

CHAPTER II.

The Reformation—Different conduct of the Protestants and Church of England—Religious differences lead to the settlement of North America—Division of the country into South and North Virginia—The latter explored by Captain Smith, and called New England — Delusive description of it — Distinction between the Nonconformists of Leyden who settled New Plymouth, and those who founded Massachusetts—Account of Brown, his principles, and recantations — The Brownists petition for toleration and are refused—Obtain a Charter in South Virginia—Settle at New Plymouth by mistake—Enter into a compact for self-government—First American Democracy—State of it at the end of six years.

AT the Reformation, the sudden disruption of Papal authority naturally occasioned those who had hitherto been accustomed to travel in one common road to wander, when released, in various directions. What part of Romanism was true, and what false, what was to be retained or rejected, added or substituted, opened a wide field for