broken-down gentlemen of aristocratic tastes and connections, seeking to escape poverty and mortification in England; they were not dissolute young men, whom their friends exiled to avoid disgrace and shame; they were not paupers, who fled their country to escape famine and disease, and who were willing to submit to a base dependence; but they were religious, intelligent, independent men of the middle walks of life, who sought freedom to worship God, and scope for the full development of their energies. They were a class of religious enthusiasts, in whose eyes the present was nothing in comparison with the future, the material with the spiritual, or the ordinary pleasures of life with the duties enjoined upon the followers of an invisible King. They may have inclined to visionary views of truth, and doubtless had many social peculiarities which were repulsive and gloomy; but they had those positive and exalted virtues which pre-eminently fitted them to lay the foundations of ultimate greatness and influence. Wherever we go in the United States, we see the influence of their example and principles—we see the

Book II.  
Ch. 2.

A. D.  
1592  
to  
1608.

Character  
of  
the Pu-  
ritans.

Book II. effect of their laws, their colleges, their books, their notions, and their habits. They may not hold in their hands the balance of political power; but they furnish a disproportionate share of the schoolmasters, the clergy, the lawyers, the physicians, the authors, the editors, and the successful merchants, of every great city. Men whose influence has been so good and so permanent, deserve our particular notice. Men who have ever been found arrayed in defence of the great rights of mankind, and ready to make any sacrifice to secure them, merit our admiration. They have extorted it from the whole world; and no partisanship, no sectarianism, no prejudice, can take it away. They are immortal men. They would be objects of panegyric through all time, even if their principles no longer lived.

Greatness of the early settlers of New England.

Puritan troubles in England. It is unnecessary to give the history of Puritan conflicts in England, before America was contemplated as a new home. Difficulties first arose about some unessential form of religious worship, which the exiles to Geneva and Frankfort, during the reign of Mary, had adopted, through the influence of Calvin, and which they wished to establish on their return to England, during the reign of Elizabeth. They were first annoyed, and then persecuted, which led them to separate from the communion of the Established Church, and finally to seek the supremacy of their own forms. Controversy, contention and prosecution, inflamed their hostility, not only to the Church, but also to the king. They became republicans, with new ideas of liberty. To these ideas they attached great importance, but were denied the peaceful enjoyment of them. Some of the more enthusiastic of these men, seeing that there was not much prospect at home of securing what they so highly valued, from the opposition of the Court and the Church, resolved to emigrate to Holland where

they heard there was liberty of conscience. Accordingly, in 1608, a party, under John Robinson, settled in Leyden. There, however, they were doomed to disappointment. They did not find scope for their energies, nor did they wish to sever all connection with their native land. The new world afforded better prospects. They could not secure a charter from the king for a separate settlement; but they obtained permission from the company to whom Virginia belonged, to occupy a part of that colony. Thither they resolved to go.

But Providence had other designs for them to accomplish — even the colonization of a colder, more sterile, more forbidding clime, where new perils should surround the pilgrim, and where he could earn a subsistence only by constant toil and anxiety. It was in barren, stony, stormy New England, that the great moral nursery of the land was to be planted, and the firmest foundations were to be laid for a powerful nation — laid, as usual, only by iron energy and heroic fortitude. It was only by such men that such a country could have been subdued. It was only such a country that could have developed the greatest strength and virtue.

That country had been granted by King James to forty gentlemen in the vicinity of Bristol, called the Plymouth Company, to whom was given unlimited jurisdiction over a belt of the whole American continent, extending from forty to forty-eight degrees of north latitude. Their patent favoured a commercial monopoly of the most odious kind. Their sole object was a pecuniary return for their investments.

Now, it was without the knowledge of this company, and without aid from the king, that the band of pilgrims established themselves in Massachusetts; and it was even against their own intentions, for they expected to settle in

Book II. Ch. 2. A. D. 1608. Settlement at Leyden.

Resolution of the Puritans to settle in America.

The Plymouth Company.

Book II. the northern limits of that part of the country which was  
Ch. 2. claimed by the London company.

