

Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1647 Study Guide

Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1647 by William Bradford

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Plot Summary

Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647 by William Bradford is a work of non-fiction. The book, often recognized as one of the most accurate and valuable historical references in American history, details the arrival and settlement of the Puritans at Plymouth Plantation in 1620 and the subsequent years and hardships.

Bradford served as governor of Plymouth Plantation for thirty-three years, making him one of the foremost authorities on the creation of the settlement as well as its operations, government, purpose, and events.

The purpose for the emigration of the Separatists from England dealt with religious freedom and the persecution of those who would not adhere to the corrupt philosophies and laws of the church at that time.

The men and women who objected to the inclusion of men's inventions into the church were quickly known as the Puritans. The Puritans took issue with many ideals and philosophies held by the church that clearly went against the Bible and Christianity. When the people splintered from the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church in order to return to the true ways of the faith, the religious community vehemently objected. The Puritans were threatened and eventually persecuted, despite the tolerance of Queen Elizabeth I.

After James I ascended to the throne, the persecution of the Puritans and their congregational church worsened. People were stripped of their worldly goods, arrested, tortured, imprisoned or killed. The Puritans finally decided that they would flee to Holland where it was known that the church could continue without the restrictions imposed by the crown. However, James had all feasible ports of entry blocked so that the Puritans had to pay a high price to be smuggled out of the country.

The Puritans practiced their religion in Amsterdam, and then Leyden, with little intervention. Although there were opponents to the church, the Puritans made a good name for themselves. The Puritans decided to leave Holland for fear that the Spaniards would take over and they would once again be persecuted. Traveling to America would ensure that the Puritans could have true religious freedom and worship as God would have it.

There was a great deal of corruption and hardship that surrounded the emigration, so much so that those of less faith and determination surely would have failed or given up on obtaining the right to worship in their own way.

Bradford's history dispels many myths and misinformation about Plymouth Plantation, its relationships to the Native Americans and the Virginia Colony, and the events surrounding the Pilgrims' first years in America.



There are thorough explanations of each step of the Pilgrims' journey, detailing the stories and events surrounding the journey to the New World as well as those who were involved, for good or ill.

In addition to the historical value of the book, it also gives the reader a deep sense of insight to the life and times of the people responsible for the settlement and how their commitment and values led to the establishment of one of the most respected and important colonies in America.



The First Book, Chapters I-X: The Separatist Interpretation of the Reformation of the Church of England, 1550-1607

The First Book, Chapters I-X: The Separatist Interpretation of the Reformation of the Church of England, 1550-1607 Summary and Analysis

Chapter one begins with the exodus of men who had become known as professors and wanted to be able to get away from "the persecutions of the heathen and their emperors" (Chap. I, p. 4). In these times, professors were simply those who had professed their beliefs in Christ; it had no relation to any higher education.

Bradford quotes Socrates regarding the treatment of those who would not obey the principles of the established church, saying that the treatment of one Christian to another was equal to, if not worse than, the treatment thrust upon Christians in the early days.

"For many endured sundry kinds of torment, often rackings and dismembering of their joints, confiscating of their goods; some bereaved of their native soil, others departed this life under the hands of the tormentor, and some died in banishment and never saw their country again, etc." (Chap. I, p. 4)

Some believed that Satan tried subtler methods. Some people were burned under the rule of Queen Mary, which caused others to flee from England to newly developed territories in the Low Countries. When Queen Elizabeth I took the throne, many of those people returned, grateful to have the Queen's tolerance. Many were appointed to positions of power within the church. There was a great deal of conflict spurred by those who wished to ban this faction in the church. As a result, many of the heathens' ceremonies were taken on as an act of appeasement. Some of those ceremonies and symbols are still in use today, such as the Easter egg, Christmas tree, holly, Halloween, etc.

Those that believed in the "pure" version of Christianity were dubbed "Puritans." The group was also referred to as "Separatists" after it seceded from the established church.

The existence of the Puritans was tolerated by Queen Elizabeth, but when James I took the throne, the professors came under attack. The meetings of this new congregation were often raided and its people persecuted in a number of ways. Eventually, the



persecution became so severe that it was clear that the Separatists would be forced to leave England.

In 1607-1608, the Separatists arranged for passage to Amsterdam, where they would re-establish a church. The escape was difficult as the ports and other means of egress were being watched carefully for potential deserters.

Chapter II: Of their Departure into Holland and their Troubles thereabout, with some of the many Difficulties they found and met withal. (1608).

This chapter details the concerns of the Separatists as they prepared to leave for Holland. It was not known how they would fare in a city that was war-torn and miserable, one where they knew neither the ways of the country's trade nor the language. Despite all of the obstacles, of which there were many more to come including various instances of betrayal, the group had no choice but to leave England. As far as the Puritans were concerned, Holland was the only real hope the Separatists had of practicing their religion as God had intended.

Among those that went to Holland were William Bradford, William Brewster, Pastor John Robinson and Pastor John Smith.

Chapter III: Of their Settling in Holland, and their Manner of Living, and Entertainment there.

Chapter three details the arrival in Holland. The leaders were pleased to see that Amsterdam was not as bleak as they had believed. "Being now come into the Low Countries, they saw many goodly and fortified cities, strongly walled and guarded with troops of armed men" (Chap. 3, p. 16)

The strongest, mostly men, went to Holland first. The Reverends Smith and Robinson followed later with women and children and those too weak to make the initial journey. Within one year, the Separatists fell into contention with the existing church. Once again, the group separated themselves and suffered repercussions. The group decided to remove themselves and go to Leyden.

Bradford referred to Leyden as a beautiful city, blessed with a university full of learned men. Leyden did have its problems however, the main issue being that it was not as convenient for trade as it was not close to the sea. Despite obstacles, the Separatists worked hard and long and eventually established a good settlement in which people thrived for many years.

The Congregational church was much like churches of old. However, the beliefs and principles of the church created many adversaries who often slandered the church and its followers. The slander often fell on deaf ears as the Separatists were well known to be honorable and so were respected by the Dutch.

One adversary, who was particularly eager to debate with John Robinson, was Professor Polyander. Robinson was not interested in debating, but was eventually



coerced into two or three open debates, which Robinson won. Polyander's plan to humiliate Robinson backfired and more people joined the Separatists in praising God.

Bradford wrote about the work of Reverend John Robinson, a pastor that was so well loved by the congregation that the author compared him to the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. The adoration was reciprocal. When Robinson died there was great mourning.

Chapter IV: Showing the Reasons and Causes of Their Removal

The tenure of the Separatists in Holland coincided with the truce between Holland and Spain, which lasted from 1609 to 1621. It was clear that a potential for war was on the horizon and the manner of the Spaniards was unknown. The Puritans wondered if the Spaniards were savages like those found in America. The Separatists were weary of hardship. Facing the possibility of war, they decided to remove themselves from Leyden. The main reasons for the removal include the following:

1. Continued hardship would lose followers.
2. Those who had cheerfully endured hardships in the past were becoming older and soon would no longer be able to fend for themselves.
3. The lifestyle required many parents to behave as task masters, an objectionable state to young people who often fled to avoid the hard work.
4. Moving to the New World would allow the crew to spread the word of God.

