

and calm old lady should have been a participant in scenes so stirring, while he himself had but learned his lessons and lounged of mornings under the great oaks on the common. It is true that he likewise joined at times in many a game of skill with lads of his own age, and had even accompanied the hunters on expeditions into the forest, though not to any considerable distance as yet. His mother had promised that should he study diligently, she might thereafter permit him to proceed as far as the colonies of Massachusetts or even New York.

But his life seemed an unreal thing, and there were elements in it which kept him somewhat isolated from his neighbors. He was never permitted, for instance, to assist at those services held sometimes in the open air under the shadow of a great oak, or in the meeting-house, and once or twice having mentioned to the minister, Mr. Hooker, who was a benevolent old gentleman and fond of boys, certain prayers which his mother had taught him, that clergyman had cried out against idolatry, while Mrs. Manners had counselled him never to repeat the *Hail Mary* to any outside of their household.