



William Penn.

## CHAPTER VI.

### SETTLEMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

WHILE Virginia was settled by aristocratic adventurers, mostly members of the Church of England—New York by the Dutch, who sought the shores of the new world with the view of improving their fortunes—Massachusetts by Puritans, Rhode Island by Baptists, Maryland by Catholics, and Carolina by Huguenots, who alike sought a refuge from religious persecution—Pennsylvania was colonized by the Society of Friends, who also desired greater liberty of religious worship than was enjoyed either under Episcopal or Puritan influences.

George Fox, the founder of this sect, was one of the most remarkable geniuses who ever impressed his mind on future generations, without the advantages of early education and social position. The fundamental principle which he declared was, that the "Inner Light," or the Spirit of God, would reveal to all earnest inquirers every important truth pertaining to the soul's welfare and salvation; and that the Spirit, though in harmony with the Scriptures, because they are the revelation of God, was still higher than the declaration of the Scriptures, inasmuch as the fountain is ever greater than the stream which issues from it. This doctrine of divine inward revelation, Fox and his followers would not subject to the test either of the outward authority of the Scriptures, or natural reason. Following the promptings of the Inner Light, or

Book II.

Ch. 6.

A. D.

Different principles which actuated different settlers.

1648.

George Fox.

Book II. what he conceived to be a special revelation of the Al-  
Ch. 6. mighty, Fox instituted many changes in the worship of  
A. D. God and in social life, which were not in harmony with  
1650. the practice of any other Christian sect, or the established  
Principles of George Fox. institutions of society. He dispensed with the teachings  
of a regular clergy, and the ordinary forms and ceremonies  
of existing churches. He swept away the ordination  
of the clergy, baptism, the Lord's Supper, the music of  
the choir, and all emblematical ceremonies. He refused  
to give titles of honour, to take an oath even of subser-  
vency to the sovereign, or to enlist as a soldier. He  
condemned all war, and all doctrines of expediency. He  
would abolish all penal laws for religious opinions, all  
slavery, and resort to coercion in government. He advo-  
cated unbounded religious toleration, and universal phi-  
lanthropy.

Persecution of his society. For the advocacy of such principles he was cruelly per-  
secuted, as was to be expected in the seventeenth century.  
So were his disciples. They were confined in jails, mutil-  
ated, and even punished with death.

William Penn. Among the followers of Fox was William Penn, son  
of Admiral Sir William Penn, who had rendered great  
naval services to his country, and who left to his son a  
very large fortune. William Penn had early become a  
convert to the principles of Fox, and had suffered divers  
persecutions in consequence, from his family and from the  
English government. Still, he was true to his principles,  
and maintained great serenity of mind in disgrace and  
suffering. His distinguished social rank, however, and  
his great talents, secured him high consideration, in spite  
of his unpopular doctrines, and he had easy access to the  
court of Charles II. Among the bequests of his father  
was a claim against the government for 16,000*l*. This  
was cancelled by a grant from Charles II. of a province

in the new world, which included three degrees of latitude Book II  
and five degrees of longitude west of the Delaware, 1681. Ch. 6.  
The royal charter conferred on him powers similar to A. D.  
those which had been granted to Lord Baltimore, and the 1681.  
persecuted Quaker became a feudal proprietor. The Grant to Penn.  
province, of which he was constituted absolute proprietor,  
was called Pennsylvania.

Early the next year, 1682, Penn published his cele- His frame of govern- ment.  
brated "Frame of Government" for his future colony;  
and, in the following September, set sail for his new  
domains in the wilderness, accompanied by one hundred  
emigrants. When he arrived on the banks of the Dela-  
ware, he found already a thriving colony of three thou-  
sand persons, chiefly Swedes and Dutch, intermixed with  
the English settlers, principally Quakers, who had emi-  
grated shortly before. In the course of the year, no less  
than two thousand additional colonists arrived, many of  
them being persons of wealth and consideration in  
England.