A. D. It has been already said that a party of the Pilgrims,  
1620. under Robinson, first sought shelter in Holland. It was  
Voyage in 1620 that they made preparations to emigrate to Ame-  
to Ame- rica. A portion of them still remained behind; but the  
rica. youthful and the strong embarked at Delft-Haven for  
Southampton, and, two weeks after, on the fifth of Au-  
gust, re-embarked in two vessels for the new world. One  
of these vessels, the *Speedwell*, being unfit for the voyage,  
the company returned to Plymouth, and, on the sixth of  
September, went on board of a single vessel, the *May-*  
*flower*, and again set sail for their far-distant home.  
Never before was a leaky ship freighted with so precious  
a cargo—not gold, not wares of iron and glass, not fabrics  
of silk and linen; but men having the truth of God in  
their souls, and resolved to establish it in a new and  
boundless continent for the future glory and welfare of the  
human race. There were only one hundred pilgrims in  
the *Mayflower*; but they were the true founders of Ame-  
rican liberty and greatness.

Arrival of the Puritans on the American shores. The exiles steered their bark for the country near the  
Hudson. But not there were they to find a resting-place.  
The beautiful banks of that glorious river were reserved  
for their descendants only in a future generation. As the  
pilgrims approached the American shores, after a boiste-  
rous voyage of sixty-three days, they found themselves at  
the southern extremity of Cape Cod. It was near this  
barren headland that they expected to find the Hudson.  
Unable to proceed south, they moored their vessel in its  
harbour. But they did not prepare to land until they  
had formed themselves into a community for the preser-  
vation of order, and the promotion of the public good.  
Thus early did they recognize the necessity of laws and

government. They were religious, intelligent, and moral; Book II.  
but even in the wilderness, with God for their Sovereign Ch. 2.  
Ruler, they felt that they required an earthly head. They A. D.  
accordingly chose John Carver for their governor; and 1620.  
all the men, forty-one in number, signed an instrument  
which constituted them a body politic. After spending  
five more tedious weeks in exploring the barren and deso-  
late coast, they selected the harbour of Plymouth as the Landing  
place of disembarkation; and, on the eleventh of Decem- at Ply-  
ber, 1620, (old style,) they trod upon the rock which has mouth.  
ever since been preserved and cherished as the most inter-  
esting vestige of the early settlement of New England.

Thus, after tossing upon the ocean nearly five months, Disas-  
after leaving their temporary shelter in Holland, exposed ters  
to sickness, danger, and privation, did the pilgrim fathers which  
of New England land on a desolate and inhospitable coast, befel  
five hundred miles from any other European colony, in the the  
depth of winter, and with few preparations to meet its colo-  
chilly storms. Between showers of sleet and snow, faint- nists.  
ing with exhaustion, unused to labour, and suffering from  
disease, they erected a few rude huts to shelter them from  
the severities of the climate. And when the birds began  
to sing, in the opening spring of 1621, more than half  
their number had died. The health of the governor sank  
under his duties and privations, and, soon after, his wife,  
broken-hearted, followed him to a better land.

In November, before the close of the season, the colony Famine  
was recruited in numbers, though not in stores. and  
A scarcity, nearly amounting to a famine, followed. want.  
For three or four years, their chief dependence was on corn  
purchased from the Indians. At times they had no corn  
at all, and were compelled to subsist on fish.

For three years the colonists lived together as a com-  
munity. But all the influences of religion, and all the

Book II. perilous and peculiar circumstances of their situation,  
 Ch. 2. could not induce the lazy to work, or prevent the industrious from complaining. It was found absolutely necessary that each family should take care of itself—should plant its own corn, and provide for its own prosperity. 1621  
 to  
 1624. This arrangement restored industry, and industry produced contentment and abundance. Before many seasons had elapsed, more corn was raised than could be consumed, and was profitably exchanged with the Indians for furs.

Disease among the Indians.

