

PS

3525

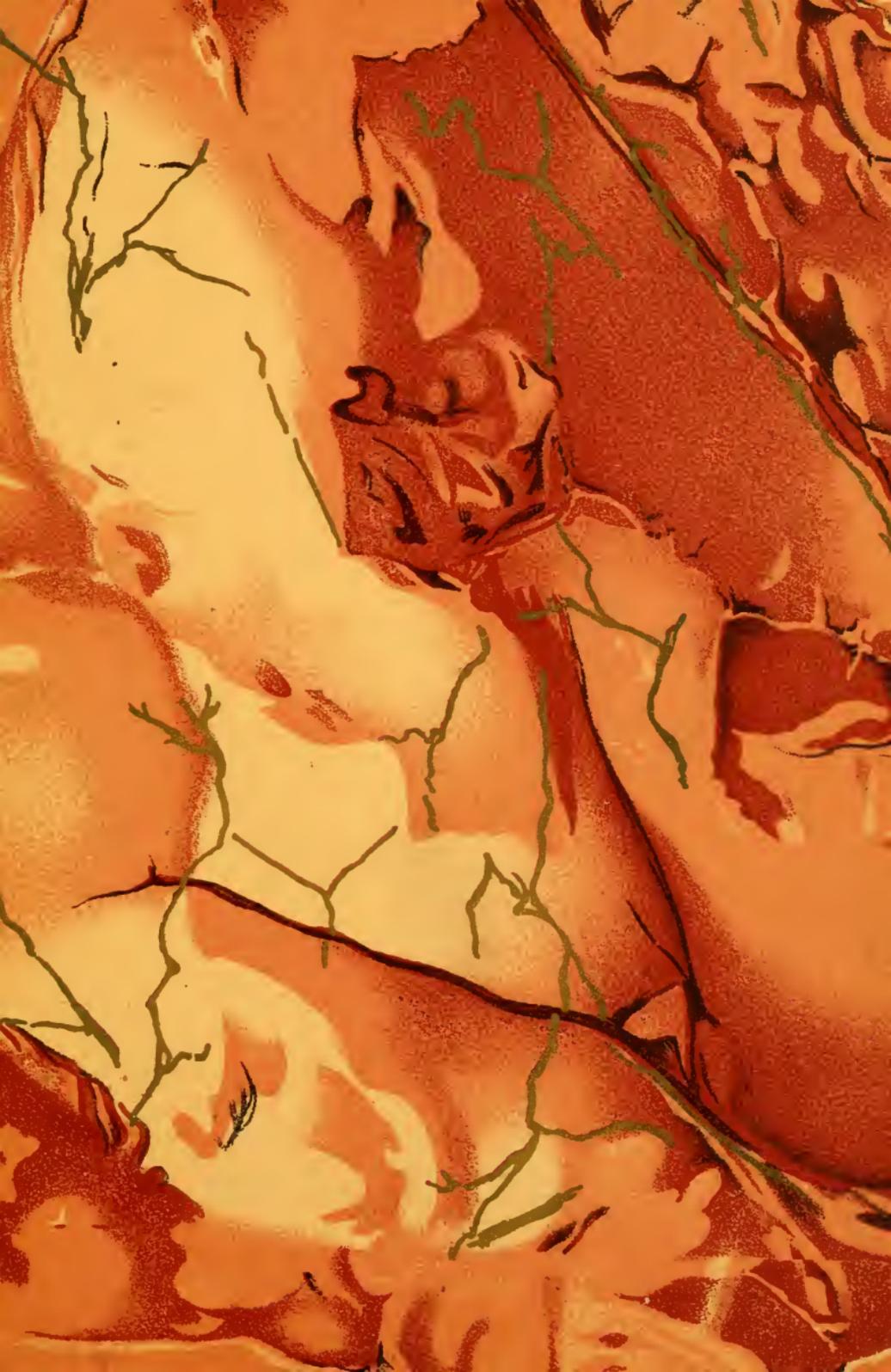
.182P8

















# THE PURITANS

---

DEDICATED TO THE INDIANA SOCIETY OF  
MAYFLOWER DESCENDENTS

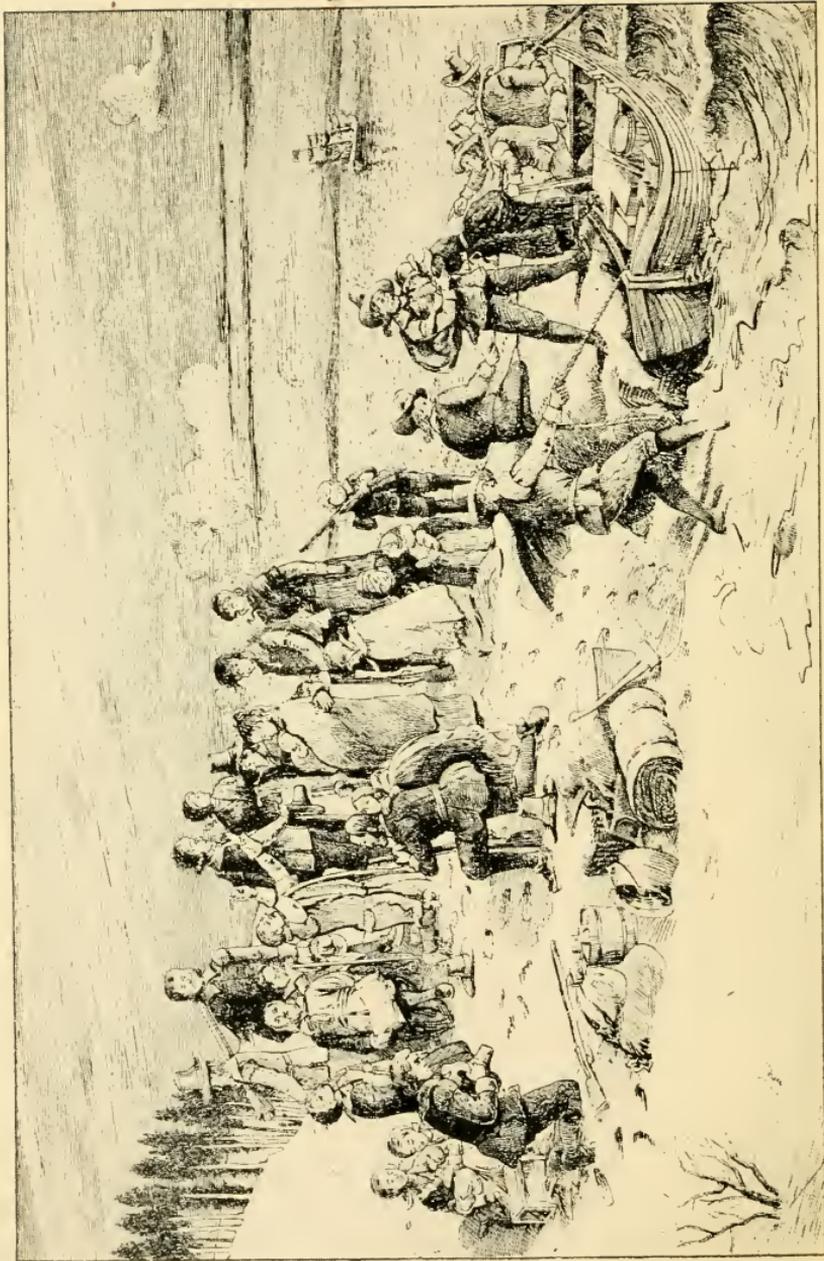
Copyrighted 1917 by  
THE BUTLER PRINTING HOUSE  
NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