The general thoughts about America were that the land was basically uninhabited, save for savages. To move to the New World would mean facing potential famine, nakedness, and illness due to the change of water and air. Also the voyage would be very expensive. The cost would be much higher than what the Separatists could raise by selling valuables and other property. If moving to Holland had been so difficult, what would it be like in America? The leaders believed that the trip would be hard but not impossible, that there would be many difficulties but yet they would not be invincible. The group would survive for the grace of God and hard work.

Chapter V: Showing What Means They Used for Preparation to This Weighty Voyage

There was dissension among the group when trying to decide on where to land. Many wanted to go to Virginia, while others considered Guyana or the tropics as ideal locations. Each location had a downside, and eventually it was decided that Virginia would be the best choice. Once the decision was made, the Separatists would have to find a way to obtain freedom from the King. Gaining freedom would not be an easy task. The group tried to accomplish the mission through all possible political and religious channels to no avail. Eventually, King James I gave unofficial permission, and yet refused to make a proclamation. Separatists decided to move forward and began to correspond with the established government in Virginia. Many letters were sent back and forth between John Robinson, William Brewster, Sir Edwin Sandys, and others. As



a highly respected deacon and devout member of the church, John Carver became the main liaison between the two groups.

Chapter VI: Concerning the Agreements and Articles between them and such Merchants and Others as Adventured Moneys; with Other Things Falling out about Making their Provisions

Chapter six begins with the members of the church gathering to pray about the potential move. The group decided that John Robinson would stay to minister to the members of the church at Leyden and William Brewster would go on ahead to America. There are details of the church's dealings with Mr. Blackwell and Thomas Weston, almost all of which are either non-productive or unpleasant. The articles were finally agreed upon and the money was sent. Many people waffled and dropped out. Eventually, there was a grant given by the king that was not tied to politics. Weston and another would give the grant to the Puritans as an investment in the fishing trade in delinquent. The author surmises reasons for opting not to go to New England, which most likely had to do with the attainment of a patent. Conditions were issued in Leyden and were changed without notice to the Separatists. Mainly, the changes had to do with housing, the arrangements between the Adventurers and the Planters, and the length of debt incurred by the Separatists.

John Carver received a letter from John Robinson saying that the shipping aspect of the plan did not look good, and that life was bleak and worrisome.

There were a lot of miscommunications and deceit regarding the funds that were to be received through Weston. Robinson, Carver, Brewster and others began to witness Weston's unscrupulous nature. Weston and Cushman were extremely secretive and declined to reveal any details of the deals they were making on behalf of the church. Both men continued to be full of empty promises. Although William Brewster was directly involved in the deal, the elder's reputation remained unimpeachable.

The arrangements between the Adventurers and Planters were discussed.

Carver and Cushman were sent back to America to arrange for provisions. The author includes a letter from Cushman to Carver in which Cushman states that he has been falsely accused of negligence. Weston and Cushman were at odds. Cushman stated that the Separatists would be forced to rebuff the strangers from Holland or lose him as an ally. Carver was not so easily swayed and expressed his extreme disappointment and discontent in Cushman's follow through and/or lack thereof.

The Second Book Chapters XI-XV

The Second Book Chapters XI-XV Summary and Analysis

Chapter XI: The Remainder of Anno 1620 [The Mayflower Compact]

In chapter eleven, Bradford returns to some of the events that happened before the landing at Plymouth. Bradford states that the first foundation of the new government was put in place aboard the Mayflower. This was caused in part by "discontented and mutinous speeches" by strangers (Chap. 11, p. 75). The strangers claimed that when the group went ashore, they would be able to use their own liberty and not be answerable to another government, particularly that of New England. Instead, the travelers had a patent for Virginia and were pleased that Virginia had nothing to do with the New England government.

The form of the new government is laid out as it was written on the Mayflower. The people who signed the contract were loyal subjects of James I. The agreement stated that the travelers not only went to the new world to establish a colony and make sure that God was properly represented, but the colony was also being established in honor of King James. It reads: "Having undertaken, for the glory of God and Advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of Our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the Northern Parts of Virginia, due by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one another, Covenant and Combine ourselves into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and virtue here of to enact constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience" (Chap. XI, p. 76).

Bradford goes on to call the period following the compact as "The Starting Time", during which half of the company died within a period of two in three months, with the most expiring in the dead of winter. Many had been infected with scurvy and various other diseases, which the long journey and inadequate accommodations brought upon them. There were six or seven men who took it upon themselves to try to fulfill every need of the colony from fetching wood to washing clothes and feeding the weak and infirm. Two of the men included in this group were Elder William Brewster and Captain Myles Standish.

Furthermore, the crew of the ship had claimed all the beer for themselves, leaving passengers to drink questionable and/or contaminated water. The sailors showed no mercy toward the infirm. The crew, which had been deeply devoted to one another during the voyage, had turned their backs on each other, particularly when it involved the possibility of illness.



Bradford speaks of Indian relations. In beginning, the Indians would observe the adventurers but every time one of the adventurers came near, the Indians would run away. In mid-March an Indian chief finally approached the adventurers. The chief was Samoset, accompanied by Squanto. Both men were natives and could speak English.

Samoset and Squanto visited the Pilgrims many times before the arrival of Massasoit. When Massasoit arrived with sixty warriors, there was yet another celebration between the groups of men. The two sides made a treaty, which focused on these four main points:

1. No one should hurt any of their people;
2. If someone did cause harm, that person would be turned over for punishment;
3. If anything was stolen it would be restored;
4. If anyone declared unjust war upon the other both groups would fight together.

The pact would last at least twenty-four years.

After Massasoit returned to Sowams, Squanto stayed behind to teach the Pilgrims how to fish, sow corn, and buy provisions. Squanto never left the Pilgrims until the day he died.

Chapter XII: Anno 1621, Mayflower Departs and Corn Planted

The beginning of the year for Bradford was at the end of March. It had been since December that the Mayflower was in dock and it was finally returned to England, setting sail on April 5. The Mayflower arrived in England on May 6.

The first planting had taken place. Squanto was on hand to teach the Pilgrims how to sow, set, and dress a corn. Some English seed was used for planting wheat and pease, but the plants did not grow.

Many people were still sick or had become sick over the preceding months. One person that had fallen ill was Governor John Carver. One day Carver complained of a headache and died the next day. Bradford was chosen to succeed Carver, but was still recovering from his own illness. Isaac Allerton was installed as Bradford's assistant and served many years with the new governor.