If the Pilgrims suffered from cold, privation and disease, they were mercifully preserved by Providence from the tomahawk of the Indians, until they were able to contend with them. A fatal epidemic had carried off nearly all the natives in the vicinity of the settlement. A friendly Indian had even welcomed their approach, soon after they landed; and he, with two others, introduced them to Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoags, with whom a treaty of peace was made. But the Pilgrims, notwithstanding the precariousness of their situation, their limited number, and their Christian principles, could not refrain from dipping their hands in the blood of a people whom, at all times, they should have conciliated. "Oh! how happy a thing it would have been," said the pious Robinson in Holland, in a letter to the colonists, "that you had converted some before you could have killed any!" But Robinson was not capable, any more than we are, of appreciating all the circumstances of his flock in the wilderness; and we may perhaps rest assured that the excellent Governor Bradford, and the brave Captain Standish, acted judiciously as well as courageously.

Treaty with the Indians.

Unobtrusive, unfettered, and trusting in the Lord for help, the colony at Plymouth slowly but steadily increased. At the end of ten years, it numbered three hundred souls. Feeble as it was in numbers, it had struck a deep root into

the American soil, and was a tree which Providence Book II. planted for all generations. The colonists suffered much; Ch. 2. but their hopes were bright, and their courage undaunted. A. D. They were unmolested by the king, and existed as a pure 1621 to 1624. democracy. They appointed their own rulers, and rulers who governed in the fear of God. Their laws were salutary, and were based on the Bible. Township independence existed from the first, and this they succeeded in perpetuating—at once the nursery and the genius of American institutions. "Out of small beginnings," says the Prosperity and hardships of the colony. early historian of the colony, "great things have been produced; and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone to many—yea, in some sort, to our whole nation."

But all parts of New England were not settled by Grant to Puritans, or from religious considerations. The council Mason and Gorges. of Plymouth, to whom the king had granted such immense territories and undefined jurisdiction, issued grants of domains to various persons, who were animated by the hopes of gain. In 1621, the country between Salem and the Merrimac river became the property of John Mason. This grant was followed by another, the next year, to Mason and Sir Ferdinand Gorges, of the whole territory between the Merrimac and Kennebec rivers, and extending west as far as Canada. But it was not until 1623 that any actual settlement was made; and this was made by fishermen, on the banks of the Piscataqua. Portsmouth and Dover are among the earliest towns in the United States; but they did not flourish like those established by the Puritans. Nor did the other settlements which were attempted shortly after in various parts of the coast. They were mere fishing-stations, or else designed for traffic with the Indians, and have no historical importance.

Book II. The year 1628 is memorable for the formation of a  
 Ch. 2. new company of Puritans for the settlement of the coun-  
 A. D. try around Massachusetts Bay. The scheme originated  
 1628. with a clergyman of Dorchester, in the west of England,  
 named White, who succeeded in instigating several gen-  
 tlemen of consideration to engage in an active enterprise  
 for the colonization of the new world with men of Puritan  
 principles. Among these were John Humphrey, brother  
 of the Earl of Lincoln; Sir Henry Roseville, Sir John  
 Young, and John Endicott, who purchased of the Ply-  
 mouth Company a belt of land extending from three miles  
 south of Charles river to three miles north of every part  
 of the Merrimac. They were soon joined by some wealthy  
 citizens in and about London, including John Winthrop  
 and Sir Richard Saltonstall; and also by others from Lin-  
 colnshire, of honourable connections, such as Isaac John-  
 son, Thomas Dudley, Simon Bradstreet, William Cod-  
 dington, and Richard Bellingham—all famous in colonial  
 annals. These gentlemen, sustained by money and influ-  
 ential friends, obtained in 1629 a royal charter confirming  
 the grant they had received from the Plymouth Company.  
 The charter was modelled after that of the late Virginia  
 Company, and contained nothing about religion; nor was  
 the settlement designed to be exclusively Puritan. The  
 government was entrusted to the corporation in England,  
 who had the exclusive right to enact laws, raise money,  
 and settle all matters of importance. The executive ad-  
 ministration of the colony, however, was entrusted to  
 Endicott, assisted by twelve councillors, seven of whom  
 were nominated by the company.

