

who first planted the modest homesteads in the brave little Township of Adolphus.

Some two hundred years ago, at a seaport town in Holland was to be seen on a certain day a sea-going vessel, around which were the usual activity and bustle incident to the final preparations for a voyage. As the work of taking in supplies and putting the ship in sailing order was going on, a somewhat motley crowd of on-lookers regarded the scene with a lazy, listless air of indifference.

Suddenly the attention of all was quickened by a remarkable occurrence. The doleful tolling of a church bell, heard now and again above the din of numerous voices, had passed unheeded by those collected on the spot. Now, however, as there appears a procession, slowly wending its way toward the place, the solemn peals suggest funeral thoughts. Leading the procession walks a venerable looking man, whose garb and mien betoken a dominie, or minister of the Gospel. After him came next a young couple, the man in the prime of vigorous manhood, and the woman in the fresh bloom of womanhood, walking hand in hand. They are clothed in holiday attire, having the appearance of a newly wedded husband and wife. Following them a man and woman whose grey heads and bent forms bespeak advanced years. Next another couple also in the decline of life.

They walk two and two, men and women, boys and girls, of all ages. They all wear the habiliments of woe, and the procession moves with slow and solemn tread, as if following a loved one to the grave. All that seems wanting to complete a funeral train is a hearse with its nodding plumes. The spectators hushed to silence, gaze on the line of mourners, and wonder and watch to see its course and destination.

With measured steps the dominie is followed to the vessel, and over its side they gather in a group upon the deck, around the young man and wife. A silence falls upon the assembled group, as the man of God opens the Bible, and reads from the inspired book such words as give comfort and support to those who are bereaved. Then his voice is raised in prayer to God, and his prayer reveals to all who hear the cause and reason of this strange scene. First he prays that the aged parents of the young couple may have Divine help in this their hour of trial in losing their dear children, and that they might still be happy in their earthly pilgrimage, and be received hereafter into God's Kingdom, and re-united to their children. He then commits to Him who controls the wind and waves, the young emigrants, he implores that they may be in His gracious care and keeping, these dear ones who to-day set out at once on the journey of married life, and to cross the wide ocean, parting forever from their parents and friends, and who are, as it were, to be buried in the far off New World. Words of counsel follow to the young pair,

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