The author makes reference to the first marriage in the colony. The marriage was held on May 12 and was performed by a magistrate for Edward Winslow and Susannah White, both of whom had lost spouses during the winter due to illness.

Bradford speaks of Indian diplomacy, and how members of the Pilgrims went abroad to visit Massasoit. Squanto was the guide for two men, who traveled forty miles to Sowams, where Massasoit held a principal seat. Thousands of people had died over the preceding month and there were many bones and skulls still out in the open. The men



reported back to the Pilgrims that the mayor again lived on the opposite side of the day, and none of them had been touched by the plague. Bradford speaks of different aspects of Indian relations including the installation of Hobomok, another guide. Eventually the Pilgrims would perform trade with the Narragansetts.

The first Thanksgiving is recounted, including the various types of foods that were served including turkey, waterfowl, venison, fish, and Indian corn. It had been nearly a year since the worst of the plague struck the Pilgrims. There were still many that fell ill, but the percentage was much smaller and the deaths fewer. Bradford also includes an excerpt of a letter from the Edward Winslow recounting the events of the day.

Bradford includes a letter from Thomas Weston to John Carver, complaining about a weakness of judgment regarding provisions, lading and returning the ship to England. Since Carver has died, Bradford sends a reply, telling Weston of the events. Bradford also objects to Weston's accusations of negligence on behalf of Carver and the other Pilgrims.

The Narragansett Challenge was a move made by the Narragansett tribe that resided on the opposite side of the bay. The Narragansetts sent a bundle of arrows tied together with snakeskin. Squanto told Bradford that it was a threat and a challenge. Bradford sent back a pouch of bullets and indicated that the Pilgrims only wanted peace. The sides were not at war, no harm had been done to the tribe. It was believed that the English would bar the way for the Narragansetts to continue in their trade.

Bradford also includes an account by Edward Winslow later published.

There were few conflicts in the colony. One major conflict was the celebration of Christmas Day. The people were called to work as usual and Bradford became upset when many of the people refused to work because of the holiday since it went against their conscience. Bradford told them that the holiday was not real and did not celebrate the true birth of Christ. Bradford considered the people to be ill-informed and would let them have their holiday until they could learn the truth about Christmas and the secularization of the holiday. Bradford and the rest of the people went off to work. When they returned, Bradford found the celebrants playing games and other activities outside. Bradford sent them indoors, saying that they needed to celebrate in private.

Chapter XIII: Anno 1622; Squanto and Massasoit

Squanto stayed by the Pilgrims' side, acting as teacher and interpreter. Another Indian, Hobomok, joined the ranks and there was jealousy between the two men. There was question about the Pilgrims' trade agreement with the Massachusetts tribe. Would the Pilgrims be betrayed? There was also a false alarm in which a scout claimed that the Massachusetts were on their way to attack.

Squanto became somewhat corrupt, taking advantage of his position as liaison.

The Pilgrims began to run very low on provisions and kept waiting for a ship to arrive with supplies that had been promised by Weston. Eventually, a ship did arrive with



people to help the Pilgrims but they did not bring enough food to feed them, let alone add to the Pilgrims' store. There were also many people on the ship who would not or could not work, adding to the already heavy burden of the colony.

Weston sold off his interests and debts in the colony, which was a huge break for the Pilgrims since it would free them from the ill fated relationship with the unscrupulous Weston. Weston saw fit to give advice. A letter from Edward Pickering was also included, detailing the London Company's involvement and the welcome resignation of Weston. It is surprising to all that Weston had not been prosecuted for his lies and unethical ways but the man always seemed to escape the repercussions of the misdeeds. Weston continued to vex the Pilgrims with letters.

Weston decided to start his own colony and named it the Weston Plantation. The colony would be near the Massachusetts and would conduct trade with the tribe. Weston's people arrived and turned to the Pilgrims for food and guidance. Squanto and Standish helped the colonists with direction and military protection.



The Second Book Chapters XVI-XXII

The Second Book Chapters XVI-XXII Summary and Analysis

XVI: Anno Dom: 1623 - Sad Straits of Weston's Men and the Great Indian Conspiracy

Bradford wonders how the people of Weston's Plantation managed to fall so short of provisions in such a short period of time. The group was not at all capable of rationing their supplies and soon began to run out of food. The colonists has quickly earned the contempt of the Massachusetts and received little to no help there. People began to become weak and die from cold and starvation.

News reached Bradford of Massasoit's illness. It was feared the great chief would die. Bradford and other Pilgrims went to visit, bearing gifts.

Weston's Plantation was doomed to fail from the beginning. Some people fled, some were saved by Standish, and the remainder died.

This was not the end of Weston. The man donned a disguise to go into the region. Weston went to the Plymouth Plantation and preyed upon Bradford's good will, which made almost no sense considering the volatile situation between the two men. Bradford was a savvy politician, however, and felt that the colonists could ill afford to alienate Weston. Bradford recounts Weston's malice in providing provisions and all of the double dealing and outright dishonesty. Weston arranged to take the skins of 100 beavers and to pay the colonists upon his return to England. The Pilgrims were never paid.

Yet another person attempted to betray the Pilgrims. John Peirce, the man who obtained the patents for the Virginia and Plymouth colonies, took out a third patent. The two existing parties had no knowledge of the third patent, which would effectively take over both colonies plus some uninhabited land. The patent was approved but eventually overturned when Peirce's motives were uncovered.

Supplies finally arrived for the Pilgrims on the Anne. Also included were letters regarding passengers and provisions. The suppliers refused to send provisions without payment, which went against the agreement. Again, Weston was involved. Weston had also tried to start more trouble by saying that the suppliers had not sent any letters or any kind of communication to the Pilgrims. It turned out that Weston forbade any communication to reach the Pilgrims, attempting to broaden the rift. There was a new agreement struck with the newcomers.

Robert Gorges took over Weston's ruined plantation.

Weston was finally called on at least four abuses, including ill treatment of the Indians, which of course Weston denied. Weston said that any incidents involving his people and



the Massachusetts took place in his absence, absolving him of any wrongdoing. A second charge regarded Weston's theft of profits from goods sold by Sir Fernando Gorges, Robert Gorges father. It was proven that Weston was directly involved and the charges could not be denied. Eventually, Weston was arrested on the order of Robert Gorges. Weston's people complained, more out of the threat of losing employment than loyalty. The people claimed that the warrant was unjust. Weston would end up going to Virginia and died during the time of war.

Bradford details the wreck of the Little James, a ship built for trade, which occurred on April 10, 1624. The ship arrived with no trade, was ill manned and eventually sunk in a harbor near Damariscove during a violent storm.

