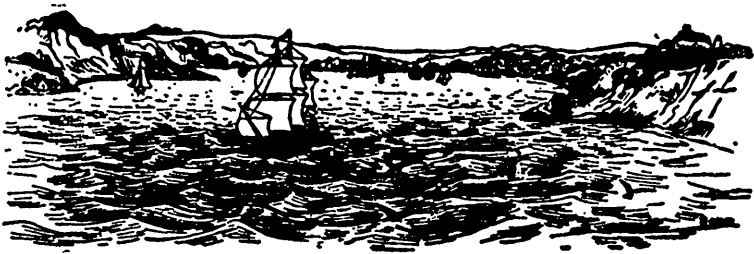


and sent to prison for a time. The silent waterway of Gainsborough must have borne away on its tide, under cover of darkness, many a boatload of women and children to the estuary, where the Dutch ships were in readiness to receive the fugitives. Finding it impossible to escape in a body undetected, the Pilgrims broke up into small parties and succeeded at last in passing over to Holland; they met in 1608 at Amsterdam, proceeding shortly afterwards to Leyden, where they were well received and remained for many years.

George Eliot, in describing St. Oggs (Gainsborough), in "The Mill on the Floss," touches on the

must not be submissive to the State, yet the religious and political life of the people must walk hand in hand. Although so gentle and forbearing, John Robinson could not always succeed in inducing his followers to be charitable. His wife "did not believe that silks and satins were invented for the exclusive use of Satan." She liked ornaments and liked to dress herself becomingly and neatly. The "scandal of a handsome woman appearing in a handsome dress in the house of God" so shocked some members of the congregation that they felt themselves obliged to complain to their pastor.

In 1618, after much heart-



LEAVING DELFSHAVEN.

troublesome times of the seventeenth century: "Many honest citizens lost all their possessions for conscience sake, and went forth beggared from their native town. Doubtless there are many houses standing now on which those honest citizens turned their backs in sorrow—quaint gabled houses, looking on the river, jammed between newer warehouses, and penetrated by surprising passages, which turn and turn at sharp angles, till they lead you out on a muddy strand"—the strand of the Trent.

At Leyden John Robinson diligently ministered to the needs of his congregation, and from the land which so generously sheltered them, he learnt that, although the Church

searching and many long and solemn discussions, the Pilgrims decided to leave Leyden, and, having secured from their king a somewhat reluctant concession that the right to worship in their own fashion should be granted in the New World, they determined to emigrate to a land where their children might retain their own language and customs; they yearned for another and freer England, yet flying the same flag and owing allegiance to the same king. With very sad hearts the whole Church went to Delfshaven in July, 1620. The three hundred members could not all be accommodated on the "Speedwell," so it had been arranged that those remaining behind should