

at the position of the Puritan. To leave a decorated framework, only to terminate in adhesion to another that was also represented as divine, does not denote the utmost stretch of philosophy. Believing then that the station of the Puritan was not one that could afford standing ground for the very largest souls, we do not expect to find such in one of the smaller enterprises undertaken by the body. It is possible to separate between firmness and genius, between the sterliness supplied by bigotry and the vigour created by deep and intelligent principle. These early settlers did what men of delicate sensations would have shrunk from, and what men of high religious philosophy might not have thought it necessary to do. Another reason why the case has been spoken of in exaggerated terms, are the *consequences* that have flowed from it. It was the beginning of what has turned out remarkable, therefore it has been complicated with all to which it led. The first settlers of New England are not to be mixed up with all that has ensued. They did not foresee what was to supervene. Because their leaders even were persons that left one system of mixed theology to build up another edifice of similar materials, therefore we cannot admit that the grandest acts of mind were concerned in their doings. If this can be said of Cromwell, Milton, Hampden, Bunyan, Baxter, and Owens, it can be alleged with more truth of the Leyden congregation, that supplied the emigrants who sailed in the Mayflower, and of those that joined them from England during the first fifty years. We consider the scene to be a picture that affords features of a remarkable sort, but we do not because it deserves admiration in one way, deem that it merits it in every other.

In surveying the band of pilgrims that made the first landing on these shores, we descry persons that did not shrink from the bleak prospects that confronted them, but let it always be remembered that the ability to endure may as well flow from the absence of feeling as from the presence of peculiar vigour of character or principle. If any anatomist of motives should propose the question, what is the influence of bigotry and what amount of endurance will men submit to when they are taking their stand upon a point that is of little or no importance? If he should raise this in connection with the present subject, we would feel that there could not be a more appropriate and scarcely a more interesting theme. It has long been usual to invest persons that endure privations in a cause nominally sacred, with a prestige of holiness. It would appear as if we had never had discrimination enough to perceive that the spirit of party has no necessary connection with vital piety. We recur then to our original remark, that the enterprise which led to the settlement of New England was remarkable, although not in all the ways in which it has been held to be famous. We regard it with feelings similar to those which we entertain in reference to the invasion of Mexico by Cortes, or that of Peru by Pizarro. Anything that can be alleged in regard to hardihood and firmness, we respond to. We would not be unwilling to affirm the statement that no