

the autumn, and in this resembles the such American heath-plants as the Leather-leaf (*Cassandra*) and the Lambkill (*Rhodora*). These cover the "barrens" with foliage and flower in June and July, but are bare and brown in the winter. As the term "Trailing Arbutus" was used in the Middle States for the *Epigæa* within a short time after the Loyalists left there, it was probably current in their time as well. Whether the Spring Beauty was their Mayflower or not, it is sufficiently clear that the *Epigæa* was not.

But to go one step further back in the history of the "Mayflower," Washington Irving, in his "Nickerbocker's History of New York," describes in a very amusing way the helplessness of the Dutch Governors of New York in their attempt to oppose the colonizing tendencies of the New Englanders. He described the encroachment of the Yankees upon the territory of their Dutch neighbors on the northern shore of Long Island Sound, and they even swarmed over into Long Island, displacing the Dutch or occupying the country in advance of them. These Puritan farmers carried with them the tradition that their ancestors came over from England in the "Mayflower." Many of them settled in Connecticut, and their descendants formed the bulk of the emigrants from that State whom we know under the name of Loyalists. It is quite clear, however,

that the ship of the Pilgrim Fathers was named was not the "Mayflower" of the Loyalists, any more than the plant so designated by the latter is the Mayflower of the Maritime Canadians, for neither the *Epigæa* (*repens*) nor the Spring Beauty were known to Europeans before the discovery of America. They are both natives of this continent and are unknown in the old. The Mayflower of the Pilgrims must, therefore have been some other plant—perhaps the Hawthorn (*Crataegus Oxyantha*), which appears to be alluded to by Mickle in the following lines:—

"By this stream and the *May blossomed* thorn
That first heard his love tale and his vows."

And by Spencer in the following:

"To gather *May* basket and smelling breere
And home they haste the postes to dight."

And in Chaucer there is the following line:

"And fresher than the *May* with flowers newe"

The Hawthorn still bears in England the name of "The May," and there can be little doubt that its fragrant blossoms suggested the name borne by the pioneer ship of the Plymouth colony.

As the location of the Sacred Mount—the point of dispersion of a primitive people—was transferred to the migrating Indo-European nations from one country to another, in the Old World; so the Saxon emigrants transferred the name of "Mayflower" to a new species of plant, as they lost their familiarity with the old. To us, living in a region where *Epigæa*