The charter was granted by Charles I. in March; and  
 in the following April, six ships, with two hundred emi-  
 grants, most of them Puritans, sailed for America. The  
 new band of pilgrims brought their religious teachers with

Forma-  
 tion of  
 the Mas-  
 sachu-  
 setts  
 Bay  
 Compa-  
 ny.

Royal  
 charter.

They ob-  
 tain a  
 charter.

them, and also such handicraftsmen as might prove most  
 useful, together with oxen, cows, and horses. No idea  
 of revisiting their native land ever entered their minds.  
 They would not accumulate riches, and then return to  
 enjoy them; but they would spend their days in the new  
 world, and their children after them should toil in the  
 wilderness until the foundations of a great nation should  
 be laid.

It was in the latter part of June, the most cheering  
 and propitious season of the year, that the colonists  
 arrived at their destined place, which was called Salem.  
 Endicott, with two followers, had arrived the preceding  
 year, but had erected only a few mean huts and planted  
 a few insignificant cornfields. The thoughts of the set-  
 tlers, even amid poverty and desolation, were still centred  
 on those great ideas which so speedily gave vitality to  
 their infant colony, and which, in the mother country,  
 were soon after destined to overturn the throne. The  
 Puritan colonists became a church in the wilderness, with  
 God for their sovereign ruler, and his word for their text-  
 book and guide. They established religious worship on  
 the basis of independency. Each congregation elected  
 its officers, formed its creed, and subscribed to its cove-  
 nant. The church of England was disowned and its  
 ceremonials abandoned. The nearest human authority  
 the Puritans followed was Calvin, and him only in matters  
 of theology. His scheme of church government was not  
 sufficiently democratic for those stern republicans.

Before the year elapsed, a change was made in the  
 government of the colony which had a wonderful effect  
 upon its future growth and condition. The corporation  
 in England voted to transfer their charter to the inhabi-  
 tants of the colony themselves. A commercial corpora-  
 tion thus became an independent provincial government.

Book II.  
 Ch. 2.  
 A. D.  
 1630.  
 Charac-  
 ter of  
 the set-  
 tlers.

Settle-  
 ment of  
 Salem.

The  
 compa-  
 ny  
 transfer  
 the char-  
 ter.

Book II. In consequence of this transfer of power, many more  
Ch. 2. persons of rank and property were induced to emigrate.  
A. D. In 1630, as many as fifteen hundred additional colonists  
 1630. arrived, John Winthrop at their head, who had been  
Arrival of new emigrants. chosen governor by the board before its charter was transferred. Boston was the place selected for the new plantation, and soon became the capital. Here was convened the General Court for the settlement of the government, composed of all the freemen of the colony. But power, for a while, was in the hands of a few men, who chose the magistrates from among themselves. Moreover, the elective franchise was narrowed to members of church. Gradually the inconvenience of assembling all the freemen together was felt, and representatives from each town were chosen to concert measures for public utility.

Sufferings of the colonists. But before the colonists had modelled their new republic many of their number had died of hardship and disease. Provisions were scarce. Unforeseen obstacles discouraged even the hardy and the bold. Their ranks were not recruited, as had been hoped. "Men dreaded the hazards of the voyage and the wilderness, and wanted to learn the success of the first adventurers." Amid these discouragements the soul of Winthrop was serene and lofty. His great abilities were exerted for the welfare of his associates, and such was his wisdom and influence, that the clouds, after two or three years of hardship, began to break away. In 1633, two hundred emigrants arrived, among whom were Haynes, Cotton, and Hooker; men of learning and social position at home, and with whose labours is associated all that is famous in the early history of the colonies.

Winthrop's administration lasted four years, during which seven churches were organized, ferries were estab-

lished, a fort was erected in Boston, water-mills and wind-  
 mills set up, two ships were built, a trade in corn and  
 cattle begun with Virginia, the country around was  
 explored, salutary laws were enacted, a representative  
 system of government formed, and liberty based on a  
 sound foundation. The churches, especially, became the  
 admiration of the Puritans in England, and the colony  
 was regarded as the home of oppression and the hope of  
 future generations. But all amusements were proscribed,  
 and a rigid censorship of manners and morals established,  
 which ended in a social despotism, from which New  
 England is not yet entirely emancipated.