Among the first acts of the proprietary, after he had Treaty with the Indians.  
visited the various settlements of his infant colony, was  
his famous treaty with the Indians. Beneath a large elm  
tree on the banks of the Delaware, where Philadelphia  
now stands, he met a numerous delegation of the Len-  
Lenape tribes. There, to the original inhabitants of the  
land, he proclaimed the principles of peace and love which  
should regulate all his future intercourse with them.  
"On the broad pathway of good faith and good-will,"  
said he, "no advantage will be taken on either side. I  
will not call you children, for parents sometimes chide  
their children too severely; nor brothers only, for bro-  
thers differ. The friendship between you and me, I will  
not compare to a chain; for that the rains might rust, or  
the falling tree might break. We are the same as if one

BOOK II.  
Ch. 6. man's body were to be divided into two parts; we are all one flesh and blood." "We will live," responded the simple children of the forest, touched by these beautiful doctrines, "in love with William Penn and his children, as long as the sun and moon shall endure."

Perma-  
nence of  
the  
treaty This glorious treaty, not confirmed by oaths or parchment, was long sacredly regarded by both white man and Indian; and for seventy years, it is recorded, not a drop of Quaker blood was shed by the aborigines, in spite of all the encroachments of the new settlers upon their ancient hunting-grounds.

Legisla-  
tion of  
Penn. The treaty with the Indians was an act prompted by generous impulses, and a regard to those laws of immutable justice which Fox had nobly propounded. The constitution which Penn gave to his people was the result of great practical wisdom and enlarged views. For his legislative genius, Penn is now generally regarded as a benefactor to the human race; for, though he made laws for only a small colony, the principles on which they are based have entered into the schemes and systems of subsequent philanthropists, not in America merely, but in England and the countries of the continent.

Unboun-  
ded reli-  
gious to-  
leration. William Penn gave to all the colonists, of whatsoever creed or nation, the most generous religious toleration. He abolished the law of primogeniture, and instituted the rule of equality. All had the right of suffrage who submitted to the burdens of society. No taxes were to be levied without the people's consent. Murder was the only crime punishable with death. County courts were established for the administration of justice, with trial by jury. The word of an honest man was received as evidence, without oath. Every Christian, of whatsoever creed, was eligible to office.

When the work of legislation was finished, Penn, in

1682, accompanied by his council, hastened to Newcastle to meet Lord Baltimore, and establish the limits of their respective territories. There were many difficulties to be settled; for Lord Baltimore claimed the whole country as far north as the fortieth degree of latitude. Penn insisted that the charter of Maryland included only lands that were unoccupied; and as the banks of the Delaware had been purchased and colonized before that charter was written, they justly belonged to the original settlers. The proprietaries parted without coming to an agreement, intending to meet again.

To a part of this disputed territory some Swedish settlers had laid claim. Penn obtained from them, by a promise of giving them other lands in exchange, a tract at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill. Near this, he laid out the plan of an extensive city, which he called Philadelphia; designed as "a city of refuge"—"the mansion of humanity;" where the Quaker brethren "might worship God according to the dictates of the Divine Principle, free from the mouldy errors of tradition;" and where they "might thrive in peace and retirement in the lap of unadulterated nature," "on a virgin Elysian shore." So rapid was the growth of the city, that eighty houses were erected before the close of the year 1683.

But while the new-comers lodged in caves and hollow trees, the Quaker sovereign summoned together the representatives of his dominions in the wilderness for the purpose of making such alterations in the original constitution as the circumstances of the colony required. More power was given to the people, who had the privilege of nominating the council of the governor, and also all other officers, except the governor, who was hereditary proprietary; nor could even he perform any public act but with the consent of his council. Penn not only gave a free con-

stitution to his colony, but dispensed with a reverence for himself. Tax-gatherers were unknown in the province. The principle which seemed to animate his whole government and legislation was to make the people as free and happy as they could be.

The fame of his settlement went through Europe, and emigrants, seeking an asylum from persecution or misfortune, hastened to the banks of the Delaware from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, and Germany. The institution and government of Penn inspired both confidence and admiration. The colony increased more rapidly than New England; and in three years from the foundation of Philadelphia, it numbered more inhabitants than New York had gained for half a century.

When the government was fully organized, peace with the natives confirmed, and wise laws established, Penn took leave of his people with expressions of affection and generosity, and returned to England. One object of his return was to settle his dispute with Lord Baltimore; between whom and himself misunderstanding had ripened into a quarrel. The question about the respective boundaries of Pennsylvania and Maryland was discussed before the committee of the plantations. Delaware, which had been originally settled by the Swedes, was separated from Maryland. To Penn was assigned half of the territory between the Delaware and the Chesapeake north of the latitude of Cape Henlopen. But this decision did not end the dispute; and it was not till 1750 that the present boundaries of Pennsylvania were decreed by the Lord Chancellor Hardwicke. Eleven years after, the southern line between Pennsylvania and Maryland was run by Mason and Dixon; which forms the present division of free and slave labour.

