

American heath-plants as the Leather-leaf (*Cassandra*) and the Lambkill (*Rhodora*). These cover the "barrens" with foliage and flower in June and July, but are bare and brown in the winter. As the term "Trailing Arbutus" was used in the Middle States for the *Epigaea* within a short time after the Loyalists left there, it was probably current in their time as well. Whether the Spring Beauty was their Mayflower or not, it is sufficiently clear that the *Epigaea* was not.

But to go one step farther back in the history of the "Mayflower," Washington Irving, in his "Knickerbocker History of New York," describes in a very amusing way the helplessness of the Dutch Governors of New York in their attempt to oppose the colonizing tendencies of the New Englanders. He describes the encroachment of the Yankees upon the territory of their Dutch neighbors on the northern shore of Long Island Sound, and they even swarmed over into Long Island, displacing the Dutch or occupying the country in advance of them. These Puritan farmers carried with them the tradition that their ancestors came over from England in the "Mayflower." Many of them settled in Connecticut, and their descendants formed the bulk of the emigrants from that State whom we know under the name of Loyalists. It is quite clear, however, that the Mayflower for which the ship of the Pilgrim Fathers was named was not the "Mayflower" of the Loyalists, any more than the plant so designated by the latter is the Mayflower of the Maritime Canadians, for neither the *Epigaea* (*repens*) nor the Spring Beauty were known to Europeans before the discovery of America. They are both natives of this continent and are unknown in the old. The Mayflower of the Pilgrims must, therefore, have been some other plant—perhaps the Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*), which appears to be alluded to by Mickle in the following lines:

"By this stream and the *May blossomed* thorn  
That first heard his love-tale and his vows."

And by Spencer in the following:

"To gather *May basket* and smelling brere  
And home they haste the postes to dight."

And in Chaucer there is the following line:

"And fresher than the *May* with flowres newe."

The Hawthorn still bears in England the name of "The May," and there can be little doubt that its fragrant blossoms suggested the name borne by the pioneer ship of the Plymouth colony.

As the location of the Sacred Mount—the point of dispersion of a primitive people—was transferred by the migrating Indo-European nations from one country to another in the Old World, so the Saxon

emigrants to and in the New World, successively transferred the name of "Mayflower" to a new species of plant, as they lost their familiarity with the old. To us, living in a region where *Epigaea* abounds, and blossoms in May, it very appropriately bears the name of Mayflower, not only on account of its beauty and its fragrant flowers, but because it blooms in the spring. It is rightly chosen by the descendants of the Loyalists as a fitting emblem of those who, a little over one hundred years ago, first set foot on the shores of New Brunswick. Its home is in that region of the North American continent which extends from the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, through New Brunswick and Maine, to Eastern Ontario, Lake Superior, and the rocky wilds of the North West. In Ontario and the Atlantic Provinces of Canada is the home of the Loyalists, and when the first detachment of these people landed on the rocky shores of St. John harbor, in the spring of 1783, there can be no doubt that they found the Mayflower (*Epigaea*) blooming around them. In its leaves, fresh and green from beneath the winter snows, they would have seen an emblem of their own preservation through adversity in the past; and in its modest and fragrant blossoms an omen of content and prosperity in the future.

In conclusion it may be added our reflections upon the Mayflower lead to the following result:

The Mayflower of the Pilgrims was not the Mayflower of all the Loyalists.

The Mayflower of the Loyalists was not the Mayflower of the Maritime Canadians.

The Mayflower of certain of the Loyalists was the Spring Beauty.

The Mayflower of the Maritime Canadians (*Epigaea*) may very fittingly be dedicated to the Loyalists.

Or, to consider the matter from a chronological standpoint, it may be said that two hundred years ago the Hawthorn was the Mayflower. One hundred years ago the Spring Beauty was, to some Loyalists, the Mayflower.

Now, the *Epigaea* is to the descendants of the Loyalists, the Mayflower.

One hundred years hence, to such of the children of these descendants as shall have migrated to the great plains of the Canadian North West, some other plant will be the Mayflower.

Moss-embowered trailing *Epigaea*,  
Clear as Diana's alabaster brow,  
The gem of April's robe—sweet *Epigaea*!  
Thy purity is stamped upon my heart  
In "angel whiteness," and thy odorate breath  
Redeems the grossness of the earth and links  
Our senses to the spirit world beyond!