

creased in numbers and prosperity, bringing with it commerce and an agricultural population. Let me be clear, neither Pilgrims nor Puritans were its pioneers; neither the axe, the plough, nor the hoe led it to these shores; neither the devices of the chartered companies nor the commands of royalty. It was the discovery of the winter fishery on its shores that led New England to civilization, and fed alike the churchmen and the strange emigrants who came with the romance of their faith in their hearts, and the *lex talionis* in their souls to persecute because they had been persecuted. May I be pardoned for the imperfect manner in which I have presented the claim of the fishermen, that gentle, practical, and self-reliant craft, to the discovery of America north of 40°, to the exploration of its coasts, and finally to its successful settlement and civilization.