Notwithstanding Penn, as absolute proprietary of an

Book II.  
Ch. 6.  
A. D.  
1683

Penn re-  
turns to  
Eng-  
land.

Settle-  
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bounda-  
ries.

extensive province, granted the most generous and liberal terms to the colonists, and although they, as a body, were intelligent and virtuous, they were yet not long contented with their privileges; so hard is it for man, in his degeneracy, to be satisfied with any blessing which Providence bestows. They aimed at still greater freedom; to diminish the little remaining authority of that great and benevolent man who had given them a shelter, and to impair his revenues. The colonial assembly made changes which were both unconstitutional and ungenerous, and the executive power was but feebly administered.

In 1699, Penn revisited the colony he had formed, accompanied by his family, with the intention of spending his days on the banks of the Delaware. Still, difficulties continued. The colonists were dissatisfied with the existing constitution. Negro slavery and Indian intercourse were subjects of continual disquiet. The tenants of the proprietary wished to abolish the payment of their rents. In short, Penn found so few inducements to remain, that he resolved to return to his native land.

He remained long enough, however, to settle many of the difficulties which were subjects of complaint, and, in 1701, prepared a new frame of government, which continued in force until the revolutionary war. The most striking feature of the altered constitution was the right of the assembly to originate laws, which had previously been vested in the governor; but it allowed the governor a negative on all bills, and the right of appointing his council.

This new charter, which was a sort of compromise between the proprietary and the colonists, was not accepted by the Three Lower Counties, which separated from Pennsylvania, and which formed what is now the State of Delaware, whose original inhabitants were Swedes, and

Book II.  
Ch. 6.

A. D.  
1690.

Discon-  
tent of  
the colo-  
nists.

Return  
of Penn  
to his  
colony.

New  
charter  
to Penn-  
sylvania.

The colo-  
ny of  
Dela-  
ware.

Book II.  
Ch. 6. who, in 1627, under the auspices of Gustavus Adolphus, emigrated to America and landed at Cape Henlopen. After several times changing masters, the territory was surrendered to the Dutch, who had laid claim to it, and they held possession until 1664, when it was seized by Sir Robert Carr and made a part of New York. In 1682, the Duke of York sold the town of New Castle and twelve miles round to William Penn, and afterwards the country between it and Cape Henlopen, and this territory constituted the Three Lower Counties as a part of Pennsylvania.

Return of Penn to England. So soon as the last charter of Penn was accepted, he returned to England; but only to be harassed by complaints against the deputies whom he had appointed. Nor were the discontents allayed during his life, notwithstanding the great benefits he had conferred, not only on his colony in particular, but as a benefactor of mankind at large, and as one of the most distinguished reformers whom our world has produced; a legislator surpassing the Solons and Justinians of antiquity in practical wisdom, a philanthropist to whom the Howards and Wilberforces of succeeding ages must yield precedence as an original genius—as a man who far outstripped all his contemporaries in enlargement of mind as well as generosity of soul.

Growth and resources of the colony. No province gained so rapidly in population as Pennsylvania after it was once settled, in spite of all the difficulties of the settlers with provincial governors, and with the great proprietary himself. In 1701, it is computed that it contained 20,000 inhabitants; while Virginia, which had been colonized nearly eighty years earlier, contained at that time only 40,000. Massachusetts at this period could boast of 70,000 souls, Connecticut of 30,000, Rhode Island 10,000, New Hampshire 10,000, New York

30,000, New Jersey 15,000, Maryland 25,000, and North and South Carolina 12,000 more—in all, 262,000.

Book II.  
Ch. 6. These various colonies imported from England all their merchandise, and exported tobacco, poultry, beef, pork, fish, grain, and lumber. Furs were the principal article of export from the New England colonies, and tobacco from the southern. As the colonists, during the period of their settlement, were chiefly occupied in gaining a subsistence, not much attention was paid to art and manufactures. The first buildings were made of logs, or were constructed of stone, and few had more rooms than the absolute wants of the people required.

