

**COLONIAL FOLKWAYS: A  
CHRONICLE OF  
AMERICAN LIFE IN THE  
REIGN OF THE GEORGES**

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Colonial Folkways: A Chronicle of American Life in the Reign of the Georges by Charles M. Andrews

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**CHARLES M. ANDREWS**

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**THE FIRST NEW ENGLAND THANKSGIVING, 1621**

From the painting by Ferris. In the Ferris Collection of American Historical Paintings

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BY CHARLES M. ANDREWS



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## ILLUSTRATION

### THE FIRST NEW ENGLAND THANKS- GIVING, 1621

From the painting by Ferris. In the  
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# COLONIAL FOLKWAYS

## CHAPTER I

### THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

THE restless and courageous Englishmen who fared across the sea in the seventeenth century, facing danger and death in their search for free homes in the wilderness, little dreamed that out of their adventure and toil there would rise in time a great republic and a new order of human society. There was nothing to indicate that the settlements along the seaboard, occupying the narrow strip of land between the ocean and the mountain ranges, would eventually grow into a mighty union of states that would be called "the melting-pot of the world." The elements of that great amalgam of peoples, it is true, began to be gathered before the close of the colonial era; but the process of fusion made little progress during the years of dependence under the

British Crown. The settlements of the seventeenth century were widely scattered, separated by dense forests and broad rivers; and the colonists were busy with their task of overcoming the obstacles that confronted them in a primeval land. Even by the beginning of the eighteenth century there was little intercolonial communication to make the colonies acquainted with one another; and the thousands of immigrants, arriving yearly from the Old World and adding new varieties to the race types already present, rendered assimilation more difficult.

The entire colonial period was marked by shifting and unsettled conditions. The older colonies — Virginia, New England, Maryland, and New York — were undergoing changes in ideas and institutions. The Jerseys and the Carolinas were long under the control of absent and inefficient proprietors before they finally passed under the rule of the Crown. Pennsylvania, the last to be founded except Georgia, and the seat of a religious experiment in a City of Brotherly Love, was wrestling with the difficult task of combining high ideals with the ordinary frailties of human nature. In all these colonies the details of political organization and the available means of making a living were