Winslow returned to Plymouth Plantation with cattle and letters. The letters contain many complaints including the following:

- Mr. Sherley complains of people being sent back to England.
- There are objects regarding religion, neglect of family duties on the Sabbath, and want of both sacraments.
- Children were not being taught to read plus a lack of catechism.
- Some members of the plantation refused to work.
- The water was unclean.
- The ground was bare - no grass.
- The fish would not take salt, thereby not preserving flavor.
- There was much thievery.
- There were foxes and wolves nearby.
- The people feared that the Dutch might take over trade.
- There were too many mosquitoes.

Many of the complaints were utterly ridiculous, while others were completely untrue or could be explained to the ill-informed.

Bradford writes about corn, harvest, and allotments of land. Corn became precious. Bradford writes: "They began now highly to prize corn as more precious than silver, and those that had some to spare began to trade the one with another for small things, by the quart, pottle and pack, etc.; for money they had none, and if any had, corn was preferred before it" (Chap. 15, pp. 144-145)

The author writes about the rise and fall of the Reverend John Lyford, the first ordained minister to arrive at Plymouth Plantation. Lyford developed a partnership with John



Oldham and then the men became perverse, drawing people into a state of malignancy through false accusations and lies about the colony. Bradford seized letters written by the men, which were intended to be sent back to England. There were charges brought against the men, who were tried and convicted.

Soon after the events with Lyford and Oldham, many adventurers left the colony. The deserters attempted to take away trade from the colonists. Many of these adventurers also objected to activities in the colony, claiming that the patent gave both groups power, and they wished to have the French discipline practiced in the Plymouth Plantation, a form of worship and government objectionable to the Pilgrims. Much of the argument was omitted by Bradford, who stated that many instances were previously touched upon and were omitted for brevity's sake.

Bradford also discusses trade and the relationship with James Sherley and others.

Chapter XVII: Anno Dom 1626; death of the Reverend John Robinson and Robert Cushman

Captain Standish arrived in America and was fetched home to the plantation. Although Standish was a welcome sight, the man brought sad news, including the losses suffered by friends and the deaths of others by plague and other illnesses. Perhaps most disturbing news was the death of John Robinson. Bradford includes a letter written to him and Brewster from Roger White, who also relayed the news of the death of King James.

Bradford also writes about the death of Robert Cushman, who had spent many years in business with the adventurers. There were also many letters included from friends in Leyden.

The fishing season was over, so the colonists put their focus on planting and trading, attempting to work within the industry as best they could.

Chapter XVIII: Anno Dom 1627; New Deal with the Adventurers and within the Colony

Allerton returned to the colony bringing useful goods, which had been ordered. The delivery netted Allerton thirty percent in profits. There is an agreement included between Allerton and the Pilgrims.

Bradford refers to the wreck of the Sparrowhawk, which may have been caused by the fact that the master of the ship was ill with scurvy. Bradford had previously discussed the state of the Sparrowhawk but was inclined to include more details.

Chapter XIX: Anno Dom. Correspondence about the Undertakers

In order to settle the debts and represent the colony, several men became known as the Undertakers, which basically meant that they were going to oversee the debt for the plantation and ensure that it was paid to creditors. Those men included James Sherley, Isaac Allerton, and John Beauchamp.



Bradford details the ongoing trade and visit by the Dutch.

Bradford reverts back to three or four years previous when Captain Wollaston arrived to begin a colony, which would eventually be named Mount Wollaston. The colony was in Massachusetts. Among the people in the new colony was Thomas Morton, who would eventually operate the School of Atheism. As Morton was not subjected to the laws and morals of God, there was no morality or action that was off-limits. Bradford writes: "And here I may take occasion to bewail the mischief that this wicked man began in these parts, and which since, base covetousness prevailing in men that should know better, has now at length got the upper hand and made this thing common, notwithstanding any laws to the contrary." (Chap. 19, p. 207)

Chapter XX: Anno Dom 1629; Arrivals from Leyden and Heavy Expenses

Allerton arrived in England and made good appointments with many people there and was able to engage in a trade partnership. There were arrangements to send people from Leyden to Plymouth Plantation. Bradford includes several letters from friends, which are used to clearly express the mindset of the would-be Adventurers.

The Strange Proceedings of Mr. Allerton are also included, regarding an expansion and confirmation of a patent. Allerton brought people over from Europe, housed them and used them as employees. It was believed that Allerton may have murdered a man that had done business with him in New England upon his arrival. The Lord Chief Justice sent a warrant to have Allerton arrested, but he got away. Bradford states that he had almost forgotten this incident due to the constant attention that was being paid to Morton and the sale of arms to the Indians.

At the beginning of the year, Mr. Ralph Smith was brought to Plymouth Plantation. The Smith family had arrived and landed in the Bay of Massachusetts, where they stayed in Nantasket. It was learned that Smith had been a pastor, and although the plantation was not currently looking for one, Smith was brought on board. Smith had spent time in Salem, but eventually left the area and the Salem church because of his role as a Separatist.

Chapter XXI: Anno Dom. 1630; Allerton's New Venture

Mr. Peirce arrived at the Bay of Massachusetts and the Pilgrims sent a shallop to get him in hopes that he would have necessary provisions on board. When the boat arrived to fetch Peirce, the Pilgrims learned that there were no provisions to be had.

There was controversy about the ownership in which Allerton was involved of the ship known as The White Angel. By this time, Allerton was no longer working as assistant to Governor Bradford. Allerton's relationship with Mr. Hatherly is also detailed.

Bradford also speaks of other lawbreakers and the consequences.



The Second Book Chapters XXIII-XXVII

The Second Book Chapters XXIII-XXVII Summary and Analysis

Chapter XXIII: Anno Dom 1632; More Allerton Doings

Allerton continued to deceive the Pilgrims and former friends. Allerton had been paid £1000 to perform certain acts once he reached England. Allerton gladly took the money and never performed any of the required tasks. Allerton was supposed to take a ship to London and pay £30 per month for her hire. Instead, Allerton went to Bristol with the ship. Allerton was a clever and unscrupulous man at this point and ended up selling things that did not belong to him. The Pilgrims could do little about it.

Plymouth Plantation began to grow far enough outward that people found the need to develop their own congregations. It was also necessary for people to find more land to raise cattle and grow crops. The population explosion in the area of the Bay of Massachusetts also led to an excess in cattle and corn, which changed the market structure. The thing that most concerned Bradford was the separation and creation of new churches. The Governor believed that it could well prompt the separation of the church from its true purposes, call about the anger of God and become the ruin of New England.

Chapter XXIV: Anno Dom. 1633; More on Allerton

In 1633, Edward Winslow was elected governor. James Sherley sent letters regarding the continued doings of Allerton and that there was little to no hope the accounts might be rectified and that the burden of debt would be placed squarely upon the shoulders of the Pilgrims once again. Bradford also discusses Roger Williams and the controversy between the man and the church. Williams was the founder of Rhode Island and had been a pastor in Salem before getting into trouble and traveling to Plymouth.