DEC 17 1917

©CL.A 479697

No. 1.





THE LANDING ON PLYMOUTH ROCK

# THE PURITANS

AN HISTORICAL POEM OF

America and the Birth of Freedom

WITH NOTES

BY

P. DELEON *proof*

*Minturn, Joseph Allen*

---

1917

BUTLER PRINTING HOUSE  
NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

PS 3525  
I 82 P 8



DEC 17 1917

# THE PURITANS

An Historical Poem of

## AMERICA AND THE BIRTH OF FREEDOM

---

I.

### OUR PILGRIM FATHERS

---

1—*The Puritan Pilgrims! what a name to conjure with,  
O men of Earth!*

*Three hundred years ago they came and gave to Free-  
dom that new birth*

*Which makes Autocracy unbend before a Sovereign  
people's will*

*In Church and State—but hark ye! how our God his  
wonders did fulfill:*

5—*From England into Holland fled, with grievance  
naught against their king—*

*To worship as their conscience led chose they a home-  
less wandering.*

*They, weak in numbers and in wealth, save in the  
wealth to dare and bear—*

*Low-born but loyal Englishmen, who liked not Holland's  
tongue and gare.*

## THE PURITANS

*Each longed in deed of sterling worth, to show allegiance to his king—*

10—*Not in mere gold or founts of youth like Spanish venture sought to bring,*

*But in sweet homes across the Deep, to make his kingdom track the sun—*

*In more of lasting worthiness than brutal conquest ever won.*

*Across old Plymouth's bar they sail'd, led on by Freedom, all aflame,*

*Like pillar'd fire in Egypt's land whence God of Hosts with bondsmen came.*

15—*And in a wilderness of sea, uncharted and unknown to man,*

*Sought they Virginia's northern bounds, which then was where the Hudson ran.*

*But glad they were, in those fierce gales, to land on any friendly shore,*

*Albeit, so bleak and far away from that fair port on which they bore.*

*Tho' weak in flesh, not one would land upon that welcome, wave-dashed beach,*

20—*Till solemn compact pledged they all, to God and King, and each to each.*

*First written constitution that!—mark well the place and mark the day*

*Where Freedom found a Hemisphere, eons prepared, to eons stay!*

## OUR PILGRIM FATHERS

*But superstition later came with all of bigot's trail  
of woe,  
Which epidemic world-wide ran, nor spared the Puri-  
tans a blow.*

25—*The witches burnt at Salem-town, and Roger Williams  
forced to flee;  
The Quaker persecutions, rank, and Blue-law multi-  
misery,*

*All teach how our Forefathers were but erring flesh, the  
like as we,  
Possessed though of the strength and will to break  
the fetters and go free.*

*When human beings average well, their lapses, all,  
should be forgot—*

30—*For Peter thrice denied the Christ, and Moses brake  
the stones God wrought.*

*Perfection doth proclaim the God we worship not from  
love but fear—*

*To err reveals a tie of kin which our affections hover  
near.*

*The bulwarks of Free Government, and equal rights  
twixt Man and Man,  
O'er-balance far the weaknesses, charged up against  
the Puritan.*

## THE PURITANS

### II

#### OUR DEBT TO THE PURITANS

35—*They gave us Liberty of Speech, and right to publish  
as we thought,*

*Implanting rev'rence for a God, in worship as our  
conscience taught.*

*As childhood shapes the life of Man, who late returns,  
tho' far may stray*

*From living principles instill'd—so Nations in like  
orbits play.*

*Most favor'd this our Nation was, and we who in her  
precincts dwell,*

40—*That Freedom sang her cradle-song and taught her lips  
a God to spell.*

*As like a comet, she may roam, and seem intent to  
loose her way—*

*The laws that bind will bring her home, where she was  
safe, initially.*

*The sons and daughters of our wars, who fan the patri-  
otic flame,*

*Inspired are with noble zeal, and we their honor loud  
proclaim.*

45—*Descendants of the Puritans, who first set foot on Ply-  
mouth Rock!*

*The honor, and chief burden, yours, that Doors of  
Freedom still unlock!*

## EVIDENCE OF DIVINE GUIDANCE

### III

#### EVIDENCE OF DIVINE GUIDANCE

*Three years before the Pilgrim feet gave Plymouth  
Rock enduring fame*

*The neighbors of Mas-sas-so-it were much concerned  
by star-like flame*

*Which swept its lurid tail across, in ill-foreboding  
path, the sky*

50—*From East to West along that course which Stars of  
Empire travel by.*

*In fright Patuxit Indians cried—who owned the land  
where soon would be*

*A Nation born to set the World, in civics and religion,  
free—*

*In fright at recent prophet-words, which they had  
scoff'd till lurid loom*

*Of omen through a comet high, foretold the coming of  
their doom.*

55—*“Though like the sands” a Seer had said, “in numbers  
now, your tribe may boast,*

*For wickedness you are condemned to quickly vanish  
from this coast!”*

*As whirl-wind drops its funnel-end and picks out  
victims from the sky—*

*So came a plague which swept that tribe as flies before  
a Winter die.*

## THE PURITANS

*Passed thus Patuxit title-claim, ere Puritans assert  
their will*

60—*On corn-land cleared and ready by the hand of God,  
for them to till.*

*Yet, some there were who grumbled loud because they  
miss'd a warmer clime,  
With shores less bleak and better soil, where bare  
existence took less time.*

*But we, in retrospect can see, with fuller knowledge as  
our guide,  
How Providence took them in hand and journeyed  
with them, side by side.*

65—*He guided them to that one spot where Indian rights  
no challenge gave,  
And spared them all uncertainty of purchase or of  
conquest grave.*

