

the storms succeeded each other with such rapidity and violence that terrible discomfort prevailed. The bedding and clothing of the passengers were drenched, and the crowding of the company down below day after day, while the sea tossed the small craft angrily from side to side, must have been irksome even to the most patient heart.

A death, that of Dr. Fuller's servant, and a birth, that of Oceanus Hopkins, kept the number on arrival the same as on leaving.

On November 11th the weary travellers reached Cape Cod, and the famous compact—the earliest

and mutually, in the presence of God, and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves into a civil body politic for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and to frame such just and equal laws from time to time as shall be thought most meet for the general good, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."

A full month was spent in deciding the important question where they should settle. On December 16th twelve of the Pilgrims started in the "Mayflower's" shallop round the shore



JOHN ALDEN LANDING ON PLYMOUTH ROCK.—"THE CORNER-STONE OF A NATION."

written constitution in history—which inaugurated free government in America, was signed by forty-one Pilgrims, amongst whom were John Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, Capt. Miles Standish, John Alden, Samuel Fuller, and John Billington.

This document, the basis of the constitution of the colony, was briefly as follows: "We, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James (titles follow), having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our King and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do solemnly,

of the bay, and on the 21st they set foot upon Plymouth Rock—

The Plymouth Rock, that had been to their feet as a doorstep
Into a world unknown—the corner-stone
of a nation.

And they decided to settle there.

God had sifted three kingdoms to find the
wheat for this planting,
Then had sifted the wheat, as the living
seed of a nation.

The following day the discoverers returned to the ship to announce the joyful news that a suitable spot had been found. The rejoicings were, however, considerably damped by the sad news which had to be broken to William Bradford, that Dorothy, his wife, the faithful com-