

made their way. After a short time they decided to settle in Leyden, some twenty miles distant. Here they remained for eleven years.

As the years passed by it became increasingly clear that on account of their more or less uncongenial environment their permanent home could not be in Holland. Another move was necessary.

This time their course was by no means so clear. After much discussion they decided to try America. But to cross the Atlantic in the early part of the seventeenth century was a difficult and hazardous undertaking. However, they did not shrink from it. After careful preparation, overcoming many obstacles before sailing, and enduring great hardships on their long and perilous voyage of nearly ten weeks on the ocean, they finally landed on the shores of this continent so late in the year that winter had already begun. Without a house or refuge of any kind to shelter them from the severity of the rigorous Atlantic coast, what they must have endured can only be imagined. It is not strange that during that first winter about half of their number died. The wonder is that before the advent of spring they had not all perished.

It was but a small group that began that far away Christmas season to hew down the trees on that rugged Massachusetts coast to make themselves homes. When the winter was over there were only half a hundred of them to carry on the work of the colony. They had put the great ocean between them and their dearest friends. Except for the Indians they had no neighbours for hundreds of miles.

They were also a group of obscure men and women. They were not of the great or titled class. But the names of many of them are household words to-day: William Brewster, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, Miles Standish, John Alden, together with their curiously-named children, Wrestling Brewster, Love Brewster,

Fear Brewster, Remember Allerton, Desire Minter, Humility Cooper, Resolved White, Oceanus Hopkins, etc.

Even many of the simple incidents of their lives have become quite well-known to us, as, for example, the question which Priscilla Mullins addressed to John Alden when he was suing her on behalf of Captain Standish, which has its modern counterpart in the case of another Puritan maid who, in answer to the question, "If I should ask you to become my wife, would you say, 'Yes'?", replied, "If you thought I would say, 'Yes', would you ask me to become your wife?"

Dr. Charles E. Jefferson has gone so far as to say of these colonists that they "had more to do with the building of our modern world than any other body of men who have lived since the days of the Apostles," and then adds, "They are the men best knowing of all the men who have lived within the last thousand years."

The principles for which they stood were of that abiding kind, that they can in their broader significance be profitably applied to the problems confronting us to-day.

I.—THE PILGRIMS AND INTERNATIONALISM

The Pilgrims were internationalists. They dwelt successively in three different countries. They were not only loyal to each in turn. They continued to have a deep affection for each. Though they were not content to make Holland their permanent home, they had become not a little attached to the country and to the people during the twelve years they spent there. Moreover, the greater part of their company had remained in Holland after they left.

Still more did they love England. That was their native land. It was hard for them to leave it in the first place. It must have been still more difficult to spend a little time there en route to the New World, and then turn their backs upon it forever.