*Their sandy loam and easy soil—so needful where no  
beasts were owned—  
Good Fortune found there on that coast,—else more  
in labor they had groaned.*

*By game in season princely fed—by fish the finest in  
the Sea—  
70—And friendship of Mas-sas-so-it,—could Isarel more in  
favor be?*

## THEIR SPECIAL PREPARATION

### IV

#### THEIR SPECIAL PREPARATION

*The hand of God is further shown in binding them for  
His great plot,  
Not by the ties of wealth or blood, but by ideals for  
which they wrought.*

*In common faith they all were bound, of high estate or  
low degree—  
When 'cross the German Ocean fled they into Holland  
to be free.*

75—*With rustic Scrooby fades away the joy of farm and  
rural life,  
And Leyden makes them artisans at loom and press,  
in Labor's strife.*

*And there, sequestered from the World by habit, thought  
and language, strange—  
Did Providence inscrutable, the dest'ny of this Earth  
arrange!*

*Ten years of common labor meant, all autocratic  
seeds were dead,  
80—And Liberty's majestic tree was raised on equal  
rights, instead.*

*The People there came to their own, for Ages sought,  
which Man did pray—  
And from that spark a flame was blown, which circles  
'round the World today.*

## THE PURITANS

*Without probation such as that, to colonize would all  
been vain,  
When liberty means license, oft, to those whom Time  
alone can train.*

85—*Not forty years, but ten, were they as Israel in the  
Wilderness—  
“For Glory of our God and King”, as oft their records  
do confess.*

*Came pestilence and famine, both, in one short year at  
Plymouth Bay,  
Which put to proof their trust in God, and swept their  
numbers half away.*

*Their leader to our Promised Land, like Moses—saw  
but not enjoyed—*

90—*They laid him 'neath the barley field, which stealth  
and strategy employed*

*To hide depleted numbers from the Indian bands which  
skulked and pried  
Till Squanto's friend brought him to them, and he  
became their friend and guide.*



SQUANTO MIRACUOUSLY SAVED

V

SQUANTO MIRACUOUSLY SAVED AND  
SENT TO THEM

*He told them how a plague had swept the brave  
Patuxits from the land—*

*And taught them how to plant the corn—a fish to fer-  
tilize each stand.*

95—*He brought Mas-sas-so-it to them, and other Chief-  
tains, near and far—*

*Who kept the peace for fifty years, till breaking out of  
Phillip's War.*

*He showed them where to cast for fish, the cod and  
millet—bass, beside;*

*He proudly counted them as friends, and never left  
them till he died.*

*This Squanto was near Plymouth born, but spared the  
plague and tribal fate*

100—*By special Providence of God, in circumstance strange  
to relate:*

## THE PURITANS

*Kidnapped by white man ere the plague,—intent to  
sell him into Spain,  
Was rescued, he, by British ship, and years in England  
did remain.*

*With knowledge got of English ways, and mind im-  
proved—as British boast—  
Good Squanto when the chance occurred, was landed  
on his native coast*

*105—In time to help the Puritans, without whose aid they  
all had died:  
Let those who study miracles not turn this modern one  
aside.*



## ORIGIN OF OUR THANKSGIVING DAY

### VI

#### THE ORIGIN OF OUR THANKSGIVING DAY

*The setting of our Day of Thanks, which Presidents  
do yet proclaim,  
Was founded on a miracle which Pilgrims saved ere  
famine came.*

*Their gen'rous natures over-taxed with feeding Weston's  
hungry men*

110—*Till hope of life next winter through must on that  
summer's corn depend,*

*So labored they from morn till night—whole fam'lies  
with good heart and will,*

*And planted as the Indians taught—a fish well  
cover'd in each hill.*

*With season's start, as they could wish, the corn was  
standing fair and green,*

*But sun of summer laid it low, by drought as like no  
man had seen:*

115—*As Bradford wrote, it "languished sore" and some was  
"parched like withered hay"—*

*In humble prayer and great distress, they set apart  
a solemn day.*

*It pleased the Lord to hear their prayer, and gracious  
speedy answer make;*

*Hot was the morn and afternoon— no sign of rain the  
sky to break*

## THE PURITANS

*Yet, evening clouds came on apace, and shortly after  
that, a rain—*

*120—Such sweet and gentle showers as made them rejoice in  
glad refrain.*

*Its great abundance soaked the Earth, without a wind  
or violence*

*Which made the Indians marvel much, as did all others,  
then and since.*

*And afterwards, the season through, came showers  
right and weather rare*

*Which so built up the corn and fruits that harvest  
time was full and fair.*

*125—Such comfort and rejoicing caused a day of thanks to  
be proclaimed*

*Which each year since—three hundred times— by  
proclamation has been named.*

*And as each year's Thanksgiving Day increasing  
mercy does reveal*

*Decendants of the Puritans a special choice and charge  
should feel*

*Of greatest weight on them imposed by reason of their  
blood descent*

*130—To fight for that Democracy which God in trust their  
Sires lent.*

## DEBTS OF THE PURITANS

### VII

#### THE DEBTS OF THE PURITANS.

*The Puritans were bound in debt for transportation  
and support*

*To 'Venturers whom Cushman coax'd Dame Fortunes,  
fickle hand to court.*

*Half of their increase first was pledged, of buildings,  
land, and goods, as well,  
Conditioned on such further aid as their distresses might  
compel.*

135—*But human-nature, then as now, let idle pledge out-  
strip the will  
And London merchants promised more than they were  
ready to fulfill.*

*Most men who lay a dollar down expect that hand to  
pick up two,  
Or break their pledges wantonly, regardless of the harm  
they do.*

*Before the Speedwell and its mate weighed anchor and  
put out to Sea*

140—*Part of the Pilgrims' food was sold to make up a  
difficiency*

*Which owners of the vessels asked before the voyage  
would begin—*

*But Christian courage falters not at any sacrifice to  
win.*

## THE PURITANS

*The London purses tighter closed as word of pestilence  
and need  
Came back to make the hazzard more, and failure  
hovered close, indeed.*

145—*But He who notes the sparrow's fall and counts the  
hairs upon the head;  
Who sendeth rain upon the Earth and Elijah by the  
ravens fed*

*Approved them by His miracles and led them to a  
favored spot  
Where dusky neighbors friendly came and much their  
halting strangeness taught.*



## THEIR HOPE OF RELEASE FROM DEBT

### VIII

#### THEIR HOPE OF RELEASE FROM DEBT

*Thanksgiving Day commemorates the answer to a day  
of prayer*

150—*Which drought and famine threatening, was followed  
by a harvest rare.*

*The tide of their affairs was turned toward the better  
from that year,  
And surplus traded they for furs which Europe bought  
at prices dear.*

*Their greatest aid to Indian trade was in the wampum  
money made*

*Like beads from multi-colored shells which red-men  
coveted and laid*

155—*Strange patterns out, in mystic lore, for pipes of peace  
and belts of war:*

*And as their surplus slowly grew, they pushed their  
enterprises far*

*Along the coast now known as Maine, and traded up  
the Kennebeck*

*Where never knavish Whites had been, the Indian  
confidence to wreck.*

## THE PURITANS

Soon many from the North came down that river in  
the early Spring  
160—With otter, beaver and rich furs, to trade for much-loved  
wampum string

And corn and peas, which shifless ways made them  
impotent oft to raise—  
As Pilgrims' wealth increasing grew, God's mercy  
held them in amaze!

