

the Pilgrims lived. It was through these, to them honestly believed and vividly apprehended truths, that their moderation was made to appear unto all, while with a holy enthusiasm and fearless contempt of earthly dangers they pursued their pilgrimage to that better country which they believed to be reserved for them; these were assuredly their grand, central, over-ruling principles. Theirs were lives of faith. Their piety was their grandest and most distinguishing characteristic. It was that which enabled them to do and to dare more than other men: it was that through which they accomplished the most for the world, and for you their descendants. It ought never to be overlooked or unmentioned on this anniversary.

You will allow me to say, without referring in the most remote degree to the theological bearings of the subject, that the type of the Pilgrims' piety was a very noble one. Being founded in clear views of what they honestly regarded as divine truth, and in deep heart experiences, it was neither silly and sentimental, nor barren and selfish. Their piety did not consist mainly in dogmas nor chiefly in externals; it had as much reality as semblance; more substance than form; more vitality than beauty; and, it may have been, more strength than tenderness. I should say it was a soul permeating emotion, created by an influential principle, rather than a benevolent action founded on a sparkling sentiment. It bore a much closer resemblance to the motive of a man laboring for a purpose, than to that of a child at play; it was a spring morning's resolution, rather than an autumn evening's reverie. "A Christian is the highest style of man." The Pilgrims were of the noblest type of Christians. I need not remind you, gentlemen, that the impress of this exalted type of piety is still seen in many places throughout New England, and wherever the descendants of the Pilgrims have wandered. May we do them honor by imitating them in this their noblest and most marked characteristic.

The Pilgrims and other early New England Colonists were distinguished hardly more for their piety, than for their extensive knowledge and love of solid learning. They were picked men, very