

and their shield. Of course they stipulated for religious freedom, and that their patent should be accompanied by a guarantee of toleration from the king. But the old leaven remained, and wrought mischief still. "How mean ye to get your livelihood in the new country?" was the first question. "By fishing, at first." "Truly an honest trade, the apostles' own calling," was the royal reply. Then came the crucial question, "Who shall make your ministers?" The answer was, "The power of making them is in the Church." This put an end to the hope of any further indulgence than "a formal promise of neglect," and considering, as they said, that if there was a settled purpose to do them wrong, a seal could easily be broken, if it were as broad as a house floor, they resolved to negotiate no longer, but to go forward, resting on the providence of God. At length, "after much travail and debate, all things were got ready and provided." The *Speedwell*, a vessel of sixty tons' burden, lay moored at Delft Haven. The *Mayflower* was awaiting them in Southampton Water, and the two were to sail in company across the fierce Atlantic, but rarely ploughed at that time by a vessel's keel, bearing no sordid Argonauts, in quest of a golden fleece, nor enterprising venturers, beating high with hopes of treasure, but simply a cargo of men — sturdy, patient, resolute, God-fearing men, rough in the unhewn royalty of nature, "kings," each of them, "of two hands and one heart," who asked but a land large enough for them to wrestle with nature and subdue it, and a sky broad enough for "freedom to worship God."