Notwithstanding the excellent character and wise  
 government of Winthrop, he was not sufficiently demo-  
 cratic in his sympathies to suit the new settlers of Massa-  
 chusetts. When the charter was given, it was supposed  
 that the freemen, or those to whom it was originally  
 granted, would be so few that all might join in making  
 laws; but when the freemen embraced the colonists them-  
 selves, the governor thought that their representatives  
 only should legislate for the public good. As this doc-  
 trine was not relished by the people, Winthrop lost his  
 election, May 1634, and Thomas Dudley succeeded him  
 as governor.

Haynes succeeded Dudley the following year—marked  
 by the emigration of sixty of the colonists to the banks  
 of the Connecticut. Early in the spring of 1636,  
 Hooker, "the light of the western churches," followed,  
 with a company of one hundred men, driving before them,  
 through tangled woods, across swamps and morasses, and  
 over streams and highlands, their cattle, which were to  
 furnish them subsistence in their toilsome pilgrimage and  
 in their future resting-place. They selected Hartford as  
 their home, little dreaming of the danger which sur-

Book II. rounded them, and the evils they were soon to encounter  
Ch. 2. from the hostility of the Pequod Indians.

A. D. While these enterprising pilgrims were organizing the  
1631. new State of Connecticut, a domestic event occurred in  
Massachusetts which has furnished the enemies of the  
Puritans with lasting materials for slander and reproach.  
Character of Roger Williams. This was the banishment of Roger Williams. This great  
man had arrived in the country in 1631, and was himself  
a Puritan and a fugitive from English persecution. He  
was, doubtless, beyond his brethren in liberality of mind,  
and advocated unbounded religious toleration. He de-  
fended the great principle that the civil magistrate had no  
right to restrain or direct the consciences of men. But  
with these views, altogether in advance of his age, he  
also insisted that it was not lawful to take an oath to the  
civil magistrate; that it was not right for Christians to  
join in family prayer with those whom they judged  
unregenerate, and that all colonial patents were invalid,  
since King Charles had no lawful power to dispose of the  
territory of the Indians. He advocated his opinions with  
great zeal, and mingled, as Graham asserts, much evil  
with good, and much error with truth. His notions,  
whether false or true in the abstract, were considered as  
Hostile to the constitution of civil society, and unsuitable  
to the scene of their promulgation. He was accordingly  
looked upon with distrust, although his piety was above  
reproach, and his genius beyond ordinary appreciation.  
But his views found admirers in Salem, and he was invited  
by the members of the church in that place to become  
their religious guide, much to the scandal of the good  
people in Boston. There he instigated Endicott, a magis-  
trate, to cut the red cross out of the royal standard, since  
it seemed to be an emblem of Papal superstition. This  
act of apparent treason was followed by penalties which

His per-  
secu-  
tion.

led to more open dissension, and which finally ended in  
the refusal of Williams to subject himself to the censure  
or control of the colonial churches. He firmly main-  
tained his right to hold what opinions he pleased, in spite  
of the entreaties of Hooker and Cotton, and the displea-  
sure of the General Court, before which he was sum-  
moned. His threat of schism filled up the measure of his  
offences, and he was accordingly sentenced by the court,  
October 1635, to depart from the jurisdiction of the  
colony. The sentence excited great uproar in Salem,  
and his silent admirers resolved to follow him into exile.  
He obtained permission to remain till spring, but such  
was the effect of his discourses that it was resolved to  
send him back to England in the depth of winter. The  
warrant was made out, but before it could be served he  
and his companions had fled. After wandering fourteen  
weeks in the wilderness, amid perils and hardships, without  
guide and without friends, except so far as he was shel-  
tered and fed by the native chieftains, he established an  
infant settlement at the head of Narragansett Bay, at a  
place which he called Providence. From Canonicut, the  
head sachem of the Narragansett Indians, he subsequently  
obtained a title to the territory he had occupied. This  
was the commencement of the colony of Rhode Island.  
Here Roger Williams founded a State on the principle of  
pure democracy; giving to all unbounded liberty of con-  
science, making friends of the Indians, labouring for their  
conversion, recommending the great ideas of toleration in  
language more genial and beneficent than had at first  
characterized him, and securing to the end of his life  
universal respect, not only from his own people, but finally  
from those who had persecuted and exiled him.