General condition of the colonies. Travelling was almost entirely on foot or on horseback, the roads being chiefly only narrow paths through the primeval forests. Schools were early instituted, and a common education highly valued. Manners were severe, and morals generally pure. Laws were rigidly enforced, and all disturbers of the public peace were promptly punished. Many superstitions were mixed with the simple notions of the early settlers, and many unhappy persecutions accordingly resulted.

Habits and customs of the English settlers. The desire of self-government and love of liberty were the prominent traits of the colonists, from Massachusetts Bay to the coast of Florida. And when these were mingled with zeal for the honour of God and the prevalence of religious truth, the most noble virtues were engendered, and a state prepared for the future development of all that is great in character and in passion.

The colonization of all the States which subsequently rebelled against the authority of England being now effected, except that of Georgia, we turn to consider the discoveries and settlements made by the French in North America.



Marquette descending the Mississippi.

## CHAPTER VII.

### FRENCH DISCOVERIES AND SETTLEMENTS.

THE efforts which the French made to possess them- BOOK II  
 selves of the North American continent, are too important Ch. 7.  
 to be omitted in a history of the United States, especially A. D.  
 in view of the wars to which they subsequently led, and 1615.  
 the great consequence of these settlements on the future  
 history of the country.

The French, at an early period, were not inferior to the Motives  
 English in enthusiasm for discovery, in intrepidity and which  
 endurance amid dangers, in eagerness to engross the trade led the  
 with the Indians and the fisheries on the coast, or in am- French  
 bition to possess a supremacy on the continent. Nor to Can-  
 were their motives, in many instances, without loftiness da.  
 and moral grandeur. The Puritans fled to the wilderness  
 of Massachusetts to enjoy their religion; the French  
 sought the wilds of Canada to convert the Indians to the  
 Catholic faith. There was a romance exhibited by the  
 Jesuits, in their wanderings both to convert the natives  
 and explore the country, never since surpassed. "My  
 companion," said the fearless Marquette, "is an envoy of  
 France to discover new countries; but I am an ambassa-  
 dor of God to enlighten them with the gospel."

As early as 1615, Champlain explored the lake which  
 bears his name. In 1626, Franciscan priests had made  
 their way to the waters of the Niagara; and, in less than  
 ten years after, the members of the Society of Jesus had

Book II. penetrated to the eastern projection of Lake Huron, not

Ch. 7. with the view of founding States, but of converting angry savages to the truths of Christianity. Montreal became a missionary station, and a school for the instruction of

A. D. 1626. Indian children, within four years of the foundation of Harvard College. Still earlier than this, in 1634, an humble church had been consecrated among the Huron tribes by Brebeuf and Daniel, and converts to the Roman faith

Intrepidity of Jesuit missionaries.  
Their conversion of the Indians.

been made among the primeval forests which skirted the Ottawa river. Within thirteen years, forty-two of the zealous followers of Loyola had laboured among these distant tribes, enduring unparalleled privation and hardship, and exposed to constant danger. The Mohawk war parties captured many a missionary who attested his sincerity by a triumphant martyrdom; for the Iroquois, or Five Nations, who chased the deer in the interior of New York, were hereditary enemies of the Algonquin tribes who dwelt on the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario. Of all the Iroquois, the Mohawks were the most dreaded; for they lived nearest the European settlements, and made constant war on the white man, whether missionary or hunter, whether French or English. They had learned from the Dutch the use of fire-arms, and bade defiance to forts and entrenchments.

Discovery of the Mississippi.

But Canada was not the only scene of Jesuit intrepidity. Missions were established on the southern outlets of Lake Superior, and the country was explored to the source of the Mississippi, which great river the adventurers descended in 1673, passing in succession the mouths of the Illinois, the Missouri, and the Ohio, until they reached the Arkansas. The glory of this enterprise belongs to Marquette, who had laboured for years as a missionary among the Hurons.

The discovery of the "father of waters" was received

with enthusiasm in the mother country, and quickened the ambition of Colbert, the minister of the French King.

Nor were there wanting adventurers to prosecute further discoveries, and add new value to the crown of France.

