

The parting of the Pilgrims was a touching scene. A solemn fast was held, to celebrate the sacrifice for conscience' sake, which, as on a second Moriah, these children of the faithful were offering unto God, and Robinson was the flamen of the hour. His text was from the book of Ezra viii. 21: "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance." The discourse remains but in fragments, but like the fragments which were gathered after the miracle of the loaves, they are fragments God-blessed, and ever multiplying. After a parting like that on the seashore at Miletus—only that in this case the pastor remained behind—the *Speedwell* crossed the Channel to join the *Mayflower*, and on the 5th of August the vessels weighed anchor, and set out for the distant shore. The *Speedwell* met with a series of real or fancied disasters, and was at length pronounced unseaworthy, so that the number of the refugees was still further reduced, and the pangs of another separation encountered. It was as if, like Gideon's army, they were still too many for the Lord's purpose; so after this further winnowing, there remained but one hundred souls, only forty of them men, who in a vessel of one hundred and eighty tons' burden, set forth to brave the angry ocean, and to people the unknown shore—landlords after the charter of the original Adam, commissioned to replenish and subdue. They have lost sight of the coast of the fatherland at length, and have full opportunity to test their principles in the great solitude of the sea, which, in its majestic