The author writes about the Dutch trading post on the Connecticut River and the conflict between the Pequots and the Mohicans regarding trade. Bradford states that there will be further mention of this topic.

Bradford speaks of pestilence and locusts and how nearly twenty people died from the plague. It is noted that the locusts had nothing to do with the illness and deaths, which were actually caused by smallpox.

Chapter XXV: Anno Dom 1634

In 1634, Thomas Prentice was elected governor. Bradford writes that many of the events that took place during this time, including the activities of Isaac Allerton that were already written about in letters from James Sherley.



Two of the saddest incidents that took place according to Bradford were the murders on the Kennebec and Connecticut Rivers. Bradford gives background on the patent of Kennebec, part of which was granted, given or sold to Bradford and his heirs. The basis of the conflict was that men were intent on trading on the river, on the part which belonged to the Plantation of Piscataqua. There was great conflict, and although the chief of the plantation attempted to handle the situation diplomatically, it went awry and ended in at least two murders.

The murders caused a dispute between the two regions and the matter was eventually settled by governors Prence and Dudley.

Captain John Stone arrived in Virginia from the West Indies. Stone had gotten the Dutch governor drunk and somehow managed to take a ship that had £500 worth of provisions on board. The people felt it was unfair considering the condition of the governor and pursued Stone to retrieve the ill-gotten goods.

Bradford refers to "some strange and remarkable passages." (Chapter XXV page 270)

There was a group of people living above the Connecticut River, who were enemies to the Indians. The group lived inside a fort. The Dutch went to the fort at the beginning of winter in order to secure trade, preventing the English from taking away the business. There was a great sickness among the Indians and out of 1000 almost 950 died. The Indians feared smallpox more than any other plague. Bradford discusses the agony and conditions of the people caused by the smallpox.

Chapter XXVI: Anno Dom 1635; Winslow Talks Back to the Archbishop

Winslow continued to be welcomed in England. It was arranged that all of the accounts should be rectified before Winslow returned and therefore all differences between the two groups would be settled, including those involving the White Angel.

Meanwhile, there were conflicts between neighbors in the Bay. Bradford alludes to wrongdoing up by the French and other strangers.

Included is a petition written by Edward Winslow regarding the division of land between the Dutch and French. The petition was brought to the attention of the Archbishop of Canterbury through Captain Mason and Sir Ferdinando Gorges. There were many conflicts between the Archbishop and the Board, which also involved Morton. The bishop began to question Winslow about his work in the church without being qualified. Bradford summarizes how the Archbishop eventually got the board to consent to making a commitment.

Once again, the colony had another loss due to the French. Monsieur D'Aunay arrived at the harbor of Penobscot and managed to overtake the house on behalf of the King of France. It is not the first time that the French had stolen from the colonists, and efforts were made to prosecute and recover that which was taken.



A great hurricane struck in the middle of August. Unlike many hurricanes, it did not come by degrees, but rather appeared suddenly, blowing down houses, and sinking vessels on the sea. Bradford refers to the hurricane, writing, "It blew down many hundred thousands of trees, turning up the stronger by the roots and breaking the higher pine trees off and the middle. And the tall young oaks and walnut trees of good bigness were wound like a withe, very strange and fearful to behold" (Chap. 26, pp. 279-280).

A letter is included, written by Jonathan Brewster regarding the settlement on the Connecticut River and the differences regarding the people living at the Bay and the members of the Dorchester Plantation.

On another trip to England, Winslow attempted to procure another minister for the plantation. The minister chosen by Winslow died before the voyage. Winslow found another minister who agreed to go to America but would not commit to Plymouth Plantation. After a year, this minister decided to live in Ipswich and run the church there.

Chapter XXVII: Anno Dom 1636; Differences with the English Partners about Beaver

Edward Winslow was elected governor.

There was a disagreement between the Pilgrims and English partners regarding beaver. It was decided that no more beaver would be sent until there was another agreement decided upon. Eventually, Winslow sent beaver with a promise of accounts the following year. Winslow sent 1,150 pounds of beaver, 200 otter skins, and small furs including 55 minks and 2 black fox skins.

Bradford writes about various ships that came to trade at the Dutch fort. There are also inclusions of figures regarding the trade between the groups, and how the accounts might be settled.

In 1634, the Pequots, having had many wars with their neighbors, began a feud with the Narragansetts. The Pequot knew about the death of Captain Stone and decided to befriend the English by sending gifts. Bradford touches on the activities of the Pequot and the eventual mediation with the Narragansetts.

It was also in this year that Mr. Smith resigned his duty as minister, in part because it was a heavy burden and in part because the church requested it. Smith was replaced by John Rayner.

The Second Book Chapters XXVIII-XXXVI

The Second Book Chapters XXVIII-XXXVI Summary and Analysis

Chapter XXVIII: Anno Dom 1637; The Pequot War

In the early part of the year, the Pequot fell upon the English in Connecticut, and at the lower part of the river killed many of the English while they were working in the fields. The Pequot also attacked a fort, and although they did not win, the English were amazed by the bold attempt.

The Pequots also attempted to make amends with the Narragansetts. After careful consideration, the Narragansetts were reminded of the wrong done to them by Pequot and joined the English against the other tribe.

Bradford details the conflict between the tribes and English and how the Pequots were driven from the area.

There was a conflict regarding Sherley and the accounts in England. The resolution was that Sherley would be discharged and would not represent any more accounts on behalf the adventurers.

Chapter XXIX: Anno Dom 1638; Englishman Executed for Murdering an Indian

Thomas Prence was elected governor.

In 1638, three men were executed for robbery and murder. Bradford details the case, which involved Thomas Jackson, Arthur Peach, and Richard Stinnings. There was another man involved in the case, Daniel Cross, which managed to escape.

Peach was the ringleader of the group. Peach had convinced the other three men to escape with him in the night. Peach had failed to uphold his duties, was in debt, and also got a maid pregnant. The four men escaped and came across a Narragansett who had been trading and was returning home with money and goods. Peach pretended to befriend the Narragansett. The men killed him and took the three coats of cloth and five fathom of wampum.

There continued to be disagreements between England and the colony regarding the acquisition and payment of beef, beaver and corn.

Bradford writes about a great earthquake that came from the north.

Chapter XXX: Anno Dom 1639, Anno Dom 1640; Border Dispute with the Bay Colony



Bradford joined 1639 and 1640 into one entry, as not much happened during that time. The author recounts the allotment of land, the expansion of the plantation, and the decision of the court to elect commissioners from each side to work out the border between the plantation and the Bay colony. Also included in the section is a map of the Plymouth Plantation and its adjacent settlements.

The question of accounts and business with Sherley continued. Eventually the two sides put the matter to rest.

