THE PATH OF THE PILGRIM CHURCH, FROM ITS ORIGIN IN ENGLAND TO ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN NEW ENGLAND. AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

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The path of the Pilgrim church, from its origin in England to its establishment in New England. An historical sketch by Various

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PREFACE.

Ir has seemed to the writer desirable that young persons should have a more distinct and coherent knowledge than is common, of the causes, influences, circumstances, trials, and providences connected with the emigration of our forefathers to their home in New England. It has accordingly been his aim to enable his readers to look in upon those transactions and see them as they were. would have been easy to expand the narrative; but he has aimed at brevity. Some of the topics would have required a fuller statement, had the volume been written for a different class of readers. Some portions of the book may even now seem too circumstantial-for example, the account given of the principles of the Puritans. But the statement was thought to be as brief as it could consistently be made.

The writer is well aware that he could have made, in some respects, a more spirited narrative, by easting much of his material into other forms of statement. But he thought it better on the whole to let the actors, in great measure, tell their own tale, and to secure perfect truthfulness rather than graphic effect. The narrative is a history, and not a fancy sketch. Even the wanting links of the story have not been supplied, except in cases perfectly obvious. The facts have been gathered with care from various sources, such as Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation, Young's Chronieles, Neal's History of the Puritans, Hunter's Founders of New Plymouth. Bartlett's Plymouth and the Pilgrims, Motley's Dutch Republic, and various other volumes.

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