

CHAPTER VII
William Bradford
 1588-1657

THE same year that saw the arrival of Captain Newport and his little fleet in Chesapeake Bay and the settlement of the colony of Virginia (1607), witnessed also a sad scene upon the eastern coast of England. Just as a vessel was about to sail, some government officers boarded it and carried the passengers to prison. After a month of confinement nearly all were set free, on condition that they would return to their homes at Scrooby.

What had these men and women and children done that they should be thus imprisoned? Nothing that would be called a crime to-day. They were merely trying to leave England for some country where they could worship God in the way that they thought was right. They were a little band of earnest Christians, who were called Separatists, because they wished to hold separate services of their own. They believed that the Church of England had made mistakes, and they wished to serve God as seemed best to them.

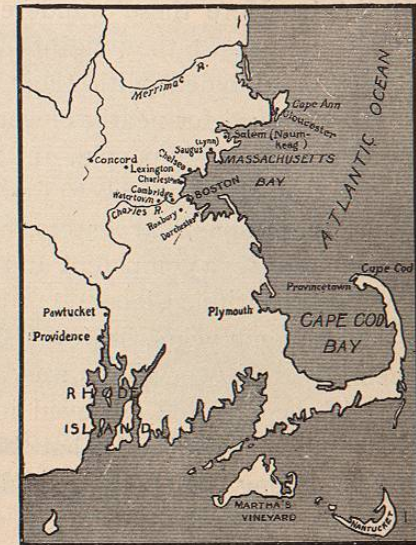
Queen Elizabeth had tried during her entire reign to strengthen the Church of England. She thought it wrong

for any to stay away from service or to meet together to worship by themselves. Therefore she forbade all such meetings, and directed that those who attended them and even those who did not attend the regular service should be punished.

When James I. came to the throne he was even more harsh than Elizabeth had been. The Separatists were more severely treated than before. What seems especially strange to us, the king not only refused to permit them to worship as they pleased, but he also would not allow them to leave England and seek a country where they would be granted religious freedom.

In spite of the laws against emigration, however, many tried to flee across the Channel to Holland. It was while thus attempting to escape, that these Scrooby Separatists were captured and sent home. They were not discouraged, but tried again the next year and succeeded, after great suffering, in reaching Amsterdam, a city in Holland.

Among these exiles was a lad, about eighteen years of age, named William Bradford. Six years before this time the boy had been led to join the little Separatist body at



WHERE THE PILGRIMS AND THE PURITANS SETTLED.

Scrooby. As he grew older he became an earnest upholder of the beliefs of the small denomination. He was a scholar and was familiar with those studies which require considerable thought, such as the ancient languages, philosophy, and theology. He was fitted to be a leader in a religious movement, and, though still young, he was prominent very early among the exiles in Amsterdam.

Soon the little band removed to Leyden, another city of Holland. Here these wanderers began to call themselves Pilgrims, because they did not seem to have any permanent home. In Leyden, with their beloved pastor, John Robinson, they lived for nearly eleven years.

These English people, in the strange Dutch land, of course had no easy task to find means of support. But as weavers, masons, carpenters, hat makers, and tailors, they came to raise a competent and comfortable living, but with hard and continued labor.

After some years, however, they began to question among themselves if everything was as it should be. They were English people, and believed in English methods and customs. Was it not likely that their sons and daughters, growing up among the Dutch, would learn Dutch ways instead of English? Perhaps they might even marry among the people of Holland.

Consequently their thoughts were turned toward the possibility of settling in America. There they would be free from English punishments and also from Dutch customs! There they could worship God as they thought right and at the same time carry the Bible to the Indians. Accordingly, for two or three years, they tried to make arrangements with the Virginia Company to send them across the ocean. At last, in 1620, an agreement was reached, and, in the middle

of summer, the vessel *Speedwell* sailed from Delft-Haven, the port of Leyden.