Chapter XXXI: Anno Dom 1641; Agreement with the English Partners

Sherley was anxious to come up on some final agreement in order to settle the controversy. Sherley wrote to John Atwood and William Collier, who would be able to advise him on the matter. There was finally an agreement made, although Bradford states that the valuation was not fully realized when the property was put up for sale.

The author details the trial of Charles Chauncy, who was pastor of the Plantation church. There was controversy surrounding the exact procedure to be used in baptism. Chauncy was convinced that only immersion was the proper way to baptize while others disagreed, particularly due to the cold weather. Chauncy was prepared to leave the colony when he was elected as the president of Harvard.

Chapter XXXII: Anno Dom 1642; Wickedness Breaks Forth

Bradford is appalled at the amount of immoral acts going on in the colony despite severe punishment. Noted are drunkenness, uncleanness, and sexual relations between unmarried people plus adultery.

Bradford writes: "I say it may justly be marveled at and cause us to fear and tremble at the consideration of our corrupt natures, which are so hard the bridled, subdued and mortified; nay, cannot by any other means, but the powerful work and grace of God's Spirit" (Chap. 32, p. 316)

Chapter XXXIII: Anno Dom 1643; The Life and Death of Elder Brewster

Bradford details the death of Reverend Elder William Brewster on April 18, 1643. Bradford and the people of the colony underwent great mourning.

Also included in this chapter are the deaths of some of the other old comers.

Chapter XXXIV: Anno Dom 1644; Proposal to Remove the Nauset

Edward Winslow was elected governor.

Bradford details the difficulty in keeping the original colony members and congregation together as newcomers began to create new churches and townships. As a result, some decided to move to Nauset.

Chapter XXXV: Anno Dom 1645; War with the Narragansetts Averted

A meeting was held on July 28, 1645 in Boston to discuss broken agreements with the Indians and differences between the French and the Massachusetts government. After much back and forth, the sides were able to come to an agreement which is outlined by Bradford.

Chapter XXX VI: Anno Dom 1646; a Noted Pirate in Plymouth

In May, Captain Thomas Cromwell arrived with three ships. Cromwell was known to have taken goods from the Spaniards located in the West Indies, and also had a commission given by the Earl of Warwick. Many of the pirates became drunk and disorderly, many being arrested. The group stayed in the colony for about six weeks before moving ahead to Massachusetts.

The chapter ends with the final departure of Edward Winslow. Winslow went to England to serve as an agent to the government of Massachusetts. Winslow was detained in England for nearly four years during which time he took other employment, and never returned to New England.



Characters

William Bradford

William Bradford (1590 - 1657) was a leader of the Separatist movement, one of the founders of the Mayflower Compact, and author of *Of Plymouth Plantation*. Bradford was also elected governor of the colony at least thirty times, serving a total of thirty-three years after the death of his predecessor, John Carver.

Bradford was the son of William Bradford and Alice Hanson. The elder Bradford died when William was a year old. The boy was sent to live with uncles and a grandfather who taught him to be a farmer. At age twelve, Bradford became a vigilant student of the Bible, a practice that would carry him throughout his life. Bradford joined the Puritans, where he met Elder William Brewster.

When Bradford received an inheritance, he used part of the money to buy a house in Leyden and to establish a mercantile. Bradford continued his studies of the Bible, general literature, and various languages including Latin, Hebrew, and Dutch.

Bradford was one of the first to sail aboard the Mayflower to explore Cape Cod. Later, Bradford and his wife, Dorothy, would travel to America. Dorothy died en route. Three years later, Bradford married Alice Southworth.

Bradford never again left New England. The governor was awarded the Warwick Patent but instead of proclaiming himself a lord, Bradford turned the patent over to the Freemen, made up of many "Old Comers."

One of Bradford's biggest contributions to history is his journal of the life and times of the new settlement, *Of Plymouth Plantation: 1620-1647*. The book has often been touted as one of the most influential and historically accurate tomes of American history.

John Carver

John Carver (1576-1621) was by far one of the most influential people in leading the Puritans to America. Carver was a deacon in Reverend John Robinson's church in England, a major force behind the Separatist movement. The movement, which began in England, was well supported by many English merchants, including Carver. Carver was a wealthy merchant from London, who would eventually leave his business and his home to go with the Separatists to the Netherlands to avoid persecution under James I.

Carver became a highly important member of the Separatist movement. In addition to separating himself from the Church of England, Carver did everything in his power to campaign for religious freedom. At the time, anyone that did not follow the ways of the Church of England or the Roman Catholic Church was targeted by the government. The



non-conformists were subject to physical punishment, incarceration, torture, and even death.

Carver became the main liaison between the Puritans and the established government in America. Carver made many trips from England and the Netherlands to America to secure the rights to immigrate. Additionally, Carver was the person who would arrange for financial and political support so that the Mayflower could sail to the New World.

Carver was elected as the first governor of the Plymouth Colony. Carver died during the term and was succeeded by William Bradford.

Reverend John Robinson

Reverend John Robinson (1575-1625) was a highly influential pastor and a driving force behind the Congregational Church. Robinson advocated for the right to practice "pure" religion, which led to the term "Puritans." The group was often referred to as "Separatists." Robinson stayed behind during the sailing of the Mayflower to help women, children and the infirm. Robinson was often referred to as the "Apostle of Leyden," where he died in 1625.

Elder William Brewster

Elder William Brewster was a highly revered member of the church and one of the leaders of the movement to escape to the new world to avoid religious persecution.

Thomas Weston

Thomas Weston was a middleman hired to secure transportation and provisions for the Puritans to travel to America. Weston was not a scrupulous man and on several occasions did wrong by his employers.

Governor John Winthrop

Governor John Winthrop was one of the people who led the Puritans to America in 1630. Winthrop served as the governor of the Massachusetts Colony. Winthrop was known for being opposed to unlimited democracy.

Reverend John Rayner

Reverend John Rayner was the leader of the other Puritan church in England. Rayner served at Plymouth Colony as a minister from 1636-1654.



Reverend John Lyford

Reverend John Lyford was among the first to arrive in Plymouth and was also the first ordained minister. Lyford pretended to support the Separatists but eventually turned on them in favor of the King of England. Lyford was eventually banished from the colony.

Isaac Allerton

Isaac Allerton was the deputy governor under William Bradford and the husband to Fear Brewster, William Brewster's daughter. Allerton abused his position as one of the "Undertakers" for Plymouth, devising many schemes and business ventures using the Colony's credit. When those ventures failed, Allerton was proclaimed persona non grata by the leaders of the Colony.

Robert Cushman

Robert Cushman was one of the men set to negotiate with the London Company for transport and provisions to sail to America.

Massasoit

Massasoit was the great Sachem of the Wampanoag and maintained a seat at Sowams in Rhode Island. Massasoit made a treaty with the Pilgrims with each side, promising to refrain from injuring the others and from theft.

