

indomitable courage, the great forest and all human foes had to fall alike ; to note their spirit when life and honor were at stake, when for the soil yet unshorn and virgin, when for their altars and hearth-stones, yet in their rude simplicity, they pledged their all and plunged out into the struggle, in a time of darkness, that their children might have a free home and themselves an unpolluted grave. In many a secret as well as open place they poured their supplications and moulded their impress on all the forms of social order. Their Sabbaths, their social compacts, the outgoings of their inner and outer life were interpenetrated with the spirit of religion.

They were not, indeed, perfect : they had not all the gentleness and tolerance which ever become the disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus. But we must consider the times in which they lived, the school in which they were trained, and the mission they had to accomplish. Even the sterner and more inflexible features of their character seemed adapted to the work they had to do. They were to lay the foundations of Church and State, in the midst of dangers and obstacles the most formidable that ever frowned upon the enterprise of man. They felt that they were set for the defense of the ark and the Shekinah in the wilderness, and that they would be held sacredly responsible for any unhallowed touch given to the one, or for any polluted feet that might enter the hallowed precincts of the other. Nobly did they execute their mission ; and New England, moulded by their influence, has ever been characterized as "the land of steady habits."

Our noblest charities, our boards of foreign and