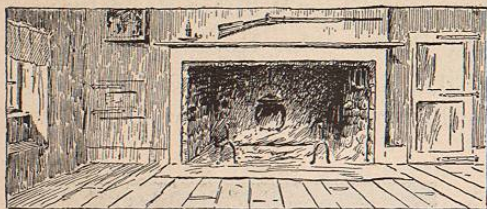
The *Speedwell* was too small to carry half of the members of the Leyden church; therefore Elder William Brewster was sent with the colonists, and Pastor John Robinson remained in Holland with the majority, who could not then go. The little vessel sailed to Southampton, England, where it was joined by the *Mayflower*, with other Separatists who had remained in England. The two vessels left Southampton, but were twice compelled to return to English harbors, because the *Speedwell* was leaking. Finally it was decided to use the *Mayflower* alone, and, early in September, a little band of one hundred men, women, and children left the harbor of Plymouth, England, for their stormy voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.



THE "MAYFLOWER" IN WINTER HARBOR IN PLYMOUTH.

More than two months passed before land was seen, which proved to be a part of Cape Cod. The Pilgrims had one of John Smith's maps of the New England coast, and therefore knew where they were. They anchored in the harbor of Provincetown, and at once thanked God "who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth."

While the *Mayflower* lay in the harbor an agreement was drawn up and signed by forty-one men. This was the "*Mayflower Compact*," which pledged the signers to obey the



IN A PILGRIM'S HOME.

government which it established. Then the voyagers elected John Carver governor. Nearly a month was spent in exploring the shores of Cape Cod Bay, in order to find a suitable spot for the settlement. Finally a party of twelve Pilgrims landed at the spot marked on Smith's map as Plymouth. This took place on **December 21st, 1620**—a day since celebrated as Forefather's Day. The explorers chose Plymouth as the site of the colony, and the *Mayflower* was brought across into that harbor.

The Virginia colony had commenced its settlement just at the beginning of a hot and sickly summer; the Plymouth colonists arrived at the beginning of a cold and dreary New England winter. The Jamestown settlers lacked provisions during that first summer; the Plymouth band had not sufficient



A SPYING INDIAN.

food to keep them alive through that first winter. The hundred Virginians in the summer of 1607 decreased to about fifty before autumn; the hundred Pilgrims in the December of 1620 were but about fifty at the beginning of the next summer. Thus the winter hardships of the New Eng-

land colony were as severe as those of the first summer in Virginia.

Among the deaths that spring was that of Governor Carver. The colonists at once elected young William Bradford as his successor. Year

after year the Plymouth colony chose him as governor, even to the time of his death. During the thirty-six years of his life in America, Bradford was governor thirty-one. To his wise government was due much of the success of the colony, which slowly but surely grew after the first winter.



CAPTAIN STANDISH RECEIVING THE CHALLENGE.

As was the case everywhere among the new settlements in America, one of the greatest dangers lay in the hostility of the Indians. Fortunately for the Pilgrims, but few red men lived in the neighborhood of Plymouth when the colony was founded. This was one of the main reasons for the years of peace with the Indians that followed the landing of the colonists. Besides, the Pilgrims treated the Indians in a kindly spirit and yet showed a firm determination to protect themselves.

Early in the spring of 1621 an Indian named Samoset visited the Plymouth colony; he was received with kindness and sent away with a few presents. Soon he returned with

Squanto, another Indian, who could speak some English, as he had been captured and taken to England years before by a party exploring the New England coast. Squanto was of considerable assistance to the colony, teaching them how to plant the Indian corn and also giving information concerning the neighboring Indian tribes.

The next autumn a tribe of Indians, called the Narragansetts, thought that they would frighten the Pilgrims; so they sent them a "bundle of arrows tied about with a great snake skin." The colonists, though desiring peace, were not cowardly; they immediately returned the skin filled with bullets. Then they began to strengthen their fort and to place themselves in readiness. But the Indians did not dare make an attack, and for more than fifty years, until King Philip's War, Plymouth colony was free from Indian wars.

Thus the Pilgrims found their permanent home. Under the wise government of William Bradford, guided by the true counsels of Elder Brewster, and led in military affairs by the brave Miles Standish, Plymouth colony quietly and steadily grew. After seventy years of separate existence, New Plymouth was joined to the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and to-day it is a part of the State of Massachusetts.

State what the Separatists desired.