Squanto

Squanto was Samoset's right hand and a translator for Massasoit in his dealings with the Pilgrims. The author states that Squanto may have been the sole survivor of the Patuxet tribe.

Samoset

Samoset was the first Indian chief to meet with the pilgrims. The author states that Samoset was an Algonkian Sagamore from Maine, where he spent time with the English fishermen and learned the language.

Objects/Places

Plymouth Plantation

Plymouth Plantation was the settlement made by the Puritans in America. The Puritans did not land on Plymouth Rock as it is often written, but rather ventured to Plymouth after being discouraged away from the Hudson. The location was chosen to be convenient for trade and yet far enough away from the Virginia Colony to be able to establish its own government.

Among those that settled the Plymouth Plantation were William Bradford, John Carver, and William Brewster. Myles Standish was not a supporter at first, but was hired to provide military protection. Standish soon became a staunch supporter.

Bradford details a great deal about the Plantation, its borders, terrain, weather and value in regards to fishing, trade, and agriculture.

The beginning of Plymouth Plantation was extremely difficult. Bradford calls the period "The Starting Time" during which half of the company died within a period of two in three months, with the most expiring in the dead of winter. Many had been infected with scurvy and various other diseases, which the long journey and inadequate accommodations brought upon them. There were six or seven men who took it upon themselves to try to fulfill every need of colony from fetching wood to washing clothes and feeding the weak and infirm. Two of the men included in this group were Elder William Brewster and Captain Myles Standish.

Bradford speaks of Indian relations. One of the most important treaties mentioned was the agreement struck between the Pilgrims and Massasoit, in which the two sides agreed to the following:

5. No one should hurt any of their people;
6. If someone did cause harm, that person would be turned over for punishment;
7. If anything was stolen it would be restored;
8. If anyone declared unjust war upon the other both groups would fight together.

Squanto stayed behind to teach the Pilgrims how to fish, sow corn, and buy provisions. Squanto never left the Pilgrims until the day he died. It is often surmised that without Squanto, the Pilgrims may not have survived.

The first planting had taken place. Squanto was on hand to teach the Pilgrims how to sow, set, and dress corn. Some English seed was used for planting wheat and pease, but the plants did not grow.



After the death of John Carver, Bradford was chosen as governor.

Religious Freedom

The men and women who objected to the inclusion of men's inventions into the church were quickly known as the Puritans. The Puritans took issue with many ideals and philosophies held by the church that clearly went against the Bible and Christianity. When the people splintered from the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church in order to return to the true ways of the faith, the religious community vehemently objected. The Puritans were threatened and eventually persecuted, despite the tolerance of Queen Elizabeth I.

After James I ascended to the throne, the persecution of the Puritans and their congregational church worsened. People were stripped of their worldly goods, arrested, tortured, imprisoned or killed. The Puritans finally decided that they would flee to Holland where it was known that the church could continue without the restrictions imposed by the crown. However, James had all feasible ports of entry blocked so that the Puritans had to pay a high price to be smuggled out of the country.

The Puritans practiced their religion in Amsterdam, and then Leyden, with little intervention. Although there were opponents to the church, the Puritans made a good name for themselves. The Puritans decided to leave Holland for fear that the Spaniards would take over and they would once again be persecuted. Traveling to America would ensure that the Puritans could have true religious freedom and worship as God would have it.

The Mayflower

The Mayflower was the ship used by the Adventurers first to explore Cape Cod and then to bring the Pilgrims to America.

Virginia Colony

Virginia Colony was the first colony established in America. It would remain separate from Plymouth Plantation.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts was home to the Plymouth colony, named after the native American tribe that resided there.



Holland

Holland was the country that the Puritans chose to immigrate to in order to avoid religious persecution.

Cape Cod

Cape Cod was the landing place of the Pilgrims.

Amsterdam

Amsterdam was the first city the Puritans relocated to after leaving England.

Leyden, Netherlands

Leyden, Netherlands was the final stopping place for the Puritans after leaving Amsterdam and before leaving for America.

Robert Gorges Colony

Robert Gorges colony took over the land abandoned by the ruined Weston Plantation.

England

England was the native country to the Pilgrims.

London Company

London Company was the company that had made agreements with the Pilgrims regarding provisions and transport.



Themes

Religion

The men and women who objected to the inclusion of men's inventions into the church were quickly known as the Puritans. The Puritans took issue with many ideals and philosophies held by the church that clearly went against the Bible and Christianity. When the people splintered from the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church in order to return to the true ways of the faith, the religious community vehemently objected. The Puritans were threatened and eventually persecuted, despite the tolerance of Queen Elizabeth I.

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Hardship

The Separatists suffered great hardship long before they came to America.

Chapter I begins with the exodus of men who had become known as professors and wanted to be able to get away from "the persecutions of the heathen and their emperors." Bradford quotes Socrates regarding the treatment of those who would not obey the principles of the established church, saying that the treatment of one Christian to another was equal to, if not worse than, the treatment thrust upon Christians in the early days.

After the Separatists came to America, they were faced with more hardship in regards to weather, provisions, infighting, and illness.

Bradford goes on to call the period following the compact as "The Starting Time", during which half of the company died within a period of two in three months, with the most expiring in the dead of winter. Many had been infected with scurvy and various other diseases, which the long journey and inadequate accommodations brought upon them. There were six or seven men who took it upon themselves to try to fulfill every need of



the colony from fetching wood to washing clothes and feeding the weak and infirm. Two of the men included in this group were Elder William Brewster and Captain Myles Standish.

Even as the colony began to flourish, there would continue to be hardship due to weather and the corruption of those employed to help the Pilgrims in their relations with England, Leyden, and neighboring peoples.

Corruption

There was an astounding amount of corruption outlined in *Of Plymouth Plantation*. It began with the corruption in the church and continued on with the high prices charged by those who would help the Separatists escape England.

One of the most corrupt people by far was Thomas Weston. Weston took money from the Pilgrims and cheated them at virtually every turn. Weston was completely unscrupulous and dishonest in his dealings with everyone. Even after the Pilgrims realized the extent of Weston's corrupt nature, they were often forced to uphold the agreement which tied them to Weston.

There were also events surrounding Robert Cushman that cast his morality in a bad light.

Isaac Allerton, Bradford's assistant governor, also became quite corrupt and often took goods and profits for his own gain, cheating the Pilgrims as well as their creditors. This may have been the most shocking since Allerton had been so devoted to Bradford and the colony. Allerton was also married to William Brewster's daughter, which seemed to have no impact upon the man's wrongdoing.

Style

Perspective

William Bradford (1590 - 1657) was a leader of the Separatist movement, one of the founders of the Mayflower Compact, and author of *Of Plymouth Plantation*. Bradford's intimate involvement in the arrangement of the voyage to America and the design and operation of the Plymouth Plantation give him the ultimate perspective to record the activities that took place during 1620-1647.

