

**THE ARGONAUTS OF
FAITH. THE
ADVENTURES OF THE
"MAYFLOWER" PILGRIMS**

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The Argonauts of faith. The adventures of the "Mayflower" pilgrims by Basil Mathews

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BASIL MATHEWS

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"MAYFLOWER" PILGRIMS

BASIL MATHEWS



"THE BOAT WAS PUTTING OFF AGAIN, WHEN SUDDENLY THE
SHIPPLASTER . . . ORDERED HER TO STOP."

{Frontispiece

THE ARGONAUTS OF FAITH

THE ADVENTURES OF THE
"MAYFLOWER" PILGRIMS

BY
BASIL MATHEWS

WITH A FOREWORD BY
VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M.

ILLUSTRATED BY
ERNEST PRATER



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TO
MY MOTHER
IN WHOM
THE PILGRIMS' LOVE OF GOD
AND OF LIBERTY
LIVES AGAIN

HIS PILGRIMAGE

Give me my scallop-shell of quiet,
My staff of faith to walk upon,
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation,
My gown of glory, hope's true gage;
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH

FOREWORD

BY VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M.

THREE centuries ago, in 1620, a little band of English people—men, women, and children—to the number of about one hundred, sailed from Plymouth in a ship called the *Mayflower* to settle on the bleak and then almost unknown coast of North America.

There they landed at a spot where a huge stone, one of those ice-borne boulders that strew the low shores of Massachusetts Bay, is said to mark the place at which they stepped ashore, now become a place of pilgrimage to which many come from all over the United States, visiting it with reverence. There this storm-tossed and sea-weary company built their huts and a wooden block-house for defence against the native Indians, and prepared to cultivate the soil.

Not long before an English settlement had been planted in Virginia, and other English colonists came a few years later to another part of the New England coast, where is now the town of Salem. But this Plymouth Settlement (for that was the name they gave it) was the most remarkable of the three, just because it was the smallest and weakest, carried out with the least official favour, least noticed by the world of its own day.

The Pilgrims were humble men, none of them persons of any consequence or influence. But the historical significance and moral dignity of an event are not to be