

## The Pilgrim Fathers, and Hardships of the Early Settlers.

THE continent of North America was first discovered, June 24th, 1497, by John Cabot, a Venetian merchant who resided at Bristol, and his son Sebastian, who was a native of that town. They were bold, enterprising, and successful men, and their achievements in the new world were second only to those of Columbus.

In April 1614, Captain John Smith, who had already acquired so much distinction in Virginia, obtained permission from James I. to explore the coast and country north of the lands granted by the Virginia patent. The expedition, which was a private adventure of four London merchants and himself, was very successful. Whilst the sailors were busy fishing, Captain Smith examined the shores from Penobscot to Cape Cod, prepared a map of the coast, and named the country New England.

On Saturday, the 11th of November 1620, a party of English men and women, called Puritans, landed on the bleak and barren shores of Cape Cod. The very day that they landed an armed party was sent to make discoveries. They returned at night, having found nothing but woods, water, and dreary rocks. The next day was the Sabbath, and they all rested.

They were one hundred persons in number, consisting of nineteen families. Wearied and suffering from a rough passage of two months, badly supplied with provisions, these English fugitives now found themselves, at the beginning of winter, on the rocky coast, in a severe climate, with the ocean on one side and the wilderness on the other. There was no one to bid them welcome—