They visioned their release from debt to those Adven-  
tures who gave  
A grudging part of promised aid, and still withheld  
when need was grave.



MYLES STANDISH SENT BACK TO ENGLAND

IX

MYLES STANDISH SENT BACK TO  
ENGLAND

165—*Myles Standish, they to England sent, commission'd  
to investigate*

*The fairest terms for their release, in payments and  
low interest rate.*

*The outcome was a bond to pay a stated sum in yearly  
parts*

*Subscribed by undertakers, eight, of solid men with  
staunchest hearts;*

*And a monop'ly of the trade by Patent Grant to them  
was made*

170—*With Indians on the Kennebeck, 'gainst competition's  
threatened raid.*

JOHN HOWLAND CHOSEN COMMANDER  
ON THE KENNEBECK

*A goodly house they built of logs, hard by where whirling  
waters run,  
And he who in the Mayflower came as servant, but  
more apt the son*

*By widowed marriage of that man—the chiefest servant  
of them all—  
Whose judgment in the face of death when raging  
waters did apall*

175—*Saved him when cast into the Sea by lurching of the  
broken ship—  
Was chosen fittest to command their fortunes on each  
trading trip.*

*John Howland justified their choice, by profits from  
the Kennebeck,  
Which, year by year, made rapid growth, till competi-  
tion gave it check.*

*For, much success was never known, but imitators  
sought to reap*

180—*Of harvest where they had not sown, an unearned in-  
crement to keep.*

*The Gov'nor and Assistants six, with undertakers of  
the debt,  
Took counsel on their Patent Grant, how competition  
should be met.*

MYLES STANDISH URGES RESISTANCE

XI

MYLES STANDISH URGES RESISTANCE  
TO INVADERS

*Myles Standish urged them to assert, with force sufficient for the fray,  
The full intendment of their grant, and interlopers drive away:*

185—*“John Howland, a staunch man we have, an undertaker of the debt;  
Assistant to our Governor—let him a goodly number get*

*Whose wisdom hath his confidence, nor tested valor known to shrink,  
Wise in discretion,” Standish spake, “who have God’s grace to act and think,*

*And with a Christian courage make our mandate to such wayward men*

190—*Respected ere faint-heartedness, encourage them to sin again!”*

*So said Myles Standish, and his words had weight with those he counseled with  
Who list not of the tragedy which Fate man oft encompasseth.*

## THE PURITANS

### XII

#### THE DREADFUL FIRST WINTER AT PLYMOUTH

*O'er crowded in the Mayflower-ship, the Pilgrims  
landed weak and sore*

*By reason of their tardy trip, and hard conditions  
which they bore.*

195—*These made them all susceptible to dread pneumonia's  
quick embrace*

*When Winter's cold and landings wet, remaining  
vigor soon erased.*

*The shacks they quickly improvised let cold and water  
penetrate*

*Till half a dozen scarce were left on sick and dying ones  
to wait.*

*Whole families swept, or mayhap one—a son or  
daughter, young, was left,*

200—*So, scarce in teens when parents died, was Bess of  
Tilleys sore bereft.*

*She solace found in virgin rare, who, like a second  
mother mixed*

*Real tears of sorrow with her own, mid smiles of  
comfort oft betwixt.*

*Thus Desire Minter, she whose name, bespoke things  
hoped that never came,*

*Let one unselfish duty more her life of sacrifice lay  
claim.*

JOHN HOWLAND'S COURTSHIP

XIII

JOHN HOWLAND'S COURTSHIP OF  
DESIRE MINTER

205—*Both maids attended on the sick, and nursed John  
Howland day by day  
Till he had mended and had learned to lean upon  
them heavily.*

*He thought about his lonely state, and pondered  
theirs of worse degree  
Till conscience bade him break his vow, a life-long  
widower to be.*

*As Laban put the elder first when Jacob served him  
seven years*

210—*John Howland's sober sense of right scorned that which  
fancy oft endears.*

*Tho' Bess, like cherries turning red, near changed  
temptation to desire*

*He dreamed of her paternally,—not as a lover all  
afire,*

*And with good conscience bravely spoke, to her the  
elder of the twain,*

*How God approved the marriage state which they to-  
gether should attain.*

## THE PURITANS

215—*The woman yet has not been born who could not sense  
the lover's ring  
In tone and actions, not in words, which oft another  
message bring.*

*Desire Minter felt the lack of burning passion maidens  
court  
Which made refusal easier she at all hazards must  
report.*

*"You do me o're much honor, John," Desire replied  
in sober strain,  
220—"Tho God hath called my kindred home, I durst not  
of His will complain.*

*"Your place is high in my esteem, and I exalted am  
to know  
The great respect you hold me in, which doth uplift  
my spirit so.*

*"But love goes not from man to maid, nor maid to  
to man at beck and will,  
And in your effort to be just, you let not your affections  
fill*

225—*"That place an all-wise Providence intended when  
His children mate—  
Besides, my heart controls my hand, and binds me to  
another's fate."*

*Her speech, as like a thunder-bolt, first dumb'd her  
suitor with amaze*

JOHN HOWLAND'S COURTSHIP

*But soon in seeming paradox, his heart was shouting  
"Lord be praised!"*

*He visioned sweet Elizabeth, in solace, while with  
calm he spake:*

230—*"I knew not, you were pledged to wed, else I had not  
presumed to make*

*"Proposals in the best of faith, which lack to you  
sincerety—*

*No person else has raised a voice in challenge of my  
verity!"*

*Man-like, he tried to simulate an anger that he did not  
feel;*

*He first was piqued, then forced to join, when laugh  
from maiden's lips did peal:*

235—*"Pray, John, let not your dignity upset the balance  
of your mind*

*But let your love go out to Bess who fits in temperment  
your kind.*

*"That she is not distaste to you, nor you to her, I  
fairly know*

*She needeth loving hands to guide, and tenderness  
in turn will show;*

*"I could not marry you, good John, beacuse I have no  
heart to give,*

240—*To Moses Talbot I am pledged, so long as both of us  
may live.*

## THE PURITANS

*“He is his aged mother’s staff, in England where from  
childhood grew  
We up together and have loved, since each about the  
other knew.*

*“He is adherent to our faith, which grieveth Mistress  
Talbot sore—  
She layeth all the blame on me, and I shall see him—  
never more!”*

245—*No further speech the maiden gave, but sobbed as  
tears of memory flowed,  
While Howland, wrapped in retrospect, forgot her  
presence as he stood.*



JOHN HOWLAND'S VISION

XIV

JOHN HOWLAND'S DOUBLE VISION.

