

been anticipated, followed: people who were able to pay for the schooling of their children sent them to the academies and private schools, while those who were not able sent theirs to the public schools. So the schools, taken together, contributed to build up an odious class distinction that the old Puritans never would have brooked on Massachusetts soil. To break down this middle wall of partition was a part of the work of Horace Mann.

So far as the public records show, the Pilgrims of Plymouth were much slower to move than the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay. The first schools, no doubt, were individual or associated private enterprises. In 1658 the Court proposed to the several townships that they take into serious consideration the provision of a schoolmaster in every town, to train up the children to reading and writing, and five years later this recommendation was repeated. In 1673 the Court voted that the charge of the free school, which was £30 a year, should be paid by the treasurer out of the profits arising from the fishery at Cape Cod, and the next year the grant was renewed and confirmed. In 1677 the Court gave to the towns that should maintain a grammar school, taught by "any meet man," power to levy a school rate, and decreed a fine of £5 upon all towns of seventy families and upwards that should not maintain such a school. Plymouth was in all ways a feebler colony than Massachusetts Bay—in education as in other things. The Massachusetts school laws were extended over Plymouth when the consolidation took place in 1691.