

CHAP. XXIII.

The proceedings of the Patentees at South-Hampton, when they took their leave of England; the solemn manner thereof.

THE principles which those gentlemen acted from, who first enterprised that great undertaking of transplanting themselves and their families into the remote deserts of America, hitherto seemed to be so strong as to enable them to get over the most insuperable difficulties and obstructions that lay in the way. Yet when it came to the pinch and upshot of the trial, it appeared that what resolution soever they had taken up or put on, yet that they had not put off human and natural affection; "Naturam expellas," &c.¹ Religion never makes men stoics; nor is it to be conceived that natural relations should be rent one from another without the deepest sense of sorrow; such a kind of removal carrying along with it so great a resemblance of departure into another world.

That honorable and worthy gentleman, Mr. John Winthrop, the Governor of the Company, at a solemn feast amongst many friends a little before their last farewell, finding his bowels yearn within him, instead of drinking to them, by breaking into a flood of tears himself set them all a weeping, with Paul's friends, while they thought of seeing the faces of each other no more in the land of the living.² Yet did not this put such a damp upon any of their spirits as to think of breaking off their purpose so far carried on.

After they came to South-Hampton, the place appointed for taking ship, they judged it meet to declare to the world the grounds of their removal, which here followeth. Whatever any of their successors may judge thereof, it is sufficient to discover what was then in the minds of those that removed from their dear native land. If there be found any sort of persons that, since that time, have imbibed other principles or opinions, it is more than the writer hereof was ever acquainted with the reason of. However, in those very words they did

¹ Horace, Epist. Lib. i. 10, 24. — π.

² See Young, p. 126. — π.

both beg the prayers, and bespeak the charitable construction concerning their proceedings, of their Christian friends, whom they left behind. It is commonly said, that the Declaration was drawn up by Mr. White, that famous minister of Dorchester, of whom there is oft mention made in this History; if so, it had a reverend, learned, and holy man for its author, on which account a favorable acceptance thereof may be expected from any that shall vouchsafe to peruse the same.

THE HVMBLE REQUEST of his Majestie's loyall Subjects, the Governour and [the] Company late gone for Nevv-England; To the rest of their Brethren in and of the CHURCH OF ENGLAND. For the obtaining of their Prayers, and the removall of suspitions and misconstructions of their Intentions.
LONDON. Printed for JOHN BELLAMIE. 1630. [sm. 4to. pp. 12.]

REVEREND FATHERS AND BRETHREN :

The general rumor of this solemn enterprise, wherein ourselves with others, through the providence of the Almighty, are engaged, as it may spare us the labor of imparting our occasion unto you, so it gives us the more encouragement to strengthen ourselves by the procurement of the prayers and blessings of the Lord's faithful servants. For which end we are bold to have recourse unto you, as those whom God hath placed nearest his throne of mercy; which, as it affords you the more opportunity, so it imposeth the greater bond upon you to intercede for his people in all their straits. We beseech you, therefore, by the mercies of the Lord Jesus, to consider us as your brethren, standing in very great need of your help, and earnestly imploring it. And howsoever your charity may have met with some occasion of discouragement through the misreport of our intentions, or through the disaffection or indiscretion of some of us, or rather amongst us, (for we are not of those that dream of perfection in this world,) yet we desire you would be pleased to take notice of the principals and body of our Company, as those who esteem it our honor to call the Church of England, from whence we rise, our dear mother; and cannot part from our native country, where she specially resideth, without much sadness of heart and many tears in our eyes, ever acknowledg-

ing that such hope and part as we have obtained in the common salvation, we have received in her bosom, and sucked it from her breasts. We leave it not, therefore, as loathing that milk wherewith we were nourished there; but, blessing God for the parentage and education, as members of the same body, shall always rejoice in her good, and unfeignedly grieve for any sorrow [that¹] shall ever betide her, and while we have breath, sincerely desire and endeavor the continuance and abundance of her welfare, with the enlargement of her bounds in the Kingdom of Christ Jesus.

Be pleased, therefore, reverend fathers and brethren, to help forward this work now in hand; which, if it prosper, you shall be the more glorious, howsoever your judgment is with the Lord, and your reward with your God. It is a usual and laudable exercise of your charity to commend to the prayers of your congregations the necessities and straits of your private neighbors; do the like for a Church springing out of your own bowels. We conceive much hope that this remembrance of us, if it be frequent and fervent, will be a most prosperous gale in our sails, and provide such a passage and welcome for us from the God of the whole earth, as both we which shall find it, and yourselves, with the rest of our friends, who shall hear of it, shall be much enlarged to bring in such daily returns of thanksgivings, as the specialities of his providence and goodness may justly challenge at all our hands. You are not ignorant that the spirit of God stirred up the Apostle Paul to make continual mention of the Church of Philippi, which was a colony from Rome; let the same spirit, we beseech you, put you in mind, that are the Lord's remembrancers, to pray for us without ceasing, who are a weak colony from yourselves, making continual request for us to God in all your prayers.

What we intreat of you, that are the ministers of God, that we also crave at the hands of all the rest of our brethren, that they would at no time forget us in their private solicitations at the throne of grace.

If any there be who, through want of clear intelligence

¹ Inserted from Young, page 296.—H.

of our course, or tenderness of affection towards us, cannot conceive so well¹ of our way as we could desire, we would intreat such not to despise us, nor to desert us in their prayers and affections, but to consider rather that they are so much the more bound to express the bowels of their compassion towards us, remembering always that both nature and grace doth ever bind us to relieve and rescue, with our utmost and speediest power, such as are dear unto us, when we conceive them to be running uncomfortable hazards.

What goodness you shall extend to us, in this or any other Christian kindness, we, your brethren in Christ Jesus, shall labor to repay in what duty we are or shall be able to perform, promising, so far as God shall enable us, to give him no rest on your behalfs, wishing our heads and hearts may be [as²] fountains of tears for your everlasting welfare when we shall be in our poor cottages in the wilderness, overshadowed with the spirit of supplication, through the manifold necessities and tribulations which may not altogether unexpectedly, nor, we hope, unprofitably, befall us.

And so commending you to the grace of God in Christ, we shall ever rest

Your assured friends and brethren,

John Winthrope, <i>Gov.</i>	Richard Saltonstall,
Charles Fines,	Isaac Johnson,
	Thomas Dudley,
George Phillipps,	William Coddington,
&c.	&c.

*From Yarmouth, aboard the Arbella, April 7, 1630.**

CHAP. XXIV.

The fleet set forth to sea for New England ; their passage, and safe arrival there.

THINGS being thus ordered at Hampton, four of the principal ships, viz. the Arbella, a ship of three hundred and fifty tons, Capt. Milbourne³ being master, manned with fifty-two seamen, and furnished with twenty-eight pieces of ordnance ; the Talbot, whereof was master Mr. Thomas Belchar⁴ ; the Ambrose, whereof was master Mr. John

¹ Much in the MS.—H.

² Inserted from Young, p. 298.—H.

³ Captain Peter Milborne. Savage's Winthrop, i. 2.—H.

⁴ Beecher. Ibid.—H.