*Backward in thought, their history scanned,—their  
seeming desolation here—*

*The odium upon them heaped, since days of youth mid  
England's cheer*

*Dissenters they, whom Defoe charged king James—too  
leniently inclined*

250—*To'ard human greed which takes an ell—bred  
regicides of Cromwell's kind,*

*And nurtured on New England shore a colony of  
malcontents*

*Refusing Mother Country's tax while asking much in  
their defense.*

*Such as Defoe, through narrow eyes, saw England's  
church man's greatest boon—*

*But not the eaglet in the West to'ard human liberty  
had flown.*

255—*Hail! Hail! The Mayflower, Carlyle writes, poor,  
common-looking, hired ship;*

*Yet what ship "Argo" built by gods can match the  
marvel of her trip?*

## THE PURITANS

*She had the great Promethean spark—the life-spark  
giving timely birth  
To transatlantic Saxon men—in greatest nation of  
our earth!*

*The Golden fleece our Pilgrims sought was freedom  
from Established church—  
260—Sought they, like Saul, a little thing and found a great  
one in their search.*

*They had the fire of heaven sent in power which they  
dreamed not of:  
Let all men honor Puritans, since God first honored  
them above.*

*Defoe—Carlyle—each later born than those events  
they differ on—  
John Howland visualized both sides, in that brief  
moment near their dawn.*



THE HAND OF FATE

XV

THE HAND OF FATE

265—*From Howland and his child-wife, young, a numerous  
progeny descend—*

*They christen'd their first-born, Desire, in honor of its  
mother's friend*

*Who, health fast failing, year by year, good Doctor  
Fuller made it clear*

*Must back to England soon return, where winter's  
chill was less severe.*

*As Fate would have it, when she sailed, she passed her  
lover on the way,*

270—*Whose mother, dying, left him free to seek her in  
America.*

*By Howlands he was well received, in more of love  
than mere respect,*

*And with the expedition went to right the wrongs at  
Kennebeck.*

THE PURITANS

XVI .

THE HOCKING AFFAIR.

*John Howland in their largest barque, which midships  
had been spliced to two,  
With Alden second in command, sailed out of Plymouth  
with a crew*

275—*Of care-picked men who oft had joined with him in  
enterprise to try  
That courage and devotion which the Puritan was  
known best by.*

*John Hocking, Piscataway man from colony of  
Lords Saye and Brooke—  
His barque well filled with Indian goods, a place  
above the Pilgrims took*

*Between their house on Kennebeck and portage-falls  
of Ne-quam-kick:*

280—*There, trading, answered protest made, with loud  
defiance foul and thick*

*With insult, daring them to do their worst to put him  
from that place  
And with much flourish of his guns, he flung defiance  
in their face.*

*“Go cut his cable” orders came, “and suffer him not  
there to ride  
But down the rapid water drift with current and the  
ebbing tide!”*

## THE HOCKING AFFAIR

285—*Three men, with Moses Talbot, went, right read'ly in  
a swift canoe*

*And cut his cable, whom, on deck, swore what in ven-  
geance he would do.*

*At Thomas Savory first he aimed, then changed as they  
swung near his bow,*

*And put his gun to Talbot's head with fierce invectives  
meant to cove.*

*John Howland, seeing, called to him, "Shoot not my  
man, but for your mark*

290—*Take me who gave them the command to cut the cable of  
your barque!*

*"They but obey—give me the blame if any wrong was  
dore to you—*

*Shoot me—not them—I stand full fair—shoot me, if  
shoot you're bound to do!"*

*But Hocking neither looked nor heard; he shooteth  
Moses in the head—*

*And when the news to England came, by that one bullet  
two were dead!*

295—*John Hocking, crazed, his pistol took, but by the Lord  
his hand was staid*

*From doing further hurt by shot from Pilgrims'  
barque. Himself was laid*

*In death upon his moving ship—now swiftly drifting  
out to sea:*

*Like it, he had his cable cut-and drifted into—mystery.*

## THE PURITANS

*"Thou shalt not kill" the Scripture saith, and of that  
law men have more dread*

300—*Than all commandments Moses wrote, tho' none in  
briefer words are said.*

*Malign report the Pilgrims charged with wilful murder  
and intent—*

*Lords Saye and Brooke were much incensed, and Alden,  
soon to Boston sent*

*Was there within a prison thrown and laid till  
Standish went his bail*

*To stand in court on murder charge, which did on  
fuller knowledge fail.*

305—*The lives of Moses and Desire, in hope deferred upon  
this earth,*

*But tipify that sacrifice of those who gave our country  
birth.*

*Unlooked for troubles hampered them—which but a  
few we here relate—*

*Their work and faith in what they did, brought them  
success where failures wait.*

*Their daily lives of righteousness confused the hopes  
of lying tongues*

310—*And made a name for Puritans which through all  
ages will be sung.*

*P. De Leon.*

# NOTES

(The marginal numbers refer to lines of the poem.)

8—12 “The Puritans in Holland did not forget—could not forget that they were Englishmen. During their ten years of residence at Leyden they did not cease to long for a return to the country which had cast them out. Though ruled by a heartless monarch and a bigoted priesthood, England was their country still. The unfamiliar language of the Dutch grated harshly on their ears. They pined with unrest, conscious of their ability and willingness to do something which should convince even King James of their patriotism and worth. It was in this condition of mind that about the year 1617 the Puritans began to meditate a removal to the wilds of the New World. There, with honest purpose and prudent zeal, they would extend the dominions of the English king.”

Ridpath's History of the United States, page 89

16—22 At the time of the coming of the Puritans to America the northern boundary of Virginia was considered to extend to the mouth of the Hudson River.

“It had been the intention of the Pilgrims to found their colony in the beautiful country of the Hudson; but the tempest carried them out of their course, and the first land seen was the desolate Cape Cod. On the 9th of November the vessel was anchored in the bay; then a meeting was held on board and the colony organized under a solemn compact. In the charter which they there made for themselves the emigrants declared their loyalty to the English Crown, and covenanted together to live in peace and harmony, with equal rights to all, obedient to just laws made for the common good. Such was the simple but sublime constitution of the oldest New England State. A nobler document is not to be found among the records of the world.”