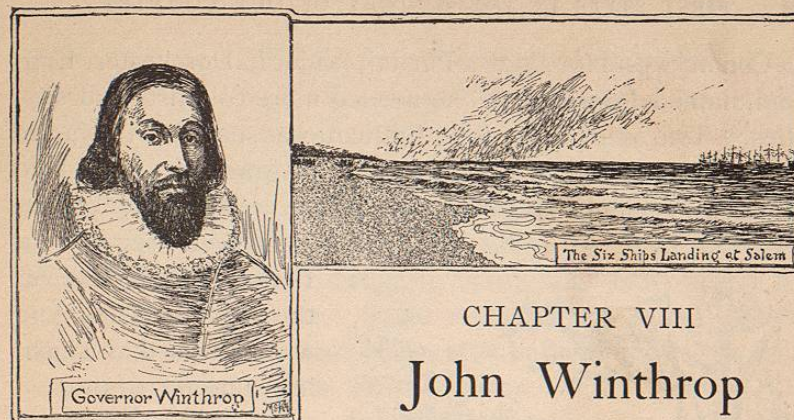
Give an account of the arrest of the passengers.

Tell the story of William Bradford: as a young man; in his Leyden home; on the ocean; at Plymouth.

Describe the Mayflower Compact.

Tell how Squanto aided the Pilgrims; how the Indians threatened them.

Do we have religious freedom to-day? Are any religious meetings forbidden now in our country? How did the Pilgrims go from Scrooby to Amsterdam? How did they go from Amsterdam to Leyden? The Pilgrims were afraid that they would become like the Dutch; was this probable? Do immigrants to the United States grow to be like the rest of us?



CHAPTER VIII

John Winthrop

1588-1649

THE Separatists, a few of whom came to Plymouth, were not the only English people who did not accept all the doctrines of the Church of England. A much larger number, called Puritans, still went to church with the rest of the English people. These were not at first persecuted, but, as they became more numerous and important, trouble arose between them and the king. When this quarrel began some of the leaders proposed to establish a colony for the Puritans, like the Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth.

A fishing-hamlet had been started at Cape Ann (1623) a few years after the landing of the Pilgrims, with Roger Conant in charge. The cape was bleak and rocky and not easily cultivated, and the settlement was a failure. One day, however, when Conant was paddling his canoe along the shore, he found a fertile piece of land running out into the sea between two little rivers. He thought that this peninsula, which the Indians called Naumkeag, would be a good place for a settlement, and in the spring (1626) he and fourteen companions moved over from Cape Ann and established themselves at Naumkeag.

Conant wrote for aid to a Puritan leader in Dorchester, England, named John White; he needed more colonists and supplies. Two years later John Endicott was sent over to Naumkeag with a hundred settlers, having a grant of all the land between Plymouth and New Hampshire. This latter colony



GOVERNOR ENDICOTT'S PEAR-TREE—ONE THING IT SAW.

had been settled at Portsmouth and Dover the year that Cape Ann was first used as a fishing-station (1623). Governor Endicott brought over from England some pear-trees, and one of them is still living and blossoming in the town of Danvers. What a long life for a pear-tree—not far from three centuries! What changes that tree has witnessed! If it could think and talk, what a tale it could tell! A pretty story is told about a young couple, who, walking home one Sunday after church service, stopped under the pear-tree. The young man picked from the tree a double stem having two blossoms on it. He asked the young lady if she would take one and let him keep the other. She consented and soon after became his wife. He was a minute-man and went to the battle of Lexington.

The next year, Endicott was rejoiced by the arrival of six vessels and four hundred colonists at Naumkeag, or Salem, as it was from this time called. A part of the newcomers remained at Salem, while others built a town on the peninsula of Charlestown. The next spring (1630) four more vessels sailed into Salem harbor, and before the year was over thirteen others arrived, bringing in all, that year, nearly fifteen hundred colonists. Some remained at Salem, others went to Charlestown, and others still built new villages, most of them near the present city of Boston.