The next great event of importance in the early history  
of the New England colonies was the arrival, in 1635, of

Book II.  
Ch. 2.  
1635.  
Banish-  
ment of  
Roger  
Will-  
iams  
and set-  
tlement  
of Rhode  
Island.

Book II. Ch. 2. three thousand additional emigrants, whom the cruelties of Laud and Strafford, the ministers of Charles I., drove to the shores of the New World. Among these were Hugh Peters, the celebrated chaplain, in after times, of Oliver Cromwell, and Henry—afterwards Sir Henry—Vane, so eminent in the parliamentary history of Great Britain. He was then young, enthusiastic, and fearless; deeply attached to Puritan principles, and possessing one of the finest minds in that age of great men and great ideas. His influence was soon felt, and in 1636 he was elected governor of the province. But politics did not furnish a field wide enough for his active spirit, and he plunged into the abyss of theological discussion. His opinions, though sound on the whole, were, however, so tinged with enthusiasm and extravagance, that he soon lost most of the popularity he had gained by his urbanity and genius. He gave the most offence by his patronage of Ann Hutchinson; a woman of great character and talent, but who advocated doctrines which were supposed to be dangerous and heretical.

In-creased emigration.

Henry Vane governor of Massachusetts.

Ann Hutchin-son.

Her per-secution and opi-nions.

This celebrated woman raised a spirit of insurrection against spiritual authority. She submitted with impatience to the restrictions imposed on women in religious meetings, and established separate female assemblages, where she revealed her views of truth to admiring listeners. They were substantially those of George Fox: that the spirit of God communicates truth independently of his written word. The clergy denounced her doctrines as heretical, and she and her friends retorted in bitter and censorious reproaches. The venom of religious discussion was instilled into the innermost recesses of society, and its peace seriously compromised. The great majority, however, were opposed to her, and she and her most zealous adherents were banished. The people again rallied under

Winthrop, who was chosen governor in place of Vane in 1637. Vane himself returned to England in disgust. The female agitator whom he had befriended sought, with her adherents, shelter in Rhode Island—long the home of the oppressed. Not contented there, neither anywhere, she removed to one of the Dutch settlements, and was finally murdered by the Indians. Her brother, John Wheelright, an able minister, with his friends, removed to the banks of the Piscataqua and founded the town of Exeter.

It was in the midst of the dissensions occasioned by the discussions of Ann Hutchinson, that the Pequod war broke out. This tribe, the most considerable in New England, mustering seven hundred warriors, viewed with jealousy and alarm the encroachments of the English, especially their migration to the valley of the Connecticut. Where there is secret hostility, a small provocation is enough to produce a war. An Indian trader, named Oldham, was murdered by a band of Pequods on Block Island, and his pinnace seized. The pinnace was retaken, and eleven Indians were killed. But this retaliation did not satisfy the new settlers of Massachusetts. They demanded satisfaction for the murder of one Captain Stone, a dissolute master of a trading-vessel to Virginia, who had been killed in 1636, with seven of his crew. The Pequods refused the demands of Endicott, who had been sent out against them with ninety men, and who retaliated by burning some of their villages. The Indians, in revenge, destroyed, in the course of the winter, thirty of the new settlers on the banks of the Connecticut. A special session of the General Court of Massachusetts was called, the militia was organized, and preparations made to raise troops for approaching hostilities.

But the Connecticut settlers had made vigorous excr-

Book II. Ch. 2. A. D. 1637.

Pequod war.

Ravages of the Indians.