Ridpath's History, page 91.

48 Mas-sas-soit, father of King Phillip, was the chief of the

## THE PURITANS

tribe of Wompanaog Indians, nearest neighbors to Plymouth. He entered into a treaty of peace with the Puritans in 1621 which continued for more than 50 years. He remained their fast friend while he lived.

Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation (Scribner)  
page 111.

- 51 In 1617, the Patuxit tribe of Indians, then occupying the country where the Plymouth colony was planted, was nearly depopulated by a great plague. One of the early chroniclers has written! "Some of the ancient Indians, that are surviving at the writing hereof, do affirm that about some two or three years before the first English arrived here, they saw a blazing star, or comet, which was a forerunner of this sad mortality, for soon after it came upon them in extremity. Thus God made way for his people, by removing the heathen and planting them in the land."

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers, page 36.

- 53 A Frenchman who had been captured by the Indians and mistreated by them, upon learning their language told them God would punish them for their wickedness. "But they derided him and said they were so many that God could not kill them. His answer was, that though they were never so many, God had many ways to destroy them that they knew not. Shortly after his death came the plague, a disease they never heard of before, and mightily swept them away."

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers, page 42.

- 60—70 "It has been supposed by some that our ancestors were not fortunate in the selection of their plantations, and that they would have found much better land on the other side of the bay. But this is a mistake, for no part of Massachusetts could be better suited to their condition. Had they settled down upon a hard and heavy, though rich soil, what could they have done with it? They had no ploughs, nor beasts of the plough, and yet their chief subsistence was to be derived from the ground. The Plymouth lands were free, light, and easy of tillage, but

## NOTES

hard enough for poor pilgrims to dig and plant. The land yielded well, being new and unworn, And for fish, they could scarcely have been better supplied; and the forests were as well supplied with game as elsewhere. Here they were also favored by the Prince of the country. The character of Massasoit was humane, and his friendship sincere. The treaty which he made with them, he faithfully performed all his life long, whereas, in other localities, they might have fallen by savage violence. And, moreover, Divine Providence seems to have opened the door to the pilgrims at Plymouth by removing the native inhabitants, so as to make a place for their settlement there,"

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers, page 28, note.

- 75 The Puritans, escaping from English persecution into Holland, settled in the city of Leyden. Many of them had been farmers living in the vicinity of the town of Scrooby, in England. At Leyden they took up weaving, printing and other trades.
- 79 The Puritans remained about 10 years at Leyden, in Holland, before sailing for America.
- 89 John Carver, chosen by the Pilgrims for first Governor of Plymouth colony, died in the Spring of 1621.
- 90 Nearly half of the Pilgrims died during their first Winter and Spring in America, and, that the Indians might not know their weakness by counting the graves, the Puritans leveled the surface of the burial field and planted it to grain.
- 92 In March, 1621, an Indian speaking broken English came boldly among the Puritans. His name was Samoset. Soon afterwards he brought Squanto or Tisquantum, who could talk better English, and who remained with the Puritans until he died; and was of great help to them. Squanto brought Massasoit, the friendly Chief.
- Bradford's History, page 110.
- 99—106 Bradford's History, pages 111—112.
- 109 John Weston, one of the merchants who helped the Pilgrims in London, brought over a colony of about "60 lusty

## THE PURITANS

men" in 1622, to start a colony of his own, and while he continued his voyage down to Virginia he left this large number of extra mouths all of the Summer of 1622, for the Puritans to feed, instead of bringing them needed assistance.

Bradford's History, page 137.

110—125 Bradford's History, page 152.

131—148 The Puritans were too poor to pay for their own transportation to America. A number of London merchants formed a stock company and their partly paid subscriptions furnished most of the first passage money. Part of it, however, had to be made up at the last minute before the ships' masters would put out to sea, by the sale of a quantity of the food supplies which the Puritans were taking with them. The merchants were known as the "Adventurers" and were under agreement to send supplies until the Colony became self supporting. This was not done, however, and nearly resulted several times, in disaster to the Colony. The Puritans had agreed that one-half of everything which they possessed at the end of six years, including lands and buildings, should belong to the Adventurers.

149—164 A good harvest in 1623, followed a day of prayer for rain when drought had threatened the Puritans with famine. They set apart a day for thanks after harvest, which inaugurated our present Thanksgiving Day. The abundant harvest gave the Colonists a surplus to trade to the Indians for furs which Europe coveted. The Colonists also learned how to make wampum beads which the Indians coveted and could not get enough of. Pushing out for new territory in which to trade, they established themselves as the first white traders on the Kennebeck river in Maine, where they prospered and began to glimpse a chance for paying off their debt to the Adventurers.

Bradford's History, pages 152-235-223.

165—168 Captain Myles Standish was sent to England in 1625, but did not succeed in reaching an agreement on the debt with the Adventurers. In 1626, as Governor Bradford wrote,

## NOTES

"This year they sent Mr. Allerton into England, and gave him order to make a compensation with the Adventurers, upon as good terms as he could (unto which some way had been made the year before by Captain Standish); but yet enjoined him not to conclude absolutely till they knew the terms, and had well considered of them; but to drive it to as good an issue as he could, and refer the conclusion to them." An agreement was reached in 1627, by which the obligation was fixed at 1800 pounds, payable 200 pounds yearly. Governor Bradford wrote (page 215):

"This agreement was very well liked of, and approved by all the plantations, and consented unto; though they knew not well how to raise the payment and discharge their other engagements, and supply the yearly wants of the plantation, seeing they were forced for their necessities to take up money or goods at so high interests. Yet they undertook it, and 7 or 8 of the chiefs of the place became jointly bound for the payment of this 1800 li. (in the behalf of the rest) at the several days." The names of the undertakers of the debt, of the colony, were William Bradford, Myles Standish, Isaac Allerton, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, John Howland, John Alden and Thomas Prence.

- 169 The patent grant covered all of the territory from Cobisconte, where Gardiner, Maine, now stands, to the falls or rapids of Ne-quam-kick, near the present Winslow, Maine, and 15 miles on each side of the river Kennebeck. "And by virtue of the authority to us derived by his said late Majesties Letters patents, to take, apprehend, sieze, and make prise of all such persons, their ships and goods, as shall attempt to inhibite or trade with the savage people of that countrie within the severall precincts and limits of his and their several plantations, etc."

Bradford's History, page 304.