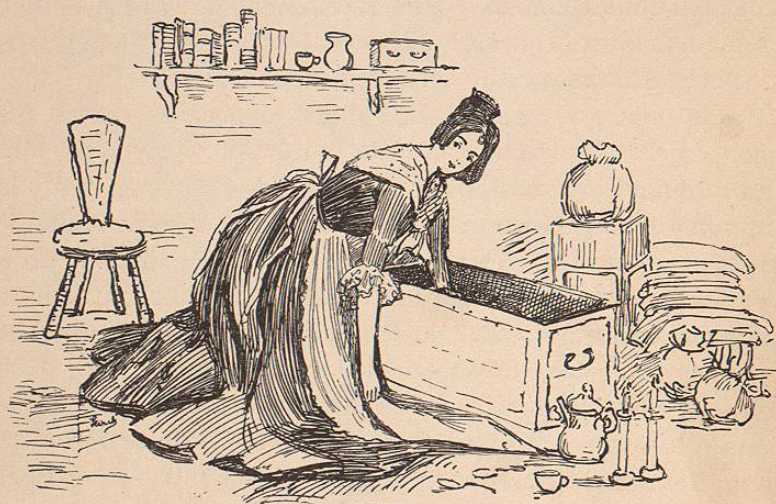
The new governor, John Winthrop, came out in the spring of 1630. He was a little more than forty years old, and was an earnest, sincere Puritan. For several years he had felt certain that trouble was coming in England, and he was willing to leave home and friends behind him, in order to found a place of refuge for the Puritans. For the next nineteen years, until his death, he was the most important leader in the colony of Massachusetts Bay.

Winthrop left his family in England when he sailed for the new colony, and soon after his arrival he wrote one of his loving letters to his wife in the mother-country. "Blessed be the Lord, our good God and merciful Father, that yet hath preserved me in life and health. We had a long and troublesome passage, but the Lord made it safe and easy to us; and though we have met with many and great troubles, yet He hath pleased to uphold us."

We can learn from Winthrop's letters something of the discomforts which the settlers suffered. A week later he wrote to his wife Margaret: "Let us join in praising our merciful God that He upholds our hearts in all our troubles. And howsoever our fare be but coarse, in respect of what we formerly had (peas, puddings, and fish being our ordinary

diet), yet He makes it sweet and wholesome to us. Therefore be not discouraged, my dear wife, for I see no cause to repent of our coming hither, and thou seest that God can bring safe hither even the tenderest women and the youngest children."

Winthrop proposed that his family should come to New England the next summer, and he sent many directions as



MRS. WINTHROP PREPARING TO COME TO AMERICA.

to what they should bring. "Remember to come well furnished with linen, woollen, some more bedding, brass, and pewter. Be sure to be warm clothed and to have store of fresh provisions, meal, eggs, butter, oatmeal, peas, and fruits. Thou must be sure to bring no more company than so many as shall have full provision for a year and a half, for though the earth here be very fertile, yet there must be time and means to raise it; if we have corn enough we may live plentifully."

Before Mrs. Winthrop arrived in the colony, the governor had built a new town and made it the capital. Shawmut, or Trimountain, as the English at first called it, lay almost entirely surrounded by water, across which were the settlements of Charlestown, Newtown, Roxbury, and Dorchester. Here lived one man, William Blackstone by name, near a spring of clear, cold water. By his advice Winthrop chose this peninsula to be his home, and named it Boston, in honor of the old town of Boston on the eastern shore of England, from which many of the settlers had come.

The colony was soon well established, and during the next twenty years many thousand Puritans left England to try a life in a new world. Though the civil war in England for a time put the Puritans at the head of the government, the young king, Charles II., was placed upon the throne thirty years after the arrival of Winthrop in Boston.

From this time on, the king opposed the Puritans in every way, especially those of Massachusetts. The dislike of the king for the colony and of the colony for the king continued until Massachusetts Bay joined with the other colonies in an opposition to the mother-country, which resulted in their independence and gave us the United States of America.

Give an account of the Puritans in England.
Tell the story of Roger Conant; of Governor Endicott; of the settlers of 1630; of the founding of Boston.
Describe Winthrop's letters.

The Puritans wished to make the church better; do you see anything in their name that shows this? The reason is given why the settlement at Cape Ann was a failure; what does this show to be most necessary in a new colony? Winthrop calls his food "coarse"; was it not good? Why did Winthrop ask his wife to bring "fresh provisions"? Why was Boston first called Trimountain?