

to their settlement in New England. It will soon appear that this may also be said of them in their after course.

Their dealings with the Indians were on the whole praiseworthy, considering the sentiments then prevalent and the course pursued by some of the other Colonists of America. They not only obtained grants from the English government, but they were ever mindful of the rights of the Indians: while they restrained their ferocity and checked their aggressions, they endeavoured upon every occasion to protect them in their just dues and privileges. It is matter of the most familiar history, that previous to the arrival of the Mayflower at Plymouth, the whole country, bordering upon the coast and extending far inland, had been desolated by a pestilence, so that it was nearly if not quite depopulated. It was about two weeks after their first landing at Cape Cod before the Pilgrims met with Samosit—the first native that appeared. He informed them that four years before their arrival, all the Indians of that vicinity had died of an extraordinary disease, so that there was “neither man nor woman, nor child remaining.”

On the 22nd day of March, 1621, Mas-sas-soit—the ruler of all the nations in that vicinity—came with sixty armed men to Plymouth. With him the Pilgrims made a treaty, consisting of six articles, which was kept with good faith on both sides during the chief's life, and for twenty years afterwards. For more than half a century after the arrival of the Mayflower, the Pilgrims and their descendants lived in peace and friendship with the natives, undisturbed by outbreaks or lawless aggressions. Canonicus, chief of the Narraganassetts, early manifested jealousy of them and laid plans for their destruction; but these were frustrated by the other Indians. Until after Phillip's war, the settlers of Plymouth never claimed nor obtained any lands belonging to the Indians by violence or conquest. Their titles were all derived by deeds and grants from the natives. This was likewise true of the first settlers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. The *first* Colonists dealt honestly and kindly with these sons of the forest, seeking to unite