

among the great middle class. Under James I. and Charles I. the persecution of the Puritans became so obnoxious as to induce an emigration, between 1620 and 1640, of some twenty-five thousand of them to the wilds of New England where they might enjoy their religious beliefs unmolested; of these colonists nearly two-thirds were from Essex and Suffolk Counties. To secure religious freedom was not, however, the only cause of this emigration; a corrupt and incompetent government and profligate court had brought the country to great industrial distress, poverty to the masses, and crushing taxation, and it is certain that many of New England's settlers left their native country to better their living conditions. In 1643 the Puritan party secured control of the English government, their persecution ended, and emigration to New England practically ceased for nearly a hundred and fifty years. Consequently, at the outbreak of the American Revolution in A. D. 1775 over nine-tenths of the then New England population of seven hundred thousand were descended from the twenty-five thousand of English Colonists who came from England between 1620 and 1640.

During this time other nationalities came to our shores, the Huguenot migration from France, some direct, some via other European countries, due in main to the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1685; the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam and their surrender to the English forces, although forced, left most of the population under English rule. With the withdrawal of the Swedes in Delaware, the Atlantic sea coast from Nova Scotia to Florida was placed in the possession of the British. Jamestown, Virginia contributed its quota in 1607, the Cavalier's of Maryland arrived in 1634, from which points migration soon began into North Carolina and westward. With Oglethorpe came the earliest settlers into Georgia. To this great tide of migration from European shores our present melting pot owes its foundation.

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
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