

When sickness no longer afflicted them, they still had great privations to endure. In the autumn the arrival of new emigrants, who came almost unprovided with food, compelled the whole colony to subsist on half allowance only. Nor did their miseries soon terminate; for it was not till after the harvest of the third year that there was no general want, and cattle were not introduced into New England until the fourth year of its colonization. Yet, during all this season of self-denial and suffering, the cheerful confidence of the Pilgrims in the mercy of Providence remained unshaken. New accessions of colonists continued to arrive yearly, and Weymouth, Salem, Charlestown, Boston, and many other places which are now flourishing towns, were then marked out by a few rude and comfortless dwellings.

After the Plymouth colonists had been long enough in their new home to learn the state of the neighbouring country, they found that it had been absolutely depopulated for a considerable extent, by an epidemic disease. This event was so far favourable to the new comers as it opened to them a place for settlement, not only without any jealousy, but even with the good wishes of their Indian neighbours. The name of the tribe that had been destroyed was the Wampanoags, and Massasoit was their sachem, or chief. By a singular accident this man had already acquired some knowledge of the English language from one of his own people, named Squanto, who with some others had been carried off, and sold to the Spaniards by Hunt, but afterwards conveyed to London, and "dwelt on Cornhill with one *Master John Slaine*, a merchant." From London he returned in an emigrant ship to America, and now proved himself a most useful person as interpreter between his own countrymen and the English.

As long as Massasoit lived he was friendly to the English, notwithstanding they committed repeated encroachments on his lands; for although it would be impossible for any set of people to be more just, honest, and upright than the first colonists in New England, yet