Of these, the most distinguished was La Salle, who had been the first white man to explore Lake Ontario, and navigate the waters of Niagara. Under the auspices of Colbert, who furnished him with ample means, 1679, he sailed over the great lakes in a vessel of sixty tons, and cast anchor in Green Bay. The vessel was sent back laden with furs, but was unfortunately lost. La Salle and his company proceeded, meanwhile, in birch bark canoes, up Lake Michigan to the mouth of the St. Joseph, and soon after crossed to a branch of the Illinois, which they descended, and then made their way back to Fort Frontenac, now Kingston, a port at the outlet of Lake Ontario. In their absence, Father Hennepin and another priest had descended the Illinois to the Mississippi, and then, ascending the river, penetrated to the Falls of St. Anthony.

In 1680, having recruited his company, La Salle returned to the Illinois country, and built a fort which he called St. Louis, and the next year descended the Mississippi in a barge which he had built during the winter, and safely reached its mouth. He then formally took possession of the country, which he called, in honour of Louis XIV., Louisiana.

La Salle then returned to France and procured a new company, with a view of colonizing the country he had discovered, but failed, with his new recruits, to reach the mouth of the Mississippi, and landed his dispirited company on the coast of Texas, where they miserably perished, victims of the climate, with the exception of thirty-six men; half of whom, with La Salle at their head, undertook to reach Canada by land; but only five of them

Book II.

Ch. 7.

A. D.

1679.

La Salle explores the great lakes.

1680.

Discovery of Louisiana.

1689.

Melancholy fate of La Salle.

BOOK II. returned, the intrepid commander having been murdered  
Ch. 7. by two of his mutinous companions. Thus perished the  
A. D. first adventurers who sought to colonize Louisiana, and,  
 1689. with them, the traces of even the forts which they had  
 built.

War with the Iroquois. Shortly after, the Canadians were involved in a war  
 with the Iroquois, and Montreal itself was attacked, and  
 lost two hundred of its defenders. Canada, though long  
 planted, did not flourish. The colonists, exposed to the  
 rigour of a cold climate, to a military despotism, and with-  
 out the motives which called out the energies of their  
 English neighbours, hardly numbered, in 1689, twelve  
 thousand persons; scarcely a twentieth part of the popu-  
 lation of the English colonies at the time.

Meed of praise. And yet no small praise, after all, is due to the French  
 Canadians. Against a formidable confederacy of Indian  
 tribes, they had explored the waters of the great western  
 lakes; they had navigated the Mississippi from the Falls  
 of St. Anthony to the Gulf of Mexico; they had estab-  
 lished successful missionary stations from Quebec to the  
 shores of Lake Superior; they had engrossed the most  
 lucrative part of the fur trade; they had established im-  
 portant military posts; and they claimed the whole eastern  
 coast from the Kennebec to Hudson's Bay, part of New  
 York, all of Acadie and Canada, the whole valley of the  
 Mississippi, and the territory to the south-west as far as  
 the Rio Bravo del Norte. Could France but have retained  
 these extensive regions, the English dominion would have  
 been restricted to those States which border on the Atlan-  
 tic Ocean. But the jealousy of the English and of Eng-  
 lish colonies would not allow them to acquiesce in this  
 claim, and was destined to lead to future wars, and the  
 complete suppression of French dominion in America.

## BOOK III.

## CHAPTER I.

## EARLY COLONIAL HISTORY.—INDIAN WARS.

We have now seen how the various English colonies BR. III.  
 were successfully planted on the eastern coast of North Ch. I.  
 America, and alluded to the leading principles which led  
 to their settlement. We have considered some of the A. D.  
 influences which retarded, and some which facilitated their 1606  
 growth; the various governments which coerced them, to  
 and the conflicting religious opinions which distracted 1658.  
 them. We have examined them in detail, as they were Gradual  
 gradually colonized, and the various evils to which the settle-  
 early settlers were subjected; none of which, great as they ment  
 were, paralyzed their energies, or destroyed their bright of the  
 hopes. country.

We are now compelled to consider their history in a  
 more general manner, and omit allusion to many events,  
 which, interesting to the colonists themselves, at an early  
 period, have had no very marked effect in the formation  
 of national character and institutions. The twig was bent  
 in the first half-century after it was planted, and, from the  
 inclination it then received, the tree has grown.

Still, there were from time to time great excitements,  
 sometimes religious, sometimes political, which called out  
 great energies, and which changed the ordinary current