

**PILGRIM ALDEN; THE STORY OF THE LIFE
OF THE FIRST JOHN ALDEN IN AMERICA
WITH THE
INTERWOVEN STORY OF THE LIFE AND
DOINGS OF THE PILGRIM COLONY AND
SOME ACCOUNT OF LATER ALDENS**

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Pilgrim Alden; the story of the life of the first John Alden in America with the interwoven story of the life and doings of the Pilgrim colony and some account of later Aldens by Augustus E. Alden

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AUGUSTUS E. ALDEN

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ACCOUNT OF LATER ALDENS*



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
AUGUSTUS F. ALDEN

ILLUSTRATED

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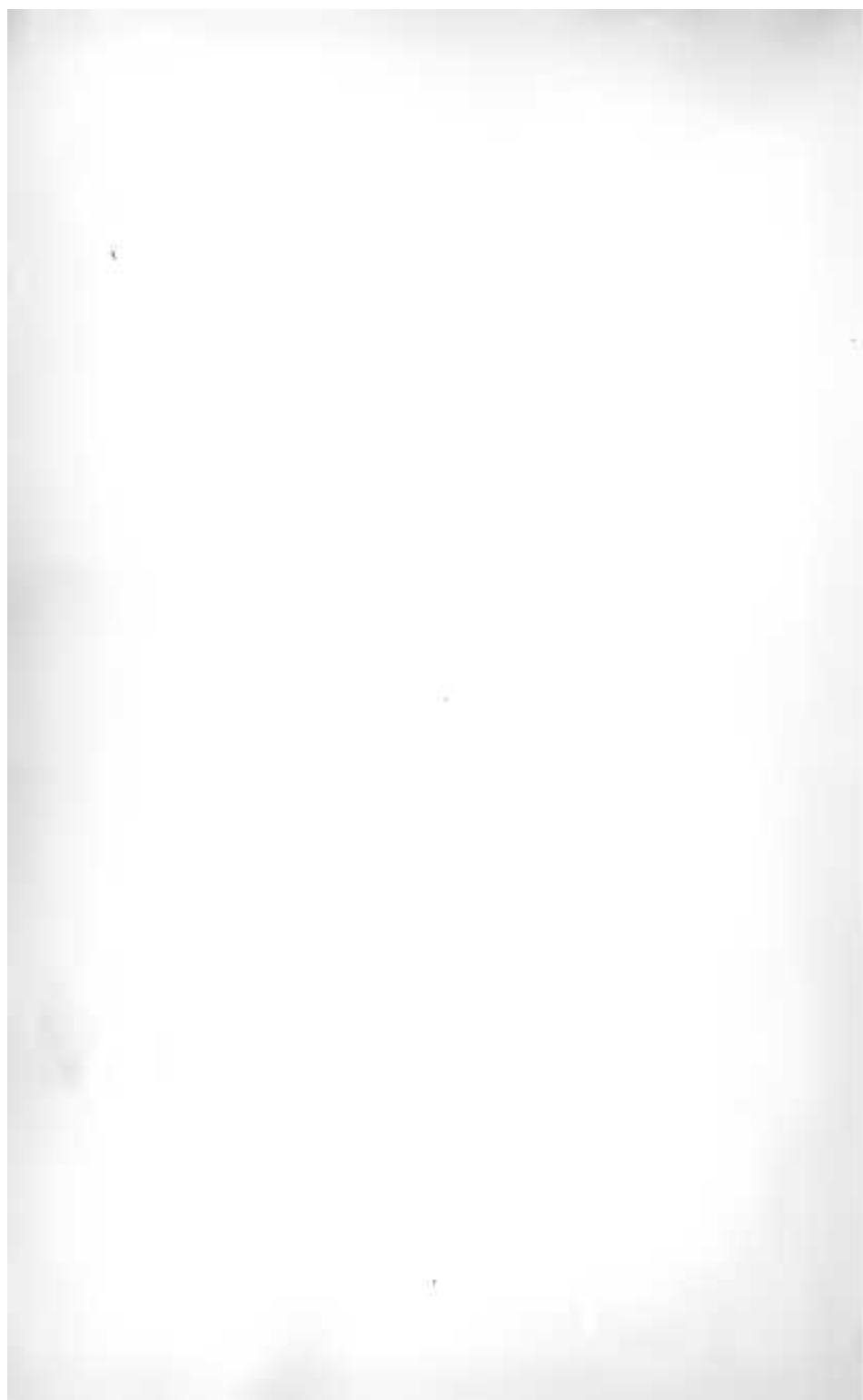
The PILGRIM CHURCH.

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PREFACE.

There is sometimes a tendency on the part of persons who mistake plebeianism for democracy to deride, as savoring of snobbery, all interest in ancestry and family tradition. It requires little reflection to show the shortsightedness of such an attitude. Among the moral forces which go to make civilized man civilized and not savage, there are few more potent than those which have their source in family ties and traditions. We have only to look back upon Mediaeval Europe to see by how narrow a margin the peoples of those days were saved from degenerate barbarism; and that saving margin lay in the restraints imposed by knightly chivalry and knightly devoir—in an ethic code of caste and station which served to make men noble. And even in our own prosaic day, the day of commonplace comfort, as it has been called, there are instances not a few where the child of an ancient house has been saved from erring by the strength of the hearth-ties, where the failing and the faltering have been reinspired by the resonance of old traditions, where the life of the son's son has been rendered noble by the nobility of the sire. Each of us issues from the complex interweaving of the lives of our fathers and mothers, farther back than reaches the memory of man.

Hidden away in the mind's dim attics are bits of the ancient furnishings and trappings which were the decking of their days. Yet the old furniture is often still substantial, and an ancient mirror, polished anew, is sometimes brought forth, at the unexpected moment, in the unexpected way, revealing us as strangers to ourselves. Perhaps we may never know ourselves, quite as we are, save we polish and brighten the ancient mirrors.

Good old Ebenezer Alden in his "Memorial of the Descendants of the Honorable John Alden," starts out, in the approved mode of the learned treatise, with a definition: "Genealogy is family history; to some a chaos of dry facts; *very dry*; to others, facts revealing principles, laws, methods of the divine government." And then he adds, as if to soften the sour savor of his italics: "Genealogy has its lessons for such as will study them; its uses for such as can appreciate and interpret them." We can agree both with the italics and with the moral. Most genealogies are egregiously dry, but at the same time there are few of them, indeed, which fail to furnish forth material for sermon and for romance—the simple sermon of lives well lived, the thrilling romance of the brave deeds and true loves of those lives. The volume in hand is not a genealogy. It is rather an attempt to give some fragmentary picture of what life meant to two brave hearts that became one for its battles in the very