

THE PROVINCIAL.

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NORTH AMERICA.

THE Northern part of this Continent is old enough for one to feel that in referring to its characteristics he has sufficient room and subject. The mind capable of sensations of the picturesque will feel itself drawn by a strange fascination toward the little colony that landed from the Mayflower. The time was December, the place was the rocky shore of Plymouth, the voyage had been long and arduous, five months! provisions and other appointments were on a slender scale; snow, spruce trees, and Indians armed with bows and arrows, were the circumstances that greeted them on the land. We can imagine few passages more dreary. There was nothing for them *behind*, and it must have needed a vigorous fancy to suppose that there was much in the future. Not since the events Virgil portrayed by the debarkation of a tempest-tossed band of Trojans, on the coast of Latium—from whom was derived the grandeur and talent of Rome; not since the time when ‘pious Æneas’ and his son Julius landed, or are supposed to have landed, on the unknown shores of Italy, has any incident of the same sort happened that speaks so eloquently to the feelings—because our sentiments are powerfully seized upon by this scene, we do not therefore allow ourselves to misrepresent its constituents—because these adventurers appeal to our feelings as possessing certain qualities in a rare degree, we do not think it right that we should invest them with attributes that do not belong to them. In being more than fair to them we might be less than just to the supreme ruler. It seems to us that this discriminating method has not been followed. We have been apt to think and speak of this groupe of persons as if they had the highest endowments that belong to human nature. That is *not* the case. In fact it may be doubted whether the amount of difference that intervened between the Puritan and the Churchman, was large enough to afford space for the sublimest modes of character. If there be place for the suspicion that the broader arena of Britain did not then furnish opportunity for the amplest developement of mind, it should not be looked for in the small offshoot that settled New England. A nature of the broadest formation, if it forsook Episcopacy, with its Calvinistic articles, would not halt half-way