- 171—175 John Howland. According to tradition he married the daughter of John Carver, who was chosen to be their first Governor—"the chiefest servant of them all"—in whose family Howland came in the Mayflower; Bradford says

## THE PURITANS

as a servant, but evidently not in a menial sense, judging from the prominent part which he took in affairs from the start. The daughter died before the voyage to America. The Mayflower encountered several severe storms, in one of which John Howland was washed over board but was saved by his presence of mind in grasping and holding to a rope, "Ye Topsail Halliards we hung overboard," by which he was drawn on deck through "several fathoms" of the engulfing billows.—Signers of the Mayflower Compact, page 29.

"One of the main beams of the midships was bowed and cracked, which put them to some fear that she would not be able to perform the voyage", but by a screw which one of the passengers happened to have "the said beam was brought into place again; which being done, and well secured by the carpenter, they resolved to hold on their voyage."

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers, page 19.

193—199 "But that which was sad and lamentable, in two or three months' time half their company died, especially in January and February, being the depth of winter, wanting houses and other comforts, being infected with the scurvy and other diseases, which this long voyage and their incommode condition had brought upon them, so as there died, sometimes two, sometimes three, on a day, in the aforesaid time, that of one hundred and odd persons, scarce fifty remained.

Of those that did survive in this time of distress and calamity that was upon them, there was sometimes but six or seven sound persons, who (to their great commendation be it spoke) spared no pains night to day to be helpful to the rest."

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers, page 35.

200 "John Tillie and his wife both died a little after they came ashore; and their daughter Elizabeth married with John Howland, and hath issue as is before noted."

Bradford's History, page 412.

## NOTES

- 203 Desire Minter came in the Mayflower as a member of Governor John Carver's family, to which family John Howland also belonged.
- Bradford's History, page 407.
- 249—254 Daniel Defoe, best known as the author of "Robinson Crusoe" was at one time a popular essayist. In his "Shortest Way with the Dissenters" he wrote (about 1700): "The first execution of the Laws against Dissenters in England, was in the days of King James I; and what did it amount to? Truly, the worst they suffered was, at their own request, to let them go to New England, and erect a new colony; and give them great privileges, grants, and suitable powers; keep them under protection, and defend them against all invaders; and receive no taxes or revenue from them!
- "This was the cruelty of the Church of England! Fatal lenity! It was the ruin of that excellent Prince, King Charles I. . . . .
- Had he so rooted the Puritans from the face of the land, which he had an opportunity early to have done; they had not had the power to vex the Church, as since they have done."
- 250 Human greed is such that it has crystalized into the proverb "Give an inch, will take an ell."
- 255—262 The writings of Thomas Carlyle,
- 265 In 1650, William Bradford wrote (Bradford's History, page 410) "John Howland, married the daughter of John Tillie, Elizabeth, and they are both now living and have 10 children, now all living; and their eldest daughter hath 4 children. And their 2 daughter, 1 all living; and other of their children mariagable. So 15 are come of them." John Howland was born about 1593, and died at Plymouth March 5, 1673. He married at Plymouth before 1624, Elizabeth Tilley, who was born about 1607, and died at Swansea, Dec. 31, 1687.
- 267 "This year (1627) it pleased God to visit Plymouth with an infectious fever, of which many fell very sick, and upwards of twenty died, men, women, and children, and

## THE PURITANS

sundry of them were of their ancient friends; amongst the rest, Mr. Samuel Fuller then died, after he had much helped others, and was a comfort to them; he was their surgeon and physician, and did much good in his place, being not only useful in his faculty, but otherwise, as he was a godly man, and served Christ in the office of a deacon in the church for many years, and forward to do good in his place, and was much missed after God removed him out of this world."

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers, page 117.

- 268 "Desire Minter returned to her friends, and proved not very well, and died in England,."

Bradford's History, page 410.

- 273 The Puritans, needing a larger boat to hold more goods on their trading trips, and the ship-carpenter who built the two small boats which they had, being dead, an ingenious house-carpenter of their colony "tooke one of the biggest of their shallops and sawed her in the middle, and so lengthened her some 5 or 6 foote, and strengthened her with timbers, and so builte her up, and laid a deck on her; and so made her a conveniente and wholesome vessell, very fitt and comfortable for their use, which did them service 7 years after."

Bradford's History, page 213.

- 277—304 Bradford's History, pages 304 to 309.

The Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 2 page 11, gives the following account of the "Hocking affair" which happened in April, 1634: "Mr John Howland went up to him (Hocking) with our barke and charged the said Hocking to waye his Ankchors and depart who answered hee would not with fowle speeches. Mr. Howland tould him that hee would not now suffer him ther to ride, John Hocking demanded what he would doe whether he would shoot; Mr. Howland answered no but he would put him from thence and ordered three of his men goe cutt his cable, and bad Moses Talbott goe with them who accordingly went very reddyly and brought the Canow to Hockings cable he being upon the deck came with a carbine & a postole