Bradford was also elected governor of the colony at least thirty times, serving a total of thirty-three years after the death of his predecessor, John Carver.

Bradford was the son of William Bradford and Alice Hanson. The elder Bradford died when William was a year old. The boy was sent to live with uncles and a grandfather who taught him to be a farmer. At age twelve, Bradford became a vigilant student of the Bible, a practice that would carry him throughout his life. Bradford joined the Puritans, where he met Elder William Brewster.

Bradford was one of the first to sail aboard the Mayflower to explore Cape Cod. Later, Bradford and his wife, Dorothy, would travel to America. Dorothy died en route. Three years later, Bradford married Alice Southworth.

Bradford never again left New England. The governor was awarded the Warwick Patent but instead of proclaiming himself a lord, Bradford turned the patent over to the Freemen, made up of many "Old Comers."

One of Bradford's biggest contributions to history is his journal of the life and times of the new settlement, *Of Plymouth Plantation: 1620-1647*. The book has often been touted as one of the most influential and historically accurate tomes of American history.

Tone

The tone used in *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647* by William Bradford is almost completely objective. Bradford chose to write the history of the Plantation in third person omniscient rather than in first person. While the use of this point of view may take away the majority of Bradford's opinions on the events that led up to the settlement and how the Plantation was developed and maintained, it allows the author to relay the events as pure fact, untainted by his own perspective.

The book was edited by Samuel Eliot Morison, who also added copious footnotes to the text. Morison also remained largely objective and added a great deal of pertinent information and resources for the reader.



In the few parts where Bradford did allow his own views and opinions to come through, the reader is able to see Bradford's complete devotion to the Plantation and to God. It is made clear that Bradford was truly a pious man who had the best interest of the Plantation in mind. The group of original Adventurers, including Bradford, John Carver, and William Brewster, worked hard to realize a vision which might have been abandoned by those who were less devout.

Structure

Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647 by William Bradford is a work of non-fiction. The book, often recognized as one of the most accurate and valuable historical references in American history, details the arrival and settlement of the Puritans at Plymouth Plantation in 1620 and the subsequent years and hardships.

The book is comprised of 448 pages, broken down into two books containing a total of twenty-six chapters and appendices. Three hundred forty-seven pages are devoted to the text; the remaining 101 pages are devoted to various appendices.

Book 1 contains ten chapters, detailing events from 1607-1620. Book 2 contains sixteen chapters, detailing events from 1620-1647. The shortest chapter is two pages in length; the longest chapter is twenty-four pages in length. The average length of the chapters is thirteen pages.

The Appendices include: Bradford's "Late Observation Worthy to be Noted;" Correspondence with the Virginia Company; Correspondence between Leyden and London Agents; Rev. John Robinson's Farewell Letters to John Carver; Letters from London and Leyden; Correspondence with the Dutch at Manhattan; Letters of Shirley and Hatherly; Governor Winthrop's Letters on the Pequot War; Terminating the Undertaker's Agreement with Their London Partners; Opinions of Three Ministers on Unnatural Vice; Conclusion of Business with London Partners; Official Documents; and Passengers in the Mayflower.

Also included are an Index and Listing of Familiar Quotations. Bradford also included four maps drawn by Erwin Raisz, including Part of Cape Cod; Plymouth Bay; New England; and the Colony of New Plymouth.



Quotes

"The one side laboured to have the right worship of God and discipline of Christ established in the church, according to the simplicity of the gospel, without the mixture of man's inventions; and to have and to be ruled by the laws of God's Word, dispensed in those offices, and by those officers of Pastors, Teachers and Elders, etc. according to the Scriptures." Chap. 1, p. 6

"Being now come into the Low Countries, they saw many goodly and fortified cities, strongly walled and guarded with troops of armed men." Chap. 3, p. 16

"The place they had thoughts on was some of those vast and unpeopled countries of America, which are full of savage and brutish men, which range up and down, little otherwise than wild beasts of same." Chap 4, p. 25

"And first after their humble prayers unto God for His direction and assistance, and a general conference held hereabout, they consulted what particular place to pitch upon and prepare for." Chap. 5, p. 28

"But at length the conclusion was to live as a distinct body by themselves under the General Government of Virginia; and by their friends to sue His Majesty that he would be pleased to grant them freedom of religion." Chap. 5, p. 29

"About this time, whilst they were perplexed with the proceedings of Virginia Company and the ill news from thence about Mr. Blackwell and his company, making inquiry about hiring and buying of shipping for their voyage, some Dutchmen made them fair offers about going with them." Chap. 6, p. 37

"These troubles being blown over, and now all being compact together in one ship, they put to sea again with a prosperous wind, which continued divers days together, which was some encouragement unto them; yet, according to the usual manner, many were afflicted with seasickness." Chap. 8, p. 58

"But that which was most sad and lamentable was, that in two or three months time half of their company died, especially in January and February, being the depths of winter, and wanting houses and other comforts; being infected with the scurvy and other diseases, which this long voyage and their inaccommodate condition had brought upon them." Chap. 11, p. 77

"Now in a manner their provisions were wholly spent, and they looked hard for supply but none came." Chap. 13, p. 99



"They had lost themselves at sea, either by the insufficiency of the master, or his illness, for he was sick and lame of the scurvy, so that he could but lie in the cabin door and give direction, and it should seem was badly assisted either with mate or mariners." Chap. 18, p. 189

"This year the Dutch sent again unto them from their Plantation both kind letters, and also diverse commodities, as sugar, linen cloth, holland, finer and coarser stuffs, etc." Chap. 19, p. 202

"They looked earnestly for a timely supply this spring, by the fishing ship which they expected, and had been at charged to keep a stage for her; but none came nor any supply heard of for them." Chap. 21, p. 226

"When they came up the river, the Dutch demanded what they intended and whether they would go." Chap. 24, p. 259

"I say it may justly be marveled at and cause us to fear and tremble at the consideration of our corrupt natures, which are so hardly bridled, subdued and mortified; nay, cannot by any other means, but the powerful work and grace of God's Spirit." Chap. 32, p. 316

"Thus this mischief was presented and the fear of war hereby diverted." Chap. 34, p. 337

Topics for Discussion

Why do you think Bradford chose to write the history of Plymouth Plantation in third person rather than in a first person account?

Explain the role of Robert Cushman in the settlement of the Plymouth Plantation. Overall, was Cushman's involvement a help or hindrance?

Why did the members of the church leave England and move to Holland? What caused the rift between the group and the King?

What do you think might have happened if the Puritans had waited it out in Holland instead of sailing to America?

Explain the role of Thomas Weston in the settlement. Why did Carver, Bradford and others continue to deal with Weston? What do you think should have been done?

What do you think caused Allerton to betray Bradford and the other Pilgrims?

What effect did William Brewster have on the Plantation? Were his contributions more ecumenical or political?