## NOTES

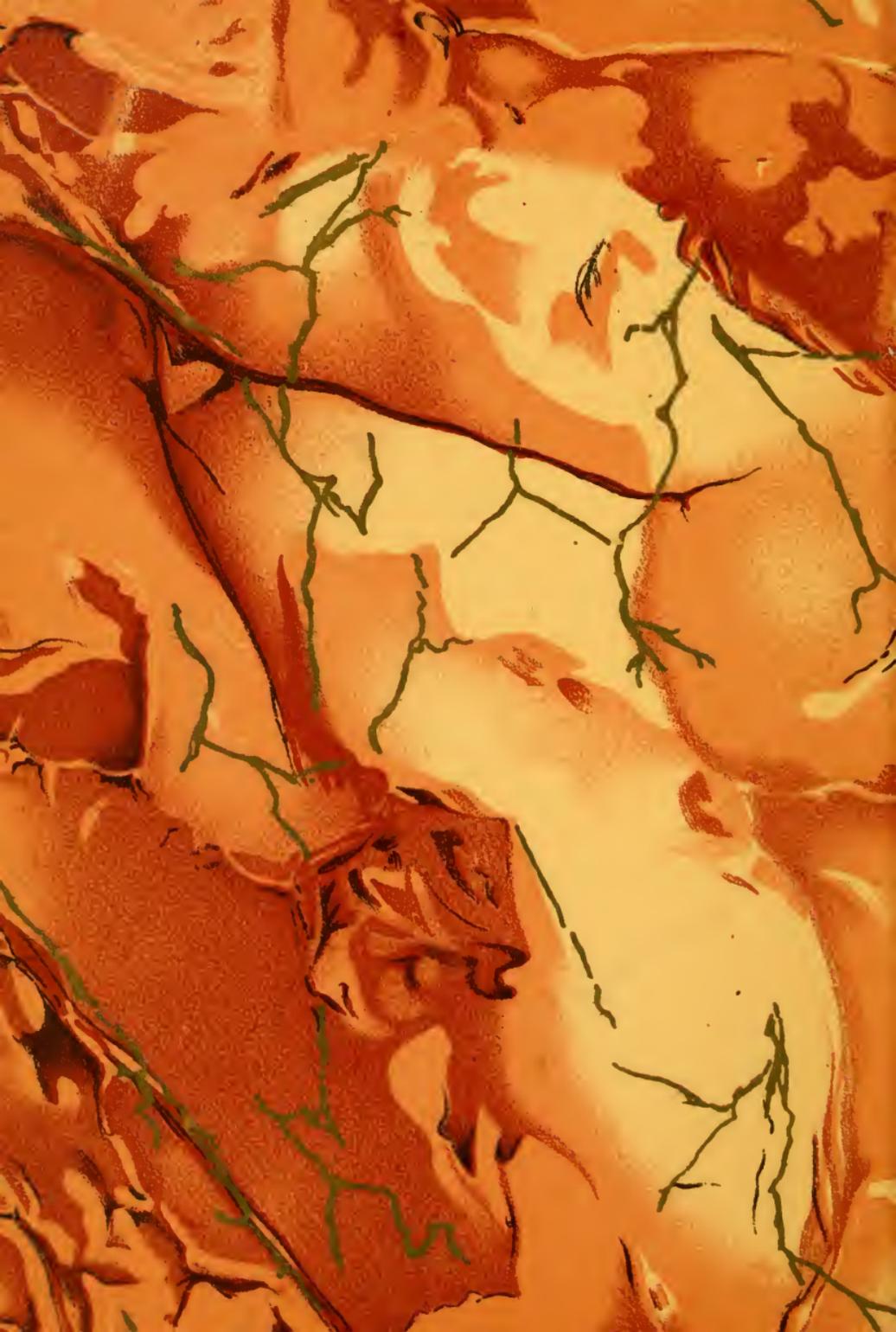
in his hand & presently presented his piece at Thomas Savory but the Canow with the tide was put nere the bow of the barke which Hocking seeing presently put his piece almost to Moses Talbotts head, which Mr. Howland seeing called to him desiring him not to shut his man but take himsele for his mark saying his men did but that whihc hee commanded them and therefore desired him not to hurt any of them if any wrong was done it was himsele that did it and therefore coled again to him to take him for his marke saying he stod very fayer but Hocking would not heare nor looke towards our barke but presently shooteth Moses in the head, and presently tooke up his pistell in his hand but the lord stayed him from doing any further hurt by a shot from our barke himself was presently strooke dead being shott neare the szme place in the head wher he had murderously shot Moses."



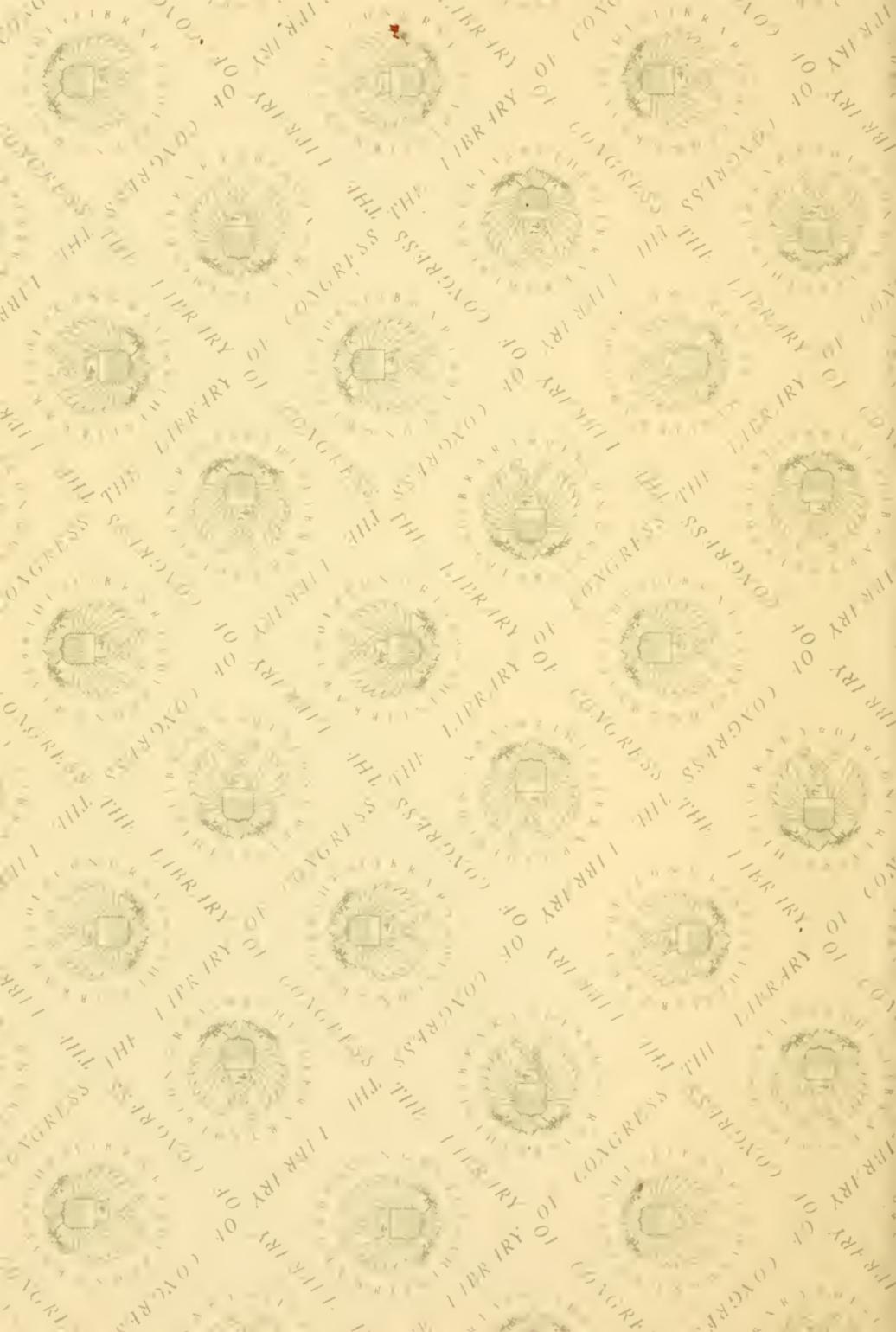














LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 013 444 917 2

